

# The Merrill Newsletter

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## Table of Contents

<b>Jesse and Harriet (Henderson) Merrill</b> by Delores (Merrill) Young	<a href="#"><u>Page 1</u></a>
<b>Looking for Merrills</b> by Eleanor Merrill	<a href="#"><u>Page 2</u></a>
<b>Queries</b> by Howard and Jean Merrill	<a href="#"><u>Page 3</u></a>
<b>Old News</b> by Lillian Follett-Hall	<a href="#"><u>Page 5</u></a>
<b>Estate Inventory of Susannah, Nathaniel's wife</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 6</u></a>

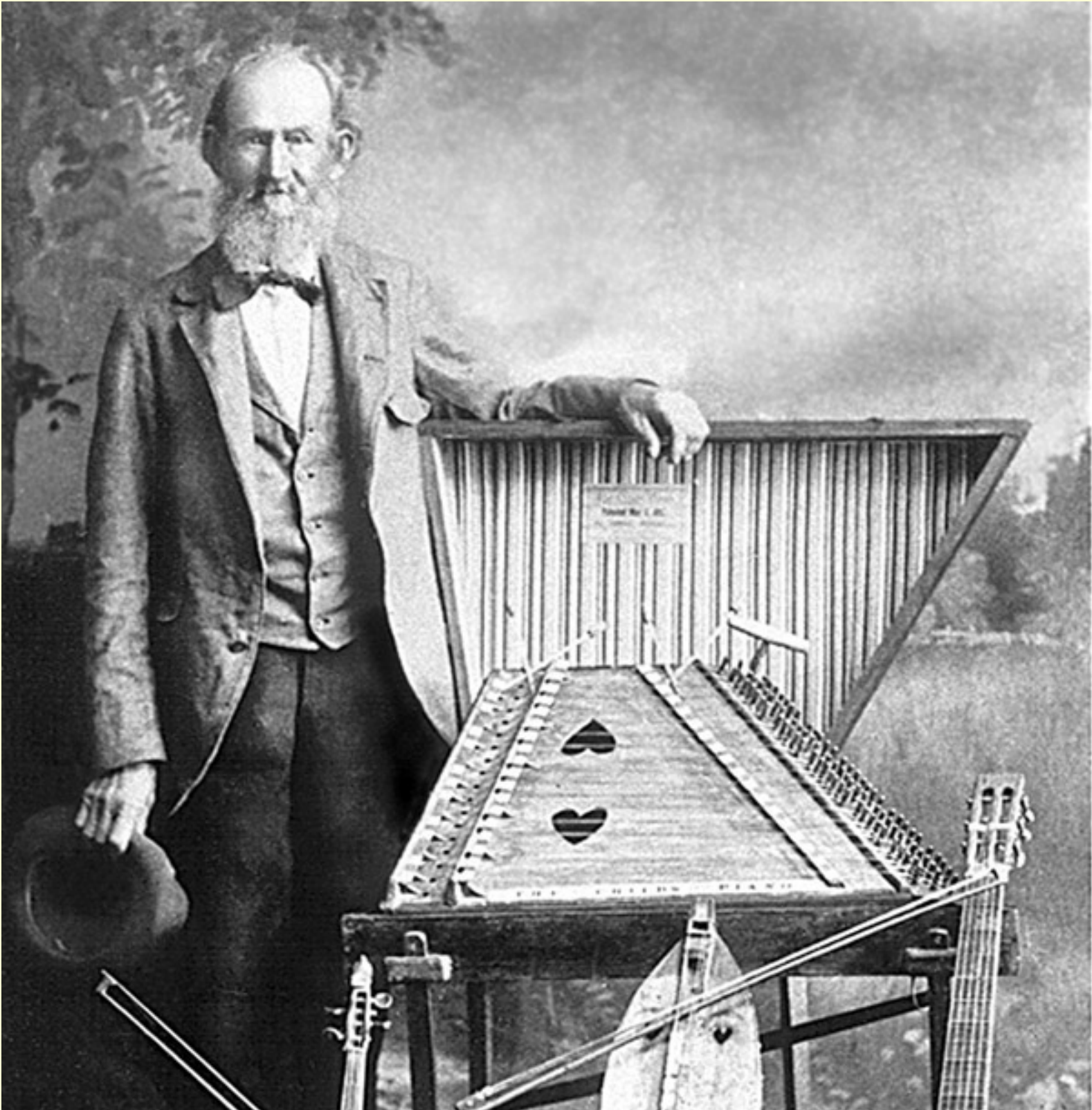
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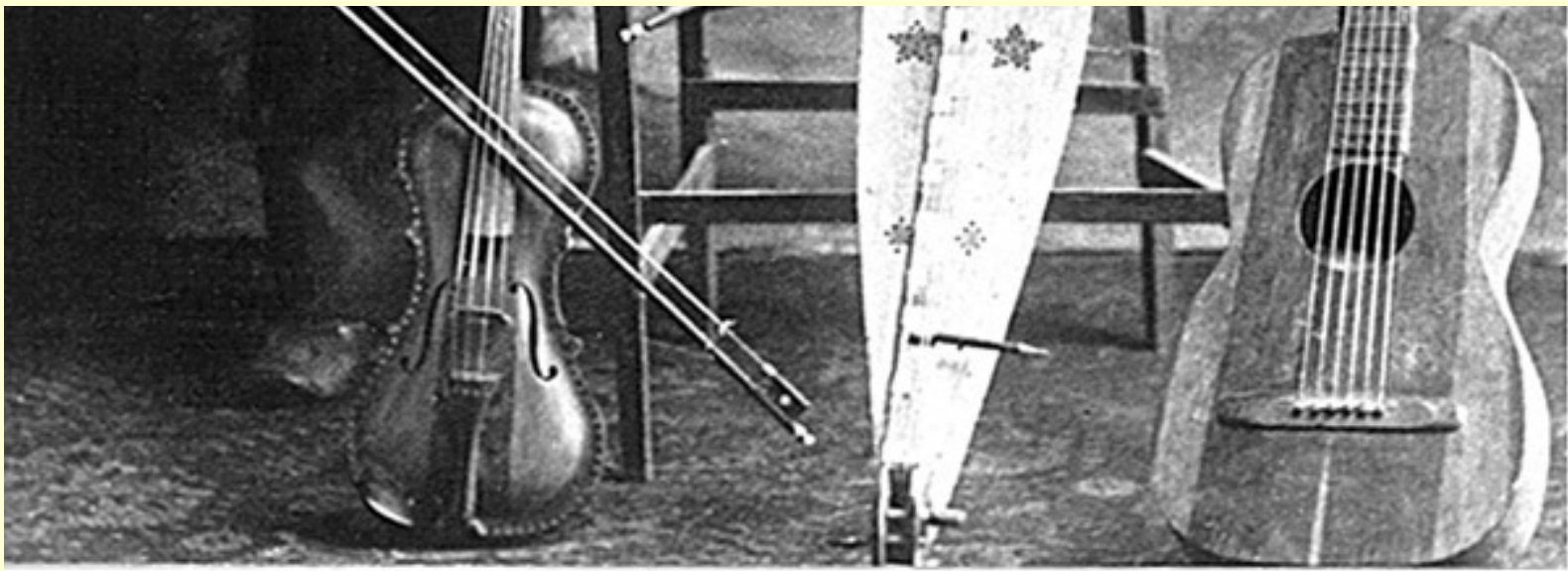


