

The MERRILL Newsletter

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Our First Internet Issue

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Merrills of Franklin County, MA

Deane Whitney Merrill (1938-)

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updated 30 April 1998

Note: Information was received by the author, too late for inclusion in this edition of The MERRILL Newsletter. An update will be published in the next edition. Additional information from Newsletter subscribers will be gratefully received, and included.

All persons named in this article are Merrills by birth or marriage. A number following the first name indicates the generation. All locations are in Massachusetts except as indicated. "Franklin County" refers to present-day boundaries; Franklin County was part of Hampshire County until 1820.

Franklin County, Massachusetts lies about 100 miles west of Boston. The county seat, Greenfield (pop. 14,000) is at the junction of the Connecticut River, which flows southward; and the Deerfield River, which flows eastward into the Connecticut. The earliest colonial settlement in Franklin County (1669) was at Deerfield, which was then the western frontier of the Massachusetts colony. The Indians, aided by the French, were a constant threat; in 1704 they burned Deerfield, killing half the townspeople and marching the others off to captivity in Canada. The survivors returned to rebuild, and thanks to the fertile Deerfield River valley, the town prospered. By 1750, the wealthy Deerfield farmers were living in comfortable homes, importing fine silk dresses and expensive musical instruments from Europe.

In 1768 the northwest portion of Deerfield was sectioned off to become the new town of Shelburne; Buckland followed in 1779. Shelburne Falls (pop. 2,000) includes parts of Shelburne and Buckland on opposite sides of the Deerfield River. The first Merrills in Franklin County settled in Deerfield and Shelburne in the early 1770's. Up until that time most of the Merrills in America, all descended from Nathaniel¹ (1601-1654/5), lived in and around Newbury, Haverhill and Salisbury, in Essex County northeast of Boston. The following six Merrill families, all living in Franklin County around 1800, were undoubtedly related to each other and quite likely all came from eastern Massachusetts:

1. Daniel⁵ (John⁴, Nathaniel³, Nathaniel², Nathaniel¹), was b. 1729 in Haverhill, m. Abigail Carleton in 1749 in Bradford, m. (2) Eunice Fellows in 1766, was in Deerfield 1773, d. 1817 in Deerfield. Daniel fathered eight children including Joseph⁶, who was b. 1773 in Deerfield, m. Lucinda Whitney in Shelburne in 1794, and d. 1844 in Shelburne. Joseph was the postmaster of

Shelburne Falls; like several of his children and grandchildren, he was a hotel keeper.

2. Lt. Nathaniel⁵, the brother of Daniel⁵, was b. 1733/4 in Haverhill. This is probably the Nathaniel who m. Anna Baldwin 1754 in Pelham NH, and who was in Deerfield 1772-3, in Shelburne 1774, and in Deerfield again in 1792-3. This is probably the same Nathaniel who served in the Revolution in 1775-77, in Capt. Agrippa Wells' company. This same Nathaniel probably fathered seven children including Thaddeus⁶, who was b. abt. 1777. It is possible, but not proven, that Thaddeus⁶ is the Capt. Thaddeus who married Achsah Severance in 1801 and who fathered eleven sons and two daughters in Shelburne Falls. This Thaddeus and most of his sons were stone masons. The wives of Joseph⁶ 1773-1844 (above) and Thaddeus abt. 1777-1855 were first cousins Lucinda Whitney 1776-1857 and Achsah Severance 1784-1872. This increases our confidence that Thaddeus the husband of Achsah was indeed Thaddeus⁶, the son of Daniel⁵ and therefore the first cousin of Joseph⁶.

3. John (ancestry unknown), b. 1764 in Westminster, m. Sally _____, m. (2) Lydia Hastings. John fathered seven children by Sally and two by Lydia, all in Shelburne.

In the 1800's dozens of Merrills lived in Shelburne Falls, all probably descended from the three families above. Other Merrills resided elsewhere in Franklin County:

4. Samuel (ancestry unknown), b. abt. 1774, m. Fanny Harvey 1797 in Deerfield, d. bef. 1830 in Deerfield. Samuel, who was a tanner and shoemaker, fathered six children in Deerfield.

