

The Merrill Newsletter

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Publisher: [Lillian Follett-Hall \(lilhall@mpinet.net\)](mailto:lilhall@mpinet.net)

Web Host: [Deane Whitney Merrill \(merrill@crocker.com\)](mailto:merrill@crocker.com)

This issue is dedicated to the Memory of Chloe Hubbard Cummings

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Who was the father of Joseph MERRILL who married Lucinda WHITNEY and died in 1844?

Deane W. MERRILL Jr.
12 October 2000

It has been stated that Joseph MERRILL, who married Lucinda WHITNEY and died in Shelburne Falls in 1844, was the Joseph born in 1769 to Nathaniel⁵ MERRILL (John⁴, Nathaniel^{3,2}) b.1731/2.

This finding was published in a 1990 research paper prepared for Ted D. Merrill by Roger D. Joslyn, C.G., F.A.S.G., "The Children and Grandchildren of Nathaniel Merrill and his son Benjamin Merrill." That paper was circulated by Ted Merrill to dozens of libraries, and portions of its findings were copied to later secondary sources.

We find, however, that the Joseph MERRILL who married Lucinda WHITNEY and died in 1844 was instead born in 1773 to Nathaniel's brother Daniel⁵ b.1729. Our reasoning is as follows:

Concerning the Joseph MERRILL who married Lucinda WHITNEY and died in 1844, we have:

From Vital Records of Shelburne, Massachusetts 1756-1985 (see note A) (fiche 4, volume 2, page 18): "Joseph Merrill born in Deerfield March 25 1773; married to Lucinda Whitney in Shelburne 1794; --nis(?) Merrill his mother died Feb(?) 5 1817." Thereafter follows information about Joseph's and Lucinda's children Fanny, Rhodolphus, Lucinda, Roswell, Joseph, Alanson, Emily, and Moses W. MERRILL. This source establishes Joseph's 1773 birth date and birthplace, and gives his mother's first name as "--nis(?)" (Eunice FELLOWS, see below." In the printed volume through 1849 (see Note B) this record is abstracted as follows: "Joseph MERRILL, b.at Deerfield, Mar. 27, 1773;" " ___ MERRILL, wid., mother of Joseph, Feb. 5, 1817." Joseph's March 27 birthdate in the printed volume is erroneous; the date is clearly March 25 in the original handwritten record.

From Vital Records of Shelburne, Massachusetts 1756-1985 (see note A) (fiche 20, volume 7, page not numbered): "Deaths in Shelburne during the year next preceding the 1st of May 1845. Entry No. 7, registered Oct. 2nd 1844, Joseph Merrill, Married Male, age at death 71 years, 6 months, 4 days; tavern keeper, died Sept 29 1844, interred Shelburne Falls, cause of death: general dropsy, born Deerfield, parents' name not given, informant's name not given." In the printed volume through 1849 (see Note B) this record is abstracted as follows: " Joseph MERRILL, m., tavern keeper, b. Deerfield, general dropsy, bur. Shelburne Falls, d. Sept. 29, 1844, a. 71 y. 6 m. 4 d." This source confirms Joseph's May 25, 1773 birth date.

From Joseph's and Lucinda's tombstone in Arms Cemetery, Shelburne Falls, MA: "Joseph Merrill d. Sept.29, 1844 age 71; Lucinda Whitney his wife d.Jan.29, 1857 age 82." This

source confirms Joseph's 1773 birth year.

From Deerfield church baptism records (see Note C): "Oct 10 1773 Joseph Son to Daniel Merrill + his wife." In the printed volume to 1850 (see Note D) this record is abstracted as follows: "Merril, Joseph, s. of Daniel and ____, bp. Oct 10, 1773." Assuming the Joseph baptized in Deerfield in October 1773 is the same as the Joseph born in Deerfield in March 1773, this source confirms Joseph's father's name Daniel.

From *A Merrill Memorial* (see Note E): #40, page 219: "John⁴ MERRILL (Nathaniel^{3,2}) born 12 Feb. 1706/7 m. Lydia Gage. Children include: #248 Daniel⁵ b. 2 June 1729 ... #250 Nathaniel⁵ b. 26 Feb. 1731/2." This secondary source identifies Daniel⁵ and Nathaniel⁵ as brothers. Primary sources are not given.

Ibid., #248, page 300: "Daniel⁵ MERRILL (John⁴, Nathaniel^{3,2}) b. 2 June 1729 .. m(2) 27 Sept. 1766, Eunice Fellows, daughter of Samuel and Eunice Fellows." This secondary source identifies Eunice FELLOWS as the wife of Daniel⁵ MERRILL, consistent with the first name "--nis" mentioned above. (But in *A Merrill Memorial*, Joseph⁶ b.1773 is not listed with Daniel⁵'s other children.) Primary sources are not given.

Ibid., #250, page 301: "Nathaniel⁵ MERRILL (John⁴, Nathaniel^{3,2}) b. 26 Feb. 1731/2 .. m(1) 7 Nov. 1754 Anna Baldwin." Children include Joseph⁶ b.17 July 1769, and (by an unknown second wife) "Polly⁶ m. Long; lived Shelburne." This secondary source identifies Joseph⁶ b.1769 as the son of Nathaniel⁵ b.1731/2, and half-brother of a Polly. Primary sources are not given.

