

MERRILL GENEALOGY

Relating to the ancestry of Roy Merrill Bridgham & Pauline (Sarver) Bridgham

DISCLAIMER NOTE:

This document is to present Iona Merrill genealogy information known at the date of this publication. This is a living document and is subject to change as new information is learned and confirmed. The information presented is determined to be factual; however, any conflict of information with another individual's source or other sources of Merrill genealogy data, this document's information and the new sources' of information will be reviewed together to determine the correct facts for inclusion to this publication. The date printed on the lower right hand corner of each page is the date of current publication.

INTRODUCTION:

This book is about the Merrill family providing the ancestry to Iona Merrill, mother of Roy Merrill Bridgham. This book will provide data on the Merrill family starting with oldest known ancestor descending to Iona Merrill. This was prepared as part of the genealogy research to find the ancestors to Roy Merrill Bridgham and Pauline Sarver.

The Merrill family is known to begin its origin in England, possibly French roots but the history of this claim is not proven. Facts surrounding the Merrill family are presented with the first ancestor, Thomas Meryell born 1444. Many of the Merrill ancestors are found throughout New England including many of the same territories as the Bridgham ancestors. Many still live in the same New England towns.

A separate book exists for the Bridgham ancestry, the Sarver ancestry (Sarver being the maiden name of Roy's wife Pauline), and the Rouze ancestry (Rouze being the maiden name of Roy's wife's mother Maluda (Rouze) Sarver).

OTHER NOTES:

Most of the information in this book has been obtained from sources found on the internet of the Merrill family. These internet sources have been web sites of Merrill families, files found on genealogy web sites, and some history data found on the web from historical societies. The family information of Iona has been supported by a distant cousin related to the wife of Silas Merrill's spouse Margaret Weaver. However, there is a publication titled "*A Merrill Memorial*" by Samuel Merrill, Cambridge, MA 1917-1928 that much information is based upon found about the Merrill family used by researchers. Some researchers have made visits to England to verify the English information.

This book is intended to present the basic family information and any biographical information about the family known at publication. More detailed information is available through genealogy resources and from the author of this book.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE BOOK:

abt	=	About:	Meaning estimated date based on records found.
aft	=	After:	Known dates are approximate based on records found.
bef	=	Before:	Known dates are approximate based on records found.
b	=	Born:	Date and place of birth
d	=	Died:	Date and place of death
m	=	Married:	Date and place of marriage
bur	=	Burial	Date and place of burial
*	=	The asterisk indicates the parental ancestry person of Iona Merrill	



THOMAS MERYELL

Born: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, bef. 1444

Died: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, abt. 1480

Thomas Meryell is the first known ancestor to the Meryell family. There is no known history about him at this time other than finding his name and birth date and location. The spelling of the surname is found to be "Meryell", however the spelling was changed sometime later to "Merrill" as found first with Nathaniel Merrill born 1571 in Belstead, England.

Spouse: Unknown

Born: After 1444

Died:

Married: Wherstead, Suffolk, England — abt 1469

Children of Thomas Meryell and Unknown are: (This is the only known child at this time)

* John Meryell

b: 1495 Wherstead, Suffolk, England

d: 12 March 1528/29, Wherstead, Suffolk, England

m: Anne Belcham

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF MERYELL/MERRILL NAME:

English surnames were not a common use before the 11th century.

There are three theories to the origin of the Merrill surname:

- 1) "Roll of Battle Abbey". This list contains the Norman Knights granted by England from the Norman Conquerors. There are 3 Knights that are listed believed to be the origin of the Merrill name.
- 2) Anglo Saxon is of German origin. Saxons hordes invaded England in the 5th and 6th century. German name of Marlingen is a Bavarian family name and is best known as the Anglo Saxon name of Merlingeas.
- 3) Huguenots migrated to England after ST. Bartholmew's day in Paris of 1572. Dumerle family of Auvergne and Dauphiny are French speaking Cantons living near Switzerland and believed the origin of Merrill name in England.
- 4) Merle means Black Bird or bird.

The following are comments found on the Internet that discuss the above three theories of the origin of the Merrill surname.

A French Connection?

A web researcher writes; "I have been told that the Merrill's were originally a French family by the name of deMerle. According to research done in the late 1800's by one of my ancestors, the deMerle's were Huguenots, and left France in the late 1500's for England. However, I have spoken with others who believe that is false."

Another web researcher writes; "The home of the Merrill family in 1550 was 'Place de Dombes'. Auvergne France. The name was deMerle. Being Huguenots they fled to England at the time of the 'Massacre of St. Bartholemew' in 1582, and settled in Salisbury."

From the "Roll of Battle Abbey" connection?

And another web researcher writes; "This family line goes back to the birth of Thomas Meryell, Wherstead, Suffolk Co. in 1475. This defeats the claim that these Merrill's came from the Huguenot line that came to

England from France after the massacre of St. Bartholomew day in Paris in 1572. I tend to believe the theory that we descend from one of the three knights, John and Richard Miriel of Norfolk or Adam de Miriel of Suffolk, that came over with William in 1066. Adam is more likely because he is of Suffolk Co. " William the Conqueror and his troops were from Normandy, France (thus the term Norman invaders to England in 1066).

And maybe Anglo Saxon or what?

