

MILES MERWIN (1623-1697) ASSOCIATION

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**MERWINS MEET AT HISTORIC
BRETTON WOODS CLUB FOR 53RD ANNUAL REUNION**

The always gracious staff of the Bretton Woods Club hosted this year's annual Merwin reunion and MMA meeting. The Club features a vista of the Potomac from the heavily wooded country side of southern Maryland. The scenery along the route from downtown D.C. made the drive worthwhile! Long time General Manager Mr. Aki Heydarian and Club House Manager Kevin Kozak rolled out the red carpet for us again.

These meetings are always a reminder of how much we enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones. It was great visiting with David and Joanie Trafton. David is our resident authority on Jesse "Ichabod Crane" Merwin and has helped several other researchers the last several years. The Bob Shultz family was present again. The girls have grown up since we last saw them but Bob and Margy haven't changed at all. We were delighted to see Dr. Grier Merwin from Boston make an appearance. It's been too long since we've seen Grier. Anne Merwin drove out from E Street (DC) and the Mackalls were with us again. First time attendees were Robertson Merwin from Canada and Robert Shultz of the DC area. I'm in hopes that we'll see both of them next year in Milford. Conspicuously absent and always missed were John Merwin, ESQ, Gaius Merwin, Bob and Becky (Saint Croix), and Laura Merwin. They're always in our thoughts.

The meeting was productive and the minutes are included here in Milestones. Our speaker was John Merwin (NJ). He related a recent adventure he pursued on the internet, a unexpectedly serendipitous search of the life of his Great Aunt. John initially set out to access a speech his daughter recently delivered, by Googling her name. The aunt, who died in 1962, and his daughter share the same spelling of "Anne." Out of the blue, multiple references to the aunt popped up, included a listing of her as an early day screen writer, on the British Film Institute website. Her life and times were extraordinary and almost wholly unknown to our immediate family. John's pursuit led to researching her travels in our country, coast to coast, through queries on Ancestry.com, and by searching fine arts archives in New York City's public library and the city's Museum of Modern Art, plus archives of the British Film Institute, in London! His aunt was active and well known during the nascent period of the silent movie business, on both sides of the Atlantic. She led an adventurous life in an era long gone. John is always a great presenter of stories. His tales are always well researched, entertaining and personal.

We will return to Milford for our meeting next summer. We will convene on Saturday, July 16, 2011. We will meet in the Milford Yacht Club and thanks go to Christine Moen for securing the reservation for us. I'm looking forward to returning to New England and its summer weather again! We will have an open Friday night dinner before hand and we hope to have a crowd. I encourage those with young families to consider either making a week of it in New England or perhaps New York City. We have done both and it has always been rewarding. We only get to make memories once. We'll have more information about the meeting in the spring issue of Milestones. ♦



EVENTS:
The MMA Board will
meet Friday, July 15 at
3:00 PM

Friday, July 15, 2011
Dinner
7:00 PM

Meeting and Reunion
Milford Yacht Club
Saturday, July 16, 2010
10:30

See 
www.merwin.org



Looking Back



It's hard to believe that I became the third president of MMA seven years ago. Where does the time go? I leave feeling very comfortable about the future of the Miles Merwin Association. It is in very capable hands. The new group of officers has an aggressive and pro-active agenda for us and I believe that they have set realistic goals. Our new president is John Merwin. John has served as Executive officer for both a school board and a Masonic Lodge. I'll bet the school board was the more challenging. His notes, "Looking Forward", are in this Milestones.

So what has happened over the last seven years? Well, we began our journey as our President, Vice President and Treasurer resigned the same year. Our Board of Directors was, for the most part, absentee and we lost our Genealogist and Milestones editor as well. We were fortunate as Laura Merwin, Mimi McDonald, Dr. John D. Merwin, et al stepped in to take these responsibilities literally overnight. We owe Gaius Merwin a big thank you for mentoring Mimi during the transfer of the MMA fiduciary responsibilities. This is a far more difficult and critical position than most of us realize.

We wrestled with the challenges at hand and as our new group takes charge we exit with the youngest and most active Board we've had in many years. Last year 13 of the 15 were in Milford for our meeting. All of the officers traveled to Milford and again to Bretton Woods. Our Milestones is now a full color publication and we will resume publishing 2 to 3 issues annually. Dr. John D Merwin created, revised and maintains the MMA web site, which has given us unique visibility and accessibility. We have plans to do some modest marketing in New England this year. We are actively engaged in pushing the 501(c) (3) issue and we plan to begin editing and consolidating the four volumes of Merwins of North America into a digital format this year.

I want to thank every member of the MMA for their individual support and efforts on our behalf. I look forward to attending our reunions and contributing when asked too. We are a very special family and a very special organization. The MMA is sustained by family volunteers who are compensated only by the satisfaction of our fellowship and association. And that's a good thing!



Looking Forward

Growing up in Texas in the 1950-60s I remember receiving the Milestones newsletters, wondering whether I'd ever set foot in the Milford Yacht Club for an annual MMA meeting. Back then Milford was a lot farther from Texas than it is today, and my chances seemed slim.

The world got smaller and Milford grew closer, especially when I moved to New Jersey 27 years ago. Since then my wife and I have attended many of the Milford gatherings and several held elsewhere. It's always interesting to learn from the programs a little more about who we are and what life was like for our ancestors, starting 150 years before America became a nation.

Plus there's something unique about this particular luncheon crowd. Where else can you be, if somebody shouts "Hey Merwin," that everybody in the room turns around? One year I even had my photo taken with two other John Merwins. That alone was worth the trip—a copy of the photo is in our family album.

The only hazard of attending MMA meetings is one day you might wind up elected to something. At our July meeting near Washington, DC I was elected president, replacing Lee Merwin, who ably served as our chief executive for seven years. It will be a smooth transition, as I know him well. For many years, he lived in the bedroom next to mine in Dallas, when we were kids.

Our goal this year is to transform the information in our four printed volumes of The Merwin Family in North America into a single digital document. Also, to edit in revisions from later volumes into the entire document so that we wind up with everything correct and updated on a single CD.

This is a considerable undertaking, but I hope to report its completion at next summer's annual meeting. From there we will move forward, digitally adding new generations to the Merwin Family history. Equally important, we will be able to correct and revise our family genealogy on a computer, rather than waiting years for a new printed edition.

In addition to thanking Lee for his long time service to MMA as past president and as continuing editor of Milestones, let me also thank our retiring Genealogist, Laura Merwin of Michigan, who for many years also served as our secretary.

Please consider joining us next July 16th in Milford. More details will follow in our spring newsletter. Some of our members couple the annual MMA meeting with a vacation. Don't forget that Milford is an easy day trip out from New York City. By auto it's 70 miles, or by commuter train, 90 minutes from Grand Central Terminal.



John Merwin
President, MMA

