

**MILES MERWIN (1623-1697) ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
BRETTON WOODS CLUB, MD ~ JULY 17, 2010**

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<b>Board Members Attending:</b>	<i>President–</i>	Lee Merwin, TX
	<i>Vice President–</i>	Dr. John David Merwin II, MO
	<i>Secretary–</i>	Betty Merwin, TX
	<i>Treasurer–</i>	Mimi McDonald, MI
	<i>Directors–</i>	John Merwin, NJ
		Miles R. Merwin, Canada
		Robert S. Merwin, OH

The 53rd annual meeting of the Miles Merwin Association was called to order at 11:40 AM by President, Lee Merwin.

The introduction of the officers, directors, new members and guests was made. The president announced that he had recently talked with a professional genealogist who after learning more of the organization's activity, reported that the MMA is one of the top 10% of family organizations in the United States.

John D. Merwin made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2009, Annual Meeting as read in the current Milestones newsletter with no further changes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** ~ The Treasurer's Report was read by Mimi McDonald, Treasurer.

Cash on Hand on June 1, 2010, was \$27,339.84. Disbursements for Milestones' postage and publication was \$182.57, Treasurer's Expenses of \$1,235.75, Reunion Expense for 2009 was \$740.28, Connecticut Tax and Reporting Fees were \$300.00 for a total of \$4,255.45. Cash on Hand on June 1, 2010 is \$27,339.84. The report was filed for audit.

The motion was made by John D. Merwin to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and the motion was seconded by Betty Merwin. Motion carried.

**GENEALOGY** ~ The Genealogy report was given by Mimi McDonald in the absence of Laura Merwin, Genealogist. During this past year, information was verified and provided to the DAR concerning several Merwin ancestors.

Proof of heritage has been established for the inclusion of John Henry Gibbud (Yale Harland Merwin) and his four children (John Ranny, David Wells, Timothy Guy, and Margaret Ann Gibbud) into the MMA and was approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting.

**DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS** ~ There are five directors who rotate through 3-year terms. Four of the five directors are continuing their current board positions and one position will remain open for the year. The four directors elected to serve for the next three years are:

Betty Merwin, TX	Gaius W. Merwin, Jr., NH
John Merwin, NJ	Laura Merwin, MI

The motion was made by Robert S. Merwin to accept four of the current Board of Directors to remain on the board with one open position at this time. The motion was seconded by Joan Trafton, MD. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS** ~ The Board of Directors has set a goal to establish the tax exempt status for the organization by the 2011 Annual Meeting.

The project of combining all four volumes of the MMA into a digital form and put into Word version will be continued. The first volume was scanned several years ago.

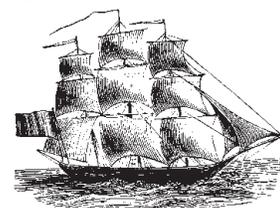
**NEW BUSINESS** ~ The Board of Directors voted a change to the bylaws to provide for a second Vice President in order to have a continual and consistent rotation into the President's office in future years.

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the MMA will be in Milford on the 3rd weekend in July and arrangements will begin immediately to provide the membership details for attending. That information will be provided in the next Milestones publication.

**PRESENTATION** ~ John Merwin, NJ, presented a very entertaining story that involved a routine computer search for information on his great aunt, Anne Merwin. Through this simple search he made the discovery of her involvement in a movie career with movie celebrities that had never been known to the family before.

**ADJOURNMENT** ~ Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM and lunch was served at that time.

*Betty Merwin*  
Secretary



# Who was Mistress Miles

By Richard N. Platt Jr.

Milford's history says that in 1777, a British vessel, the HMS Swan, anchored off Pond Point and sent ashore a foraging party. They approached the home of Miles Merwin (still standing today on Pond Point Avenue) in search of cattle. They spent some time vandalizing the house. Family tradition says that they killed a sheep or a hog and poured molasses on the feather beds.

Mistress Miles Merwin, with her baby under her arm, ran from the house, harnessed a horse and drove into town beating on a copper pot to sound the alarm. The local militia assembled so quickly that the British withdrew with very little plunder.

Back when I was still in the Naval Reserve, I spent a two-week active duty period at the Naval History Section at the Washington Navy Yard. At the time, they were preparing for publication the naval documents of the American Revolution. From the microfilm of the log book of the Swan, a sloop of 14 guns, I found the following entry for 24-25 August 1777:

"PM Mod Breezes & Clear at 1 Came too Small Br. [bower anchor] in 10 fs. Water Setoget [Setauket, Long Island] SEBS of

Shore 1 Mile at 10 weighd & came to sail in Compy with two Sloops & a Prize at 4 AM came too Sm. Br. in 7 fs. water Milford Church NWbW 2 miles off Shore 1 Mile sent the Boats on Shore Mand and Armd to bring of some Cattle at 7 the Boats Returned got no Cattle Weighd & Came to sail turning across the Sound"

But, who was Mistress Miles Merwin? The Merwin family has long basked in the reflected glory of this brave woman, but, after all, she was a Merwin by marriage, not blood. Our heroine was Abigail Ann Beach, born 1752, daughter of Landa Beach and Abigail Baldwin. She married Miles Merwin on 18 February 1773, and the baby in question seems to have been Miles, born on 12 April 1776. Abigail Ann, then, was a descendant of Thomas Beach and Sarah Platt, daughter of Richard Platt.

A further search of her family tree reveals two lines back to John Baldwin, one to Henry and Elizabeth Botsford, and one to Thomas and Frances Oviatt. Non-Milford lines include one to John Atwater and Abigail Mansfield. So it appears that the Merwins must share the limelight with many other old Milford families.

Mistress Miles was contributed by Dick Platt, who is a Platt, Botsford and a Merwin. Dick has been President of the Botsford family, and the Platt family, and is on the board of the MMA. Quoting Dick, "One of the results of my family staying here in Milford is that I descended from 30 of the people on the Memorial Bridge through 85 different lines". Dick is the official Town Historian of Milford. He and Jane are regulars at our reunions.