

The Merrill Newsletter

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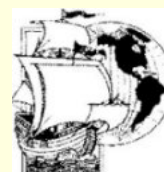
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Two Daniel⁵ Merrills - Confusion Resolved

by Howard and Jean Merrill

Samuel Merrill in *A Merrill Memorial* (MM), pages 291 and 300, alludes to a confusion between two Daniel⁵s of Haverhill. To Daniel b. 1720/1 Jan 13 to Nathaniel⁴ and Ruth Wallingford (John³ Nathaniel^{2,1}) he attributes three children (Nathaniel, Lydia and John) born in Bradford and Haverhill. To another Daniel, b. 1729 June 1, son of John⁴ and Lydia Gage (Nathaniel^{3,2,1}) and first wife Abigail Carleton, he attributed four children (Moses, Abigail, a child and Asa). The confusion is real, for some references have both of these Daniels married to Abigail Carleton, and Samuel Merrill admits he did not know which one married Abigail.

This question is pretty well resolved by papers filed by Ruth (Wallingford) Merrill Wood Parker to the probate court in Atkinson, NH. It seems that her son, Daniel Merrill, "a person naturally wanting of understanding" had been declared non compos mentis and that her son-in-law Daniel Poor (husband of her daughter, Anna Merrill) of Atkinson had been granted guardianship without Ruth's knowledge. Ruth asked the Court to grant the guardianship to her son James Merrill of Atkinson instead of Daniel Poor. Apparently she was unsuccessful for she asked the Court twice, once in 1768 after Poor had been granted guardianship, and again in 1782 after her daughter Anna had died in 1781. She asked the court to "hear the compassionate petition of a distressed mother for an impotent son and grant that the said James be appointed guardian." It seems pretty clear that this Daniel of Atkinson is not the one who married Abigail Carleton and that the children attributed to him really belong to the other Daniel.

So from MM and the MA vital records Daniel⁵ (John⁴ Nathaniel^{3,2,1}) and Abigail Carleton (m. 1749 Apr. 3 in Bradford) had:

Nathaniel b. 1749 Aug. 25 in Bradford, MA (named for great grandfather)

Lydia b. 1751 May 10 in Haverhill, MA (named for grandmother)

John b. 1752 Nov 8 in Haverhill, MA (named for grandfather)

Dean bp. 1754 Aug. in Haverhill, MA

Abigail b. 1756 Sept. 24 in Lunenburg, MA

Hitte b. 1758 Sept. 15 in Lunenburg, MA

Asa bp. 1760 Oct. 12 in ? Fitchburg, MA

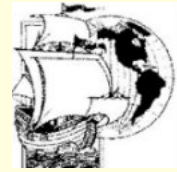
Abigail died 1764 June 3 and Daniel m. 1766 Sept. 17 Eunice Fellows and they had:

Daniel b. 1767 May 7 in Ashburnham, MA

Samuel b. 1768 Oct. 19 in Ashburnham, MA

Billy b. 1770 Dec. 5 in Ashburnham, MA

Joseph b. 1773 Mar 27 in Deerfield, MA



Next

Early Origins

By [Allen R. Merrill](#)

THE HUGUENOT MYTH

We frequently hear that Nathaniel¹ Merrill's (and our) ancestors were descended from French Huguenots. Many believe that our family fled France and migrated to England after the St. Bartholomew Day's massacre in Paris on August 24, 1572. Wrong! This belief is incorrect, but some early investigators believed it. The misconception was contained in early genealogical works, was picked up by later researchers, and now, unfortunately, appears in the literature often.

A review of our family history, compared to the history of the Reformation, proves that Nathaniel Merrill's antecedents were living in England before any Huguenot migration. In fact, his ancestors were living in England long before there were any Huguenots!

Documentation proves that Nathaniel's ancestor, Thomas Meryell, died in Wherstead, county of Suffolk, in the year 1464. We also know that John Meryell died there in 1528/9 and his son, also named John, died there in 1551/2. These three ancestors had all passed away, in England, long before the 1572 St. Bartholomew Day's massacre. In fact, after Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses against the indulgences of the Roman Catholic Church to the door of the church in Wittenberg in 1517, the first Huguenots (French Protestants), who were followers of Calvin, founded the first Presbyterian Church in France in 1559 30 years after John Meryell's death in Wherstead, England. Thus, our strain of the Merrill family is not descended from Huguenot stock.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

The following quotation concerning the Merrill name is from the copyrighted feature *The Romance Of Your Name* by Ruby Haskins, which appeared in a 1931 edition of The New York Evening Post:

"This name originated in the Province of Aisne, in France. It was first spelled Merle and it has been perpetuated by the village of Merle. The name signifies 'Blackbird', but just how the family came to be known by it is lost in the mists of antiquity".