# JESSE AND HARRIET (HENDERSON) MERRILL

Compiled by Delores (Merrill) Young

Revised March 2000





## Jesse Merrill with some of his instruments

Jesse Merrill was born 15 March 1825 in Wayne or Somerton Township in Belmont County, Ohio, the fifth child of Richard and Hannah (Perkins) Merrill. When he was twelve years old, his mother died. His father remarried and subsequently moved to Monroe County, then to Noble County, Ohio. Jesse moved to Wapello County, Iowa, by 1848, where he worked as a carpenter. On 10 July 1851 in Centerville, Appanoose County, Iowa, he married Harriet E. Henderson, daughter of William S. and Sarah A. (Miller) Henderson. Jesse and Harriet were faithful members of the Church of Christ from 1853. They were the parents of eight children, Leroy born in 1853 in Ohio, died before 1870, Delora born in June, 1855, in Iowa. The remaining children were born near Nebraska City, Otoe County, Nebraska: William Henry born 20 December 1858, Sarah Ann, born in September, 1862, John R. born in September, 1863, Jessie (Jane), born in November, 1867, and Hattie born in January, 1873. Another child was born to this family, probably about 1870, but died young, according to the obituary of Harriet Merrill.

About 1857, the family moved to Nebraska City, Otoe County, Nebraska Territory, where Jesse was a farmer. Unlike most men of his age, Jesse did not serve in the War of the Rebellion, which was from 1861 to 1865. The family apparently moved back to Iowa after the birth of their youngest child in 1873. (1885 KS census) In 1876, they moved to Ellsworth County, Kansas, where Jesse homesteaded about four miles east of Fort Harker (now Kanopolis) in Empire Township. In 1898 the township name was changed to Clear Creek Township. A log cabin was built on the homestead at some point in time. Jesse's grandson, Kenneth A. Merrill, remembered that his family lived in this cabin at the time his father, William H. Merrill, built a new house on the property, about 1910. Later it was used for storage, and today a corner of the cabin is on display in the Livery which is a part of the Hodgden House museum complex managed by the Ellsworth County Historical Society in Ellsworth. Jesse "proved up" the land by building a stone house 14 feet by 20 feet, with a frame addition 10 feet by 20 feet. He also built a frame barn, a stone stable 18 feet by 22 feet, strung one and one half miles of wire fence, one half mile of hedge fence, a corral, hand dug a

well and walled it up, built a granary, and a corn crib. He also planted a fruit orchard, built a fish pond, and raised crops of corn and wheat.

The military road from Fort Riley to Fort Zarah (near Great Bend), to Fort Larned on the Santa Fe Trail was established in the early 1860's. Fort Ellsworth was established near the present-day town of Kanopolis as a post to guard the crossing of this road at the Smoky Hill River. Because of flooding, the post was closed in 1866. It was replaced by Fort Harker which was built on higher ground. The Butterfield Overland Despatch freight and stage line followed the same route through eastern Ellsworth County as the military road. The Kansas Pacific Railway, now Union Pacific, was laid through Ellsworth County in 1867. These major transportation routes all crossed the land that Jesse Merrill chose to homestead. The ruts made by the wagons are still visible today on the farmland.

On March 4, 1879, Jesse filed for homestead with the Salina Land Office. His claim for homestead was published in the Ellsworth Reporter on January 27, 1886, with A. M. Farris, W. H. H. Farris, W. S. Farris, and W. H. Merrill, all of Carneiro, as his witnesses. Other Affidavits filed supporting his claim were signed by Abraham Bennett and Horace Sibley, both of Ellsworth. The Patent for this homestead was signed by Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, on the seventh of February, 1888, and on 8 December 1888, it was filed in the Land Records of Ellsworth County, Kansas. The land is legally described as follows:

The SouthEast Quarter of Section No. 22, in Township No. 15 South, of the Range No. 7 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, Ellsworth County, Kansas, consisting of 160 acres, or S.E. 1/4 of Sec. 22, Twp. 15, Range. 7

In addition to being a farmer, Jesse made musical instruments. A photograph of him taken in 1897 shows him with four of the musical instruments he made, a child's piano, a hammered dulcimer, a violin, and a guitar. (Photo at top.) Inside the violin is written, "Jesse Merrill, Maker/for son Will/August 23rd, 1884/Kanopolis, Kansas". Inside the guitar is written, "Kanopolis, Kans./December 2nd, 1890/Maker, Jesse Merrill/I am 65 years old". Jesse received a U. S. Patent, No. 582,537, on May 11, 1897, for a dulcimer of his own design. This must have been a musical family. Jesse's daughter, Jessie (Merrill) Sampson played the organ, and his son, William, played the fiddle and later had a family band that played for special occasions in the community.

Jesse Merrill died 10 May 1902 at the home of his son, William H. Merrill, on Clear Creek in Ellsworth County, Kansas. His obituary reads in part, "He was quite a genius in mechanical art, and had made a number of instruments of music, some of which are patented." He was buried in the Kanopolis Cemetery. Harriet E. Merrill died 2 April 1905 at the home of her son, Will, on Clear Creek. She was buried beside her husband in the Kanopolis Cemetery.