From Shelburne Town Records at the Town Hall, Shelburne, Massachusetts: In 1780, the 8th Shelburne School District included the following families living in close proximity: Deacon Samuel Fellows (Eunice's father); Samuel Fellows Jr., Thomas Fellows, and John Fellows (Eunice's brothers); Daniel Merrill (Eunice's husband) and Thaddeus Merrill (Daniel's nephew). Thaddeus' father Nathaniel was elsewhere, probably fighting the British troops. This source establishes that the families of the two MERRILL brothers, Daniel⁵ b.1729 and Nathaniel⁵ b.1731/2, were in close proximity in 1780. From land records at Franklin County Court House in Greenfield, Massachusetts, a number of land exchanges in Rowe and Shelburne in the 1790's, involving FELLOWS and MERRILL, provide further evidence of their closeness.

Concerning Joseph⁶ MERRILL b.1769, the son of Nathaniel⁵ b.1731/2, we have:

From Birth records of Westminister, MA (printed volume through 1850): " Joseph MERRILL, s. Nathaniel and Anna, July 17, 1769."

From Vital records of Rowe, MA (see Note F): (fiche 9, pg. 97): "On Nov. 26, 1789, Preserved Smith married Joseph Merrill to Polly Benton/Denton." Polly's maiden name has been quoted as DENTON and DENSON. We believe BENTON is likely, because numerous BENTON family members were living nearby.

From Vital records of Rowe, MA (see Note F): (fiche 4, pg. 40): "Births in the Family of

Joseph and Polly Merrill: Joseph Merrill Jr. was born July 11th 1790. Polly Merrill was born Dec. 20th 1791; Deaths in Joseph Merrill Family: Joseph Merrill died August 8th 1792." It is not clear whether Joseph Sr. or Joseph Jr. died in 1792.

From Vital records of Rowe, MA (see Note F): (fiche 1, pg. 44): "The intention of Marriage between Ambrose Potter Jr. and Polly Merrill both of Rowe was entered July 31 1796; Marriage was consummated between Ambrose Potter Jr and Polly Merrill both of Rowe Sept 7th 1796." (fiche 9, pg. 74): "Ambrose Potter Jr. and Polly Merrill both of Rowe, marriage consummated Sep. 7, 1796..." This Polly Merrill, Ambrose's second wife; could be Joseph MERRILL's widow, if Joseph Sr. b.1769 rather than Joseph Jr. b.1790 died in 1792. Or it could be Joseph's half-sister Polly MERRILL who married a Long in Shelburne, or another Polly Merrill.

From Vital records of Rowe, MA (see Note F): (fiche 4, pg. 41): "Births in the family of Ambrose Potter Jr. & his two first wives Hannah & Polly: An Infant Born of Hannah Potter March 26 1793; Ambrose Potter 3d an Illegitimate Child Born of Rebeca Foster March 2 1801; Hannah Born of Polly 3d wife April 24 1806; Deaths in the Family of Ambrose Potter Jr.: Hannah Potter died April 2d 1793; An Infant Born of Hannah Potter died March 26 1793; Polly Potter died March 2d 1797." The child of Ambrose and his first wife Hannah died at birth, and Hannah died a week later. The Polly Potter who died in 1797 could be either Ambrose's second wife Polly BENTON Merrill Potter, or his stepdaughter Polly MERRILL b.1791 if the latter assumed the Potter name upon her mother's second marriage, or another Polly Potter. Quite possibly it was Ambrose's second wife Polly BENTON Merrill Potter, because Ambrose fathered a child by Rebeca Foster in 1801, and had a third wife Polly by 1806.

From Rowe Land records at Franklin County Court House, Greenfield Massachusetts: In January 1795, Nathaniel MERRILL sold 40 acres of land to Joseph and Lucinda MERRILL, which they sold five months later to Joseph LAZELL. Roger Joslyn cited this transaction as evidence that Joseph the husband of Lucinda was Joseph⁶ b.1769, the son of Nathaniel⁵. However, from the vital records it is clear that Joseph the husband of Lucinda was Joseph⁶ 1773-1844, the son of Daniel⁵. Nathaniel sold his land to his nephew and not to his son.

Based on the Rowe vital records cited above, we suggest the following scenario: Joseph⁶ MERRILL b.1769 married in 1789 Polly BENTON, then fathered by her a son Joseph MERRILL in 1790 and a daughter Polly MERRILL in 1791, and then he died in 1792. Joseph's widow Polly BENTON Merrill married in 1796 Ambrose POTTER Jr. and then she died in 1797. The later whereabouts of Joseph MERRILL b.1790 and Polly MERRILL b.1791 are unknown. However, this scenario is not conclusively proven. We have not studied all available sources.

Errors in secondary sources:

Based on our analysis, we believe that the following secondary sources should be corrected as indicated:

1. Roger D. Joslyn, C.G., F.A.S.G., 35 Union Avenue, New Windsor, NY 12553-7103, phone 845-565-8630, email rdjoslyn@juno.com: "The Children and Grandchildren of Nathaniel

Merrill and his son Benjamin Merrill," prepared 3 March 1990 for Ted D. Merrill. We have shown above that Lucinda WHITNEY was the wife of Joseph MERRILL 1773-1844 the son of Daniel MERRILL b.1729, and not of Joseph MERRILL b.1769, the son of Nathaniel MERRILL b.1731/2. *Possibly* Joseph MERRILL b.1769, rather than his son Joseph MERRILL b.1790, died in Rowe, MA on August 8, 1792.