The information contained in *The Name And Family Of MERRILL* compiled by The Media Research Bureau of Washington, D.C. in 1938 is very well done:

"The origin of the name MERRILL is uncertain. Some authorities are of the opinion that it is of German or Anglo-Saxon origin, and still others that it is of ancient Norman derivation and appeared in England at the time of the Norman Conquest (1066 A.D.). Since the name is

on record in England long before the time of the Huguenot persecutions in France and, moreover, appears to be of French derivation, it is most probable that the last theory is the correct one. If it is of French origin, its meaning is probably taken either from the word merle, meaning "a swaggering fellow" (originally "a blackbird or peacock"), or from the word mere, meaning "the sea" and aill, meaning "a wall or cliff". Of these theories the first is borne out by the family coat of arms and the second suggests a place-name or name taken from the place of residence of its first bearer."

PROBABLE EARLIEST KNOWN ANCESTORS

The Duchess of Cleveland* refers to "John and Richard Miriel, Norfolk; Adam de Miriel, Suffolk; and Matilda de Miriel, with her daughter Margaret of Kent, in the time of Edward I, (1272-1307). Nicholas de Meriel was of Yorkshire at the same date"

Since that reference to Adam de Meriel of Suffolk says that he was alive between 1272 and 1307, we may suppose that he died no earlier than sometime in the first half of the 14th century (1300-1350).

We know that our earliest recorded ancestor, Thomas Meryell, (whom we mentioned earlier), died in Suffolk County in 1464. We can assume that he had been born late in the 14th century or early in the 15th century (1375-1425). This reasoning brings these two men within about 100 years of each other, and with both of them living in Suffolk County, might they have been related? Adam de Miriel could have been one of Thomas' (and our) ancestors.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Speculating, (based as much on possibilities as on probabilities,) I theorize that, before living in England, our family did live in France, and that one of our ancestors from France, possibly a de Merle, was a participant in the Norman Invasion of England, serving William The Conqueror in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings. Afterward, when William dissolved the English Earldoms, our ancestor was one of the recipients of land that William granted to deserving Normans; that grant being for land in Suffolk, in the Wherstead area. Thus, I suggest that our family came to England from France during the 11th century, and settled in Suffolk. I am also of the opinion that our name is derived from the word merle, meaning "peacock", as represented on the coat-of-arms.

*From *The Battle Abbey Roll*, Vol. II, p. 245. *The Battle Abbey Roll* records the names of those Normans who received grants in England in return for their services under William The Conqueror in the 11th century.



Next

Correction - First Lady Barbara Pierce Bush

Edited by Deane Whitney Merrill

It has come to our attention that, in *The Merrill Newsletter* (merrill.wwh.net/TMN/), Vol.1, No.2, pg.5 (October 1991), we published an article by Don A. Merrill dmerrill@gte.net entitled "Nathaniel in the White House" in which there was an error. The article stated: "President Franklin Pierce is Barbara Bush's third great uncle and therefore [she] is descended from Franklin Pierce's brother (??? Pierce b.abt.1785?) whose grandmother (Elizabeth b.1727/8) was a Merrill." The preceding statment is incorrect.

Thanks to Richard L. Pierce rlpierce@bkb.com for his contribution of the following source: From Frederick Clifton Peirce [sic], Esq.'s book *Pierce Genealogy* published in 1882, Barbara Pierce Bush's correct Pierce ancestry is deduced as follows:

Thomas¹ PIERCE 1583-4? -1666 m. Elizabeth WORTINGTON b.1595-6

Thomas² PIERCE 1618-1683 m.1635 Elizabeth COLE d.1688

James³ PIERCE 1659-1742 m.bef.1688 Elizabeth KENDALL 1653-1715

James⁴ PIERCE 1690-1773 m.(2)bef. 1711 Phebe UNKNOWN d.1776

Joshua⁵ PIERCE 1722-1771 m.(2)1753 Esther RICHARDSON 1727-1819

James⁶ PIERCE 1768-1849 m.1795 Mary STACY 1774-1847

Gen. James⁷ PIERCE Jr. 1810-1874 m.1839 Chloe HOLBROOK 1816-1886

Jonas⁸ James PIERCE 1839-1913 m.1865 Kate PRITZEL 1841-1931

Scott⁹ PIERCE 1866-aft.1930 m.1891 Mabel MARVIN 1869-193?