This researcher writes (Don Merrill)

"The Merrill-deMerle French connection is disputed by "experts" on both sides. Proponents of English roots can trace Merills back to Thomas (1440=1480): Nathaniel (the immigrant)->Nathaniel (? - 1626/7) ->John (1545 - 1598/9) ->John (1475 - 1528)->Thomas (Thomas (1444 - 1480) with the name supposedly going from Meryll to Merrell to Merrill in the process. All lived in Wherstead, Suffolk County, England. Of course, Nathaniel Merrill the immigrant hasn't (to my knowledge) been traced with absolute certainty) to the Nathaniel Merrell of England. But the vast majority of people seem to favor that belief and are supported by records from early Wherstead."

English Origin:

However, the following note was found on the web. "Thomas Meryell signed his Will 1464 Suffolk Archdiocese, England; ancestor of the immigrant from Suffolk, England, to Newburyport, Mass. Bay Colony, Nathaniel Merrill, original emigrant to America in 1635."

Therefore, Nathaniel Merrill born 4 May 1601 is the first Merrill this family traces their ancestry to and is the immigrant that came to America in 1635 to begin a new life in Newbury, Massachusetts. There are a large number of relations throughout the United States today that descend from this Nathaniel Meryell.



JOHN MERYELL, Sr.

Born: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 1475

Died: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 12 March 1528/29

John Meryell, Sr. lived his life in England; Nothing is known about his life at this time.

Spouse: Anne Belcham

Born: Wherstead, Suffolk, England 1475

Died: Wherstead, Suffolk, England 3 December 1528

Married: Wherstead, Suffolk, England — 1493

Nothing is known of her family or about her at this time.

Children of John Meryell, Sr. & Anne Belcham are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| * John Meryell | b. 1495 |
| | d. 28 January 1551/52 |
| | m. Katherine John |
| Julian Meryell | b. 1501 |
| | d. ?? |
| Eleanor Meryell | b. 1503 |
| | d. ?? |
| John Meryell, Jr. | b. 1509 |
| | d. ?? 1544 |



JOHN MERYELL

Born : Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 1495

Died: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 28 January 1551/52

John Meryell lived his life in England; Nothing is known about his life at this time.

Spouse: Katherine John

Born: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, abt. 1507

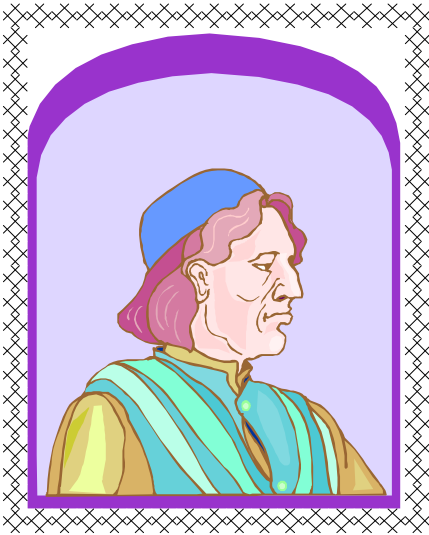
Died: Wherstead, Suffolk, England — 13 December 1551

Married: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 1521

Nothing is known of her family or about her at this time.

Children of John Meryell & Katherine John are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| John Merrell, The Elder | b. 1522 |
| | d. 1544 |
| William Merrell | b. 1524 |
| | d. 28 June 1606 Shotley, Suffolk, England |
| Johan Merrell | b. 1526 |
| Michael Merrell | b. 1528 |
| Mary Merrell | b. 1530 |
| Margaret Merrell | b. 1532 |
| Alice Merrell | b. 1534 |
| Katherine Merrell | b. 1534 |
| Agnes Merrell | b. 1539 |
| Thomas Merrell | b. 1542 |
| * John Merrell,
The Younger | b. 1545 |
| | d. 1 February 1599/1600 |
| | m. Prudence Bird, 1570 |



John Merrell, The Younger

Born: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 1545

Died: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 1 January 1599/1600

John Merrell, The Younger lived his life in England; Nothing is known about his life at this time.

Spouse: Prudence Bird

Born: 1548, Wherstead, Suffolk, England

Died: Wherstead, Suffolk, England — 22 December 1609

Married: Wherstead, Suffolk, England — 1570

Nothing is known of her family or about her at this time.

Children of John Merrell, The Younger & Prudence Bird are:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| * Nathaniel Merrill | b. 1571
d. 28 February 1626/1627
m. Mary Blaxall |
| John Merrell | b. 1578
d. 1650 |
| Michael Merrell | b. 1578
d. 18 August 1616 |
| Thomas Merrell | b. 1580
d. 17 March 1625/1626 |

The following note was found on the internet about John Merrell, The Younger.

"John Merrell, yoeman, probably meant free holder, a farmer who owns his land, as Wherstead was far from the King's residence, and it is unlikely that John was one of the select bodyguard (Yoeman) of 100 men chosen to guard the sovereign on 1485."



NATHANIEL MERRILL

Born: Belstead, Suffolk, England, 1571

Died: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 28 February 1626/1627

Nathaniel Merrill lived his life in England; Nothing is known about his life at this time.