5. Jesse (ancestry unknown), b. prob. abt. 1758, m. Martha Sawyer 1778 in Ashfield, m. (2) Rhoda Smith 1790 in Ashfield, fathered two children by Rhoda, both in Ashfield.

6. Thaddeus (ancestry unknown), b. abt. 1759, of Rowe, m. Chloe Smead 1780 in Greenfield. How this Thaddeus is related to the Thaddeus who married Achsah Severance in 1801 (see #2 above) is unknown.

The information above is mostly from secondary sources. It represents incomplete work in progress, and is published here to elicit more information. Deane Merrill's genealogy Web page is at <http://www.bearhaven.com/family>. To browse the information above, look for "searchable databases in GENDEX" and then select database [dwmerrill12](http://www.gendex.com/gendex). Or go to GENDEX directly at <http://www.gendex.com/gendex>. Database [dwmerrill12](http://www.gendex.com/gendex) is intended to include all Merrills who ever resided in Franklin County; it consists of several disconnected family trees. Some of the links are conjectural and are so indicated; for example, it is not known whether Thaddeus the husband of Achsah Severance is the same person as Thaddeus⁶ the son of Nathaniel⁵.

In Shelburne Falls, the house at #22 Mechanic Street was built around 1850 by my great-great-grandfather Moses⁷ Whitney (1817-1859) (Joseph⁶, Daniel⁵, John⁴, Nathaniel³, Nathaniel², Nathaniel¹). It was extensively remodeled by my great-grandfather Cordeanio⁸ Harley (1840-1908) in 1897-98. For a few years prior to his death, Cordeanio also owned the adjacent houses on both sides of #22. My grandfather Charles⁹ Arthur (1875-1968) moved to New Jersey. My father Deane¹⁰ Whitney (1908-1987), like myself, was born and raised in New Jersey. #22 Mechanic Street was sold after the death in 1940 of Cordeanio's second wife.

Through a lucky chance and the alertness of my brother Jonathan¹¹ Alden (1945-), we were fortunate enough to repurchase #22 Mechanic Street in 1997. In the first year my wife Chris and I (with a lot of help) installed six bathrooms, replaced the front porch and electrical wiring and all 66 (!) windows, repaired the roof, restored the beautiful wood floors, and (with regrets) removed a 100-plus year old tree. Next we will apply an authentic Victorian "Painted Lady" exterior.

In summer or fall 1998 we plan to open a 3-room Bed and Breakfast. The B&B will be called "Bear Haven" in honor of Chris's many Teddy Bears who share the premises with us. There are no other B&Bs near "downtown" Shelburne Falls, so we expect plenty of business! Tourists come to Shelburne Falls to see the magnificent fall foliage, the unique Bridge of Flowers, and the famous Glacial Potholes. Genealogists with Franklin County ancestors come to visit Arms Cemetery and Arms Library. Nearby is historic Deerfield with 14 Museum Houses open to the public.

Check out our Web site at <http://www.bearhaven.com>. The page with [pictures and additional information](#) provides links to other Shelburne Falls pages, including the [Shelburne Falls Area Business Association](#), and a delightful ["walking tour" by Tom Eisenman](#). For more information about Bear Haven, please e-mail info@bearhaven.com or call Chris at 413-625-9281. We hope to welcome you at Bear Haven soon!



Bear Haven, 22 Mechanic Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
Moses W. Merrill Homestead, 1850
A Rest Home for Teddy Bears
Bed and Breakfast, opening planned in 1998

Genealogy summary:

(the link between Nathaniel⁵ and Thaddeus⁶ is uncertain)

Nathaniel¹ Merrill (1601-1654/5) m. Susanna

Nathaniel² Merrill (1633/4-1682/3) m. 1661 Joanna Ninian

Nathaniel³ Merrill (1664/5-1738) m.1691 Sarah Woodman (b.1665)

John⁴ Merrill (1706/7-1741) m. Lydia Gage

Daniel⁵ Merrill (b.1729) m.1766 Eunice
Fellows

Lt. Nathaniel⁵ Merrill (b.1731/2) m. Anna
Baldwin (b.abt.1735)

Joseph⁶ Merrill (1773-1844) m.1794 Lucinda
Whitney (1776-1857)

Capt. Thaddeus⁶ Merrill (abt.1777-1855)
m.1801 Achsah Severance (1784-1872)

Moses⁷ Whitney Merrill (1817-1859) m.1839
Abigail E. Coleman (1818-1892)

11 sons and 2 daughters, all born in Shelburne
Falls

Cordeanio⁸ Harley Merrill (1840-1908) m.1859
Helen Maude Howard (1840-1893)

23 known grandchildren

Charles⁹ Arthur Merrill (1875-1968) m.1905
Eleanore Edwards Goucher (1877-1950)

Thaddeus' great-grandchildren are unknown.
Any information will be appreciated.