Marvin¹⁰ PIERCE 1893-1969 m.(1)1918 Pauline ROBINSON 1896-1949

Barbara¹¹ PIERCE 1925- m.1945 George Herbert Walker BUSH, President, USA 1924-
George Walker BUSH 1946- m.1977 Laura WELCH 1946-

and President Franklin Pierce's ancestry is as follows:

Thomas¹ PIERCE 1583-4? -1666 m. Elizabeth WORTINGTON b.1595-6

Thomas² PIERCE 1618-1683 m.1635 Elizabeth COLE d. 1688

Stephen³ PIERCE 1651-1733 m.1676 Tabitha PARKER d.1742

Stephen⁴ PIERCE 1679-1749 m.1707 Esther FLETCHER 1681-1767

Benjamin⁵ PIERCE 1726-1764 m.1746 Elizabeth MERRILL b.1727/8

Gen. Benjamin⁶ PIERCE 1757-1839 m.(2)1790 Anna KENDRICK 1768-1838

Pres. Franklin⁷ PIERCE 1804-1869 m.1834 Jane M. APPLETON 1806-1863

So Barbara PIERCE Bush 1925- is a fourth cousin four times removed (4C4R) of President Franklin PIERCE 1804-1869, and not a third great grandniece as we reported. Since the latest common ancestor is Thomas² PIERCE 1618-1683 who predates Elizabeth MERRILL

b.1727/8, Barbara PIERCE Bush 1925- does not have (known) Merrill ancestors.

Sources:(by Deane W. Merrill merrill@crocker.com)

MERRILLs from *A Merrill Memorial*, Samuel Merrill, 1928.

PIERCEs from *Pierce Genealogy*, Frederick Clifton Peirce [sic], Esq., 1882;

Burke's Presidential Families of the United States (2nd edition) page 265,
cited by Kees van den Berg, kkees@worldonline.nl, emails of 11/20/99 and 12/2/99;

Michael E. Pollock mpollock@mindspring.com, unpublished work concerning the ancestry
of Barbara Bush, cited by Kees van den Berg, kkees@worldonline.nl, email of 12/2/99;

William Addams Reitwiesner WReitwiesn@aol.com, cited by Kees van den Berg,
kkees@worldonline.nl, email of 12/2/99;

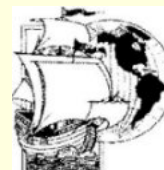
Richard L. Pierce, rlpierce@bkb.com, email of 11/10/99;

Kees van den Berg, kkees@worldonline.nl, emails of 11/8/99, 11/15/99 and 12/2/99;

GENDEX, www.gendex.com.

Further detail may be found on Deane Whitney Merrill's website at
<http://www.bearhaven.com/family/cousin/barbara.html> which was the source for most of the
above information.

We sincerely apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this error may have caused.



Next

A Few Merrill Graves in Maine

West New Portland Cemetery

Portland, Maine

Electa M. wife of Isaiah Merrill
d. May 18, 1863
age 23y 3m 10d

East Buckfield Cemetery

Town of Buckfield, Oxford County, Maine

Merrill, Lorenzo D. 1822-1897

Merrill, Harriett J. 1831-1908

Merrill, Frankie
1/2/1856 -

Merrill, Fred L.
1865-1886

Merrill, Ida M.
1865 -

Merrill, Gilbert N.
1871-1889

Merrill, Emma R.
1872-1876

<http://searches.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/iftch2?u1/data/me+index+3165223381+F>

Riverside Cemetery

Farmington, Franklin County, Maine

Ella P. Merrill
1872 - 1962

Hortence M. MERRILL KEITH
1861 - 1956

MERRILL

Rev. Enos
 d. 3-22-1861 age 75y
 Hannah ABBOTT, his wife
 d. 12-19-1876 age 81y 5m
 (Their Children:)
 Benjamin H.
 d. 3-20-1842 age 25y
 Enos A.
 d. 2-12-1843 age 19y
 John S.
 d. 9-20-1840 age 4y

MERRILL

Geo. D. d. 5-14-1867 age 33y
 Martha J., his wife d. 11-27-1880 age 44y

Edw. I. b. 6-15-1826 - 9-26-1897
 Hannah Maria d. 11-10-1891 age 63y 7m
 Celinda, wife of Edw. I. MERRILL
 b. 11-3-1824 - 4-30-1908
 C. E. 8-5-1861 - 4-12-1917