#### CHILDREN OF JESSE AND HARRIET (HENDERSON) MERRILL

Delora Merrill moved to Nebraska with her parents about 1857. Her grandfather, William S. Henderson, died in 1873, the same year her youngest sister was born in Nebraska, and it appears the family moved back to Centerville, Iowa, for a short time. Delora married about 1874, probably in Iowa, James L. Lewis, an attorney. He was born in September, 1849, in Ohio, of Ohio-born parents. They had one son, Jesse W. Lewis, who was born in January, 1875, in Iowa. Whether Delora and her family moved to Kansas with her parents in 1876 is

not known. This family later moved to Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, where they appear on the 1900 census. Delora operated a boarding house there. Delora's sister, Hattie (Merrill) Pierce (sp?), and her daughter, Ethel, were living with the Lewis family at that time. Later, James and Delora moved to Des Moines, Iowa.

Jesse W. Lewis married about 1899 Myrtle, who was born in April, 1878, in Iowa of Iowa-born parents. Jesse Lewis sent a postcard containing a picture of himself to his Uncle Will Merrill, postmarked in Mulberry, Kansas. Mulberry is in Bourbon County, near Ft. Scott. The date is not known.. The message reads as follows: "Dear Uncle, I will mail you one of my pictures maybe you can see some likeness. Father and Mother are well, and live in D. M. (Des Moines, IA?) How is all of your folks. I wish I knew Hattie & Jessie address. /s/ Jesse L."

William Henry Merrill moved with his family to Ft. Harker, Kansas, where on 20 May 1885, he married Nancy Elizabeth "Lizzie" Jackson, who was born in Allen County, Ohio. She was a daughter of Kanaday and Rachel Anna (Merrill) Jackson. They had seven children, Robert in 1887, died in infancy, Iva B., born in 1889, Emil Leo, born in 1892, Harvey Elden born in 1895, Lindon Douglas born in 1899, Kenneth A., born in 1904, and Odessa P., born in 1907. Will and Lizzie lived on their farm all their married lives. He died 20 June 1932 and is buried in the Kanopolis Cemetery, Kanopolis, Kansas. Lizzie died 22 March 1952 at Fort Dodge Old Soldiers' Home, Dodge City, Kansas, and is buried beside her husband.

Sarah Ann married Smith B. Crane, a farmer, on 23 July 1881 in Ellsworth, Kansas.. He was born in December, 1861, in Ohio, son of Smith and Francis Crane, both born in Ohio. Smith Crane was landlord of the \$30,000, three-story, brick, St. Charles Hotel in Kanopolis in 1890. Miscellaneous articles from The Kanopolis Journal report that Smith B. Crane was a farmer, a drayman who transferred passengers from the railroad station, was an agent for a sewing machine company, and was appointed postmaster at Kanopolis, (30 March 1889) On 14 April 1889, it is reported that he and Wm. Merrill were going to travel the next week to Port Townsend, Territory of Washington, with the expectation of locating there if that country is as represented. On 6 July 1889 it was reported, "S. B. Crane and William Merrill, who went to Washington Territory last spring, will return the first of next month." And on 27 July 1889: "Crane and Merrill returned from Washington Territory, they are well satisfied with Kansas" Smith B. Crane was a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows, served as Kanopolis City Marshal and as Ordinance Sergeant for Seigle Camp No. 51 of the S.O.V. (Sons of Veterans), indicating that his father had been a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War. His father was an officer of the G. A. R. in Kanopolis. (Grand Army of the Republic) The children of Smith B. and Sarah A. Crane, all probably born in Kanopolis, Kansas, were Lawrence B., born in September, 1883, Samuel J., born in November, 1885, Francis E., born in December, 1887, Edward Leroy, born 2 September 1890, Myrtle M., born in January, 1893, and Helen :L., born in September, 1896. The family moved to Johnson County, Kansas, by 1900, and to Franklin Township, Bourbon County, Kansas, by 1910. A family picture taken about 1920 shows Sarah (Merrill) Crane, her husband, Smith B. Crane, his mother, Francis Crane, and six young people, three boys and three girls, one of whom is identified as Lewis Sampson, oldest son of Sarah's sister, Jessie (Merrill) Sampson. It appears to be a wedding picture, but taken in an outdoor setting.

Lawrence B. Crane married Ida Jones and lived in Joplin, Missouri. He died

there before 1950.

Samuel J. Crane moved to Hemet, California.

Francis E. Crane married Mr. McDonough and moved to Kansas City.

Edward Leroy Crane married Alice Elnora Jones on 5 July 1911, at Ft. Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas. Their children were Christina, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Helen, Dorothy, Jesse Belmont, Nancy, and Sarah.

Helen L. Crane married William Wagner and moved to Tacoma, Washington

John R. Merrill married 14 January 1886 in Ottawa County, Kansas, Viola Edwards, who was born in September, 1867, in Missouri, of Indiana-born parents. Two photos taken at Avenarius Studios in Ellsworth, Kansas, about 1886, one of Viola and one of John and Viola, indicate that the Edwards family lived near the Merrill family in Empire Township. John R. and Viola Merrill had two children born in Kansas, Ana born in January, 1886, and Leroy F. born in March 1889. About 1890 the family moved to Seattle, Washington. There, two known children were born, Dora B. born in October 1891, and Grant W. born in January 1896.. John worked as a shipping clerk for the Great Northern Railroad. Viola ran a boarding house at the University of Washington. By 1920, John and Viola had divorced, and she had married Peter Hanson. Peter was born about 1874 in Wisconsin of Norwegian parents. Peter worked as a coater in a blueprint shop. Dora and Grant were living with their mother, and John R. Merrill was living with their son, Leroy F. and his family. The 1930 Seattle Directory lists a J. R. Merrill and a John R. Merrill residing at 621 Jackson Street. John R. Merrill's occupation is listed as a checker for the Great Northern Railway Company. John R. Merrill apparently died between 1932 and 1934 in Seattle. Peter Hanson apparently died between 1930 and 1938 in Seattle. Viola A. Hanson is listed on the 1938 Seattle City Directory, which indicates that she passed away after that time..

Leroy F. Merrill married about 1913 Helen B., who was born about 1892 in Ohio. Their daughter, Viola C., was born about 1914 in Hawaii. In 1920 they lived in Seattle, Washington, where he worked as an engineer inspector for the Government. Leroy apparently died between 1920 and 1930 in Seattle.

Dora B. Merrill married about 1918 Earl L. Ackor/Anchor, who was born about 1887 in Ohio. In 1920 they lived in Seattle, Washington, where Earl worked as an assistant manager in a blueprint shop.. Earl L. Achor/Anchor is not listed on the Seattle City Director for 1938, but Dora B. Achor was living at 4527 - 18th Ave. NE. Her occupation was listed as telegraph operator for Bon Marche.