Spouse: Mary Blaxall

Born: Wherstead, Suffolk, England 1 May 1574

Died: Whersead, Suffolk, England 20 April 1624

Married: Belstead, Suffolk, England — 28 February 1592/1593

Nothing is known about Mary Blaxall's family at this time.

Children of Nathaniel Merrill & Mary Blaxall are:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Baby Merrill | b. 20 January 1592/93
d. 21 January 1593/94 |
| Frances Merrill | b. ?? July 1594
d. 1 August 1598 |
| Mary Merrill | b. 23 February 1594/1595
d. 1660 |
| Martha Merrill | b. 21 September 1596
d. 1660 |
| John Merrill | b. 16 August 1599
d. 12 September 1673 |
| * Nathaniel Merrill | b. 4 May 1601
d. 16 March 1654/1655
m. Susannah Wolterton, 23 September 1633 |
| Michael Merrill | b. 3 April 1603
d. 1630 |
| Thomas Merrill | b. 1605 |
| Maria Merrill | b. 1605 |



NATHANIEL MERRILL (1)

Born: Wherstead, Suffolk, England, 4 May 1601

Died: Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts, 16 March 1654/1655

Nathaniel Merrill and his brother John immigrated to America about 1635. Only 15 years after the arrival of the Mayflower.

Spouse: Susannah Wolterton

Born: Denham, Suffolk, England, Abt. 1610

Died: Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts, 25 January 1672/1673

Married: Wherstead, Suffolk, England — 23 September 1633

Nothing is known of her family or about her at this time.

Children of Nathaniel Merrill & Susannah Wolterton:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * Nathaniel Merrill (2) | b. bef. 25 May 1634
d. 1 January 1682/1683
m. Joanna Ninian, 15 October 1661 |
| Deacon John Merrill | b. bef. 16 February 1635/1636
d. 18 July 1712
m. Sarah Margaret Watson |
| Abraham Merrill | b. bef. 9 April 1637
d. 28 November 1722 |
| Susanna Merrill | b. bef. 12 December 1638
d. 10 October 1690 |
| Daniel Merrill | b. 20 August 1642
d. 27 June 1717 |
| Abel Merrill | b. 20 February 1643/1644
d. 28 October 1689 |
| Thomas Merrill | b. 1648 |

Notes for Nathaniel Merrill:

Nathaniel and his brother John Merrill first came over from England in 1635 on the ship "Hector". At some point Nathaniel returned to England to bring his wife and family back to Newbury. Birth records show that Nathaniel's first four children, Nathaniel, John, Abraham and Susanna were born in Lawford, Essex Co., England. With Susanna being baptized Dec 12, 1638, Nathaniel must have returned to Newbury sometime in late 1638 or early 1639. In 1638 the English Government started restricting its citizens from freely emigrating to the new continent with its abundance of land for all, something unknown in England. The fact that brother John arranged for a home site of four acres in Newbury for his unnamed brother would indicate that the brother was not there by July 1638 but was arranging to come.

Settled, Newbury, Mass. 1638-9. The newly found records show that Nathaniel Merrill's daughter, Susanna, was not baptized until Dec 12, 1638 in Lawford, Essex, Co., England. This tells us that Nathaniel had not left for America with his family until late December 1638 or early 1639. In 1638 the English Government started restricting its citizens from freely emigrating to the new continent with its abundance of land for all, something unknown in England. The fact that brother John arranged for a home site of four Acres in

Newbury for his unnamed "brother" would indicate that the brother was not there by 23 July 1638 but was arranging to come. Ship records, the Hector, show that Nathaniel and John did arrive in Ipswich, Mass. in 1635. Nathaniel must have returned to England to get his wife and his four children and returned in 1638-39.

Following from: "A Merrill Memorial" by Samuel Merrill, Cambridge MA 1917-1928

Nathaniel Merrill was one of the earliest settlers in Newbury, MA in 1635. He was the ancestor of the vast majority of those who now bear the Merrill name in this country: it is believed, indeed, that less than one percent of the Merrills in America can trace their pedigree to any other emigrant ancestor.

Nathaniel Merrill and his older brother John were born in England. The registers of Wherstead, a parish lying three miles south of Ipswich, in Suffolk County, England, contain the following entries:

1599, August 16. John Merrell son of Nath! Merrell & Mary his wife was baptised. 1601, May 4. Nathanaell Merrell son of Nath! Merrell & his wife Mary was baptised.

There are reasons for believing that these entries are the record of baptism of John and Nathaniel Merrill of Newbury. These reasons will be given at length in another place.

Nathaniel Merrill and his brother John settled in Newbury in the spring of 1635, having passed a year or two in Ipswich, MA., (then called Agawam) with most of the Newbury settlers. In 1638 Nathaniel became one of the "proprietors" of Newbury.

It is supposed that Nathaniel Merrill was married before leaving England. No record is found of his marriage in America. If the marriage took place here it was probably at Ipswich, in the short time before the settlement in Newbury. His wife's name was Susanna. Savage, in the "genealogical Dictionary of New England" (published in 1861), says that Nathaniel Merrill married Susanna Jordan. In this he was no doubt following Coffin's "History of Newbury" (published in 1845), and the statement has been frequently copied.

From "Merrill Genealogy" by Paul V. Merrill, The Merrill Newsletter, Vol 4, Issue 3.