(footstones)

Dana (flag), Martha J., Charlie (flag), Celinda, Edward

Warren I. 1830 - 1894 (FLAG)

Lonia C. PRESCOTT, his wife 1837 - 1879
 Rowland Howard their son d. 2-25-1867 age 17m
 Clara Douglas their dau. d. 11-23-1878 age 3m 7d

Edward C. 1853 - 1923

Helen M. WORTHLEY 1854 - 1944
 Hilda their dau. d. 3-3-1893 age 1y 15d
 Ruth their dau. d. 3-4-1893 age 1y 16d

Colby L. 1887 - 1962

MERRILL

Rev. Thomas MERRILL

Deborah A., his wife
 d. 1-19-1866 age 80y 11m

GREENWOOD

Nathl.

d. 4-15-1867 age 76y
 Huldah, his wife
 d. 7-17-1892 age 96y 1m 22d
 Jennie, their dau.
 d. 3-28-1885 age 53y 10m
 Charles Mellen, their son
 d. 11-14-1836 age 1y 11m

Zina Hyde, their son
 9-21-1824 - 2-4-1909

Emily **Merrill** FELLOWS, his wife
 6-11-1829 - 5-2-1909

Lizzie A., their dau.
 1861 - 1946
 Emilie, their dau.
 1863 - 1927

WILLIAMS

Blin F. 8-21-1849 - 8-2-1892
 (Child by Rose I.)

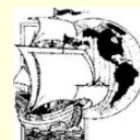
Ruth W. 8-30-1888 - 10-9-1894

Carlton P. **MERRILL** 1870 - 1962

Rose I. ABBOTT, his wife
 [former wife of Blin F. WILLIAMS]
 12-2-1857 - 12-20-1919

Warren C. MERRILL 12-26-1897 - 1-23-1941,
 (103 Inf. WW-I 1917-1918)

Wm. T. & R. Brenda ABBOTT
 Martha Caroline their dau.
 10-17-1860 - 2-25-1912



Next

QUERIES

by Howard and Jean Merrill

You may post your free query at our Home Page

<http://www.merrill.wwh.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

Q. Duane E. Crabtree from Arlington, MA was seeking proof of parentage of True Merrill, born 1802; died 1846, Dover, ME.

Q. I'm John Sullivan living in Greensboro NC, grew up in Huntsville, AL. My grandmother was Josie Merrill, a daughter of George Washington Merrill, lived in Giles Co, TN, married Issac Gatlin. Do you have marriage dates? I have the booklet about the TN Merrills written by Mrs. Broadway and others. I would also like to get additional information on the connection going back from Rowan Co. NC. to NJ to Staten Island NY.

Q. Jon Krause from Lubbock Texas said, I am working on a Merrill Line of Morris Pomeroy Merrill born in what is now Rensselaer. Co., NY on Apr 13, 1779, came to Onieda Co. around 1800, married Rhoda Robbins in Utica 1807, died in Rising Sun Indiana. I believe he had a brother named William that died in Herkimer Co. N.Y. The LDS Church has his name as Moris Elijah Merrill. Would like to know if you have any information on this line. Will supply you with his family if you need. Thanks, Jon Krause, Grandson of Samuel Robin Merrill

Q. Russell Merrill from Riverton, KS: I am looking for information on my Great Great Grandfather Dudley Merrill b. 1814 Orange County, Vt to Oliver Merrill and Elizabeth Fellows Merrill. Any help would be Greatly Appreciated.

Q. Pat Hanson from: Ames, Iowa: I am doing some beginning research on my Merrill line. I do know that in the late 1800s that my great grandparents settled in Butler County Iowa. Over the years they had 14 children. My great grandparents names: Joseph and Clara (Malarky) Merrill. These children were: Percy, Everett, Francis, Gladys, Marlys, Frank, Maude, Nellie, Madge, Joseph, Gene, Richard, Jean, ? (I know but can't think or find it right now). My great aunt has a partial family tree worked up, and I am trying to get a copy with dates, etc. This is a new project for me. Don't really know how to go into it. I do know to work from myself back, and I'm starting that way. Any pointers would be greatly appreciated.

Q. William Boston from Pocomoke MD: My great-great-great-great grandmother is Leah Merrill, dau. of Joshua Merrill, she mar. Esau Boston about 1780. Would like to trace Merrill family in Pocomoke area.

