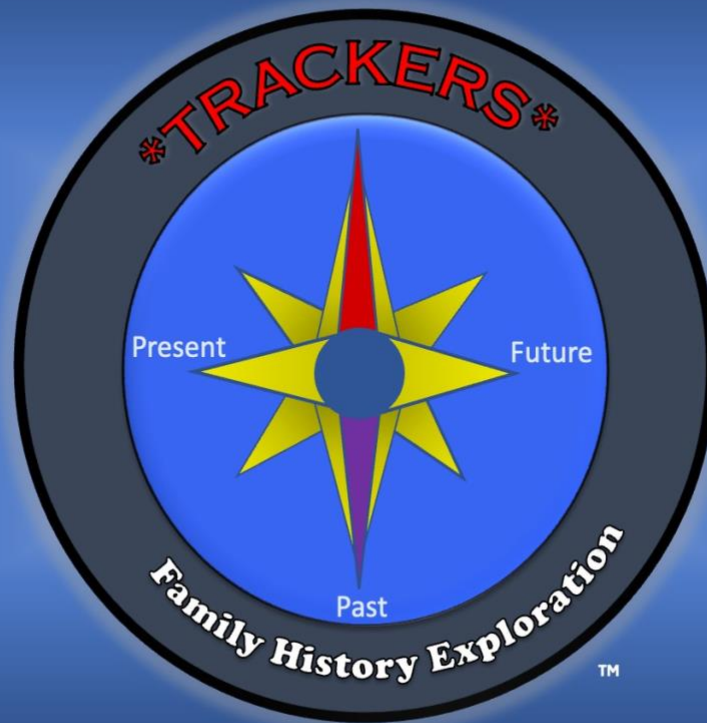


# Parents of John Merrill

For

Client: \*\*\*\*\*



**Date: November 16, 2024**

**Presented By:**

**Genealogy Researcher Denise Huth**



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## Research Objective

Using documentary evidence, identify the parents of John Merrill who was married to Prudence and died about 1600 in Wherstead, Suffolk, England.

### SUMMARY OF KNOWN (BACKGROUND) INFORMATION:

A preliminary search was conducted to locate any existing research referencing the identity of John Merrill's parents. Several documents were discovered pertaining to John Merrill with some containing speculations about possible parental relationships, but no definitive connection was proven. The reviewed existing sources are summarized as follows:

#### THREE (3) JOHN MERRILL WILLS:

During the period between 1917-1928, Samuel Merrill researched the Merrill ancestry and compiled a book that contained three transcribed wills with testators (deceased) named John Merrill dated 1528, 1551, and 1600.<sup>1</sup> Samuel Merrill suggested that either John-Eldest or John-Youngest from the will dated 1550 could be the testator John Merrill in the will dated 1600. (See Appendix C: Suffolk Wills).

#### ALLEGED DATES, SURNAMES, AND RELATIONSHIPS:

In 1988, Miriam Stephenson Youngman compiled a family history book that included Merrill names accompanied by some vital record information (i.e.: estimated birth years) but did not provide any sources identifying the origin of the data.<sup>2</sup> (See Appendix A: Prior Research)

In 1995, Forrest Richard Hauck published a family history book that included some Merrill vital record information and suggested John Merrill (d. 1609) was the son of John Merrill (d. 1551) and married to Prudence. Hauck referenced a source entitled, "The Pillsbury Ancestry" by Myrtle B.

Shurtliff that was not located during this research.<sup>3</sup> (See Appendix A: Prior Research)

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial: An Account of the Descendants of Nathaniel Merrill* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: 1917-1928), pages 32-46; digital images, *Google Books* ([https://www.google.com/books/edition/A\\_Merrill\\_Memorial/gGwbAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1](https://www.google.com/books/edition/A_Merrill_Memorial/gGwbAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1) : accessed 28 October 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Youngman, *From Roots to Branches*, page 96. **Document 3**

<sup>3</sup> Forrest Richard Hauck, *A Memorial to Charles Henry and Priscilla Jane Lindsay Hauck*, Volume 3 (FamilySearch International, 1995), pages 140-141; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/496764/?offset=&return=1#page=146&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=:> accessed 30 October 2024. **Document 4 and Document 5**



In 2008, Allen R. Merrill published a book with similar information what was provided by the previously named authors as well as an entry in the “Crisps Calendar of Wills at Ipswich” for a testator named Thomas Meryell dated 1464, and a Thomas Meryell who lived from about 1444-1480.<sup>4</sup> The supposition was the Thomas’ were possible ancestors of the John Merrill’s. (See Appendix A: Prior Research)

Although lacking source citations, this prior research may be helpful in the location of records and therefore was included in this research report (See Appendix A: Prior Research).

#### BURIALS:

In the wills for John Merrill (1528) and John Merrill (1551), the testators requested their bodies be buried in the churchyard of Wherstead.<sup>5</sup>

Three John Merrill’s were reportedly buried in St. Mary’s Churchyard in Wherstead, Suffolk, England. These men were John Merrill (d. 1551), John Merrill (d. 1600) and John Merrill (b. 1545-d. 1609).<sup>6</sup> No sources were cited for the burials to authenticate the information and requests for photographs of Merrill burial sites failed to achieve a response.

#### LOCALITY:

Some reasons a regional evaluation was beneficial and included were (1) Increase the probability of finding genealogical records because jurisdictions and boundaries can change over time resulting in a subsequent change in record location, and (2) Identify communities where ancestors may have resettled. The following summarizes the relevant information for Wherstead, Suffolk, England.