Grant Merrill was known by Mark Sampson, a cousin, to be a radio broadcaster in Seattle. In 1920 Grant lived with his mother, Viola, her second husband, and his sister and her husband. He was a student and worked as a musician in an orchestra. The 1930 Seattle Directory lists a Grant W. Merrill residing at 4527 - 18th Ave. NE, occupation continuity, NW Broadcasting System, Inc. The 1934 Directory lists a Grant W. Merrill at the same address, occupation continuity writer, Totem Broadcasters.

Jessie P. Merrill married on 10 January 1885 at the home of Squire and Mrs. J. T. Noble in

Ellsworth, Kansas, John C. Sampson.. He was born at Waterloo, Iowa, a son of Lewis and Mary Ann Sampson. John was a stonemason and carpenter. John played the violin and Jessie played the organ. They played for barn dances in the country. They were members of the Free Methodist Church. John and Jessie Sampson had nine children, all born near Kanopolis, Kansas, Lewis born in January 1886, a son, M. A., born and died in 1887, Leona born in 1889, died in 1893, Carl born in April 1892, Esther born in November 1893, Paul born 27 December 1896, Olive Mildred born 20 June 1900, died 20 May 1904, Marcus Theodore born 10 February 1904, and John born in 1908. M. A., Leona, and Olive Mildred are buried in the Buckeye Cemetery near Kanopolis in Ellsworth County, Kansas. John and Jessie Sampson moved back to Iowa in the spring of 1893, and returned to Kanopolis in March, 1896. In April, 1897, John was elected to the Kanopolis City Council. In December, 1904, John sold his real estate interests in Kanopolis and shortly thereafter, moved from Kanopolis to Liberal, Kansas. In 1910, the family appears on the census, which shows John managing a boarding house there. They must have moved back to the Carneiro area shortly after the census was taken, as John Sampson plastered the walls of the house built by William H. Merrill about that time on the Merrill homestead. They moved about 1911 to West Plains, Missouri, where John's brother lived. About 1915 they moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where they lived for about four years. Carl and Paul both served in the U. S. Navy, possibly during World War I, and convinced their parents to relocate to Washington state. Jessie died about 1942 and is buried in Bow, Skagit County, Washington. John died about 1943 and is buried at Marysville, Washington.

Lewis Sampson worked for the railroad (picture), and lived in Bourbon County, Kansas, and Wyoming, Iowa. His first wife's name was Della, but he married three more times. He had a son named George. He died at Wyoming, Iowa, and is buried there.

Carl Sampson served in the U. S. Navy. He married, but had no children. He died after 1960 and is buried at Tacoma, Washington.

Esther Sampson married Russell Meyer about 1930 and lived in Washington state. They had no children. After Russell's death, she remarried.. She died after 1960, and is buried there.

Paul Sampson served in the U. S. Navy. He died 22 January 1972 and is buried at Marysville, Washington.

Mark Sampson lived in Washington and worked as a contractor. He married Patricia Ackerman on 9 March 1935 in Washington. They were the parents of two children, Darrell born 1 June 1936 and Donald born 26 June 1938. Mark visited the site of his childhood in Ellsworth, Kansas, in May, 1996, with his son, Don. Mark died at Marysville, Washington, on October 4, 1997, and is buried in Cypress Lawn Cemetery, South Everett, Washington. Patricia died in 1999 and is buried beside him.

Darrell Sampson had a son, Todd, born August 26, 1968.

Donald Sampson married and had four children, triplets Chris, Curt and Craig, born April 13, 1960, and Corrie born September 21, 1965.

John Sampson married but had no children. He lived at Tacoma, Washington, and died after 1960.

Hattie (a nickname for Harriet) Merrill married about 1893 a man named Pierce, who was born in Kansas. They had a daughter, Ethel, born in January 1894 in Kansas. There is a picture that belonged to Will and Lizzie Merrill of a Pierce family, who apparently used to live in Ellsworth County, Kansas. Hattie and her daughter, Ethel, lived with her older sister and family in Kansas City in 1900. Her daughter, Ethel, later worked for a traveling circus company. Lila Merrill remembered that William H. Merrill wanted to go to Salina to see the circus because his niece was working with the circus, possibly as an office worker. This probably would have been in the 1920's. Nothing further is known about this family.



# Looking for Merrills

By Eleanor Merrill

We have been searching for information on ANY Merrill residing in Iowa in 1870, with parents who were born in Pennsylvania. My Grandfather, William Hood Merrill, was born in Iowa in October of 1870, after the census was taken in June & July. This information was taken from the Dewey County, Oklahoma Census of 1900. It also stated he was a widower at census time, had been married 3 years. His first wife is unknown. He married Grandmother, Mary Dolcena Knox, in Sept. 1900 and they had three children, Clayton Hood Merrill, Florence Ila Merrill and William Leo Merrill who was my father. When my father was approximately 8 months old (1904) his father left with two brothers, names unknown to us, and two friends, a Mr. and Mrs. Bridges, to go to Odessa, Texas to start a cattle ranch. W.H. corresponded with Grandmother and wrote her that "the cabin is nearly done and I will send for you and the children and meet you in Amarillo". That was the last letter she had from him, date unknown to us and he never returned. Her parents convinced her that he had abandoned she and the children and no effort was made to locate him. I believe my father was one of the bitterest as he resented it that they had been "abandoned". When Grandmother died at age 92, my father took her camel back trunk that still contained the letters that W.H. had written to her, and burned trunk and all saying "it was nobody's business what was in the letters." Everyone is deceased in that family but my sister and I so no information can be obtained.

When we returned from a trip to Arizona in 1992, we stopped at the Ector County Courthouse in Odessa, Texas to see if we could find any information and the first book we looked in we found where he had homesteaded 656 acres and 509 acres and received title to them in March of 1905. We also found where he sold this same land to an S.R. McLean in June of 1906 and purchased 2 lots in Odessa from a W.A. Massey in June of 1906 and sold them in December 1906.

No more records were found of land purchases or sales by W.H. Merrill, so we were back to square one.