Deane¹⁰ Whitney Merrill (1908-1987) m.1931
Harriet Mary Ray (1909-1978)

Deane¹¹ Whitney Merrill (1938-) m.(3)1995
Anna Christine Morben (1949-)

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SOME EUGENICAL CASES IN POINT

I. THE MERRILLS: AN ARISTOGENIC FAMILY

By Arthur H. Estabrook

Eugenics, Vol. 1, No. 3, Dec. 1928

Contributed by Claire Merrill Miller

During the winter of 1789, following the Revolutionary War, Jesse Merrill and his bride [m. 1789 Mar 1, Priscilla Hazen Kimball] started on their wedding journey in a sled drawn by a yoke of oxen from Newbury, Massachusetts, to Peacham, Vermont. There they cleared land, raised a log house and reared their family. Four out of seven children of these pioneers into Vermont, which was then a wilderness, attended college. Thus began the story of a group of people who have been active factors in the development of certain important sections of the United States.

Jesse Merrill has had approximately 480 descendants. Three hundred have reached maturity in the past 140 years. During this period five have been noted in standard biographical dictionaries; seven others have been included in *Who's Who in America*, the dictionary of notable living men and women in the United States. In the general population, one person in every 4,500 is listed in *Who's Who*, while one in every forty of Jesse Merrill's descendants has been noted in some biographical dictionary.

James Merrill, the oldest son of Jesse, attended Dartmouth College after which he was made principal of the York Academy in Pennsylvania. During this time he read law in the office of the Honorable David Cassatt and later settled in New Berlin, Pennsylvania. At his death, the courts ceased functioning for a period to honor his memory. A grandson, General Lewis Merrill, was one of the outstanding figures of the Civil War and the post-war period. Another grandson was the late Judge Charles M. Hough, known for his professional and personal worth.

Samuel Merrill, another son of Jesse, was a pioneer into Indiana. He also attended college at Dartmouth, taught school for a while and read law at the same time as his older brother James. He went to Indiana in 1816. Finally he decided to settle in Vevay, Indiana, and finding it impossible to procure a conveyance from New Albany, bought a boat, put his trunk and a number of law books in it, and rowed seventy miles up the river to Vevay. He was in succession a representative to the legislature, state treasurer, the builder of a railroad, and president of the Indiana State Bank. He was a leader in state, intellectual and church matters. His name and that of his descendants are written honorably in the history of Indiana. Among his descendants are numbered William A. Ketcham, long a figure in the legal and political life of the state, Katharine Merrill, a literary light, Charles W. and Merrill Moores, both lawyers and leaders of community thought, Colonel Samuel Merrill and his son Charles W. Merrill, who carried on the publishing house started by Samuel Merrill, and Paxton Hibben, the war correspondent and writer. Samuel Merrill had 79 descendants who reached maturity; 31 of these went through college. Thirty-four engaged in professional activities as lawyers, engineers, ministers, writers, teachers, social workers and nurses.

Jesse, the third son, was a physician who settled near Boston, while the Reverend David Merrill, the fourth son, was best known to the people of 1840 as the writer of the "Ox Sermon," a sermon on temperance of which it is said that 3,000,000 copies were printed and distributed.

Not all the descendants of the Jesse Merrill family have become distinguished - even in an aristogenic family that cannot be expected. Some are in the home region as farmers and teachers. Some are in the far west engaged in various activities. As far as can be ascertained after an exhaustive investigation, not one of this family has ever been arrested or convicted of a crime. No one has ever been in the poor house. Only one has ever been a day laborer for any length of time.