Q. Karen Loftus from Winslow, Maine: I just browsed the Merrill Genforum today and found where you are very helpful to many people searching the Merrill line. I will be subscribing to the Merrill Newsletter soon. Hope to be able to help some; and to fill in the gaps in my lines. My Merrill line from Nathaniel is Daniel; Daniel; Joseph; Daniel; Joseph (lived in Livermore, ME. m. Eunice Boothby) Jonathan; William; Charles E.; Charles E.; E. Maude; Glenys Goodwin; Karen DeRoch. I have printed out copies from my Family Tree Maker and will send them to you. I do have a few gaps in regards to the wives of Jonathan, William, and Charles E.

Q. Jimmy Merrell of Augusta Ga: I am originally from Huntsville,AL. I am just getting started with researching my family genealogy. I recently was back in Huntsville and went to an area of Marshall County AL, where a lot of my descendants lived back in the 1800's. The area in question is Merrill Mtn. It is located about 25 miles southeast of Huntsville near the Guntersville Dam (TVA). I was wondering if you had traced any relatives to this part of the country.

Previous Queries and Answers

Q. Rodney Douglas Merrill was looking for information on Winthrop Merrill who worked in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada in the 1790's. Born 1771, Died 1866, Married Mary Bean 1812 in Bath, NY. Buried in Union Ridge Cemetery, Jefferson Park, Cook Co., IL

A. Your Winthrop is in our "lineage unknown " file as James Winthrop, b. NH, ca.1778, the son of John [1739] and Eliza Dean or Doan. The first time we are sure we have found him is in the 1820 census of Jersey, Steuben Co NY where he is listed as Winthrop [26-45]; wife, [26-45]; 1m [under 10]; 2m,1f [10-16]. We found him again in the 1840 census when he shows up [60-70] in Jefferson, Cook Co IL with his son, George Edwin. Son, Washington, is also there. Winthrop is also there in 1850, age 72 with wife Polly, 71, and in 1860, age 83, Polly, 80. James Winthrop and Polly had 4 children that we know of: Mahala, ca. 1804; Washington, ca 1808; James Winthrop jr, 1810 June 18; George Edwin, 1812 Jan. 12, all believed b. Stanstead, Quebec .

We don't have record of James' m. to Mary Bean. Your date for the m. seems too late, unless it is a 2nd m. There is also a m. of a James to a Mary Bean in Chelsea VT, 1810 June 17 [VT vital records], but we doubt this is the right James and Mary Bean. The VT 1810 census shows them in Corinth VT both [16-26] (that's too young) and no children (if we have the right time frame for Mahala and Washington, they were b. before this James m. Mary Bean).

One of our correspondents suggests that John [1739] is the son of an immigrant to ME, Winthrop, b. ca 1700 in England, d. ME, and wife Mary Groch. We have NO records which support this assertion, but also none that deny it.

The Merrill that is most associated with Stanstead is David (5) [Abraham (4), Jonathan (3), Abraham (2), Nathaniel (1)] who in 1800 took his wife and 12 children by oxcart from Fisherfield, now Newbury NH, to Canada, settling finally in Stanstead. All his family is said to have lived and raised large families in that area [History of Stanstead].

It has recently been shown that David (5)'s brother, John (5), is the John [1739] who resided in Dunbarton NH from at least 1768 to 1810. It is not known how many children John had, but he had at least 5 known sons and a daughter. It is interesting to speculate if your James Winthrop son of John [1739] might possibly be the son of John (5)[1739] of Dunbarton. If this wild speculation were true, then your James Winthrop may have gone to Stanstead with his uncle David or followed him there. We have no evidence to support this. On a trip to Stanstead, several years ago, we found no evidence in the vital records or the land records that indicates Winthrop's presence there.

Q. Donna Nelson was looking for Rachel Merrill who married Andrew Fouts/Foutz/Pfautz abt. 1771 in Guilford (now Randolph) Co NC. Who were her parents?

A. The Rachel who m. Andrew Fouts is believed to be the daughter of William(3) [William (2,1) and Mary Cornell. This question was dealt with at length in the answer to Janet Pease's query in The Merrill Newsletter vol. 5 issue 3.

Q. Judie Merrill wrote " I am looking for my ggrandfather, A. Raymond Merrill, b. Bath Maine Sept.22,1832, and am having no luck. He married Hannah E. Barker from New York, on Jan.12, 1865, they moved to La Crosse WI and had 5 children: Mortimer, my grandfather; Leonard, who is buried with them; Garretta; Edward and Mary. Who are his parents?