We were given the name of a man in Lubbock, Texas who was married to a Merrill and said he had lots of Merrill information in his computer. I wrote him the story and he called us one night and said he thought he had a clue as to what happened. He had been researching old court records and came across an application for title of land on grounds of desertion. The lady's husband and two sons had gone on a large cattle drive from San Angelo, Texas up through the edge of New Mexico, following the Pecos River, headed for Amarillo, and never returned. This man who called us said he went to Frank McNatt at the Dark Canyon Ranch near Carlsbad, N.M. who was 90 at that time, and asked him if he had ever heard of such a drive. The old man said he had and could take him to a burial site. Evidently he had been on the drive or knew someone who had. They traced the drive from San Angelo to

somewhere in New Mexico, Mr. Krouse wasn't sure where, and found 21 names scratched on the side of a canyon wall with 21 stones in a semicircle on top with names scratched on them. It said, "These were my friends. The Cook" The old man told him there had been a renegade Indian raid. Mr. Krouse said he recorded the names and one was a W.H. Merrill and another was a Leo C. Merrill. (First we had heard of any of the brothers names) but it ties in with the family names as my father was William LEO and his brother was Clayton Hood Merrill. The C could account for Clayton . We asked the man to locate the site again and he has tried several times but says nothing is familiar and cannot locate it. It had been in 1972 when he was there. So we are still looking for clues and information. We do not know what his parents' names were or possibly we could trace them through earlier census. We don't know whether W. H. was the oldest, middle or youngest child.

My feeling is that he had sold the land and was on his way back to Lenora, Okla. and his family.

If anyone knows of the Merrill family in Iowa or the circumstances of the disappearance of W.H. Merrill, or cattle drives, please notify Kenneth & Eleanor Merrill---1336 State Hwy FF, Galena, MO 65656 [emerrill@tri-lakes.net](mailto:emerrill@tri-lakes.net)



# 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: Patricia Castle** wrote: I am searching for information on Robert Leslie Merrill, b. 11-25-1898 Mobile, AL who married Helen Sadie Parker b. 3-28-1916, b. Escawtawpa, MS. Robert Leslie Merrill's father was Robert Merrill married to Isabel. Robert Leslie died April 1975 Grand Bay, AL. Helen S. Parker died Independence, MO July 1997.

**Query: Chuck Merrill** wrote: I'm just getting started with this research. I have several documents, one of which is quite detailed, particularly on the branches. I'm listing my lineage ( starting with Nathaniel in the thought that it may be interesting to you.

Generation Name Information

1 Nathaniel Merrill Born in 1601. Emigrated to America in about 1633

2 Daniel Merrill Son of Nathaniel. b. August 20, 1642

3 John Merrill Son of Daniel. b. October 7, 1674.

4 Thomas Merrill Son of John. b. December 18, 1708, Salisbury, MA

5 Samuel Merrill Son of Thomas. b. August 4, 1728.

6 Abel Merrill Son of Samuel. b. June 6, 1748.

7 Abel Merrill Son of Abel. b. May 26, 1775 in Buxton, ME

8 Thomas Abel Merrill Son of Abel. b. April 14, 1810.

9 Abel Monroe Merrill Son of Thomas Abel. b. May 2, 1847 Turner, ME

10 Charles Sumner Merrill Son of Abel Monroe. b. January 4, 1879 Grinnell, IA

11 Charles Sumner Merrill, Jr. Son of Charles Sumner b. Sept. 5, 1912 in Craig CO

12 Charles Sumner III Son of Charles Sumner b. Oct. 18, 1941 N. Y., NY

There you have it - a simple version. How can I help get all the rest of the information that I have in the hands of anyone who may be interested?

**Query: Stephanie Sampson** asked: I'm looking for the identity of the second spouse of

Mariah Southard whom I know to be only "Mr. Merrill." The couple lived in Blair, Somerset Co., Maine. It is documented that Mariah Southard married a [Mr.] Merrill, but I know nothing more about him than his last name. Mariah Southard was born between about 1845-1855 in Somerset Co., Maine (probably Ripley, St. Albans or Norridgewock). She was a daughter of John Southard and Louisa Sampson. John Southard's second marriage was to Louisa Sampson, his first having been to Fannie Gulliver/Gullifer. Mariah had 23 siblings between his father's two marriages and her father, John Southard, died at age of 103. Mariah's mother, Louisa Sampson, was a daughter of Noah and Ruth Sampson; Noah is thus far the earliest known patriarch of this Sampson line.

Mariah Southard would probably have married Mr. Merrill around 1870 or so and begun having children shortly thereafter. I'd like to know whether Mariah Southard and Mr. Merrill had any children and their descendants as well, if possible. I'm looking for any connections to any of the above individuals and hopefully to identify this elusive "Mr. Merrill."

**Query: Richard Swymeler** wrote: My grandfather was Daniel William Merrill was a Marine Corps Warrant Officer for 30+ years and the father to my Mother, Gloria. I have been slowly going back generation by generation, collecting as much information I can find. Right now this is what I can verify through Census Records, Birth & Death Records.

Richard - Me

+Gloria Merrill - 1930 -

+Daniel William Merrill 1904-1969 (Wier City, KS - San Diego, CA)

+William Merrill 1868 - 1929 (Paris, IL - Yates Center, KS)

+Israel Merrill (ca. 1843, Harrison, Ohio - 1909 Gridley, KS) [Israel was a volunteer in the I Company 5th Cav Reg. of Ohio. Enlisted 23 Aug. 1864, Mustered out at Raleigh, NC June 26, 1865]

+ James Merrill ( Found on 1850 Census Harrison, Hamilton, OH, age 35, b. NY )

This is the extent of my research. I am wondering if you have any information of Merrill Family from NY that migrated to OHIO??

**Query: Jane Pratt** of Dover MA asked: Could you refer me to a record of Abel Merrill, b. in Newbury, MA, who married Priscilla Chase, b. 1648. Their son, James, b. 1688, married Mary Adams, b.1700. I am working on the Merrill and Adams connections. Susanna Merrill, b.1739, married Moses Adams, b. 1737. I have become very confused on all the Merrill-Adams connections and am hoping for some help! I could also use information on Abraham Merrill b.1637, (Abel's brother). Did Abraham have a daughter Sarah, B. 1677, who married Benjamin Morse b.1668?-- or, is it James daughter, Susanna, b.1673, who married Benjamin? My gggrandfather, Silas Merrill Adams b. 1809, is the son of Moses Adams, Jr. Thank you .