Nathaniel and his brother John came to America in 1633, supposedly on the ship Hector. [Editor's note: it is not known that John came first and Nathaniel at some later date.] They landed at Ipswich, MA, but soon moved to Salisbury, MA. By 1635 Nathaniel moved to Newbury, MA. He owned land in Ipswich, MA in 1636 and received a grant of land in Newbury, MA on the "Neck" south of the Parker River, May 5, 1638. Children, John, Abraham, Nathaniel, Susanna, Daniel, Abel and Thomas. Nathaniel died- Mar 16 1654/45 in Newbury, MA. His wife died Jan 15 1872. Nathaniel was probably a farmer and is ancestor to all the Merrill's in the U.S.A.. His brother John and wife had a daughter but no sons.

Notes for SUSANNAH WOLTERTON:

Susannah, also known as Susannah Wolterton, was the wife of the emigrant, Nathaniel Merrill. For many years she was thought to be the sister of Gregory Wolterton of Hartford, Conn. Later research shows that she probably is the daughter of Gregory's wife, Susannah (Unknown) by a previous marriage.

From "A Merrill Memorial" by Samuel Merrill, Cambridge, MA 1917-1928

After the death of Nathaniel Merrill his widow married Stephen Jordan (or Jourdain). Nathaniel Merrill, son of Nathaniel and Susanna Merrill, gave a deed, under date of 16 Aug 1661, to Peter Godfrey of Newbury, in which the phrase occurs, "after the decease of my mother Susanna Jordan," and out of this fact the error regarding the maiden name of Nathaniel's wife grew.

The conjecture has been advanced, and it has even been stated as a fact, that the wife of Nathaniel Merrill was Susanna Wilterton (or Wolterton.)

Gregory Wilterton of Hartford was childless: Susanna Merrill of Newbury was a widow with five sons and a daughter, most of them in their minority. It would have been natural for Gregory Wilterton under these circumstances to write to his kinswoman in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and offer a home and modest for-

tune to one of the boys. But Gregory Wilterton may have been a more distant relative, or merely a friend. Until other evidence is brought forward the conscientious genealogist must say that the maiden name of Nathaniel's wife is unknown.

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF NATHANIEL MERRILL:

Estate of Nathaniel Merril of Newbury
Essex Probate Docket # None

"Witnes by these psents that I Nathaniell Merrill of Newbury in the Countie of Essex being sicke of body but through gods mercy of perfect memory I do here make my last will and testament, I first bequeath my soule into the hands of my blessed Redeemer with an assured hope of a joyfull re-surrection, and my body when it shall please the lord to take me out of this fraile life to bee buried in the burying place of Newbury, and for my worldly goods I giue and dispose of as followeth Impr I giue and bequeath vnto susanna my wife fiue akers of plowable land lying next to my brother Johns land and halfe the marsh dureing her naturall life and a cow and three heifers and all my household goods, And out of this estat so giuen to my wife I giue and bequeath vnto my daughter Susanna fiue pounds when she shalbe at the age of twenty yeares then I giue and bequeath vnto my Son Nathaniell (whom I appoint as my true and lawfull heire) all my land and freehold after my wiues decease, and all the working tooles & Implements of husbandry and all the cattell and stocke besids And out of this stocke I appoint that my Son Nathaniell shall pay these legacies as followeth, that is I giue vnto my son John when he shallbee of the age of two and twenty yeers the summe of fiue pounds, And also I giue and bequeath vnto my Son Abraham at the age of two and twenty years fiue pounds, And I giue and bequeath vnto my sonne Daniell also at the age of one and twenty years fiue pound and I giue and bequeath to my son Abell fiue pounds also at the age of one and twenty years, And I appoint my Sone Nathaniell to be my sole executor and all my debts & funerall rites being discharged I appoint him to haue all the rest of my goods & chattels vndisposed and I desire my brother John merill and Anthony somerby to be the ouerseers of this my las t will & testament In witness whereof I haue st my hand march the eight in the yeare one thousand six hundred fifty foure but if gods puidence should by losses & crosses |vpon ye estate more than ordinary: then proportionobly to be abated in the legacies

his mark Nathaniell n n merrill

Witness:

Richard Knight

Anthony Somerby

John merrell

Proved Mar 27, 1655 by John Merrill and Anthony Somerby

Inventory of the estate of Nathaniell Merrill of Newbury, who deceased Mar 16, 1654-5, taken Mar 23, 1654-5, by Daniell (his D mark) Thurston, Richard Knight and Archelaus Woodman:

Ten akers of upland and thre akers of marsh with the preuiledge of a grehold or commage, £20; one cow and a calfe, £4; 15 s; three heifers of three yeare old & 2 claves £12; 10s; two steers of two yeare old & two heifers £11; three yearelings, £4, one old cart & wheeles and sled and an old barow, £1; 2 spades, a mattock, a betle, 4 wedges, a crosscut & a handsaw & 4 axes and 4 hoes, £2; 3 old tubs, a fanne, an Iron staple & ring & 2 prongs & shovell, 10s; his weareing apparell, £2; ten bushells of malt & barley, 5 bushells of wheate & nine bushells of rye & about 35 bushells of Indian corne, £10; 16s; two muskets and 2 swords with match & powder, £2; cats & pease, 10s; sixe small swyne, £3; 2 flock beds & bolsters & 2 paire of sheets, old, £4; 2 old kettles, 2 skilletts & a smal braspot & Iron pot, £1 10s; an old warming pan, fire shovell, grid Iron, tongs, & other small Iron things & a spitt, 12s; 4 small pewter dishes & a skimmer, dishes & spoones, 12s; a truckle bedsted, 2 buckets and a pr of cottrells, 10s; a small cart rope & halfe bushell & a pecke, 5s; a small cubberd & 2 chests, 16s; one drinke vessell, 2 wheels, one powdring tub, ten milk trayes & 3 cheesfats, £2; total £84; 6s; his debts for Rent due to Mr Cutting, £5; in small debts, £2."