This family, however, has never been well-to-do. It has not had the financial background of the well known Jonathan Edwards family. Jesse Merrill was a pioneer farmer, yet he sent four sons to college. With the exception of perhaps two or three individuals, members of this family have not "made money." At least two may be said to have acculated over \$100,000. Two of those recently in *Who's Who in America* sold papers as boys and with a widowed mother's help, made their way through college. Despite the lack of inherited wealth and financial backing, one-third of this entire family has attended college. Thirty per cent of the group has engaged in professional activities as means of earning a livelihood and self-expression.

The Merrill family is an aristogenic group. It has produced more special ability than is found in the general population as indicated by its high incidence of professional activity and inclusion in biographical dictionaries. It has an average intellectual level higher than that of the general population as shown by intellectual tests, the large propotion of college attendance and their college records. its general success has not been due to financial backing or social position. It has been due to the innate make-up of the individuals themselves whose germinal constitutions have been composed of the best biological elements and a social heritage contingent upon the activity of these ability-producing genes.

[From Howard Merrill: Jesse⁶ Merrill's lineage: Samuel^{5,4}, Nathaniel^{3,2,1}]

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QUERIES

By Howard and Jean Merrill

Answers to Queries from Vol. 5, No. 2

1) **Janet Pease of Arvada, CO** wrote seeking proof that Rachel, wife of Andrew Fouts Sr. of Randolph Co. NC (1751-1834) was Rachel Merrill, daughter of William and Mary (Cornell) Merrill.

The IGI Marriage Index gives Rachel's marriage to Andrew in 1776 in Guilford Co. NC. The IGI Parent Index states that Rachel's father was William Merrill (no mother listed) and that she was born ca 1755 in that part of Rowan Co. NC that became part of Guilford Co. in 1770, then Randolph Co. after 1779. Since William and his brother, Captain Benjamin, were the only known Merrills in the "Jersey Settlement" at that time, it follows, but does not prove, that Rachel was William and Mary Cornell's daughter. Since William did not come to NC from NJ until about 1758 it is likely that Rachel was born in NJ and was "of Rowan Co. NC", not born there. There is also some question about her approximate birth date in IGI, since William and Mary's son Daniel was born 1755 May 17 in NJ according to his pension application. Of course, Rachel and Daniel could be twins and be born in the same year. William was abducted and presumably killed in 1782/83 by Tory soldiers who also split Mary's tongue and plundered the family homestead. Since William died intestate there is no will which might have independently confirmed Rachel as William and Mary's daughter. We are not aware of a will for Mary who died 1813 Aug. 13 in her 89th year. The "batch and sheet" reference number for the two IGI records have the same batch number and sheet numbers only four pages apart indicating that these two records came from the same reference which strongly supports the supposition that they refer to the same Rachel.

2) **William Browne of Tequesta FL** wrote seeking the ancestry and birthplace of Marston b. ca 1822 in NH or ME, who m. Prudence Orilla Nye in Stonington CT in 1854. In our records also, we have no record of Marston prior to his marriage to Prudence. We suspect that Marston may be his middle name, but almost certainly it was the surname of someone in the family, probably his mother or grandmother. We searched the ME, NH, and MA vital records for Marston as a given Merrill name or as the surname of a Merrill spouse. We found no Marston Merrill, and all the Marston females listed in the vital records are too recent to be Marston's mother. A Merrill Memorial (MM) does have one Mary Marston marrying in 1808, as a third wife, Capt. Simon⁵ Merrill of Chester NH. They are shown with three sons and two daughters but no dates are given. From the 1850 census the known sons, Simon, Austin Guy, and George Washington were born about 1810, 1816, and 1820 respectively. In 1810 the Chester, NH census shows 1 male, 1 female (under 10). In 1820, however, Simon and Mary are listed with 3 males (under 10) and 1 male, 1 female (10-16). This means that they had FOUR sons, not just the three listed in MM. By 1830 Simon and Mary have moved to Sandown NH and are listed with 1 female (5-10), 2 males (10-15), 1 male(15-20), and 1 female(20-30). Is it the oldest male or one of the teenage boys that has either died or left home? With Simon Jr. being born ca 1810, he could easily be classed as (15-20) or (20-30) depending on his birth date and the day the census was taken. Either way there seems to be a son of Simon and Mary Marston unaccounted for. His age, however, seems to be 6-12 years too old if

Marston's 1822 birth date is firm.