2. Ted D. Merrill, 800 State Line Drive, Chaparral, NM 88021, phone 719-447-4825, email tdmerr@earthlink.net; Ancestral File v.4.19, updated 3/22/1999, at <http://www.familysearch.org>. Same corrections as for Joslyn.
3. Peggy Dillon Lewis, P.O. Box 429, Jasper, GA 30143. 4/15/1992 letter to Howard and Jean Merrill, 5045 Sequoia Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, 504-275-2917, email hjmerril@eatel.net. Joseph MERRILL b.1769 did *not* marry Lucinda WHITNEY on July 3, 1794. Probably this *is* the Joseph MERRILL who married Polly BENTON in Rowe, MA on Nov. 26, 1789.
4. Daniel Francis X. O'Reilly, dfxor@tiac.net. Database 118230 (6643 individuals, 5/19/2000) at <http://www.ancestry.com>; also database 305506 (7106 individuals, 8/15/2000) at <http://www.ancestry.com>; also database oreilly1 (9/21/2000) at <http://www.mytrees.com>. Joseph MERRILL b.1769 did *not* die in Shelburne Falls, MA on September 29, 1844. *Possibly* he died in Rowe, MA on August 8, 1792. *Possibly* Joseph's (b.1769) widow Polly MERRILL Potter, rather than his sister Mary Polly MERRILL, died in Rowe, MA on March 2, 1797.

How could so many secondary sources have failed to identify Lucinda WHITNEY's husband Joseph MERRILL as the son of Daniel⁵ MERRILL?

1. Lucinda's Joseph was simply omitted from *A Merrill Memorial*, no doubt because his parents removed from Haverhill to Deerfield before his birth, and he could not be placed. Unfortunately, primary sources are not cited in *A Merrill Memorial*.
2. The printed volume of Shelburne vital records through 1849 artificially separates birth records from marriage records. The association between Joseph's birth record (1773 in Deerfield) and his marriage record (1794 to Lucinda WHITNEY in Shelburne) is unambiguous in the original handwritten family record.
3. In the record of Joseph's death in 1844, the names of Joseph's parents are inexplicably omitted, as is the name of the informant.
4. My grandfather, Charles⁹ Arthur MERRILL 1875-1968, believed that he was a direct descendant of Nathaniel⁵ MERRILL b.1731/2, and that this ancestry entitled him to belong to the Sons of the American Revolution. The obituary of his father Cordeanio⁸ Harley MERRILL 1840-1908 (Springfield, Mass. *Republican*, Nov. 19, 1908) stated (incorrectly): "(Cordeanio's) father (Moses⁷ Whitney MERRILL 1817-1859) was the son of Nathaniel Merrill, who served in the Revolution from 1775 to 1777, and was at Bunker Hill and Fort Ticonderoga." In a handwritten notation, my grandfather corrected the word "son" to "grandson!" In fact, Moses⁷ was a grandson of Nathaniel⁵'s brother Daniel⁵. By consulting several different sources, my father, Deane¹⁰ Whitney MERRILL 1908-1987 in 1976 correctly deduced that Joseph⁶'s father was Daniel⁵ and not Nathaniel⁵ (see http://www.bearhaven.com/family/merrill/jos_father.html), but he failed to consult the

original handwritten Shelburne vital records, which provide the necessary proof.

5. Apparently Roger Joslyn also neglected to consult the original Shelburne records, because Daniel's line was not the focus of his investigation.
6. Joslyn simply assumed, incorrectly, that Nathaniel must have sold the Rowe lot to his son Joseph rather than his nephew Joseph.
7. The clue that Joseph's mother's name was "--nis(?)" i.e. Eunice FELLOWS, is missing from the printed Shelburne records through 1849. To pick up this clue one must consult the original handwritten records.
8. There is no printed volume of Rowe vital records through 1849. To pick up the clues regarding Polly Benton/Denton's probable marriage to Joseph (b.1769) in 1789, and Joseph's possible demise in 1792, one must consult the original handwritten Rowe vital records.
9. Ted D. Merrill copied from Roger Joslyn, whom he hired to do the research.
10. Apparently Peggy Dillon Lewis and Daniel Francis X. O'Reilly copied from other sources. The source of their information, specifically regarding the father of Lucinda WHITNEY's husband Joseph MERRILL, is not indicated.

The lessons learned from this investigation are (1) to mistrust family hearsay and newspaper obituaries (2) to consult primary sources, and (3) to cite the source of all information.

Notes:

A: Vital Records of Shelburne, Massachusetts, 1756-1985, on 52 microfiches in the Library of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) in Deerfield, MA. Fiches 31-52 cover 1895-1985. The first 30 fiches, with indexes extended to 1985, were copied from 26 original fiches: MASSACHUSETTS VITAL RECORDS: SHELBURNE 1756-1895, from Oxford, Massachusetts: Holbrook Research Institute, 1987, LC 82-81851, ISBN 0-87623-050-8 (ISBN 0-931248-23-X Set), 30- to 35-frame, double-image format at 25X & 30X reduction, 10 volumes on 26 (original) microfiches, Jay Mack Holbrook.

B: Vital records of Shelburne, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849. Salem, Mass., Published by the Essex Institute, 1931.

C: Records of the Church in Deerfield, Massachusetts, 1731-1810, on microfilm in the Library of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) in Deerfield, MA: call number M 974.42 D312 reel 10, including: "...names of children baptized after the death of Revd. Mr. John Williams by ministers preaching here before the resettlement of the ordinances of Christ; the children whose names are hereafter mentioned were baptized after the ordination November 8, 1732 by the pastor of this church November 12, 1732 - March 13, 1785;..."

D: Vital records of Deerfield, Massachusetts, to the year 1850. Boston, Mass., 1920.