Source: Essex County Quarterly Court Files 3:10

Submitted by: Mariana Bean Ruggles

END OF LAST WILL & TESTAMENT:

The above was copied from the Internet and is believed to be Transcribed as it was written.

John and Nathaniel Merrill
brothers from Wherstead, Suffolk

Nathaniel Merrill came from Wherstead, Suffolk County, England to Ipswich (then Agawam) Massachusetts abt 1639/40 and soon moved to Newbury, originally known as Quascacunquen, to join his brother John who was in the colonies by 1636 when he was granted a homesite in Ipswich, Mass. No one knows for certain on which ships the Merrill brothers sailed to America from England.

Newbury was originally settled in 1635 by families from Ipswich. John arranged for Nathaniel's homesite in Newbury on 23 Jul 1638, which probably means Nathaniel wasn't there yet. Some researchers believe Nathaniel came at the same time as John, then returned to Wherstead, England, where one of his children was born in 1638. John married Anis Bishop(e) and had one daughter, Hannah, who married Stephen Swett. Nathaniel married Susannah, daughter of the wife of Gregory Wolterton, and had four sons and one daughter, thus is the progenitor of most of the New England Merrills.

The Merrill family is found through out the New England area. In this research, one can see the Merrill family as part of the early settlers and pioneers that settled new territory, cleared land, helped build towns, fought in wars against Indians, English and the Civil War. They were prominent citizens in their areas and contributed to the building of the New England during the 1600 & 1700s. Today, most Merrill names found in America will possibly lead back to the original ancestor of Nathaniel.



NATHANIEL MERRILL (2)

Born: Lawford, Essex England, bef 25 May 1634

Died: Newbury, Essex Massachusetts, 1 January 1682/1683

Nathaniel Merrill(1)'s father is believed the first ancestor that left England and settled in America, coming about 1635, then returning to bring his family to America in 1638 or 1639 when this son arrived.

Spouse: Joanna Ninian

Born: 1628, England

Died: 8 February 1717/1718, Newbury, Essex Massachusetts

Married: Salisbury, Essex, Massachusetts — 15 October 1661

Nothing is known of her family or about her at this time.

Children of Nathaniel Merrill & Joanna Ninian are:

* John Merrill b. 16 February 1663/1664
 d. 15 may 1707
 m. Lucy Webster, 1687

Nathaniel Merrill b. 8 February 1664/1665
 d. 4 July 1739

Peter Merrill b. 20 August 1667
 d. 20 march 1696/1697

Joanna Merrill b. 5 August 1667
 d. 30 October 1670

Joanna Merrill b. 14 October 1670
 d. 30 October 1670

The two Joanna's births above are not understood, but this is among the information found; but it indicates two births with same name but children died in infancy.

Hannah Merrill b. 12 July 1672
 d. 24 February 1740/1741

Mary Merrill b. 18 September 1675

From "A Merrill Memorial" by Samuel Merrill, Cambridge, MA 1917-1928

Nathaniel(2) Merrill (Nathaniel(1)) spent his life in Newbury MA, but whether he was born in England, or in America after his father's migration, is not known. He died 1 Jan 1682/83. In a "List of their names who have taken the oath of Allegiance at Newberry, 1678," (vol 30, p.56) his age is recorded as 40 years, while the age of his brother Abraham is given as 41 years. It is believed, however, that Nathaniel was the oldest of the children, a belief based on the fact that he was named as executor of his father's will, and was therefore probably of age in March, 1655.

Addendum 1996: Baptismal records show that Nathaniel was baptized on 25 Jan 1634 in Lawford, Essex Co., England.



John Merrill

Born: Newbury, Essex Massachusetts, 16 February 1663/1664

Died: Haverhill, Essex, Massachusetts, 15 May 1705

John Merrill was a hard working man and did much construction in the areas he lived as he was a carpenter by occupation.

Spouse: Lucy Webster

Born: Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts, 15 December 1664

Died: Haverhill, Essex, Massachusetts, aft. 1718

Married: 1687

Nothing is known of her family or about her at this time.