We found no Marston listed in the 1850 census nationwide. In 1860, in Stonington CT, we found Prudence Merrill, 27, and Franklin, 6, living with her father, Stephen Nye, 68, along with 2 year old Edgar Farnell. Perhaps Marston was a seaman and one way or another was no longer on the scene. Stonington is a seaport town. By 1870 Frank P., 16, is a laborer living on a farm with Benjamin F. Stanton, 52, Mason M., 45 and Maria Stanton, 50. Frank P. is the only Merrill in Stonington, so Prudence has probably remarried, no sign of Marston. Chances of proving Marston's lineage seem pretty slim.

3) **Karen Merrill Martin of Newcastle, WA** wrote seeking information regarding Charles b. May 1852 in Washington, Berkshire Co., MA and his parents who are believed to be Miner (or S. Miner) and Cornelia, a Methodist Minister recently assigned to Washington.

The MA vital records on file in Boston do confirm the birth of a son (unnamed) 1852 May 6 to Miner, a minister, and Cornelia in Washington, MA. This is our only reference to Miner or Charles. We did not find Miner in the 1850 or 1860 census anywhere. No record of the marriage of Miner and Cornelia anywhere in New England. However, in checking these records and keying on Cornelia rather than Miner, we found the marriage of Cordelia (close - there were no Cornelias) A. Stafford to Sherman M. Merrill 1849 June 11 in Darby VT and decided to check him out. Sherman M (we have it as Morton from another correspondent) is, would you believe, a Methodist Minister! In 1850 they are in Whitehall, Washington Co., NY: Sherman, 22; Cordelia, 24. In 1860 they are in Greenwich, Washington Co., NY: Sherman M, 32; Cordelia, 33; Adalide, 10, b. NY; Charles C, 8, b. MA; Willie and Alice, twins 6, b. VT; John, 4, b. NY; Carrie, 2 b. NY; Hattie, 3 months, b. NY. As is typical of Methodist Ministers they moved around a lot. The Charles C b. 1852 in MA checks out and the S.M. and Cordelia and Methodist minister are just too much coincidence not to be correct.

The information we have on Sherman M⁸ is that he was a twin b. about 1827 in Sandyhill, NY (Warren Co.?) to Elam Potter⁷ (1799-1882) and Pheobe Ann Seelye (1805-1856); Benjamin⁶ (1767-1854) and Jemima Potter (1775-1856); Nathaniel⁵ (1732-after 1790) and Anna Baldwin (ca1734-ca1770); John⁴ (1707-1791) and Lydia Cage; Nathaniel³ (1665-1738) and Sarah Woodman; Nathaniel² (1634-1682) and Joanna Kinney; Nathaniel¹ (1601-1655) and Susanna.

4) **Fred Kirk Merrill of Chewalah, WA** wrote seeking parents or siblings of Jesse Merrill Sr. born 1788 near Harper's Ferry VA. Fred, a long time correspondent, had previously sent an obit for Jesse which states "that as a child he went with his parents to MD where he lost his mother. His father having married again, he crossed the mountains at the age of 17 years (1805) to Washington Co., PA. Here he learned the coopers trade." The only Merrill listed in western MD in the 1800 census in Philip of Allegany Co., who is listed as (26-45), wife (26-45) with 2 males, 2 female (under 10) and 1 male, 1 female (10-16). Jesse would be 12 in 1800 so that fits. In 1810 there is no 22 year old in the family group which is also consistent with Jesse having left.

Thanks to Bob Davidson of Richmond, VA we feel pretty sure that this Philip is descended from Richard¹ of Staten Island through his son Philip². Bob's NJ research shows that Philip² married Elizabeth (daughter of Nicholas Bakker) and they had sons Philip³ (bapt. 1726/7) and Nicholas³ (bapt. 1728) who were both free holders in Bedminster Twp., Somerset Co., NJ. This is about 10 miles from Roxbury Twp. in Morris Co. NJ where Andrew⁴ Merrill was born in 1757. Andrew's itinerary is given in his Revolutionary War Pension papers, from NJ to VA and MD and finally to KY in 1797/8. He shows up with son Nicholas in the first KY census in 1810. When Andrew went to Loudon Co., VA a

Nicholas Merrill (father?, brother?) was already there. He was not a landowner and there is no record of him after 1787, but he had a son Steven who was in Allegany Co., MD by 1820. Philip of Allegany Co. who was a little younger (b.1779-74) than Andrew and Nicholas named two of his sons Nicholas and Andrew. There is also a Matthias Merrill in Louden Co. in 1787. Harper's Ferry is in Loudon Co., VA.