E: *A Merrill Memorial*, Vols. I and II, by Samuel Merrill, Cambridge, Mass., 1917-1928. Reprinted in 1983 by Parker River Researchers, P.O. Box 86, Newburyport, Mass. 01950. Reprinted by Anundsen Publishing Co., 108 Washington Street, Decorah, Iowa 52101.

F: Vital Records of Rowe, Massachusetts, 1774-1848, on 9 microfiches in the Library of the

Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) in Deerfield, MA. MASSACHUSETTS VITAL RECORDS TO 1850: ROWE 1774-1848, from Oxford, Massachusetts: Holbrook Research Institute, 1983, LC 82-081851, ISBN 0-931248-32-9 (ISBN 0-931248-23-X Set), 9 microfiche, 419 images filmed on 16mm planetary camera at 25X and 30X reduction, Jay Mack Holbrook.

Author:

Deane Whitney MERRILL Jr. (b.1938)

22 Mechanic Street

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

merrill@crocker.com

<http://www.bearhaven.com/family>

The author is a great-great-great-grandson of Joseph⁶ (Daniel⁵, John⁴, Nathaniel^{3,2})

MERRILL (1773-1844) and Lucinda WHITNEY (1776-1857). See

<http://www.bearhaven.com/ancestor2/merrill.html>.



QUERIES

by Howard and Jean Merrill

You may post your free query at our website <http://merrill.olm.net/TMN/TMNhome.html>. Just scroll down to the Guestbook link and click on Sign Guestbook. We check the Guestbook frequently for new queries, and answer them by e-mail, before publication in this column. Please remember to include all known names, dates and locations to help us pinpoint your Merrill family.

New Queries

Query: Richard A Merrill asked for any information from Theron back. Earliest member known is Theron Merrill who lived in New York. He had a son names James Myron. Theron came to Ohio in early 1800's maybe late 1700's. James moved later, somewhere around mid 1800's. One reference I found showed a possible 1830. James Myron Merrill married Susan Tremaine. He was born New York state and buried South Clarksfield, Huron County, Ohio. They had four Children: Ebbenezzer, Solon Earl, Dolly Loretta, Elihugh. Solon Earl Married Louise Catherine Puder in Norwalk, Ohio, was buried in Rochester, Ohio. They had two sons, two daughters. Son, Harvey Clyde, married Cora Mabel Tuttle, buried in Oberlin Ohio - age 84, Cora Mabel at age 78. Harvey Clyde had one son and two daughters. Harvey's son, Howard Clyde, married Edna Mae Jones had three sons, two daughters: Eugene Howard ; Susanne Elaine; Walter Clyde; Richard Allen; Lisa Marie.

Query: Karen Sorensen of CA said she was researching Abijah Merrill Jr. who m. Anne Prichard 2 Nov. 1815 in Lee, Berkshire, MA. Who were their children and what do we know about Abijah? Anne is her ancestor's sister.

Query: Doris Merrell Harlen of MO writes: I have just started trying to find my ancestry and having a lot of trouble. I am looking for information on Willie or Willey Merrell who married Margoutle Jennings. They were supposed to come from England . John Burd Merrell married Sarah Fine and had my grandfather Rolland Thomas who married Anna Jane Martin. He was from KY and was b. around 1864.

Answers to the above New Queries will be published in the next issue of The Merrill Newsletter. Jean and Howard's answers to the Queries published in the last issue, 6:2, are on the next page. Please click the Next Button to read them.



Previous Queries and Answers

by Howard and Jean Merrill

Query: Rose Adams of CA wanted us to confirm a proposed lineage found in her mothers papers.

"Here is my mother's line, I just found her book."

Nathaniel Merrill & Susannah Wilterton

Dean Abraham Merrill & Abigail Webster

Jonathan Merrill & Mary Brown

Abraham Merrill & Mehitable Stevens

Abraham Merrill & Elizabeth Russ

Thomas Merrill & Susannah Pell

Gilman Merrill & Rebecca Sevier

Hyrum Merrill & Sarah Helen Brim

Claude Merrill & Constance Eva Brown

Lorraine Junella Merrill & Lester Chacey 2nd Brandon E. Kent (my father)

Answer:

The first five generations of this proposed lineage are documented much as you have them

[exceptions below] in *A Merrill Memorial* by Samuel Merrill. However we question if the

Thomas who m. Susannah Pell is Thomas the son of Abraham (5) and Elizabeth Russ.

While many references give immigrant Nathaniel (1) wife's name as Susanna Wilterton, it is

currently believed she was the daughter by a prior m. of Susan, the wife Gregory Wilterton,

proprietor of Hartford CT. [See Heritage Quest 24, pg 38 and 25, pg 44, 1989]

Since we

don't know Susan's first husband's name, Susanna's maiden name is unknown.

Abraham (2)'s title is Deacon -it may have been abbreviated Dea'n - his name is not Dean. He

was bapt. 1637 Apr 9 in Lawford, Essex, England [We saw the baptismal records last summer

in England]. He d. 1722 Nov. 8 in Newbury MA.

Abraham (4) m. 1734 June 20 Mehitable Stevens.

Abraham (5) m. 1777 Feb. 13, Elizabeth Russ, d/o Thomas & Sarah Russ.

The one thing we cannot prove is that the Thomas b. 1778 Dec. 28 to Abraham and Elizabeth

Russ is the same Thomas [of Oxford VT ? according to the VT vital records] that m. 1802

Oct. 19 Susannah Pell of Danville VT. In fact, Virginia Merrill in her Merrill in America

states that Thomas (6) [1778] is the Thomas that m. 1811 Mar 11, Sarena Newcomb in

Thetford VT. There is a Thomas listed in Thetford in the 1820, 1830 and 1860 census [where

he is listed as 82, b. NH]. He d. 1864 June 14, age 86, in Thetford. Sarena d. 1858 July 8, age

76 in Thetford.