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<sup>4</sup> Allen R. Merrill, Merrill: A Family History (Allen R. Merrill, 2008), pages ii, 10-15; digital images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/336223/?offset=0#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=>) accessed 28 October 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, The Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254> : accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8040686, page 41. **Document 10**; and Suffolk, England, Wills, Johannis Meryell d. 1551, Wherstead; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, The Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254> : accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library Film Number 8040690, page 230. **Document 9**

<sup>6</sup> BeNotForgot (Contributor 46974545), "Find a Grave Memorial," burial, *Find a Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com> ; accessed 28 October 2024), John Morris (d. 1551), Memorial ID 220075750; citing St. Mary's Churchyard, Wherstead, Babergh District, Suffolk, England; BeNotForgot (Contributor 46974545), "Find a Grave Memorial," burial, *Find a Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 October 2024), John Merrill (d. 1600), Memorial ID 220075568; citing St. Mary's Churchyard, Wherstead, Babergh District, Suffolk, England; and BeNotForgot (Contributor 46974545), "Find a Grave Memorial," burial, *Find a Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 October 2024), John Merrill (b. 1545-d. 1609), Memorial ID 180870947; citing St. Mary's Churchyard, Wherstead, Babergh District, Suffolk, England.



Population:

One of the earliest records of Wherstead was in the Domesday Book dated 1086.<sup>7</sup> The parish was known as Wervesteda and was recorded as having five households and population of thirteen (13) people with no Merrill surnames.<sup>8</sup> A summary of the recorded population//taxpayers of Wherstead from 1086-1603 was provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Wherstead Population

Country	United Kingdom England	
Region	East Anglia	
County	Suffolk	
District	Samford Hundred (a.k.a.: Saumforde)	
Parish	Wherstead (a.k.a.: Wervesteda and Wherstede)	
	Year	Taxpayers
	1086 <sup>9</sup>	13
	1327 <sup>10</sup>	19
	1524 <sup>11</sup>	16
	1568 <sup>12</sup>	9
	*1603 <sup>13</sup>	48 (population)

\*Population statistic source not verified.

<sup>7</sup> Held by The National Archives-UK Kew, England, *Little Domesday Book* (England: 1086), 295v; digital images, *The National Archives, UK* (<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> : accessed 6 November 2024; Wervesteda.

<sup>8</sup> *Domesday Book* (England: 1086), folio 16, page XXX(30); digital images, Anna Powell-Smith, *Open Domesday* (<https://opendomesday.org/book/suffolk/16/> : accessed 6 November 2024; Wervesteda; and "Parish: Wherstead," *Suffolk Heritage Explorer* (<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/media/pdfs/wherstead.pdf> : accessed 6 November 2024), populations recorded.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Compiled by George Booth, *Suffolk in 1327: Being a Subsidy Return*, Number IX. Volume II (Woodbridge, England: Suffolk Green Books, 1906), 4; digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/105811/?offset=0#page=37&viewer=picture&o=download&n=0&q=> : accessed 6 November 2024.

<sup>11</sup> Compiled by George Booth, *Suffolk in 1524: Being the Return for a Subsidy granted in 1523*, Number X (10) (Woodbridge, England: Suffolk Green Books, 1910), page 301; digital images, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/34952/images/00000001?usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=hgK373](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/34952/images/00000001?usePUB=true&_phsrc=hgK373) : accessed 6 November 2024. **Document 1**

<sup>12</sup> Compiled by Paul & Mathew Butter Market, *Suffolk in 1568: Being the return for a Subsidy granted in 1566*, XII (Bury St. Edmunds, England: Suffolk Green Books, 1909), page 227; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/219489-suffolk-in-1568-being-the-return-for-a-subsidy-granted-in-1566-with-a-map-of-suffolk-in-hundreds> : accessed 30 October 2024; Merrell in Wherstead. **Document 2**

<sup>13</sup> "Parish: Wherstead," *Suffolk Heritage Explorer* (<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/media/pdfs/wherstead.pdf> : accessed 6 November 2024), populations recorded.



The total population of Wherstead was probably higher than listed in Table 1 as taxpayers were primarily male and other family members were excluded from the count.

*Analysis:*

- Genealogical information for Merrill ancestors may be found in records held in Wherstead, Samford Hundred, Suffolk, East Anglia, and United Kingdom (Note: Similar to records being held by the city, county, state, and federal governments of the United States).
- During the years between 1524-1603, Wherstead had a very low population which may increase the likelihood of familial connections between citizens.

Religion:

During the period between 1517-1600, six monarchs ruled the United Kingdom and contributed to the religious upheaval that became known as the Protestant Reformation.<sup>14</sup> These Sovereigns were:<sup>15</sup>

1. Henry VIII, 1509-1546
2. Edward VI, 1547-1553
3. “Bloody” Mary, July 1553-1554
4. Philip and Mary, July 1554-1558
5. Elizabeth I, Nov 1558-1603

When the Pope failed to grant a divorce from Catharine of Aragon, King Henry VIII separated from the Catholic church and became the supreme head of the Church of England in 1534.<sup>16</sup> Queen Mary re-established Catholicism in England but this act was later reversed by Elizabeth I.<sup>17</sup> Fluctuation in the Crown’s religious affiliation would affect their citizens since a change in vicars most likely occurred. In 1546, the Catholic vicar was replaced by a Protestant vicar at St. Mary’s Church in Wherstead.<sup>18</sup>

Vicar F. Barham Zinke, who was assigned to St. Mary’s in the mid to late 1800’s, reported the records for the church began in 1590 and there was an affiliation with St. Peter’s Priory in Ipswich and the Diocesan Registry of Norwich.<sup>19</sup> St. Peter’s Priory drew money from St. Mary’s church. The Diocesan Registry at Norwich held thirty-one volumes of history from AD 1300 to 1892.

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<sup>14</sup> Joshua J. Mark, "Protestant Reformation," *World History Encyclopedia* ([https://www.worldhistory.org/Protestant\\_Reformation/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Protestant_Reformation/) : accessed 6 November 2024).

<sup>15</sup> "Regnal Years in England," Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Regnal\\_Years\\_in\\_England](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Regnal_Years_in_England) : accessed 6 November 2024).

<sup>16</sup> "Henry VIII (r. 1509-1547)," *The Royal Household* (<https://www.royal.uk/henry-viii> : accessed 6 November 2024).

<sup>17</sup> "Mary I of England," *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_I\\_of\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_I_of_England) : accessed 6 November 2024); and "History of the Church of England," *The Church of England* (<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/history-church-england> : accessed 6 November 2024)

<sup>18</sup> F. Barham Zinke, *Wherstead: Some Materials for its History*, Second Edition (London, England: Simpkin Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co, LTD, 1893), pages 12, 24, 32, 65. 98; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/101939/?offset=0#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=> : accessed 6 November 2024).