We feel that Jesse is probably the son of Philip of Allegany B. and may be named for Philip's first wife's father since no other Jesses show up in Philip's line. Philip, Nicholas, and Andrew (and perhaps Matthias) are probably brothers (or cousins), sons probably of Nicholas³ (or Philip³) Philip², Richard¹. Are there enough "probably"s in that paragraph?

5) **Bob Meeboer of Las Vegas, NV** wrote asking about William Washington, son of Nicholas Decatur, b. 1854 in KY. The IGI gives his birth date as 1854 Oct. 12 in Estill Co. but in 1860 they are in Stanton, Powell Co., KY (formed from Estill in 1852). Estill Co. marriages give their marriage date as 1853 Dec. 19 and her name as Martha Ann Snowden. 1860 Census confirms Martha. We have their lineage (thanks to Bob Davidson) as Nicholas Decatur⁶ (ca1831 KY); Nicholas D⁵ (ca 1780/84 NJ/KY - ca1836) and Ida Cobb; Andrew⁴ (1757 May 8 NJ - 1835 May 25 KY) and (Ruth? possibly MacPherson); Nicholas³ (1728 Nov. 24 Staten Island, NY) and Lidea; Phillip² (1679 Sept. 17 Tysoe, Warwickshire, England - 1740) and Elizabeth Bakker; Richard¹ (1642 Warwickshire, England - 1727 May 19), immigrant to Staten Island, and Sarah Wells (1649-1722). We do not have any information on descendants of William Washington⁷ - do you?

Answers to Guestbook Queries from Subscribers:

Richard M. Ludwig requested information re Ebenezer Merrill, spouse Edith Spear, dau. Sarah A. b. ca 1851 Gardiner, Kennebec, ME m.1878 Mar 4 Thomas Colby Nickerson in Gardiner, another dau. of Ebenezer and Edith, Emily, was also m. to T.C. Nickerson.

Richard, your Ebenezer is in our "lineage unknown" file. Ebenezer and his family are in the Gardiner, ME census for 1830, '40, and '50 and his widow Edith Spear, ae 52, in 1860 is living with their son William H. and family in Farmingdale, ME (also Joanna, 23; George, 20; and your Sarah A, 9). In the death record of son, George 1912 Jan 15 (ME vital records in Augusta) father Eben's birthplace is given as Sanford, ME. This makes it likely that he is descended from Samuel Merrill of Sanford. Samuel was the only Merrill on the 1771 tax list for Sanford. In the Rev. War there was a Samuel Mereal of Sanford in Capt. Jedediah Goodwin's company. The 1790 Sanford census lists a Samuel Morel,[3 males over 16 and 1 male under 16 and 4 females]. This Samuel (and wife Eunice) had four sons who are believed to be Stephen, ca1767; Thomas 1769; Samuel, ca1771 and John after 1774 (Eunice ca1787 is the only one of their 3 daughters whose name we know). Sons, Samuel and Thomas, are listed in Sanford in 1810. There is no census listing at all for Sanford in 1800 - lost?

Son, Samuel, married Meriam Rankins 1793 Nov 14. When Samuel Jr made his will dated 1851 Dec 28 (d. 1852 Jan 6) he listed wife (2nd) Eunice, daughters Eunice (m. 1st ___?__ Harrison, m. 2nd James Tebetts and Betsey (m. Henry Glass) sons, Nehemiah, William and Ebenezer and grandson Samuel Harrison. This Samuel is listed in Sanford census 1810-50.

We do not know who Samuel Sr. of Sanford is. We have one Samuel of known lineage about which we have no further information, which is a possible fit for Samuel of Sanford. A Samuel⁵ b. 1739 Jan 26 in Westford, MA to Stephen⁴ [b. 1700 Sept 10 Haverhill, MA, d. 1746 Apr 28 Methuen, MA] and Abiah. Stephen⁴ and his brother, John⁴, are known to have been in York, ME in 1718 but both returned to MA. Stephen⁴ died when his son, Samuel, was only 7 years old. The fact that Samuel of Sanford named his

first son Stephen would lend credence to this postulated lineage.