We do know that your Thomas was listed in Hillian, Knox Co, OH in 1820: Thomas, [45+],

Wife, [45+], 2m,3f [10-16], 4f [16-26] (sounds like a lot of girls - maybe a weaving or

dressmaking shop?). This is the only data we have to indicate Thomas's age. It would suggest

that he was b. before 1775. We don't have a death date or cemetery record for Thomas. In

1830 the only Merrill in Knox Co is son Gilman - newly married.

In the light of Virginia's data, and the age of Thomas in 1820, we would suggest that your

Thomas is NOT the son of Abraham (5) and Elizabeth Russ. We do not know who his parents were.

Query: Lil Follett-Hall asked: Who is Deborah Merrill, 65, with Truman, 32, schoolteacher, and Catharine, 29, in 1850 Census, Industry, Franklin, ME?

Answer:

Deborah, 66, in the 1850 Industry ME census is Deborah Allen, the widow of Thomas (6) [1776-1824], Ezra (5), Stephen (4,3) Daniel (2) Nathaniel (1).

Truman Allen is her son, b. 1818.

Query: Don W Merrill wrote: I am a twelfth generation New England Merrill. Some of

the information I have differs slightly from the short blurb I got off the internet,. I have five sons

(Nathaniel, John, Abraham, Daniel, and Abel). I have seen the material of another New Hampshire person who has a sixth son, Thomas.? There are

discrepancies here and there. Does anyone have information on the ancestral line in England. I have four generations beginning with John born in 1475. A careful look at the dates through the generations suggests that there is a missing generation.

I look forward to hearing from you or someone with definitive answers.

Answer:

A Merrill Memorial by Samuel Merrill gives verbatim the wills of three John Merrills in England that preceded immigrant Nathaniel's parents Nathaniel and Mary Blacksol. Certainly the latest of these [will 1600] refers to Nathaniel's grandfather. Since both of the earlier wills [1552 and 1529] named two different sons as John it is difficult to know which one is which. Some folks claim a Thomas Merryl b. 1444, but we have seen no documentation. Others want to trace their lineage back to the time of William the Conqueror. We only claim the first John [1600 will] where we are certain of the direct lineage.

The Thomas that was granted land in Arundel, now Kennebunkport, ME in 1681 for killing an hostile indian is sometimes attributed to Nathaniel, but he is believed to be the Thomas, son of Thomas who was baptised in Hartford CT, 1646 Nov. 1. He is sometimes known as Thomas of Saybrook CT. Many of his descendants resided in Saybrook and Clinton CT and Pittsfield MA. He was a sea captain and is believed to have lived for a time in what is now Kennebunkport ME. Although we have no proof, we believe his father may be Nathaniel's cousin Thomas, b. ca 1696 in Wherstead, Suffolk, England to Thomas and Rose Pearson. He disappears from English records about the same time as Nathaniel.

Query: **Celia Schultz** wrote asking who Mary Merrill's parents were." I have record of a Mary A. Merrill, b. Nov. 30, 1811, possibly in N. Yarmouth, ME; m. George Everett on March 11, 1830, probably in New Brunswick, Canada; date of burial 2/20/1885 in Manchester, NH."

From an "Everett" genealogy book: "George Everett is a 7th generation Descendant of Richard E of Dedham, MA. His wife, Mary A Merrill was of St. Andrews, NB, he was a farmer and shipwright, lived at Montville, Calais and Camden, ME. In 1869 he was living at Boston, MA."

Answer:

Sorry, on this one we don't have a clue. We have very little data on those who crossed over into Canada. In N. Yarmouth in 1820 there are nine Merrill families with daughters under 10. We can eliminate all but two as not having a Mary or whose Mary had the wrong b. date or m. the wrong person. Those two are both unidentified, in that we do not know who their parents were and do not know their lineage. For all the other Merrills listed in the 1820 census of North Yarmouth, we have identified their lineage back to immigrant Nathaniel. Those two are a Joseph [45+], and a Nathan also [45+]. We have no idea what their daughter's [b. 1810-1820] names were. Neither Joseph nor Nathan were there in 1830.

Query: Liz Tattersall wrote "I am looking for information on Hattie G. Merrill. She married George E. Tattersall & had at least 2 sons, Ivan Leroy & Ernest. George was born in 1877, Orford, NH. Ivan's birth certificate lists Hattie as being born in Lyme, NH. Hattie is my gg grandmother.

Answer:

From The NH vital records, we have a Hattie Grace b. 1884 Jan. 28 in Orford, Grafton Co, NH to Elijah Noyes (9) and Isabell (Greenough) Deland Merrill. Elijah Noyes's lineage is Cyrus (8), Jesse (7), Timothy (6), Jesse (5), Stephen (4), Nathaniel (3,2,1).

Query: Beverly Merrill wrote: "I am still searching for my husband's father's line prior to 1794, Joseph(?) Merrill was born on August 21, 1794. He married Catharine Berry September 30, 1823, and can be found in census records for about thirty years living in Denmark, Maine; then Lovell, Maine; and in Sebago, Maine, with a daughter, Cynthia Holt, about 1860. Joseph and Catherine had one son who lived to adulthood Stephen(?) who was died in 1865 from wounds suffered in the Battle of Hatcher's Run, Virginia, in the Civil War. Stephen married Rebecca R. Blake and one of their children was Henry Wilson Merrill of Hiram, Maine, my husband's grandfather. Anyone have any knowledge of this line, particularly the parentage of Joseph [1794]?"