Children of John Merrill & Lucy Webster are:

Nathaniel Merrill	b. 26 July 1687 d. 25 August 1737
Abel Merrill	b. 1690 d. 29 March 1753
Luci Merrill	b. 1691
Abigail Merrill	b. 1693
* John Merrill	b. 3 April 1696 d. 1773 m. Lydia Haines, 15 January 1722/1723
Hannah Merrill	b. 1698 d. 9 June 1744
Stephen Merrill	b. 11 September 1700 d. 28 April 1746
Enoch Merrill	b. 23 January 1701/102
Nathan Merrill	b. 15 April 1704

From " A Merrill Memorial" by Samuel Merrill, Cambridge, MA 1917-1928

John Merrill was born 16 Feb 1662/63 in Newbury, MA, and died 15 May 1705. He was a house carpenter. About 1697 he removed from Newbury to Bradford, MA., and about 1700 to West Parish of Haverhill, MA. He left an estate valued at &150,7s., but his debts amounted to &158,12s. He married Lucy Webster, daughter of John and Ann (Batt) Webster. She was born 15 Dec 1664, in Newbury, and was living in Haverhill in 1718. (William M. Sargent appears to be in error in the Main Historical and Genealogical Recorder {Vol.III.,p.179} in saying that John Merrill married as a second Wife Mary???. Administration on the estate of John Merrill was granted too "Lucy Merrill," his widow, 9 Jul 1705.) Children, the first five of whom were born in Newbury.



JOHN MERRILL

Born: Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts, 3 April 1696

Died: Concord, Merrimack, New Hampshire, 1773

John Merrill was the Merrill who began the move of Merrill's from Massachusetts towards the other northern New England states.

Spouse: Lydia Haines

Born: Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts, 7 August 1705

Died: Concord, Merrimack, New Hampshire, ??

Married: Haverhill Essex, Massachusetts — 15 January 1722/1723

Nothing is known of her family or about her at this time.

Children of John Merrill & Lydia Haines are:

- *Thomas Merrill
 - b. 5 February 1723/1724
 - d. 2 July 1788
 - m. #1 Phebe Abbot*, 1747 #2 Mehitable Harriman, #3 Abigail Goodhue, #4 Elizabeth Abbot
- John Merrill
 - b. 25 November 1725
 - d. 1760
- Moses Merrill
 - b. 27 September 1727
 - d. 1767
- Lydia Merrill
 - b. 30 November 129
 - d. abt. 1750
 - m. Amos Foster
- Hannah Merrill
 - b. 7 November 1731
 - d. 7 August 1732
- Jonathan Merrill
 - b. 10 February 1734/35
 - d. 2 April 1794
- Hannah Merrill
 - b. 20 February 1733/1734
 - d.
 - m. Richard Eastman, Joseph Odell
- Nathaniel Merrill
 - b. 4 November 1738
 - d. 15 June 1824
- Sarah Merrill
 - b. 24 April 1741
 - d.
 - m. Daniel Chandler
- Anne Merrill
 - b. 10 December 1743
 - d. 7 March 1803
 - m. Benjamin Farnum
- Abigail Merrill
 - b. 9 December 1746
 - d.
 - m. Tappan Evans

Notes for JOHN MERRILL:

From "A Merrill Memorial" by Samuel Merrill, Cambridge, MA 1917-1928

John(4) Merrill (John(3), Nathaniel(2)) was born 3 Apr 1696 in Newbury, MA, and died in 1773 in Concord, NH. He lived in 1718 in York, ME and from there removed to Haverhill, MA, where he married. About 1730 he was one of the first settlers in Concord, NH, and established the first ferry there across the Merrimack River. His home was "on the Hill at the lower end of Main St. at the junction of the roads." Dec 17 1730, he was chosed deacon of the Congregational Church. In many ways he was a prominent citizen of Concord. He married , 15 Jan 1722/23, Lydia Hayes, daughter of Thomas and Hanna (Harriman) Hayes of Haverhill. She was born 7 Aug 1705 and died in Concord. Children, the first four were born in Haverhill, the rest in Concord.



THOMAS MERRILL

Born: Haverhill, Essex, Massachusetts, 5 February 1723/1724

Died: Conway, Carroll, New Hampshire, 2 July 1788

Spouses:

#1 Phebe Abbot,

b: 22 November 1727 Concord, Merrimack, N. H.

d: 29 September 1754 Concord, Merrimack, New Hampshire

m: 1747, Concord Merrimack, New Hampshire

#2 Mehitable Harriman,

b: 14 Jan. 1725/1726 Plaistow, Rockingham, N.H.

d: about 1764

M: aft. 1776

#3 Abigail Goodhue,

b: abt. 1730 Stratham, Rockingham, N.H.

d: about 1779

M: Stratham, Rockingham, N.H. — 2 April 1765

#4 Elizabeth Abbot,

b: 8 November 1738 Hollis, Hillsborough, N. H.

d: 12 October 1789, Conway, New York

m: 9 October 1780

Children of Thomas Merrill & Phebe Abbot are:

Thomas Merrill

b. 14 September 1748

d. ?? May 1821

Enoch Merrill

b. 26 November 1751

d. 26 May 1838

* Amos Merrill

b. abt. 1753

d.

m. Lois Willey, about 1775

Phebe Merrill

b. 29 April 1745

d.

m. Abiather Eastman, 8 December 1814

No other children are known of Thomas' other marriages.

Nothing more is known about Thomas Merrill at this time.