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*



A consequence of the Protestant Reformation was that most congregations considered it too dangerous to keep Catholic church records and, therefore, very few registers exist before 1791.<sup>20</sup> Church of England records may be found in the following locations:

Table 2: Church of England Repositories

	Church of England <sup>21</sup>	Catholic Church
Religion	Protestant	Catholic
Authority	King/Queen	Papal (Pope)
<b>Repositories</b>		
Senior Bishop/Leader	Archbishops of Canterbury	
Archdeaconry	Suffolk	
Deanery	Samford	
Diocese	St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich	
Parish	Wherstead	

Geography:

Variations in the population of Wherstead between 1524 and 1603 signified all of John Merrill’s (d. 1528) descendants either died or did not remain in the parish and that land ownership was transferred.<sup>22</sup> During this era, relatives often resided near one another and a search for records kept by surrounding parishes may prove beneficial in finding Merrill surnames.

The three John Merrill wills connected testators to the parishes of Belstead, Freston, Sproughton, and Wherstead.<sup>23</sup> In 1893, St. Mary’s Vicar F. Barham Zinke identified several parishes near Wherstead.<sup>24</sup> Parish registers that may contain information about the Merrill family included:

<sup>20</sup> "England Catholic Church Records, Registers, Births, Baptisms, Confirmations-International Institute," Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England\\_Catholic\\_Church\\_Records\\_Registers\\_Births\\_Baptisms\\_Confirmations\\_-\\_International\\_Institute](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Catholic_Church_Records_Registers_Births_Baptisms_Confirmations_-_International_Institute) : accessed 7 November 2024).

<sup>21</sup> "Wherstead, St. Mary’s," The Archbishop’s Council, *A Church Near You* (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2073/more-information/> : accessed 6 November 2024).

<sup>22</sup> Booth, *Suffolk in 1524*, page 301, **Document 1**; Compiled by Paul and Mathew Butter Market, *Suffolk in 1568*, **Document 2**, page 227; and "Parish: Wherstead," *Suffolk Heritage Explorer* (<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/media/pdfs/wherstead.pdf> : accessed 6 November 2024), populations recorded.

<sup>23</sup> Suffolk, England, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead. **Document 10**; Suffolk, England, Johannis Meryell d. 1551, Wherstead. **Document 9**; and Suffolk, England, Wills, Johannis Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254> : accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Film Number 8313681, p. 243. **Document 6 to Document 8**;

<sup>24</sup> F. Barham Zinke, *Wherstead: Some Materials for its History*, Second Edition (London, England: Simpkin Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co, LTD, 1893), pages 12, 24, 32, 65. 98; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/101939/?offset=0#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=> : accessed 6 November 2024).

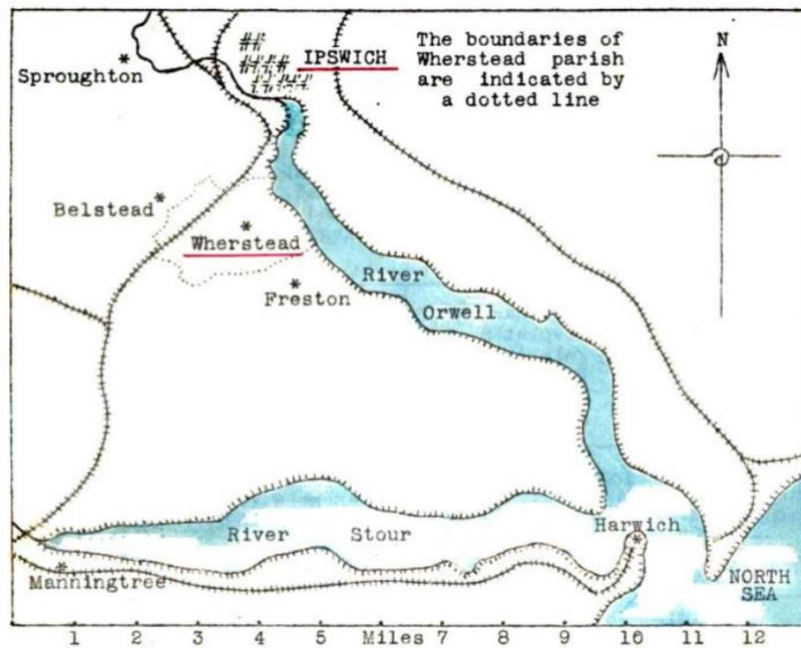


Table 3: Parishes near Wherstead, Suffolk, England

Parishes		
Broke Hall*	Holbrook	Shotley
Chelmondiston	Ipswich	Sproughton
East Bergholt	Levington	Stoke
Erwarton	Martelsham	Tattingstone
Harkstead *	Nacton	Wherstead
Harwich	Orwell*	Woolverstone

\*Parishes no longer exist but records may have been preserved.

Map 1: Wherstead and Vicinity<sup>25</sup>



In 1974, the Samford District was abolished and Wherstead became a part of the newly created Babergh District, Suffolk, England (Note: Not the same 16th century Babergh Hundred District, Suffolk, England).<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*.

<sup>26</sup> "Babergh District," Wikipedia Foundation, Inc., *Wikipedia; The Free Encyclopedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babergh\\_District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babergh_District) : accessed 6 November 2024).





*Analysis:*

- Land records document the transfer of land between a grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer) who may be related such as when fathers grant land to sons-in-law as part of their daughters’ dowry or fathers grant land to their sons. Due to time restraints, land records were not located and examined during this research project.