A. We do not find your Antone Raymond in the 1850 or 1860 census anywhere in the US. This makes us wonder if his family might have gone to Canada. Another more probable possibility comes from the fact that Bath ME was, and still is, amajor shipbuilding port. He could have easily been a seaman by 1850 (ae 18), and therefor not be around when the census was taken.

The only Merrills listed in the 1830 census in Bath is a [lineage unknown] Joshua L (or S) [50-60]; wife [40-50]; 2f [under 5]; 1m,2f [5-10]; 1f [10-15]; 2m,1f [15-20]; 2f [20-30] whose wife still seems to be in the baby business. There is no Joshua in Bath in the 1840 census - only a J. A.[20-30] with 3 other [20-30] males living with him. If Joshua has died by 1840, then his widow could have remarried (or died) or just be living with another family, so would not be listed as "head of household" and her young children would not be living in a "Merrill" household. There are no [60-70] Joshua's elsewhere in ME in 1840 with the right mix of children.

The ME vital records in Augusta [very incomplete before 1892] show no children b. to a Joshua in Bath, nor do they show the death of Joshua in Bath. In fact we found no Bath

records prior to 1892 when they were required by the state.

Q. Arnold Lake Hovey asked about the Hannah Merrill who died in Hadley Mass in 1676, married FRANCIS BARNARD on 15 AUG 1644 in Hartford, Conn. I have a lot of data on their descendants. Are they connected to your Merrill?

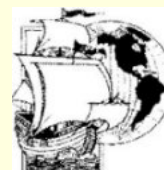
A. We believe that the Hannah Merrill who m. Francis Barnard was the daughter of the Thomas Merrill whose son Thomas was bapt. in Hartford in 1646. While we have no proof, we also believe that the elder Thomas was the cousin of immigrant Nathaniel of Newbury MA. Many of the early Newbury and Hartford CT folks are related. For example, evidence indicates that Nathaniel's wife Susanna was the daughter by a prior m. of Susan, wife of Gregory Wilterton, proprietor of Hartford.

The younger Thomas is known as Thomas of Saybrook CT and is known to have had many descendants in the Killingworth and Clinton CT and in Pittsfield MA area.

Q. Dick Stout wrote: I am related to the MERRILL line via the John STOUT /Rachael MERRILL marriage in NJ. Rachael's father was William MERRILL, but I don't have any information beyond that.

A. Brothers, Richard and William Merrill immigrated in 1680 to Staten Island, NY from Tysoe, Warwickshire, England. William (1) moved first to Middleton NJ in 1687 and in 1704 to Hopewell, NJ where he d. in 1724. He and his wife Grace (probably Staats) had, among others, William (2), who m. 1st Ann (probably Parke) and they had three known daughters: Ann, 1707 - 1801 June 7, who m. David Stout; Margaret, bapt. 1712 June 11 at Hopewell, and Rachel, b. 1715, d. 1745 in Amwell NJ. It is this daughter Rachel who m. in 1734, as his 1st wife, John Stout [1713-1790].

William (2) m. 2nd Penelope (Stout) Jewel and had William, 1729, Benjamin, 1730, Thomas, 1730, and Penelope, 1734, before he was killed by lightning, 1739 June 25. Sons, William and Benjamin, moved to NC where "Capt." Benjamin was a pre-Revolutionary patriot hanged 1771 June 19, charged with Treason for opposing the tyrannical policies of Governor Tryon.



Next

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Watch this space for **NEW** information. This page will change frequently. New! [My MERRILL database](#)
12 Mar 1998

The Arrival of the Merrill Brothers in Massachusetts Added to this page 16 Aug 1996 Nathaniel Merrill came from Wherstead, Suffolk County, England to Ipswich (then Agawam) Massachusetts abt 1639/40 and soon moved to Newbury, originally known as Quasacucon, 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 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 and had four sons and one daughter, thus is the progenitor of most of the New England Merrills.

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Good *LINKS*

[Nancy "kirbybear" Williams' Home Page](#) *Nice MERRILL family presentation with photos*

[Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites](#) *At least 50,000 links to genealogy sources*

[Peter Wittenberg 1817-1884 CA](#) *Lots of interesting info & a MERRILL tidbit*

[Chris Shearer Cooper's MERRILL line](#) *displayed with JavaGED - excellent!*

[Paul Noyes' genealogy](#) *with 228 early Merrills and Java search powered by Progenitor 2 Version 6 - great!*

[Deane Merrill's genealogy page](#) *with several Merrill databases*

Thanks to Deane Merrill and Don E. Merrill,

the Merrill database is now on [Gendex!](#) Request database lilhall2 (formerly dwmerrill8).