AMOS MERRILL:

Born: Conway, Carroll, New Hampshire, 1753
Died: Conway, Carroll, New Hampshire, 13 March 1850

Spouse: Lois Willey
Born: Pembroke, Merrimack, New Hampshire, 1755
Died: Conway, Carroll, New Hampshire, 18 March 1855

Married: Conway, Carroll, New Hampshire — 30 December 1779

Children of Amos Merrill & Lois Willey:

Amos Merrill	b. 1777
Lydia Merrill	b. After 1779 d. ?? December 1859
Betsey Merrill	b. About 1781 d. m. Barnard Chubbock, After 1801
Phebe Merrill	b. About 1783 d. m. Jacob Berry, About 1803
Mark Merrill	b. About 1785
* Samuel W. Merrill	b. About 1787 d. 1862 m. Martha Green 15 May 1825
Sarah Merrill	b. About 1789 d. m. John Broughton About 1809



SAMUEL W. MERRILL

Born: Conway, Carroll, New Hampshire, 1800

Died: Brooklyn, Hennepin, Minnesota, 1862

Buried: Brooklyn, Hennepin, Minnesota

An 1850 census list Samuel as a Mechanic in New Hampshire.

Spouse: **Martha Green**

Born: New Hampshire, 1806

Died: Brooklyn, Hennepin, Minnesota, 1872

Married: Moultonborough, Carroll, New Hampshire — 15 May 1825

Nothing is know of her family at this time.

Children of Samuel Merrill & Martha Green are:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * Silas Merrill | b. 12 January 1831
d. 2 November 1913
m. Margaret Weaver about November 1854 |
| Mehitable Merrill | b. |
| Jeremiah Merrill | b. 1829 |
| Phebe Merrill | b. 1833 |
| Sarah Jane Merrill | b. 8 October 1838
d. January 1896
m. Delevan Cotton |
| Samuel W. Merrill, Jr. | b. 1842
d. After 1913
m. Emma Pomeroy 24 September 1865 |
| Lydia Merrill | b. 1845 |

Samuel Merrill was a farmer. Spent most of his life in New Hampshire, but in his later years He and his family moved with his son Silas to Minnesota; Samuel and his wife lived the remainder of their lives there. They are buried in a cemetery in Brooklyn, Hennepin, Minnesota. Samuel's children Sarah & Samuel Merrill lived and died in Brooklyn, Hennepin, Minnesota.



SILAS MERRILL

Born: 12 January 1831, Conway, Carroll, New Hampshire
Died: 2 November 1913, Brooklyn, Hennepin, Minnesota,
Buried: Champlin, Hennepin, Minnesota Cemetery

Silas raised in New Hampshire. Silas obtained a land grant in Minnesota and moved his family there. He was a farmer.

Spouse: Margaret Weaver

Born: New Brunswick, Canada, 9 June 1835

Died: Brooklyn Hennepin, Minnesota, 4 May 1915

Married: New Hampshire / Minnesota — 3 November 1854

Nothing is known of her family at this time.

Children of Silas Merrill & Margaret Weaver are:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charles A. Merrill | b. March 1856
d. 29 March 1929
m. Lizzette D. Lane about 1879 |
| Jeremiah G. Merrill | b. about 1859
d. Unknown, census reports Washington State in 1913 |
| C. Lionel Merrill | b. 1861
d. 1863 (1 year 10 months) |
| Florence Merrill | b. 1863
d. 1944
m. John K. Bennett |
| * Iona E. Merrill | b. 9 December 1868
d. 6 April 1909
b. Champlin, Hennepin, Minnesota Cemetery
m. Clarence Henry Bridgham (6 March 1888 (divorced abt. 189X)
Elias W. Finch About 1892 |

MORE ON SILAS MERRILL:

Enlisted in the Civil War: Minnesota Company F, Infantry. Mustered in October 8, 1861 at the age of 31, mustered out September 2, 1863. Re-enlisted December 20, 1863 and was promoted to Corporal.

Transcript of Obituary:

The Osseo Review, Thursday, November 13, 1913, Page One.

On Sunday afternoon, November 2nd, at his home in Brooklyn Township, Silas Merrill at the age of nearly 83 years. He was born in Conway, New Hampshire January 12, 1831 and first came to Minnesota in 1852 soon going back to his native state but returning in 1854 and settled upon a claim in Brooklyn Township which has been his home ever since.

He was married on November 3rd, 1854 to Miss Margaret A Weaver who still survives him and had he lived one day more would have passed away on the 50th Anniversary of their marriage. To them were born five children, three of whom are still living. Jeremiah of Blaine, Washington and Charles A and Mrs. Florence Bennett of Brooklyn. He also leaves one brother, Samuel Merrill of Brooklyn and nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Mr. Merrill was converted in the early sixties and subsequently was baptised and united with the Free Baptist Church of Champlin and when the Bragdon Church of Brooklyn was organized and built, he transferred his membership there. His Christian life has been characterized by deep piety and earnestness and in his death the church loses a loyal and devoted member, the family a kind and faithful husband and father and the community an upright and honorable citizen and friend.

The funeral services were held at the home on Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock and were largely attended, his pastor, Rev. A. Longfield officiating and the remains were laid to rest in the Champlin Cemetery. There is also a Hennepin County Probate Record #018599-1913.

Silas Merrill was a farmer. He made several trips between Minnesota and New Hampshire around 1850s. He was given a land grant from the United States Government in 1859 as shown by a copy of that grant on the next page. The farm was sold in 1895 to a Great nephew Archie Eidem. Archie lived on the farm until his death in 1956. Archie's children rented the farm until 1975 when it was purchased to become part of the Brooklyn Historical Farm of Hennepin County.