Stephen⁴'s lineage is John³ [b. Newbury MA, 1663 Feb 16, d. Haverhill, MA 1705 May 15] and Lucy Webster; Nathaniel² [bapt 1634 May 25 in Lawford, Essex Co., England d. Newbury, MA 1682/3 Jan 1] and Joanna Ninian; Nathaniel¹ [bapt 1601 May, Wherstead, Suffolk Co., England d. Newbury MA, 1654/5 Mar 16] and Susanna _____ [believed to be daughter by prior marriage of Susanna, wife of Gregory Wolterton, proprietor of Hartford, CT - see Heritage Quest #25 Nov-Dec 1989 pg44]. Sorry we do not have a proven lineage for Ebenezer.

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NEW QUERIES

Send your queries to The Merrill Newsletter, 28031 Lois Drive, Tavares, FL 32778, or by e-mail to the editor, lilhall@unix.cde.com.

Deane¹¹ Whitney Merrill's query:

Mystery #1: Who was the father of Thaddeus Merrill 1777-1855, the husband of Achsah Severance 1784-1872? My best guess is Lt. Nathaniel⁵ Merrill (b.1731/2) (m. Anna Baldwin), but the evidence is very thin.

If my guess is right, then Joseph Merrill and Thaddeus Merrill, who lived in Shelburne Falls, MA at about the same time, were first cousins. Plausible since Joseph's wife Lucinda Whitney was a first cousin of Thaddeus' wife Achsah Severance.

Mystery #2: Thaddeus populated Franklin County, Mass. with a zillion Merrill descendants, but they have all left for other parts as far as I know. I have been unable to unearth a single living descendant of his!

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Editor's Corner

At last! I'm very embarrassed and do apologize for the time span between Vol. 5, No. 2 and Vol. 5, No. 3. Suffice it to say that the move from Texas to Florida was not as uncomplicated as I had hoped. I no longer have a copier, and my laser printer was destroyed by the movers.

On the positive side, my hopes are great that the new web newsletter will help more struggling Merrill descendants to find their missing ancestors than the paper newsletter did. Wider exposure and more readily accessible materials should prove to be successful for many of our cousins. My heartfelt thanks to Howard and Jean Merrill, the Queries answers contributors, and Deane Whitney Merrill, all of whom have been wonderfully patient and helpful.

Deane is so very kind to not only contribute the lead article, but also to host this publication on his server, as well as the database on GENDEX.

Howard and Jean surprised me with a visit last summer, just after the big move. We had a very pleasant afternoon together. They are the first Merrill cousins I have ever met face-to-face, and it was great.

Many thanks also to Claire Merrill Miller of Frostproof, Florida, a new subscriber who contributed the aristogenics article. Without it, this issue would have been lacking. A quite interesting article, and good for the collective Merrill ego.

In the near future, I am planning to move The Merrill Newsletter Website to www.cde.com, a digital internet service provider based close to my home. (Nice to just walk into the ISP's office...) Please watch your e-mail for the announcement, probably in early summer, 1998.

Following this page is the List of Current Subscribers. If you are aware of an existing or different e-mail address for any of these subscribers, please let me know so that I can send those subscribers the access password for this newsletter. I will be mailing to those without e-mail addresses later this month.

I hope you enjoy the first web newsletter, and please send comments and critique to me.

[Lil Follett-Hall](#), Editor-Publisher,
The Merrill Newsletter and [Website](#)

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(*Editor's note: If you have a current e-mail address for any of these, please [send to me.](#)*)