[Suffolk Co. UK Records](#)

Send us the URL of your home page featuring MERRILL ancestors, & we'll add it to our links!

Page created by: Lillian Follett-Hall



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Changes last made on: 8 Jan 2000

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<http://merrill.wwh.net/TMN/>

Nathaniel MERRILLFamily Group Sheet

Husband: Nathaniel MERRILL

b 4 May 1601 [Wherstead](#), Suffolk, England
m 23 Sep 1633 Wherstead, Suffolk, England
d 16 Mar 1654/55 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
Father: Nathaniel MERRILL
Mother: Mary Blacksoil
Other Spouses: none known

Wife: Susannah _____

b c1610 England
d 25 Jan 1672/73 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
Father: Unknown first husband of Susannah SHEPPARD
Mother: Susannah SHEPPARD (m. 2) Gregory WOLTERTON/WILLERTON)
Other Spouses: 2) Stephen JORDEN

Children:**1 M Nathaniel MERRILL**

chr 25 May 1634 Lawford, Essex, England
m 15 Oct 1661 Salisbury, Essex, Massachusetts
d 1 Jan 1682/3 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
Spouse: Joanna KINNEY

2 M John MERRILL, Deacon

b 16 Feb 1635/6 Lawford, Essex, England
m 12 Sep 1663 Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut
d 18 Jul 1712 West Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut
Spouse: Sarah Margaret WATSON

3 M Abraham MERRILL

b 9 Apr 1637 Lawford, Essex, England
m 18 Jan 1660/61 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
d 28 Nov 1722 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
Spouse: Abigail WEBSTER, Sarah ROWLANDSON

4 F Susanna MERRILL

b 12 Dec 1638 Lawford, Essex, England
m 15 Oct 1663 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
d 10 Oct 1690 Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut
Spouse: John BURBANK

5 M Daniel MERRILL, Sgt.

b 20 Aug 1642 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
m 14 May 1667 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
d 27 Jun 1717 Salisbury, Essex, Massachusetts
Spouse: Sarah CLOUGH, Sarah MORRILL

6 M Abel MERRILL

b 20 Feb 1643/44 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
m 10 Feb 1669/70 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
d 28 Oct 1689 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts
Spouse: Priscilla CHASE

SOURCES:

Merrill, Samuel A *Merrill Memorial* 1917-1928 1983 Reprint: Parker River Researchers, The Anundsen Publishing Co.
Rue, Eleanor *The Wife of Nathaniel Merrill* The Merrill Newsletter 3:3 9/15/93

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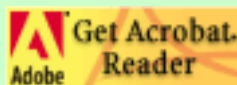
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**Access to the MERRILL Newsletter is by subscription.
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[Web Site for The MERRILL Newsletter](#)

Web space for the MERRILL Newsletter is provided by Deane Merrill
email: merrill@crocker.com

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

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Barbara Pierce (Bush)

Barbara PIERCE (Bush) is the wife of former U.S. president George H.W. BUSH, and the mother of Texas Governor George W. BUSH. In an earlier version of this Web page Barbara PIERCE was **incorrectly** identified as the 9th great-granddaughter of Nathaniel¹ MERRILL 1601-1654/5, as follows:

Nathaniel¹ MERRILL 1601-1654/5 m. Susanna UNKNOWN d.1672/3
Nathaniel² MERRILL ill (1633/4-1682/3) m.1661 Joanna NINIAN d.1717/8
John³ MERRILL (1662/3-1705) m. Lucy WEBSTER 1664-aft.1718
Abel⁴ MERRILL (prob.1690-1753) m.(1) Sarah BODWELL abt.1696-1737
Elizabeth⁵ MERRILL b.1727/8 m.(1) Benjamin PIERCE 1726-1764
Benjamin⁶ PIERCE (1757-1839) m.(2)1790 Ann KENDRICK 1768-1838
??? PIERCE (b.abt.1785?-)
Gen. James PIERCE Jr. 1810-1874 m.1839 Chloe HOLBROOK b.1816
Jonas James PIERCE 1839-1913 m.1865 Kate PRITZEL b.1841
Scott PIERCE 1866-aft.1930 m.1891 Mabel MARVIN 1869-aft.1930
Marvin PIERCE 1893-1969 m.(1)1918 Pauline ROBINSON 1896-1949
Barbara PIERCE 1925- m.1945 George Herbert Walker BUSH 1924-
George Walker BUSH 1946- m.1977 Laura WELCH 1946-