Answer:

Beverly is a longtime correspondent searching for Joseph. We were able to supply her with the census data, but have been unable to determine Joseph's parents. We hope some subscriber

can provide the missing link.

(Editor's Note: The following query was inadvertently left out of the last issue's New Queries section. Mea culpa.)

Query: Patricia Halliday wrote: "My grandfather was Frank Reginald (8) Merrill, Issac D.(7), Elias(6), Humphrey(5,4), James(3), Abel(2), Nathaniel(1). Issac founded the town of Bridgeton, Newaygo Co., MI, and Frank was born there, August 16 or 26, 1867. I have data on his eight siblings who were born there except for Henry C. Merrill, b.1852-53; he may have died in his 20's.

Oral history has stated that this lineage follows the youngest sons through eight generations; I have not substantiated this so far. Along with data on generation (8), I have a fair amount of data on subsequent generations (9) and (10) in MI, OR and CA.

Also I need the place of marriage for Frank R. MERRILL and Ella Sophia RAINOUARD, m. January 13, 1888. She and her family were from Polkton Twp., Ottawa Co. MI. I have not found the locale in Newaygo, Ottawa, Muskegon Cos. or through MI Vital Stats.

Answer:

We can confirm the lineage you presented down to Frank (8) b. ca 1868. Our data on Frank and his siblings are from the 1850, 60, and 70 census of Newaygo Co MI, so we don't have exact dates. His brother, Henry C, was still around in 1870.

We must discount the oral tradition about "youngest sons for 8 generations".

Abel (2) was the youngest of 5 sons [6 ch]

James (3) was the youngest of 6 sons [8 ch]

Humphrey (4) was the 2nd oldest of 6 sons [11 ch]

Humphrey (5) was the 3rd oldest of 5 sons [8 ch]

Elias (6) was the oldest of 7 sons [11 ch]

Isaac Dimmock (7) was the 2nd oldest of 5 sons [9 ch]

Frank was the youngest of 7 sons [9 ch]

We don't have any info on Frank's m. to Ella.

Chloe Hubbard Cummings



January 4, 1905

April 10, 2000

by Beverly J. Merrill

In a story about Nana's early years written by her daughter for Nana's great grandchildren, there's a quote from a letter written to Nana by her Grandfather Joshua Hubbard on February 18, 1922. In it he says:

"Now Chloe the advice your grandfather now 93 years old gives you is to take good care of your health, get as good an education as you can, live a good long life and do all the good you can in the world"

When that letter was written Nana was seventeen years old and in her senior year at Portland High School. Seventy-eight years have passed since the writing of that letter. Ninety-five years have passed since the birth of Chloe Frances Hubbard on January 4, 1905 in the little New England town of West Newfield nestled near the foothills of the White Mountains in southwestern Maine.

West Newfield was a place where small children played freely and happily, roaming nearly at will. And thus, the first child of William Howe Hubbard and Olive May Tibbetts spent her childhood with her brother, Wilbur, who was two years younger. BUT ... that awful word "BUT" ... it was late February of 1918 and all was about to change. This was perhaps the pivotal event in Nana's life and the event that directed the path her life would take. On February 22, 1918, her mother died.

**To everything there is a season,
a time to every purpose under heaven
A time to be born, and a time to die ...**
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Nana was thirteen years old, too young not to need the love and guidance of a mother and too old to stay in the lumber camp environment in which her father worked. Within the week, she was put on a stage alone to be taken to the train that would take her to Tamworth, New Hampshire, to live with strangers who would become known as "Auntie Carl and Uncle Frank."

"During the early spring afternoons, the woman ("Auntie Carl") walks the girl (Chloe) around the porch that encircles the house exhibiting her love for the mountains surrounding them and teaching the girl the names: from the side porch - Chicorua ... Passaconway ... Paugus ... White Face; from the back - Israel; from the front - Whittier. The calming quietness of these short walks, the soothing friendship of the older woman, and the enduring strength and beauty of the mountains - the essence of God - enfold the girl, comforting her in her loss and the healing process begins." *For Rachel and Rebekah - A Story from Gramma with Love*

**I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord ...**
Psalm 121:1-2a

Change did not stop there. When fall came, there was no place for her to go to school in Tamworth. She had finished 8th grade the year before and needed to go on to high school. Thus she was sent to Portland to live with her mother's sister, her Aunt Bess, husband, and three month old baby girl. Nana, however, would return summers to the Carls in Tamworth to work in their summer boarding home. Tamworth and the Carls became an important part of her life. Aunt Bess, Uncle Bert, and Barbara became her family. And thus that fall of 1918, as she went from a small one-room schoolhouse into the vast corridors of Portland High School, from a town where everyone was friend to the city streets peopled with strangers, Nana began what would turn out to be her forty-eight year stay in Portland.

The other important thing that happened that fall is on the first Sunday after her arrival she was invited to go with Aunt Bess' boarder to Pine Street Methodist Episcopal Church. She had always loved Sunday School in the little Congregational Church down the road from her home in West Newfield so accepted the invitation happily. She soon made friends with the other Pine Street youth through the Epworth League and they became her circle of friends, many lasting a lifetime.