**NOTATIONS:**

NAME VARIATIONS:

During the period between 1500-1600 in England, variations in the spelling of names were common due to the lack of a universal grammatical standard.<sup>27</sup> Sometimes names were spelled phonetically (i.e.: How the word sounded). For example, the given name William was spelled Wyllhym. Throughout the centuries, many variations of the surname Merrill were used, and some are included below:

Table 4: Merrill Surnames<sup>28</sup>

Meriel	Miriel	Morel	Muriel
Merielles		Morell	Murrill
Merrill		Moreyl	
Merryell		Morrall	
Meryell		Morrill	
Meverell		Morwell	
Meryelles		Moryell	
Meryellys		Moryelles	

When referencing sources in this research report, the Merrill name used by the source was applied. Otherwise, the current accepted method of spelling given names accompanied by the surname “Merrill” was used (i.e.: John Merrill).

A MATTER OF TIME:

Dates:

Documents may contain dates which are not entirely accurate. There are several reasons for these discrepancies including, but not limited to: (1) the reliability of informants’ memories, (2) duration of timelapse between occurrences and recording of life events, and (3) estimations of dates/years. For example, census records estimate birth, marriage, and immigration years and therefore actual dates of these events could be within a few years of the listed year.

<sup>27</sup> England Naming Customs," Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England\\_Naming\\_Customs#:~:text=When%20they%20were%20christened%2C%20children,Faith%2C%20Hope%2C%20and%20Charity](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Naming_Customs#:~:text=When%20they%20were%20christened%2C%20children,Faith%2C%20Hope%2C%20and%20Charity) : accessed 7 November 2024).

<sup>28</sup> Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*, pages 32-46.



In 16<sup>th</sup> century (1501-1600) England, the Sovereign's regnal year was sometimes used to date documents.<sup>29</sup> The will of John Merrill (d. 1600) specified the legal paper was written when Queen Elizabeth was in the forty-third (43) year of her reign.<sup>30</sup>

#### Calendar:

On February 24, 1582, Pope Gregory XIII issued a decree proposing the Julian calendar be replaced by the Gregorian Calendar.<sup>31</sup> When conversion to the Gregorian calendar went into effect, ten days were removed from the year and the first day of the year went from 25 March to 1 January.

The British Empire did not change to the Gregorian calendar until 1752. Between the years 1582-1752, dates were written using the old and new calendar systems. For example, a birth record with a date of 14 February 1584/5 was interpreted as the child was born 15 February 1584 according to the Julian calendar with a new year that did not begin until 25 March and 15 February 1585 according to the Gregorian calendar with a new year that had already begun 1 January.

#### RECORDS:

This research report contains a combination of original and derivative documents. Original records from the 16<sup>th</sup> century are relatively sparse for reasons such as the documents were lost, destroyed, deteriorated over time, or the event was never recorded. Derivative documents (i.e.: transcribed from original documents) were used when available and when originals could not be found or no longer existed.

During this research project, evidence (i.e.: birth records) required to prove a direct connection between John Merrill (d. 1600) and his potential father John Merrill (d. 1551) was not found. However, the totality of circumstantial evidence discovered supported a father-son relationship between these two men.

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<sup>29</sup> "Regnal Years in England," Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch*, ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Regnal\\_Years\\_in\\_England](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Regnal_Years_in_England) ; accessed 6 November 2024).

<sup>30</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead. **Document 6 to Document 8**

<sup>31</sup> "Julian and Gregorian Calendars," Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch*, ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Julian\\_and\\_Gregorian\\_Calendars](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Julian_and_Gregorian_Calendars) ; accessed 8 November 2024).



## SUMMARY (ANALYSIS) OF FINDINGS:

Suffolk tax records for 1524 and 1568 revealed two main groups of Merrill taxpayers with one group located in the north region and the other in the south region of the county.<sup>32</sup> Merrill taxpayers appeared to remain in the same geographical location despite the intervening forty-four years. For example, both tax years listed a taxpayer by the name of John Merrill who lived in Wherstead, Samford Hundred, Suffolk, England. These tax statistics supported the fact that during this era relatives usually lived in the same vicinity. (See Appendix B: “Taxation”).

This research project focused on the Merrill families who lived in Samford Hundred, Suffolk, England. The data collected was compiled into a timeline and the results indicated some relatives of John Merrill (d. 1600) resided in Wherstead and the vicinity. (See Appendix E: Timeline).

### GENERATION 1

**Johannis (John) Merrell Sr.**

**d. 1600**

#### DEATH:

##### Last Will and Testament:

On December 2, 1600, Johannis (John) Merrell Sr (d. 1600), yeoman (farmer) wrote his last will and testament.<sup>33</sup> John (d. 1600) bequeathed to his eldest son John (b. unknown) and son Michael houses, lands, tenements, and heriditaments (inherited property) in Wherstead, Belstead, and Sproughton. John (d. 1600) lease agreement on a messuage (dwelling house) in Wherstead called “Ampsons” was transferred to his son Thomas. John (d. 1600) granted money to his wife Prudence, Thomas, and son William for their financial support. John (d. 1600) gave money to a clergyman in Freston, Suffolk, England. (See Appendix C: Suffolk Wills). An entry in the Wherstead parish records documented the burial of John Merrell Sr. on 6 December 1600.<sup>34</sup> The burial location was not provided but was most likely in St. Mary’s churchyard.

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<sup>32</sup> Booth, *Suffolk in 1524*, page 301, **Document 1**; Compiled by Paul and Mathew Butter Market, *Suffolk in 1568*, **Document 2**, page 227

<sup>33</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead. **Document 6 to Document 8**

<sup>34</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Wherstead, "Parish register transcripts, 1590-1683," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/163462> : accessed 5 November 2024), Merrill names in Wherstead parish records.; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7810579. **Document 43**



Mistaken Identity:

Prior research suggested John Merrill (d. 1609/actual d.1608) was the husband of Prudence.<sup>35</sup> This relationship was disproved when the will of John Merrill (d. 1608) was located, and he was found to have a brother named Robert and two sons, John and Robert.<sup>36</sup> John (d. 1508) was not the husband of Prudence for at least three reasons: (1) Prudence did not have a son named Robert, (2) Prudence was not named in John Merrill's (d. 1608) last will and testament, and (3) John Merrill Sr. (d. 1600), who was her actual husband and named Prudence in his will, died and was buried in 1600.<sup>37</sup> (See Appendix C: "Suffolk Wills")

Prudence's Death:

On December 22, 1609, Prudence died in Belstead, Suffolk, England.<sup>38</sup> Currently, Belstead is about 2.5 miles from Wherstead via designated routes.<sup>39</sup>

MARRIAGE:

At the time of his death, John Merrill Sr. (d. 1600) was married to Prudence.<sup>40</sup> The date of their marriage was unknown.