The source was Don Merrill dmerrill@gte.net, who stated in an article "Nathaniel in the White House," in The Merrill Newsletter (<http://merrill.wwh.net/TMN>), Vol.1, No.2, pg.5 (October 1991): "President Franklin Pierce is Barbara Bush's third great uncle and therefore (she) is descended from Franklin Pierce's brother (??? Pierce b.abt.1785?) whose grandmother (Elizabeth b.1727/8) was a Merrill." Don Merrill's statement implies the Merrill ancestry listed above, which is **incorrect**. Don's source was a Prodigy genealogy bulletin board posting approximately 1994, from unknown sources.

According to **Pierce Genealogy**, Frederick Clifton Peirce, Esq., 1882, provided 11/10/99 by Richard L. Pierce rlpierce@bkb.com, Barbara Bush's Pierce **correct** ancestry is as follows:

Thomas¹ PIERCE 1583-4? -1666 m. Elizabeth WORTINGTON b.1595-6
Thomas² PIERCE 1618-1683 m.1635 Elizabeth COLE d.1688
James³ PIERCE 1659-1742 m.bef.1688 Elizabeth KENDALL 1653-1715
James⁴ PIERCE 1690-1773 m.(2)bef.1711 Phebe UNKNOWN d.1776
Joshua⁵ PIERCE 1722-1771 m(2)1753 Esther RICHARDSON 1727-1819
James⁶ PIERCE 1768-1849 m.1795 Mary STACY 1774-1847
Gen. James⁷ PIERCE Jr. 1810-1874 m.1839 Chloe HOLBROOK 1816-1886
Jonas⁸ James PIERCE 1839-1913 m.1865 Kate PRITZEL 1841-1931
Scott⁹ PIERCE 1866-aft.1930 m.1891 Mabel MARVIN 1869-193?
Marvin¹⁰ PIERCE 1893-1969 m.(1)1918 Pauline ROBINSON 1896-1949
Barbara¹¹ PIERCE 1925- m.1945 George Herbert Walker BUSH 1924-
George Walker BUSH 1946- m.1977 Laura WELCH 1946-

and President Franklin Pierce's ancestry is as follows:

Thomas¹ PIERCE 1583-4? -1666 m. Elizabeth WORTINGTON b.1595-6
Thomas² PIERCE 1618-1683 m.1635 Elizabeth COLE d.1688
Stephen³ PIERCE 1651-1733 m.1676 Tabitha PARKER d.1742
Stephen⁴ PIERCE 1679-1749 m.1707 Esther FLETCHER 1681-1767
Benjamin⁵ PIERCE 1726-1764 m.1746 Elizabeth MERRILL b.1727/8
Gen. Benjamin⁶ PIERCE 1757-1839 m.(2)1790 Anna KENDRICK 1768-1838
Pres. Franklin⁷ PIERCE 1804-1869 m.1834 Jane M. APPLETON 1806-1863

So Barbara PIERCE Bush 1925- is a fourth cousin four times removed (4C4R) of President Franklin PIERCE 1804-1869, and not a third great grandniece as reported by Don Merrill. Since the latest common ancestor is Thomas² PIERCE 1608[?]-1683 who predates Elizabeth MERRILL b.1727/8, Barbara PIERCE Bush 1925- does not have (known) Merrill ancestors.

Sources:

MERRILLS from **Merrill Memorial**, Samuel Merrill, 1928.
PIERCEs from **Pierce Genealogy**, Frederick Clifton Peirce [sic], Esq., 1882;
Burke's Presidential Families of the United States (2nd edition) page 265,
cited by Kees van den Berg, kkees@worldonline.nl, emails of 11/20/99 and 12/2/99;
Michael E. Pollock mpollock@mindspring.com, unpublished work concerning the ancestry of
Barbara Bush, cited by Kees van den Berg, kkees@worldonline.nl, email of 12/2/99;
William Addams Reitwiesner WReitwiesn@aol.com, cited by Kees van den Berg,
kkees@worldonline.nl, email of 12/2/99;
Richard L. Pierce, rlpierce@bkb.com, email of 11/10/99;
Kees van der Berg, kkees@worldonline.nl, emails of 11/8/99, 11/15/99 and 12/2/99;
GENDEX, www.gendex.com.

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