On January 4, 1920, Nana joined Pine Street Methodist Episcopal Church. For most of the next 80 years, Nana was an active member of the Methodist Church, her attendance stopped only by her infirmities. When Pine Street Methodist Episcopal Church closed in 1933 and merged into what was then known as Chestnut Street Methodist Episcopal Church, she continued her various activities and interests there. It is there that she brought her children for baptism and where the center of family activity lay. Nana was active in the Bayside Group (a woman's church school class), the Women's Society of Christian Service (now United Methodist Women), and taught Sunday School in the Primary Department. She was church secretary at Chestnut Street for sixteen years prior to 1966, when her husband, E. Millett Cummings*, became a United Methodist minister at age 60. They sold their home in Portland and moved to Norway.

At some point during Nana's late teen years, she was going to Nashua, New Hampshire, to visit her cousin Emma, who was also a very dear friend. She had an hour's wait in Rochester, New Hampshire, and decided it was time to meet her older half-brother, Philip Hubbard, whom she knew about but had never met. So she used the time to go to the store where he worked. She saw a man that looked like her father, walked over to him, and asked if he was Philip Hubbard. She then told him that she was his sister and thus she gained a second brother, a sister-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Besides Aunt Bess, "Auntie" as she was affectionately known, Nana had another aunt, who lived in North Waterboro, Maine. Aunt Mertie had several daughters. Weekends Nana often took the train to South Waterboro and the stage to either North Waterboro or Limerick, depending on whether she was going to Aunt Mertie's or to her cousin's house. That particular weekend, she was headed to her cousin's when she overheard another passenger, a well-dressed, redheaded young man who kind of caught her eye, ask directions to her cousin's house in Limerick. He was a salesman who had been invited to stay with them when in town. No way was she going where he was going. A quick change of plans was called for and Nana got off the stage at Aunt Mertie's. Later she discovered that this young

man was from Livermore, Maine, a son of Lincoln and Ada Cummings, but he was then living and working in Portland.

After a seven year courtship, Nana and Great Grampa were married on December 24, 1932 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Their first child was born December 2, 1933, a son, Philip Wilbur. Their second child was born December 28, 1934, a daughter, Beverly Jean. These were the Depression Years and it was hard to begin a family. Soon it was World War II and other types of challenges had to be met. However, in 1941, after the death of the Carls, they were able to purchase their home on Stevens Avenue in Portland, where they raised their two children. The second great tragedy in Nana's life was the untimely death of her beloved son in January of 1978. Another cross she had to bear was her blindness for nearly thirty years of her life.

Nana loved the stores in downtown Portland - Porteous, Rines, Owen Moores. She loved to shop, especially for Christmas. As the holiday approached, the corner of Nana's and Great Grampa's Stevens Avenue bedroom on her side of the bed was off limits as the packages came in and were wrapped to be placed under the tree later. When shopping became nearly an impossibility in later years (although with the aid of store wheel chairs, she got to do some herself), it had to be done by her daughter beginning in July at the very, very latest, four gifts for each child a book, a toy, an article of clothing, and a little money. This was a formula that her friend, Irma Boobar, said was what every child needed for Christmas. As the great grandchildren grew in number, this became a monumental task! Her back rooms in Norway were filled with presents.

Nana loved to travel (being married to a traveling salesman for thirty plus years, Great Grampa's first job, made that easy). She loved her time with her brothers; she loved her time with her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law ... trips to West Newfield, to Rochester, to Nashua, to York, to Canton, to Dixfield, to Darien, to Hartford, to Ashley Falls, to Pennsylvania after her son moved there, to the White Mountains, to various church conferences, even just a little ride out to the Cape to watch the ocean. She did not, however, like to come to the Island where her daughter and husband first lived. When her children were growing up, the house was always full of visitors, sometimes relatives from away, sometimes strangers who just happened to be in church that Sunday.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent child,
Friends on earth, and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mile;

Lord of all to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.
The United Methodist Hymnal, 92

Nana's six grandchildren (Martha, Geoffrey, Susan, Laura, Lee, and John) started to arrive in 1959. She and Great Grampa moved to Norway in 1966 and this is where the grandchildren mostly remember them. The great grandchildren began to arrive in 1980 (Sara, Adam, Isaac, and Anna Lornitzo; Emily, Abigail, and Owen Cummings; Alexander and Philip Cummings; Jennifer, Daniel (Martha's step children) and Sarah Ames; Rachel, Rebekah, and Michael Church; Jessica and Tiffany Merrill; and one great, great granddaughter, Jenn's daughter, Haley) and as of this writing we await the birth of Martha's new baby girl. Whether or not Nana will live to hold Hannah Rebekah, we do not know. We do know that Nana is safe in God's hands and that his love envelops her.

Thus Nana has fulfilled the wish of her Grandfather Hubbard so long ago to "live a good long life and do all the good you can in the world ..." Her love was never demonstrative. There were no warm, strong bear hugs. Neither her daughter or her daughter's daughters ever remember being told that she loved them, but, nevertheless, they knew it. In the closing paragraphs of Nana's story (in the letter to Rachel and Rebekah) it is said that

"It is very important for us to listen to and, more importantly to hear the stories of others. By really listening to, and really hearing, the stories of others, we can enhance our own lives, learn what is good, and become strong and useful.

"Nana's story teaches us that despite sad or bad things happening, life, which is given to us by God, is good. It is our task to make choices that help us to make the best of both the adversities and the opportunities that come our way." *For Rachel and Rebekah - A Story from Gramma with love*

This is the gift that Nana leaves with you, her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchild.