RESIDENCE:

Between 1558-1603, Prudence was named in a court case involving fraudulent possession of land in Wherstead, Suffolk England.<sup>41</sup> The record would need to be acquired to confirm the actual date of residence in Wherstead.

In 1592, John Merrill's (d. 1600) son Nathaniel married Mary Blacksoll in Belstead, Suffolk, England which placed Nathaniel and most likely his father near the vicinity of Wherstead.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Youngman, *From Roots to Branches*, page 96. **Document 3**; and Hauck, *A Memorial to Charles Henry and Pricilla Jane Lindsay Hauck*, pages 140-141. **Document 4 and Document 5**

<sup>36</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, John Maerall. 1608, Wherstead; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>: accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8040706, page 201. **Documents 11-13**

<sup>37</sup> England, "Parish register transcripts, 1590-1683," Merrill names in Wherstead Parish records. **Document 43**

<sup>38</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/83014> : accessed 5 November 2024), Prudence Merrill, d. 22 December 1609; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751. **Document 49**

<sup>39</sup> "Wherstead, Ipswich, UK," *Google Maps*, (<https://google.com/maps/> : accessed 15 November 2024).

<sup>40</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead. **Document 9**

<sup>41</sup> "Alderman v Merrells. Plaintiffs: Christopher Alderman. Defendants: Prudence Merrells" *The National Archives-UK* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C5694416> : accessed 5 November 2024).

<sup>42</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 5 November 2024), Nathaniel Merrill married Mary Blacksoll, m. 1592; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751. **Document 54**



In 16<sup>th</sup> century England, couples married when older with men ranging from 20-30 years old.<sup>43</sup> Nathaniel's estimated birth year ranged between 1562 and 1572. Consequently, his father John Merrill (d. 1600) would have been an adult, married/partnered, and fathering children during these same years.

In 1566, the British Parliament enacted a tax system wherein tax would be collected over a period of two years. In 1568, a John Merrill (d. 1600) was included in the list of nine (9) taxpayers who lived in Wherstead, Samford Hundred District, Suffolk.<sup>44</sup> He was the only Merrill surname in this district and had a sizable amount of wealth (See Appendix B: Taxation). Based on his last will and testament, John Merrill (d. 1600) owned property that was inherited and had accumulated a seemingly large quantity of wealth.<sup>45</sup> The combination of a very small Wherstead population, tendency of people to remain in the same geographical location, inheritance of property, and children born about this time resulted in the conclusion the John Merrill in the tax record was most likely John Merrill (d. 1600).

#### PARENTAGE:

In the absence of a direct evidence (i.e.: birth record), circumstantial evidence was very convincing that John Merrill (d. 1600) was the eldest son of John Merrill (d.1551) and Kateryne. Some of this evidence included:

1. John Merrill (d. 1600) inherited land and properties in Wherstead and Belstead which were in the same parishes where John Merrill (d. 1551) inherited land from his father.
2. In 1551, John Merrill who lived in Wherstead bequeathed all his properties to his eldest son John. Just seventeen years later (1568), John Merrill (d. 1600) who owned inherited properties lived Wherstead.
3. A search of the years between 1551 and 1600 did not result in the location of any wills wherein a Merrill testator granted his heirs lands in Wherstead and Belstead. The absence of another will was a strong indicator that John Merrill (d. 1600) was the original heir who inherited the lands from John Merrill (d. 1551).
4. John Merrill (d. 1600) was a yeoman (farmer). John Merrill's (d. 1551) last will and testament did not identify his profession but his father, John Merrill (d. 1528), was a husbandman (farmer). During the 16<sup>th</sup> century in England, sons usually assumed their father's profession and farmland was passed down from generation to generation as it was a primary source of income.
5. John Merrill (d. 1600) named his sons John, Michael, Thomas, and Nathaniel. The sons of John (d. 1551) were John, Michael, Thomas, William and John-Youngest. John Merrill

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<sup>43</sup> "The Age of Marriage," *The Internet Shakespeare Edition*, (<https://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/society/family/marriage.html#:~:text=The%20age%20of%20consent%20was,242%2D243> : accessed 15 November 2024); and "5 Facts about marriage, love, and sex in Shakespeare's England," *The Oxford University Press's Academic Insights for the Thinking World (OUPblog)*, (<https://blog.oup.com/2016/01/marriage-love-sex-shakespeares-england/#:~:text=In%20the%20late%2016th%20century,were%20either%2017%20or%2021> ; accessed 15 November 2024

<sup>44</sup> Compiled by Paul and Mathew Butter Market, *Suffolk in 1568*, page 227. **Document 2**

<sup>45</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannes Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead. **Document 6 to Document 8**



(d. 1600) appeared to name his sons after his father and brothers which was common during this era.

**ANALYSIS:**

- The entire court case involving Prudence was not available for review. Prudence was the only defendant named in the synopsis of the case which may indicate her husband was deceased and the court was held between 1600-1603. Court records for Prudence’s case and additional cases with Merrill surnames should be searched for information that would assist in identifying familial relationships.
- Additional research should be conducted to determine the existence of court records filed for land transfers that were not categorized as wills and land purchase records for any property transactions.

**GENERATION 2**

**Johannis (John) Meryell**

**d. 1551**

**DEATH:**

Last Will and Testament:

On December 13, 1551, Johannis (John) Meryell (d. 1551) wrote his last will and testament before his anticipated burial in the churchyard in Wherstead, Suffolk, England.<sup>46</sup> In adherence to the custom of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, John bequeathed his house and all his lands to his eldest son and namesake John Merrill (See Johannis Merrell Sr., d. 1600). John (d. 1551) granted money to his wife Kateryne and remaining nine children for their financial support. Kateryne and his eldest son John were the executors of the will while his sons William and Michael were designated supervisors of the will. (See Appendix C: “Suffolk Wills”).