**Query: Denise Carter** wrote: I am originally from Hopewell, NJ. My ggggrandfather was Charles Merrill (27 Sep 1800 - 29 Nov 1874) who married Sarah Ann Christopher (8 Aug 1804 - 23 Feb 1881). Their son W(h)estley Burroughs Merrill (31 Jul 1826 - ?) was my gggrandfather. He was a blacksmith in Mount Rose (and later Hopewell), NJ. During the Civil War he was commissioned as a captain and his job was to recruit and train troops. He remained at home and we have many wonderful letters his men wrote to him. Several of the

letters were addressed to "Blackbird". Westley married Mary Ellen Sutphen (25 Oct 1829 - 21 Mar 1865). They had the following children: Charles Emmet (24 Jul 1850 - ?), Emily Josephene (27 Apr 1852 - Oct 1867), Mary Anna (18 Jul 1854 - ?), James Buchanan (16 Oct 1856 - ?), Willie Gray (b and d Dec 1859), Harriett Van Winkle (7 Sep 1863 - 22 Oct 1863) and finally my ggrandmother Kate Christopher (7 Nov 1864 - 17 Mar 1955).

Obviously, I would like to know - who was Charles' father? I wonder if it could have been William (30 Mar 1769), son of Thomas (19 Apr 1732 - 12 May 1798)? The dates, places and occupations seem to fit. Any help, hints or advice would be greatly appreciated.

**Query:** My great grandmother, Dorothy Edith Merrill (1898-1983) was the daughter of Judson Ulysses Merrill (1873-1934) and Olive Clapp. Judson was the son of Myron E. Merrill (1845-1920) and Emily Linwood. Myron's father was (I believe) Noble Merrill and Jane Corning.

Much of what I thought I knew, I have found to be UNtrue while researching. For instance, I believed that Myron was from Springfield, MA, but it seems that he was actually born in Canada. One of his children was born in Canada, the next in Vermont and the last in Canada (again). My great grandmother was definitely born in West Springfield, MA.

Anyway, Noble (possibly from New York) is the farthest back I have been able to go. I would be happy to share my more recent genealogy finding with you if you are interested. And if you have ever heard of my Noble Merrill, I'd love to hear back.

**Query: Lynne Welch** of Los Angeles CA wrote: Nathaniel Merrill (b. 1823 Bartlett, NH) and Harriet A. Thomas (b. 1831 NH) are my great grandparents. Apparently they were m. Aug 1857 in Conway, NH. Need death places as well as information on their respective parents.

**Query: Mary Hetzel** asked if we knew where in Ohio, Albert MERRILL b. Aug. 20, 1804 in Freeman, Somerset, ME. lived at the time of his son, John's birth. John was born March 16, 1836, perhaps near Dayton, Ohio. This family later lived in Switzerland Co., Indiana.

**Query: Vicky Linke** wrote saying: Pearl Margaret Merrill, daughter of Alonzo Merrill and Lilly June Moore, was born in Kirclin, Clinton County, Indiana September 15, 1899. This was my grandmother on my father's side. She married Jesse Wilton Kellar January 8, 1916. I have been told by my Grandmother that her grandfather, William B. Merrill, was born about 1847 and was the son of John Merrill and Sarah. I just know William married there in Clinton Co IN in 1868, Sarah Clow or Cole.

*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, 6:3, are on the next page. Please click the Next Button to read them.*



## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

**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: Ebenezer, 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.

**Answer:** We could find no Therons or Myrons in the OH census 1820 - 1840. It wasn't until 1860 that we found a Myron in Clarkfield, Huron Co, OH. Myron, 40, b. Canada; Rosanna, 37, b. England; Eugene, 16, b. NY; Margaret, 15, b. NY; Almira, 13, b. NY; Myron, 10, b. NY; Triphina, 7, b. OH; Theoron, 4, b. OH; William, 2, b. OH; Arthur, 10 mo., b. OH. We also found this family in the 1850 census in Lewiston, Niagra Co, NY, but the wife's name was Sarah, 26, b. NY, and the son, Myron, was listed as James M., 1.

We found in the IGI the birth of your Solon Earl, 1873 June 14, to James M and Susan M Freeman in Huron Co, OH. We also found the m. of James M, 1870 Mar 24 to Susan Trisulin in Huron Co OH. Obviously there is some misinterpretation of handwriting in Susan's surname.

It certainly looks like the younger Myron in 1860 is your James Myron, but his father is Myron also, not Theron, unless he was Myron Theron, or visa versa, but in the census he went by Myron. He did, however, name a son Theron. His Canada bp makes it difficult to identify his parents. They may have been in Canada only a few years, including Myron's birth, or for generations. We do not know who Myrons parents were.

**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.

**Answer:** Your Abijah was b. 1791 Jan. 10, probably in Tyringham MA [his father was there in 1800 but had moved to Lee MA by 1810], son of Abijah and 2nd wife, Hannah

Chadwick. The elder Abijah had also had a son named Abijah by his 1st wife, Sarah Barton, b. 1762 Feb. 5, who presumably had died by 1791. We know nothing about this 1762 Abijah except that in A Merrill Memorial he is mistakenly identified as the one who m. Anna Prichard.

Your Abijah m. Anna Prichard 1815 Nov. 2 in Lee MA. [MA vital records]. The MAvr also record that they had three children that died young in Lee: Abijah 3rd [1816 Sept. \_\_ - 1817 Feb. 16]; Harriet A [1817 Nov. \_\_ - 1818 Dec. 17]; child name not recorded [1825 Aug. \_\_ - 1826 Feb. 23]. They also had in Lee: Juliann, 1819 Nov. 21, m. Jesse Mather in Columbia PA; and Flavia Augusta 1823 Sept. 4 - 1875 Jan 23, Savannah GA, m. 1845 Feb. 20, Aaron Reppard. The indexer did not find them in the 1820 census in Lee. They apparently moved to PA sometime between 1826 and 1832 when son, Abijah K, was b. there, but we didn't find them in the PA census until 1850 in Pottsville, Schuylkill Co PA when Abijah is listed as 60, Anna as 58, both b. MA. Son Abijah K, 18, b. PA, is boarding in Lee MA. In 1860, Abijah, 69, and Anna, 68 are in Middletown, Bucks Co PA with daughter Flavia and Aaron Reppard. In 1870 Abijah, 78 is in Ward 22, Philadelphia with Flavia and Aaron. Abijah d. 1872 Sept. 6 in Savannah GA.

A Merrill Memorial has very little to say about your Abijah (6). it is quoted below: "Abijah (6) Merrill [Abijah (5), Caleb (4), John (3,2), Nathaniel (1)] was b. 5 Feb. 1762 in West Hartford CT. [incorrect, see above] He married Anna \_\_?\_\_, who d. 24 Jan. 1863 in Middletown PA age 70. Child: Flavia (7); m. Reppard; three children." That's all there is!