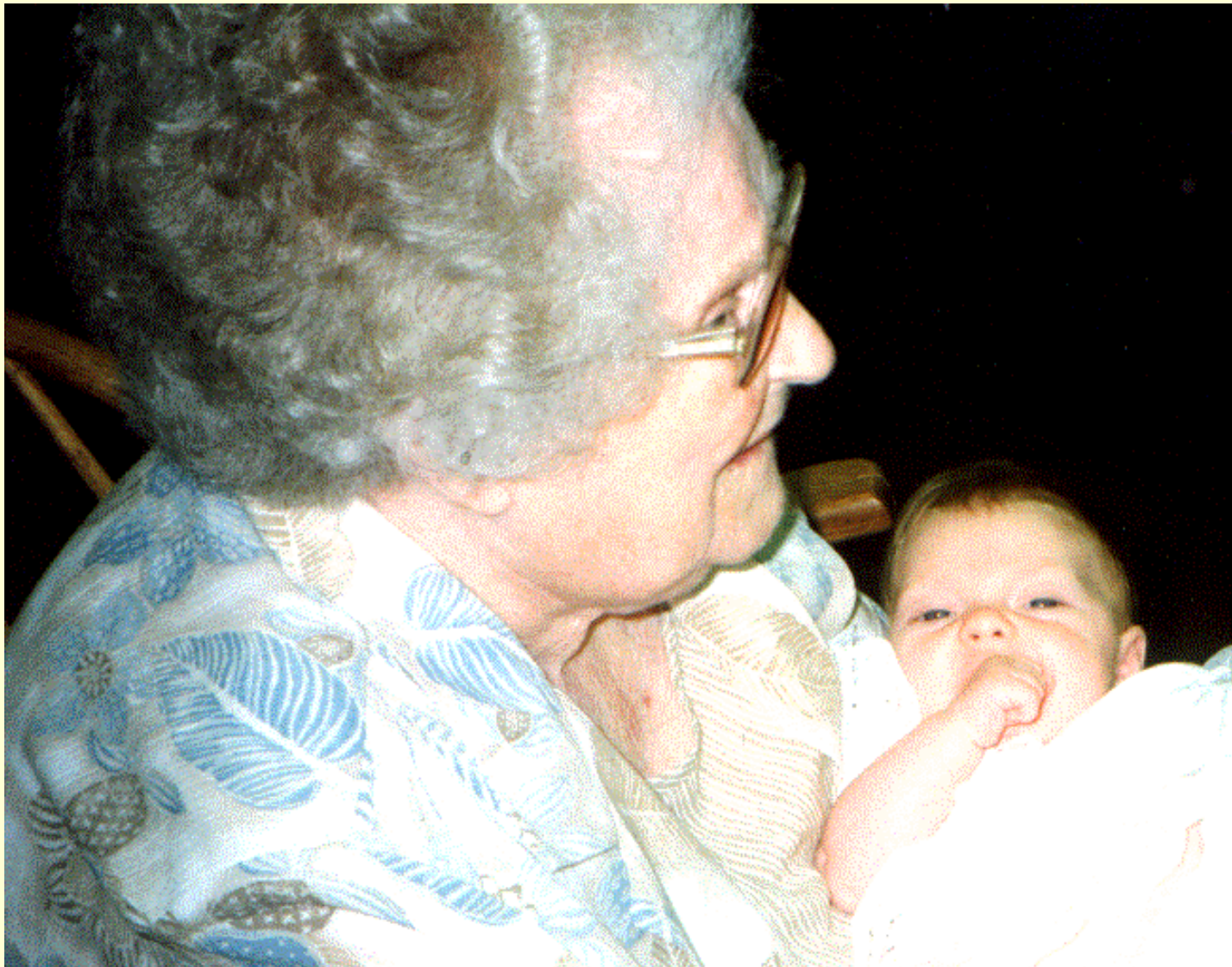
**For I am persuaded, that neither death,
nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor powers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 8: 38-39

... for God is love

1 John 4:8

*E. Millett Cummings (1906-1991) was the son of A. Lincoln Cummings (1869-1932) who was the son of Martha J. (Merrill) (1832-1892) and Millett Cummings. Martha was the daughter of Richard⁷ (Joseph⁶, Daniel⁵, Joseph⁴, Daniel³, Daniel², Nathaniel¹) Merrill and Eunice Livermore of Livermore, Maine.





Nana and Sarah



Web Links

[Merrill Family Genealogy Forum](#)

[Union Cemetery, Georgetown, MA](#)

[Richard and William Merrill of early Staten Island](#)

[Find A Grave](#)

[Ancestor Roll of Honor - Nathaniel Merrill](#)

[New England Historic Genealogical Society](#)

[First Parish Church of Newbury \(formed in 1635\)](#)

[Merrills of Orford, NH](#)

Find more links on our home page [The Merrill Newsletter](#)



Editor's Corner

by Lillian Follett-Hall

A newsletter is only as good as its content, and we strive to publish quality content. This issue is slim, due to a lack of material submitted for publication. We depend upon you, the subscribers, for your family stories, genealogy, and facts you have picked up while researching your families. If you have such material, please do not hesitate to submit it to us for possible publication. If necessary, we will help you with re-writing, and of course, we do edit everything published here.

So please don't hesitate to inquire, at least, about submitting your work. I would really like to keep publication of the newsletter on a quarterly basis, as initially intended, but when the well is dry, so to speak, what is one to do?

Please feel free to e-mail me lilhall@mpinet.net with any questions you might have about submitting material for the newsletter. Please note this is a new e-mail address, if perhaps you didn't receive my notification when it was changed recently.

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