Inheritance:

The eldest son John Merrill (See John Merrill Sr) inherited his father’s house and lands.

Prior research suggested the youngest son John Merrill married Prudence and inherited his father’s lands, but the last will and testament clearly stated the house and lands were granted to his eldest son named John.<sup>47</sup> In the event the eldest son John died without children, his younger brother

<sup>46</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Meryell d. 1551, Wherstead. **Document 9**

<sup>47</sup> Youngman, *From Roots to Branches*, page 96. **Document 3**; and Hauck, *A Memorial to Charles Henry and Pricilla Jane Lindsay Hauck*, pages 140-141. **Document 4 and Document 5**



would inherit.<sup>48</sup> In this case, the eldest son (John Merrill d. 1600) had children which meant his younger brother would not inherit the lands.

#### MARRIAGE:

At the time of his death, John Merrill (d. 1551) was married to Kateryne.<sup>49</sup> The date of their marriage was unknown.

#### CHILDREN:

John Merrill's (d. 1551) children whose information helped establish a stronger connection between their father and John Merrill (d. 1600) were William and Margaret.

#### William Merrill:

On January 11, 1551, Joan (a.k.a.: Johan), daughter of William Merrill was born in Sproughton, Suffolk, England.<sup>50</sup> The proximity to John Merrill's (d. 1551) residence in Wherstead gave credibility to this William being his son. There was a slight possibility this William was the son of John Merrill (d. 1566) but this family was documented in the areas of Freston and Chelmondiston.

In 1583, Joan Merrill married Rob (Robert) Andrew in Belstead, Suffolk, England.<sup>51</sup>

#### Margaret Merrill:

In 1555, Margaret Merrill married John Backer in Belstead, Suffolk, England.<sup>52</sup> The proximity to Wherstead and the fact her father and eldest brother owned lands in Belstead increased the probability Margaret was the daughter of John Merrill (d. 1551).

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<sup>48</sup> What is a coheiress? Manors, Moieties and English Inheritance Law," *The National Archives-UK*, (<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/what-is-a-coheiress-manors-moieties-and-english-inheritance-law/#:~:text=Inheritance%20followed%20English%20common%20law,daughters%20would%20inherit%20as%20coheiresses> ; accessed 15 November 2024); and "Primogeniture and Ultimogeniture," *Britannica* (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/inheritance-law> : accessed 15 November 2024);

<sup>49</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Meryell d. 1551, Wherstead. **Document 9**

<sup>50</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Sproughton, "Parish register transcripts 1540-1711, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/163462> : accessed 5 November 2024), Merrill names in Sproughton parish records.; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907608. **Document 48**

<sup>51</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 5 November 2024), Joan Morrell married Rob {Robert} Andrew, m. 1583; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751. **Document 56**

<sup>52</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 5 November 2024), Nathaniel Merrill married Mary Blacksoll, m. 1592; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751. **Document 54**



PARENTAGE:

Identification of John Merrill's (d. 1551) parents as John Merrill (d. 1528) and his wife Ann Belchm was based on land inheritance and Wherstead population. John Merrill (d. 1528) bequeathed all his lands to his eldest son and namesake.<sup>53</sup> Twenty-three years later, John Merrill (d. 1551) bequeathed his lands to John Merrill (d. 1600).<sup>54</sup> During the years 1524 and 1568, the number of Merrill taxpayers in Wherstead remained at one (1) person.<sup>55</sup> This number was not considered to have drastically changed during the intervening years. John Merrill (d. 1551) was the connection between John Merrill (d. 1528) and John Merrill (d. 1600).

ANALYSIS:

- John Merrill (d. 1600) owned land in Sproughton where William's daughter was born.<sup>56</sup>
- John Merrill (d. 1600) owned land in Belstead where Joan Merrill and Margaret Merrill were married.
- John Merrill's (d. 1600) son Nathaniel was married in Belstead and his wife Prudence died in Belstead.<sup>57</sup>
- In order to verify John Merrill's (d. 1551) younger son named John Merrill did not inherit lands from his father and marry Prudence, a search for additional records (i.e.: marriage, vital, probate, etc.) is recommended.

**GENERATION 3**

**Johnis (John) Moryell**

**d. 1528**

DEATH:

Last Will and Testament:

On December 3, 1528, Johnis (John) Moryell, a husbandman (farmer) wrote his last will and testament before his anticipated burial in the churchyard in Wherstead, Suffolk, England.<sup>58</sup> In adherence to the custom of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, most of John's estate was bequeathed to his eldest son and namesake John Merrill (a.k.a.: Johannis Meryell, d. 1551) and included lands in Wherstead as well as lands and tenements (i.e. apartments) in Belstead, Suffolk, England. John granted money to his wife Ann (née, Belchm), daughters Julyan and Ellen, youngest son John (a.k.a.: Johanis

<sup>53</sup> Suffolk, England, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead. **Document 10**;

<sup>54</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Meryell d. 1551, Wherstead. **Document 9**

<sup>55</sup> Booth, *Suffolk in 1524*, page 301, **Document 1**; and Compiled by Paul and Mathew Butter Market, *Suffolk in 1568*, page 227. **Document 2**

<sup>56</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead. **Document 6 to Document 8**

<sup>57</sup> England, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," Nathaniel Merrill married Mary Blacksoil, m. 1592.

**Document 54**; and England, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," Prudence Merrill, d. 22 December 1609. **Document 49**

<sup>58</sup> Suffolk, England, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead. **Document 10**





Merrill, d. 1566), and granddaughter, **Joan** (a.k.a. Johan) for their financial support. (See Appendix C: "Suffolk Wills").

### Joan's Father:

Joan Merrill's father was not identified in John's will, but prior research documented her as the daughter of the eldest son, John Merrill (d. 1551).<sup>59</sup> This relationship was disproved when the will of the younger son John Merrill (d. 1566) was located and his named children included Joan Merrill.<sup>60</sup> (See Appendix C: "Suffolk Wills").

