

# Milestones

MILES MERWIN (1623-1697) ASSOCIATION

ISSN 1068-0756

**MILESTONES NO. 144**

**JUNE 2011**

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## EVENTS:

### *Board Meeting*

The MMA Board will meet Friday, July 15  
4:00 PM

### *Dinner*

Friday, July 15, 2011  
Stonebridge  
Restaurant  
7:00 PM

### *Meeting and Reunion*

Milford Yacht Club  
Saturday, July 16, 2010  
10:30

See



merwinassociation.com  
for more information

## MILFORD YACHT CLUB TO HOST 54TH MEETING AND REUNION OF THE MILES MERWIN ASSOCIATION

After visiting Washington D.C. last summer we will return to our "home" in July for our 54th reunion and meeting. The Yacht Club is always a wonderful venue with its views of Long Island Sound, great menu and access to the many historic Merwin sites. For those wishing to make a week's vacation of the event, Milford is close to The Hamptons, New York City and most of New England. All are within 2 hours drive.

The Board will meet Friday, July 15 at 4:00 P.M. in the Milford Marriott Residence Inn. Anyone is welcome to attend the Board meeting. Everyone is invited to the Friday 7:00 P.M., pay as you go, dinner at the Stone Bridge Restaurant, located by the old Stone Bridge in downtown Milford.

Our annual meeting and reunion will commence Saturday at 10:30 A.M. in the Yacht Club. We'll have the usual preliminaries and pay bar, followed by the luncheon, speaker and meeting.

We are exceedingly fortunate to have Ms. Melanie Marks as our speaker. Ms. Marks is an authority on historic homes, cemeteries and New England antiquities. I first spoke with Melanie a year ago and she told me of how she became involved with these things, eventually trading in her Jaguar for a pickup truck! She is known in the area as "The Cemetery Lady". There is a brief Q&A with Melanie in this Milestones by John Merwin.



card 168  
1912

# GRAVE ART

## *Art in the Cemetery A Q&A with Melanie Marks*

Perhaps the most interesting gravestones in America are those from the 1600s-1700s, found in New England cemeteries. Many of our Merwin ancestors' graves are marked by such stones, replete with ghostly images of death and other interesting symbols. These ghostly images reflect the Puritan view of death. The accompanying symbols often say something specifically about the deceased.

Our speaker at the July 16th Miles Merwin Association reunion, Melanie Marks, will explain "New England Gravestone Art" following our luncheon at The Milford Yacht Club. Ms. Marks, a veteran historic preservationist, lives on an 18 acre farm in Fairfield, a farm which dates back to 1785. For Milestones readers, we asked Ms. Marks several questions, in anticipation of her presentation.

**Q:** How did you become interested in tombstone art?

**A:** *I had been researching historic Connecticut houses and their related genealogy with the intent of listing the homes on the State Register of Historic Places. Along with getting the houses listed, I was instrumental in securing the listing of Westport's oldest burying ground as well. Due to this research I found myself totally fascinated with these earliest gravestones and cemeteries. Who carved the gravestones? What do they represent?*

**Q:** That's certainly a different hobby. You must have developed quite a reputation.

**A:** *I have been called "The Cemetery Lady." Phone calls from my kids usually start with "What cemetery are you in today Mom?" I joined the Connecticut Gravestone Network five years ago and started learning to restore, reset and repair these historic treasures. Historic tombstones can be found dotted all across Connecticut. Some stand proudly within church yards. Some can be found along less traveled roads, while others are located on the edges of family farms.*

**Q:** It looks like what started out as a hobby has become a business.

**A:** *It has. Three years ago I started my own company, Connecticut House Histories, LLC. I felt I'd be viewed more as a professional, as opposed to a "house hugger," as some people outside "The Preservation World" like to call us. I have been instrumental in completing historical and genealogical research for 52 houses. Fifteen now are listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places. These houses and historic cemeteries are the fabric of what makes our New England towns so special. Preserving and protecting them has become central to my life.*

# *The Latest Reported Marriages and Miscellaneous Information*

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## *Engagements*

**Hilary G. Eiring**, daughter of Wendy Merwin Eiring, will marry Jeffery R. Christanell.

## *Marriages*

**Brittany Taylor Merwin** married to Kevin Joseph Maloney on May 22, 2010 at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey. Father of the bride is Michael Charles Merwin.

**John David Burns** was married to Kathryn Elizabeth Ponder on March 7, 2010.

## *Births*

**Andrew Robert Gronemeier** was born March 5, 2009 in Sacramento, California. His parents are Sarah Charles and Bryan Gronemeier. Grandparents are Jeanne Dana and Joseph Chasko and great grandparents are Shirley Merwin Leiser and Robert P. Dana.

**Brandon Thomas Buel** was born on April 4, 2008. He is the son of Erica and Thomas Buel, grandson of Raymond and Betty Lou Buel and great grandson of Elsie (Merwin) Buel.

**Braydon James Keyler**, born April 22, 2009 in Walnut Creek California to Victoria Elizabeth Kyte and Courtney Keyler. He is the grandson of Martha Lee (Merwin) and Steven Kyte.

**Christopher Paul Wilson** was born on March 29, 2006. He is the grandson of Harriet Merwin DiChiara.

**Daniel William Taylor Merwin**, born June 1, 2011, weighing 10 pounds. His parents are Vikki and Robertson Merwin and grandparents are Jane and Miles Merwin all of Toronto, Canada.

**Elsa Jane Merwin**, born June 18, 2009, in Portland Oregon, to Jason Robert and Amy Merwin. She is the granddaughter of James Graham Merwin.