| <i>Name</i> | <i>City, State</i> |
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| August, Ginger M. | Princeton NJ |
| Baran, Esther J. | Sandpoint ID |
| Barker, Margaret F. | Ft. Worth TX |
| Bell, Charles E. | Shawnee GA |
| Bode, Joyce L. | Bowling Green FL |
| Browne, William R. | Tequesta FL |
| Burich, David E. | Northford CT |
| Carr, Marlin D. | Thornton IL |
| Cluff, Geraldine R. | Portland OR |
| Code, Karen | Pikeville KY |
| Cross, Mamie Merrill | Denison TX |
| Draper, Elise F. | Albion NY |
| Ehlers, Mary Ann | Whitehall MT |
| Follett, Ben Owen | San Jose CA |
| Frost, Lucille J. | Beverly Hills FL |
| Gray, Ed | Gulf Breeze FL |
| Hamilton, Harlean | Chimacum WA |
| Harlin, Zeilah | Oklahoma City OK |
| Haver, Jane Merrill | Ruidoso NM |
| Holmes, Kaye | Eugene OR |
| Howard, Claudia | Clarkson MI |
| Hughes, Nancy | Los Altos Hills CA |
| Johnston, Vicki S. | Roseburg OR |
| Jones, Stephen C. | Lakeshore MN |
| Kight, Lisa | Arlington TX |
| Langhill, Sandi Holmes | Westborough MA |
| LDS Family History Library | Salt Lake City UT |

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|--|--------------------------------|
| Listro, Dick | Feeding Hills MA |
| Ludwig, Richard M. | Williamsburg VA |
| Magruder, Diane C. | Clifton CO |
| Lumsden, Abigail R. | New Gloucester ME |
| Marshall, Janice M. | Redwood City CA |
| Martin, Karen Merrill | Newcastle WA |
| McEuen, Margaret | Bernalillo NM |
| McKeehan, Wallace L. | Bellaire TX |
| McClen, Kenneth A. | Harwinton, CT |
| McPheeters, Phyllis | Atlanta GA |
| Meeboer, Robert M. | Las Vegas NV |
| Menzies, Mavis | Winnepeg CAN |
| Merchant, Ruth V. | Wichita KS |
| Merrill, Carl G. | Phoenix AZ |
| Merrell, Susan Bagwell | Raeford NC |
| Merrell, Thurston, Jr. | Naples FL |
| Merrill, Allen R. | Asheville NC |
| Merrill, Charles H., Col. | Skaneateles NY |
| Merrill, Charles R. | Madison NJ |
| Merrill, Deane W. | Berkeley CA/Shelburne Falls MA |
| Merrill, Don A. | Rancho Palos Verdes CA |
| Merrill, Donald E. | Canton MI |
| Merrill, Fred K. | Chewalah WA |
| Merrill, Gary W. | Redding CA |
| Merrill, Grant C. | Evergreen CO |
| Merrill, Gregory | Logan UT |
| Merrill, Howard & Jean | Baton Rouge LA |
| Merrill, James W. | Pinellas Park FL |
| Merrill, John H. "Jack" | Lodi CA |
| Merrill, Jonathan A. | Allentown PA |
| Merrill, Linda Ann | Ocala FL |
| Merrill, Michele | Corona Del Mar CA |
| Merrill, Richard L. | Hudson NH |

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|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Merrill, Virginia | Solon ME |
| Merrill, William C. | Holiday FL |
| Miller, Claire | Frostproof FL |
| Miller, William H., M.D. | Coeur d'Alene ID |
| Murray, Gary D. | Milwaukie OR |
| Nelson, Gem E. | Coopersburg PA |
| Nelson, Sharon E. | El Paso TX |
| Nunn, Janet S. | Kingwood TX |
| Packard, William R. | Milwaukie OR |
| Page, Ruth M. | Albuquerque NM |
| Patterson, Billy J. | Claremore OK |
| Pease, Janet K. | Arvada CO |
| Pitman, Carroll M. | Greer SC |
| Robertson, Diane B. | Weymouth MA |
| Sarah, Ted T. | Munroe Falls OH |
| Schroeder, Carl A. | Bardstown KY |
| Schulte, Margaret J. | Eustis FL |
| Smith, Patricia | Benton KY |
| Spahr, Hazel M. | Belle Vernon PA |
| Swanson, Alice Lutz | San Clemente CA |
| Truax, Colleen M. | Essex VT |
| True, Elinor O.M. | Kingston NH |
| Walker, Pat | Burlington VT |
| Walter, Esther L. | Allenspark CO |
| Walter, Sharon | Lady Lake FL |
| Whitehead, Gaye M. | Daniels WV |
| Williamson, Carolyn G. | Joplin MO |
| Wood, Allen, Jr. | Greenwood MS |
| Young, Delores M. | Aurora CO |

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