MARGARET A. (WEAVER) MERRILL:

In the Anoka County Union on Wednesday, May 12, 1915, page 8, the following was said: "Mrs. Margaret Merrill of Brooklyn Township passed away on Wednesday and the funeral took place on Friday, Rev. Longfield, officiating. Interment was in the Champlin Cemetery.

Hennepin County Probate Records #018598—1916

Anoka County Union on May 12, 1915: Mrs. Meister and Miss Mae Joslyn attended the funeral of their Great Aunt Mrs. S. Merrill at Brooklyn on Friday.

Death Record states she was 79 years of age a time of death, that her father was born in Massachusetts, her mother was born in Maine and that Margaret was also born in Massachusetts. Her son Charles was the listed informant on her death certificate and he states he is living in Osseo, MN. At the time of his mother's death.

4201 101st Avenue North Brooklyn, Hennepin County, Minnesota



Silas Merrill on the right and his wife Margaret in front of their home and barn. The family buggy and horse to the far left. As of 7/2001, these buildings still stand and is next to a County historical farm in Brooklyn, Hennepin County. A county historian notes this farm house is a prefabricated home sold by Sears Roebuck and Company. Home was built by Silas. Date of photo is believed to be around 189?.

CERTIFICATE
No. 1694

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas *Silas Merrill of Hennepin County Minnesota*

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at *Minneapolis* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Silas Merrill*

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the North West quarter of the North West quarter of Section nine in Township one hundred and nineteen of Range twenty one West of the fifth principal Meridian in the District of lands formerly subject to sale at *Minneapolis* now *Forest City Minnesota* containing forty acres.

according to the official plat of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Silas Merrill*

NOW KNOW YE, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *Silas Merrill*

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Silas Merrill*

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, *James Buchanan* PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *first* day of *July* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *forty nine* and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the *eighty third*



BY THE PRESIDENT: *James Buchanan*
By *J. S. Leonard* Secretary.

J. S. Branger Recorder of the General Land Office.



Clarence was born and raised in Maine then relocating to Minnesota in the 1880s, In 1890s he is found living in Iowa and then in 1912 is found living in Santa Cruz, California. At the time of his death, he was living near his son Roy's farm in Chowchilla, California. Clarence has been listed in census as a farmer, self income and family members thought he was a cook that may have cooked for lumber camps. Margaret and Almeda Finch were step siblings of Roy Merrill Bridgham. These three siblings remained in close contact through out their lives. Margaret and Almeda were frequent visitors at the Santa Clara home. See the Bridgham Book for more information on Clarence and Roy Bridgham.



Photo July 1975

MARGARET FINCH:

Margaret Finch was married in Minnesota and had 3 children. Two boys (Lloyd & Rolland) whom died young. Her daughter, Shirley Bowers Small (b: abt 1923) lives in Minnesota as of 7/2001. Margaret's first husband (Minar Bowers [Bauers] 1897-1959) died. Minar was a farmer on land that formally owned by Wentworth Hayden; after his death, she remarried to a Mr. James Weaver .



Abt. 1913

James & Margaret were frequent visitors to California. Not only did they visit the Santa Clara home, they also visited Roy Merrill Bridgham's children in their homes. Prior to her second marriage to James Weaver, Margaret did live with the Bridgham family in the Santa Clara home for some time. James and Margaret lived in Minnesota and are buried in Hennepin County.

As a young lady, she worked in the Gedney Pickle Factory near Camden in North Minneapolis. She stated to her daughter that after work they had to wash their hair to help remove the strong vinegar smell and was most important if they had a date that evening.



Photo about 1941

ALMEDA FINCH:

Almeda was known to be a proper and well dressed lady. She thought San Francisco was the only place to live; and the grand and glorious life style was her passion. She was known to portray a very sophisticated personality during her life. It is believed she lived in San Francisco around 1940 (possible on Arguello Street). She married a Lou Hagelsieb. While living in San Francisco, it is said she always wore proper fashionable attire and wore a hat and white gloves. During the war Almeda was a conductor for the cars-she was so upset because at the end of a run (on top of a hill??) she would have to get out and turn the car around on the track that was provided. After Lou's death she lived for some time in Nevada and was a Black Jack dealer in the Reno area casinos. At some point she was also known to work in the Awanee Hotel in Yosemite, California.

It is reported she met her 2nd husband by joining a "lonely hearts" club. His name was Chester Dennis who was a farmer. For some time they lived in Banta, California. It was said while she was known as a sophisticated lady, her marriage to a farmer was surprising and she was known to sit in her kitchen to feed baby animals and take on the normal activity of a farmer's wife. At some point, they moved to Oklahoma, original home of Chester Dennis. In Oklahoma Chester had family and children from a previous marriage. This is were they lived for the remainder of their live. They are buried in Okalahoma.

This is a listing found on the web for the possible first husband of Almeda.

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ca/death/search.cgi>

Found this name as possible first husband. Proof required.

Louis Henry Hagelsieb b:11/23/1895 (Texas) d:9/15/1946 (Alameda County, California), 50 years old

Mother's Maiden name: Rubio

Married at time of death

Social Security #: 535-07-3976