### Inheritance:

The eldest son, John Merrill (d. 1551) inherited his father's lands in Wherstead and Belstead.

The youngest son, John Merrill (d. 1566) married Elizabeth Barkelez and his children were Edmund, Joan, William, Margaret (b. 1542, Freston), Anne and Lusila.<sup>61</sup> John (d. 1566) was not the inheritor of his father's lands, or his burial would most likely have been in Wherstead instead of Chelmondiston. John (d. 1566) was not the father of John Merrill (d. 1600) because he did not have any sons named John.

### MARRIAGE:

At the time of his death, John Merrill (d. 1528) was married to Ann Belchm who had a brother named Thomas Belchm.<sup>62</sup> The date of their marriage was unknown.

### RESIDENCE:

In 1523, the British Parliament enacted a graduated tax system wherein tax would be collected over a period of four years. A year later, a John Merrill was included in the list of sixteen (16) taxpayers who lived in Wherstead, Samford Hundred, Suffolk.<sup>63</sup> He was the only Merrill surname in this district. Based on his last will and testament, John Merrill (d. 1528) had a large estate and was concluded to be the same named taxpayer who also had a sizeable amount of wealth.<sup>64</sup> John Merrill's (d. 1528) death occurred about four years after the tax collection which further established these were the same men as there was one wealthy John Merrill in the very small

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<sup>59</sup> Youngman, *From Roots to Branches*, page 96. **Document 3**; and Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*, pages 32-46.

<sup>60</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Johanis Merrill. d. 1566, Chelmondiston; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>; accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8040694, page 303. **Document 15 and Document 16**

<sup>61</sup> Suffolk, England, Johanis Merrill d. 1566; and Church of England. Parish Church of Freston (Suffolk), "Parish Register Transcripts, 1538-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/41688> : accessed 5 November 2024), Margery Merrell, baptized 20 November 1542; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 8081891. **Document 57**

<sup>62</sup> Suffolk, England, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead. **Document 10**

<sup>63</sup> Booth, *Suffolk in 1524*, page 301, **Document 1**

<sup>64</sup> Suffolk, England, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead. **Document 10**



community of Wherstead in 1524 and, only four years later, one wealthy John Merrill died. (See Appendix B: Taxation)

#### PARENTAGE:

John Merrill's (d. 1528) parentage was unknown, and discovery was not within the scope of this research project.

#### ANALYSIS:

- John Merrill (d. 1600) had the same name as John Merrill (d. 1528) and his two sons. The first name of "Johannis" listed in each of the men's wills was very specific and appeared to follow the naming pattern in England which was to name the eldest son after his father or paternal grandfather.
- John Merrill (d. 1600) and John Merrill (d. 1528) were both farmers and owned land in Wherstead and Belstead. These were probably the same lands John Merrill (d. 1551) bequeathed to his eldest son John Merrill (d. 1600) who was listed in the Suffolk tax records in 1568.
- In his will, John Merrill (d. 1600) gave twenty shillings to a Freston clergyman.<sup>65</sup> John Merrill's (d. 1566) daughter Margaret was baptized in Freston, about three miles from Wherstead.<sup>66</sup> John (d. 1566) was buried in Chelmondiston, about five miles from Wherstead. The commonality of Freston and the nearness of residences increased the likelihood the men were related.
- John Merrill (d. 1528) and his son John (d. 1551) requested burial in the Wherstead cemetery. John Merrill (d. 1600) died in Wherstead and was most likely buried in the same cemetery. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, relatives were commonly buried in the same cemetery. Some Wherstead cemetery records were searched without success in locating Merrill surnames. (See "Recommendations for Future Research" section for sources that may contain Merrill burial information in Wherstead Cemetery).

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<sup>65</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead. **Document 6 to Document 8**

<sup>66</sup> (Suffolk), "Parish Register Transcripts," Margery Merrell, baptized 20 November 1542. **Document 57**



## FINAL CONCLUSIONS:

### Research Objective:

The research objective of using documentary evidence to identify the parents of John Merrill who was married to Prudence and died about 1600 in Wherstead, Suffolk, England was achieved.

The totality of circumstantial evidence was substantial in making the case that John Merrill (d. 1600) was the son of John Merrill (d. 1551) and Kateryne and included:

1. The first name Johannis remained consistent throughout the generations and appeared to follow the naming pattern in England which was to name the first son after his father or paternal grandfather.
2. John Merrill's (d. 1600) sons John, Michael, and Thomas, shared the same names with most of John Merrill's (d. 1551) sons which followed another naming pattern in England which was to name sons after parents and siblings.
3. The Merrill's were farmers, and farmland was a source of income passed down from generation to generation. John Merrill (d. 1600) and his grandfather John Merrill (d. 1528) were both farmers. Although his will did not specify an occupation, John Merrill (d. 1551) was most likely a farmer.
4. John Merrill (d. 1600) inherited land in the same parishes where John Merrill (d. 1551) inherited his land from his father. These parishes had extremely low populations with only one Merrill taxpayer in Wherstead in 1524 and 1568 making it more likely the men were related.
5. A search of the years between 1551 and 1600 did not result in the location of any wills wherein a Merrill testator granted his heirs lands in Wherstead and Belstead. The absence of a will was a strong indicator that John Merrill (d. 1600) was the original heir who inherited lands from John Merrill (d. 1551).
6. John Merrill's (d. 1600) last will and testament identified parishes where he owned land or had some type of connection including Wherstead, Belstead, Sproughton, and Freston. John Merrill (d. 1551) and his children William and Margaret as well as John Merrill (d. 1566) and his daughter Margaret were associated with these same parishes. John Merrill (d. 1551) lived in Wherstead and had land in Belstead. John Merrill's (d. 1566) daughter, Margaret was baptized in Freston. William's daughter Joan was baptized in Sproughton and married in Belstead. Margaret was married in Belstead. The parishes with the most activity for the Merrill ancestors appeared to be Wherstead and Belstead. The small size of these parishes and tendency for families to live in the same vicinity increased the probability John Merrill (d. 1600) was the son of John Merrill (d. 1551).
7. John Merrill (d. 1528) and his son John (d. 1551) requested burial in the Wherstead cemetery. John Merrill (d. 1600) died in Wherstead and was most likely buried in the same cemetery. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, relatives were commonly buried in the same cemetery.