**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.

**Answer:** We found your John Byrd Merrell in the 1860 and 1870 census. In 1860, J B, 22, b. AL; Sarah F, 21 b. KY, were in Madisonville, Hopkins Co, KY. In 1870, John B, 33, Sarah F, 33; Alanson, 10; Emma B, 9; Thomas R, 6; Charles, 4; Mary E, 2; Ulysses G, 6mo. were in Dixon, Webster Co, KY.

John Byrd is the son of William Roland [1816-1849] and Lucretia Gregory who he m. 1836 Mar 30 in Limestone Co, AL. John Byrd was b. there in 1838. John Byrd m. Sarah Fine Bourland 1859 Aug. 6 in Hopkins Co KY. William Roland d. in Athens, AL, 1849 Feb. 26 of illness contracted in the Mexican War.

John Byrd's lineage is John B (8), William R (7), John (6), Benjamin (5), Andrew (4), Benjamin (3), William (2), William (1), immigrant to Staten Island NY from Tysoe, Warwickshire, England in 1680.

**Query: Lisa Keene** said "I would appreciate any help you could give me regarding the Merrill family, from Salisbury, Essex, Massachusetts. I am looking for a Ruth Merrill born 4 Aug. 1730, she was the daughter of a Thomas Merrill and a Martha Silley or Cilley. She also married a Weymond or Wyman Eaton 17 Dec 1745. If you could give me any leads on these individuals I would be greatly appreciative. I have a great deal of information on the

Eaton's but not on their wives.

**Answer:** Your Ruth Merrill, b. 1730 Aug 4 in Salisbury MA was the daughter of Thomas (4) [1708 Dec 18 - 1791 Feb 3] and Martha Cilley [1709 May 21 - 1773 Aug 2][m. 1728 July 18 in Salisbury]. Thomas was the s/o John (3) [1674-1756] and Mary Allen, s/o Daniel (2) [1742-1717] and Sarah Clough, s/o immigrant Nathaniel (1)[1601- 1655] and wife Susannah. Ruth m. 1745 Dec.17 Weymond Eaton.

**Query: Dawn Taylor** of NC wrote asking "I am looking for info on any Merrill's from the Morehead City, NC., area. I am trying to find ancestors of William Royal Merrill and Fulford Merrill. Fulford Merrill is William's father. William Merrill moved to Hatteras, NC, around the early 1930's. He married Senora Ballance of Hatteras. She was the daughter of Clarence Ballance and Nola Willis.

**Answer:** In the 1870 Census of Newport, Carteret, NC, we found Fulford, b. Aug. 1869, in the family of Aaron, 37, farmer; and Elizabeth, 37; with brothers, Calin, 12; and Zechariah, 3.

Also there are Aaron's brothers, William, 43, and Arthur, 26 and their families. From earlier census we know that they are the sons of Arthur jr. [1790/1800-1848/50], who was the s/o Arthur sr. [1740/50-1830/40]. We do not know who Arthur sr.'s parents were.

**Query: Deane Merrill** asked about several Merrills in connection with his project on Merrills of Franklin Co MA: 1)James MERRILL who m. Sally CATLIN 1801-1873? 2) Willard MERRILL who m.1858 Sept 8 Clarissa Lee DICKINSON b.1833 Mar 14? 3)Julia K. MERRILL who m. Frederick BOYDEN b. 20 Nov 1809 in Conway, Franklin Co., MA? 4) Does anyone have marriage or death information for Annie Katherine MERRILL, b.22 Sep. 1885, Franklin County, MA, daughter of Frank A. MERRILL 1852-1898 and Mary C. PARTENHEIMER Hill Merrill 1856-1932?

**Answer:** 1) The James, 1792 Oct 8, West Hartford CT - 1852 Sept 8, Rome NY, who m. 1824 Sally Catlin is James (6), Gideon (5,4), Wilterton (3), John (2), Nathaniel (1).

2) It is James and Sally Catlin's son Willard (7) [1831, Rome, NY-1905, Milwaukee, WI], who m. 1858 Sept 8, Clara L Dickenson in Conway MA. Willard was a lawyer and a VP of Northwestern Mutual Life Ins Co.

3) Re: the Julia K who m. (as second wife) Frederick Boyden, we couldn't find any info on her. Perhaps it was also her 2nd m., so she would not be listed in the MA vital records as a Merrill. We only have one Julia who m. in western MA, a Julia E, 34, d/o John who m. Jesse Smead, 1855 May 16, in Hinsdale. The lineage of Julia's parents, John (7) and Tryphena Chapin is John (6), Nathaniel (5), John (4), Nathaniel (3,2,1). We do not know if this Julia E m. a second time and, if so, if it was to Frederick Boyden.

4) We don't have any info on the m. or d. of Annie Katherine. These would have been after 1900 and those vital records were not open to the public [or to LDS microfilming] when we copied them. You could request records on specific direct ancestors, but not all the records

for the year. We have Frank A (8)'s dates as 1851 Oct 6 - 1898 Nov 1 in Shelburne.

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# Old News

compiled by Lil Follett-Hall

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*These news items were gleaned from the internet. Name, location and date follow each item.*

H.L. MERRILL of Portage, Wis., is in the city for a visit of a few days with his brother-in-law, Joe HAINSWORTH.

*Davenport Democrat*

*Scott Co, Iowa*

*9 March 1890*

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The first settlers of Bigger Township, in the county of Jennings, Indiana, ...

From 1820 to 1821, James Spaulding and Benjamin Merrill settled here.

Merrill was a wagon-maker and blacksmith.

*NORTH VERNON SUN*

*North Vernon, Jennings County, Indiana*

*Thursday ~ ~ June 3, 1880*

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In Chatham, Columbia County, NY, there lived in the last century a sturdy pioneer, JOHN THOMPSON by name, who was the father of some twenty children by having been several times married. By one wife he had nine children, the sixth of which in genealogical order was the subject of this sketch, DANIEL A. THOMPSON who was born in Chatham, February 13, 1796.

While a boy he determined to learn the blacksmith's trade and was apprenticed to JOHN MERRILL who married a cousin of the boy. As the section along the Hudson River was quite thickly settled, Mr. Merrill decided to emigrate to a new country and came to this town (then Homer township) and built a blacksmith shop near the present residence of REUBEN BROWN on the Cortland Road.