**Grady Emmanuel Merwin**, born May 16, 2010 to Stephen and Kellie Merwin. Grandparents are Michael and Jeanette Merwin.

**Grady Stephen Merwin**, born July 5, 2008. His parents are Gregory James and Brandy Merwin of Irvine, California. He is the grandson of James Graham Merwin.

**James Michael Merwin** born October 1, 2009 to Chris and Sara Merwin. Grandparents are Michael and Jeanette Merwin.

**Olivia Rose Garcia**, born November 7, 2010. Her parents are Stephanie Rose Tay and Carlos Garcia. Olivia is the great granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Grounds of Albany, New York.

**Sophia Grace Gatgens**, born February 1, 2010, in Birmingham, Alabama. She is the daughter of Kevin James Gatgens and granddaughter of James Merwin and Judith Gatgens.

**Spencer Robert Merwin** born December 8, 2008, to Michael Graham Merwin and Verena Hess in Seattle, Washington. He is the grandson of Robert William and Jean Merwin.

*continued on page 4*

# *The Latest Reported Marriages and Miscellaneous Information cont'd*

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## *Deaths*

**Barbara Davey Merwin** died on June 10, 2010, in Redwood City, California. She was the widow of James Kimball Merwin (MMA 6020) and is survived by three sons: James Kimball Merwin, Jr. (MMA 7091), Stephen DeGroff Merwin (MMA 7092), and David Holt Merwin (MMA 7093).

**Christine M. Hunt** born December 24, 1948 and died November 27, 2008.

**Darcy Ann Newham**, daughter of Jack C. Merwin, died January 18, 2010, in Roseville, Minnesota.

**Ellis Wayne Davis** died October 31, 2001, and was the husband of Eileen Cheryl Merwin (MMA 4936).

**Ethel Elizabeth Jones Blankenship McQuinn** born March 21, 1927, and died December 10, 2008, in Austin Texas. She was the mother of Nancy Blankenship Hasler.

**Fern Schreiter** died on August 11, 2007, in Tupelo, Mississippi. She was the sister of Barbara Bitting Gurtler.

**Francis Lucille Merwin** born January 20, 1914, died on February 3, 2010 in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

**John Avery Merwin, Jr.** (MMA 6019) born on October 9, 1932, died January 30, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Joan Marie Mundy Merwin and his three children: Miles A. Merwin of Corpus Christi, TX; Elizabeth Merwin Potter, Sparta, NY; and William A. Merwin of Magnolia Texas.

**Lloyd (Mac) Merwin, Jr.** (MMA 6281) born October 27, 1922, died on May 28, 2011, in La Jolla, California. He is survived by Ada H. Merwin and his two sons, Lee and John. Lee is the past president of the MMA and John is the current president.

**Marjorie B. McAlister** died in November 2008. She was the sister of Barbara Bitting Gurtler.

**Marian L. Merwin**, born on December 16, 1922, and died April 14, 2011, in Gainesville, Florida. She was the widow of Forrest Merwin and mother to Charlotte, Charles and Chester.

**Mary E. Beard** died on July 10, 2009, and is survived by Merwin K. Beard.

**Mrs. Carter Braxton** died on June 16, 2009, at home in Scarsdale, New York at the age of 101.

**Robert Lorin Benedict** died February 22, 2010. He had lived in St. Petersburg, Florida.

**Russell William Hunt** born July 23, 1918, and died September 27, 2010.

**Ruth Thelma Hamm** born July 3, 1915, and died on July 12, 2008. She was the sister of Barbara Bitting Gurtler.

**Walter Joy Merwin, Sr.** (MMA 3888) died on July 21, 2008. His daughter is Eileen Cheryl Merwin.

**William H. Aiken** born June 2, 1926, died on June 27, 2009 in Glens Falls, New York. He was the husband of Ruth Merwin Aiken.

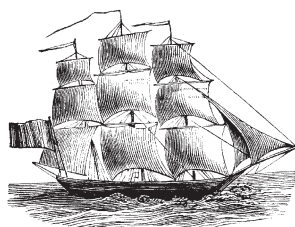
# Website Update

## NEW WEBSITE ONLINE

Some seven years ago, Dr. John Merwin (St. Louis) had a vision of a website for MMA. He brought the organization into the 21st Century when he created and maintained the website, [www.merwin.org](http://www.merwin.org). It has been a wonderful addition to our organization, providing access to our activities and information to members, Merwins and genealogists. It has been a newsletter and billboard for us for almost a decade. Dr. John built the website himself and has maintained it as a service since its inception.

Recognizing the increasing value of the web exposure, we have put up a new website created and maintained by a professional service. You can find us at [www.merwinassociation.com](http://www.merwinassociation.com). We hope to expand this site for the use of everyone interested in all things Merwin.

We wish to recognize and thank Dr. John for his considerable contribution to MMA. His dedication to our organization is outstanding!



**MILES MERWIN (1623-1697) ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 35771  
DALLAS, TX 75235

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DALLAS, TX  
PERMIT 2454

**MAIL TO:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Friday Reservations	order off menu	_____	\$ _____
Lunch 13 and older	\$30.00	_____	\$ _____
Lunch 12 and under	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$ _____

Saturday 10:30 am Noon  
Meet, Greet and Visit. Photos & Annual Meeting Lunch

Please send your reservation with remittance to:  
Ms. Mimi McDonald  
Address: 8416 Power Drive, Oscoda, MI 48750  
Tel: (989) 739.9394  
Email: [mimim@pobox.com](mailto:mimim@pobox.com)

2011 Reservation Form  
July 16, 2011

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