Mr. THOMPSON soon followed him coming in 1816 and finished his apprenticeship in

the shop, the location of which is marked by a large stone which still covers the old well.

*Cortland Evening Standard*

*Friday, May 22, 1896*

*Cortland*

*Cortland County*

*New York*

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The funeral services of Mrs. Caroline S. CARPENTER, of Delhi, N. Y., a former resident of Macedon, were held at the residence of Z. A. VAN DUZER, Macedon, on Saturday morning. Rev. J. HENDERSON, of Palmyra, officiated. Deceased was a widow and was 72 years of age. She leaves three children, Thomas CARPENTER, of Farmington; Mrs. J. MERRILL, and Mrs. Gertrude SEELY, of Delhi. The interment was at Macedon cemetery.

*Rochester, Monroe, N. Y.*

*Democrat & Chronicle*

*June 26, 1893*

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### BETSY BENHAM'S WILL VALID

#### The Adopted Daughter Will Receive the Entire Property

Surrogate ADINGTON this morning handed down a decision in the Betsy BENHAM will contest. The surrogate finds that the testator was of sound mind at the time of making the will and rules that the instrument is valid. The will has accordingly been admitted to probate.

The estate amounts to \$3,500 and is all in money. By the will Catherine KENNEDY, who had lived with the testator for many years, but had never been formally adopted, was named as sole beneficiary. A sister of the testator, Polly G. MERRILL, and Harriet P. De FRIES contested the will on the ground that the testator at the time of its execution was of unsound mind and was unduly influenced.

John F. DOROTHY was the attorney for the executors in the case and Cronise & Conklin represented the contestants.

*Rochester, Monroe, N. Y.*

*Democrat & Chronicle*

*July 8, 1892*

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Miss Frances EMERSON of Omaha, Neb., a member of the class of '96, Syracuse University, is a guest of Mrs. Dr. MERRILL of East avenue.

*Rochester, Monroe, N.Y.*

*Union & Advertiser*

*Jan. 2, 1894*

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Recent deaths in the county of Wyoming NY for the past week are:

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Austin MERRILL of Bennington, aged 74 years;

*Rochester Daily Union and Advertiser*

*Mar. 1, 1900*

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Sheriff's Sale: Court of Common Pleas, Erie co. At house of Matthew

CHAMBERS in Gilboa, Blanchard tp 9 Mar 1846. 3 eight day brass clocks, 1 musical brass clock, 1 sett blacksmith tools, 1 yoke oxen, red & white, 1 sorrel horse, 1 gray horse, 1 bay stud horse, 1 Durhan Heifer, 1 one horse buggy, 1 two horse waggon, property of Matthew Chambers to satisfy execution against Chambers, W. ACKLEY, Stanberry SUTTON, Milton C. EWING in favor of Gordon C. COIT. Grosvenor CLARK, George W. MERRILL. Feb 26, 1846.

*Ohio, Putnam County, Kalida Venture March 5 1846 Pg 3 Col 5*

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## YACHT WRECKED

Collided With Lighthouse Pier in Seneca Lake.

GENEVA, Aug. 10 - The sailing yacht Princess met with a mishap while cruising on Seneca lake, just outside the harbor. It ran into the lighthouse pier crushing the bow of the boat in so that the water rushed in.

There was a good sailing breeze at the time, and the boat was taken to its buoy, where it lies with its deck on a level with the surface of the water. The occupants of the boat were John IDE, Bert MERRILL and Charles KNIGHT.

*ROCHESTER, MONROE, N.Y.*

*Union Advertiser*

*AUG 10, 1901*

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The Chicago, Mil. and St. Paul Railway.

A.V.H. CARPENTER, general passenger and ticket agent.

S.S. MERRILL, gen. manager.

Jno. C. GAULT, asst. gen manager.

*Postville Review*

*Postville, Allamakee, IA*

*Postville Review March 1, 1879.*

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The following were audited and allowed.

Poor farm payments:

Merchandise - A.E. ROBBINS, Geo. KEMBLE, M. PECK, E.K. SPENCER, ADAMS & HALE, BRYANT THORP & Co., W.C. EARLE, HEDGE & EARLE, RUCKWELL & SCHIERHOLZ and Hosea LOWE.

Lumber - SMITH & MERRILL

Coffin - N.H. PRATT

Medicine and attendance - T.H. BARNES

Repairs - W. WALKER

*Postville Review*

*Postville, Allamakee Co. Iowa*

*September 3, 1873.*



## Inventory of the Estate of Susanna Jordan of Newbury Essex Probate Docket # 15247

Inventory of the estates of Susanna Jordan, deceased Jan 25 1672, taken Feb 4 1672, by William Pilsbury, Moses Pilsbury and Anthony Somerby:

cow, £3; 15s;

two heifers coming three yere old. £5;

one pigg, 3s 4d;

her wearing apparrell, £2;

an old flockbed, a paire of sheets, an old Rug & blancket, £1; 10s;

two old Iron potts, one pr of pot hooks, frying pan, bucket, 2 tramells £1; 4s;

a little cubbard, 2 old chests, a keiler, an old hogshead & 2 trayes, 14s;

3 old pewter dishes, an old chamber pot, a pint pott & a broken cup, 13s;

An old sword, a spit, fire shovel & tongues, 10s;

a brasen candlestick, pr of sheep shears, an old brasse skillet & some lumber, 3s;

total £15; 12s 4d.

Debts due from Abraham Merril, £1;10s; Richard Bartlett, £1;; Thomas Barbur, 9s.

The deceased owes to Henry Short £1; 10s; goodman Ordway 5s 5d; John Bartlet, 2s; Will Bolten, 3s 8d; Tristrum Coffin, 12s; John Knight, 6s; to Abell Merrill for wintering two coves 3 winters & 2 calves, £7; 4s; cutting & making 3 load & halfe of hay, 18s; charges for her funerall for coffin & diggeing the grave, £1; due to Joane Merrill, £2; 5s; total £12; 5s 1d.

Administration on the estate of Susan Jordan, intestate, granted Mar 25 1673 to Abell Merrill, her youngest son.

Ipswich Quarterly Court Records, 5:193

Attested in Ipswich court 25:1m:1673 by Abell Merrill.

*Source: Printed "Probate Records of Essex County, Massachusetts; 1635 - 1681," In three volumes, The Essex Institute; Salem, MA; 1916*