### Ancestral Relationships:

The following was the probable ancestral relationships suggested by documentary evidence.

1. **John Merrill, d. 1600** was the son of John Merrill (d. 1551) and Kateryne.
  - John Merrill married Kateryne. John wrote his will on 2 December 1600 and was buried on 6 December 1600 in Wherstead, Suffolk, England.
2. **John Merrill, d. 1551** was the son of John Merrill (d. 1528) and Ann Belchm
  - John Merrill married Ann Belchm. John wrote his will on 13 December 1551 and his will was proved on 28 January 1551/2 which meant he died sometime between these two dates. John requested burial in the churchyard at Wherstead.
3. **John Merrill, d. 1528:** Unknown Parentage.
  - John Merrill married Ann Belchm. John wrote his will on 3 December 1528 and his will was proved on 12 March 1528/29 which meant he died sometime between these two dates. John requested burial in the churchyard at Wherstead.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH:**

Further research is suggested to strengthen the hypothesis that John Merrill (d. 1600) was the son of John Merrill (d. 1551). The following are some recommendations:

1. Locate the source citation, “The Pillsbury Ancestry,” by Myrtle B. Shurtliff as it may prove beneficial in determining the origins of birthdates, surnames, and relative connections mentioned by one of the authors in the section “Summary of Known (Background) information”. The source was reported as held in the archives of the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.
2. Photograph Merrill burial sites at St. Mary’s Churchyard, Wherstead, Babergh, Suffolk, England. There is a possibility the gravesites no longer exist.
3. Search land records from 1500-1600 for Wherstead and surrounding parishes in Suffolk, England to locate land transfers with Merrill surnames and identify potential relationships.
4. Continue searching parish records for Merrill surnames.
5. Search records held at the Diocesan Registry of Norwich including the thirty-one volumes of history from AD 1300-1892 for the Merrill surname.
6. Search records held St. Peter’s in Ipswich for tithing records or other records containing the Merrill surname.
7. Obtain a copy of the entire court case involving Prudence Merrill and an alleged fraudulent land possession.
8. Search court records for additional cases with Merrill surnames for information that would assist in identifying familial relationships.
9. Locate “Some Suffolk Church Notes. Vol xiii of East Anglican,” or “Notes and Queiries” by Reverend H. W. Birch of Scothorne, Lincolnshire. According to the Register of English Monumental Transcriptions published by the English Monumental Inscriptions Society in 1912 in London England, Reverend Birch printed all the inscriptions in Wherstead Church.
10. Search “Suffolk Burial index Version 2: details of over 1.2 million burials from 1538 to 1900,” available on CD at the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.



11. Locate records (i.e.: marriage, vital, probate, etc.) for John Merrill's (d. 1551) younger son named John Merrill to verify that he did not inherit lands from his father and marry Prudence.

**Final Note:**

The conclusions in this research report were based on records found in 2024. The location of documents with direct evidence or information previously unknown may result in modifications to the conclusions.



# **APPENDIX A**

## **Prior Research**



In 1988, Miriam Stephenson Youngman compiled a family history book that included the Merrill names but did not provide any sources identifying the origin of the data.<sup>67</sup> Merrill names along with alleged dates and relationships were described as follows:

- John Merrill (b. 1545, Wherstead; d. 22 December 1609; Wherstead) was designated as the husband of Prudence Bird (a.k.a: Byrd) (b. 1548; Wherstead; d. 22 December 1606; Belstead). The couple had the following children who were all born in Wherstead.:
  1. Nathaniel, b. 1571
  2. Thomas, b. 1573
  3. John, b. 1576
  4. Michael, b. 1578
- John Meryell (b. 1500, Wherstead; d. 29 January 1552; Wherstead) married Kateryne John (b. 1502; Wherstead; d. after 1551). The couple had the following children who were all born in Wherstead.:
  1. John, b 1522
  2. William, b. 1524
  3. **Johan, b. 1526\***
  4. Michael, b. 1528
  5. Mary, b. 1530
  6. Margaret, b. 1532
  7. Alice, b. 1534
  8. Katherine, b. 1536
  9. Agnes, b. 1539
  10. Thomas, b. 1542
  11. John, b. 1545: Designated as the John (d. 1600) the husband of Prudence Bird.

*\* An additional child named "Johan" was included in the list of children for John Meryell (d. 1551) but was not listed as one of his children in his will.<sup>68</sup> No evidence was given to prove there was a connection between the grandchild Johan named in the will of John Moryell (d. 1528) and John Meryell.<sup>69</sup>*
- Johnes Merrill (a.k.a.: John Moryell) (b. 1470, d 12 March 1528) was married to Ann Belcham and his children were:
  1. John: Purportedly John (d. 1551/2) who was the husband of Kateryn John.
  2. John
  3. Julyan
  4. Elyn

In 1995, Forrest Richard Hauk published a family history book that contained information for (1) John Merrill who was married to Katherine John, and (2) John Merrill (b. 1545, Wherstead; d. 22

<sup>67</sup> Youngman, *From Roots to Branches*, page 96. **Document 3**

<sup>68</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Meryell d. 1551, Wherstead. **Document 9**

<sup>69</sup> Suffolk, England, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead. **Document 10**



December 1609; Wherstead) who was married to Prudence Bird. The latter John (d. 1545) was reported to be the son of John Merrill and Katherine John.<sup>70</sup> Forest Richard Hauk cited a source for the information as “The Pillsbury Ancestry,” by Myrtle B. Shurtliff. This source could not be found during the current research project.

In 2008, Allen R. Merrill published a book about the Merrill family that included three John Merrill wills (dated: 1528, 1551, and 1600), an entry in the “Crisps Calendar of Wills at Ipswich” with the testator named Thomas Meryell dated 1464, and a Thomas Meryell who lived from about 1444-1480.<sup>71</sup> The supposition was the Thomas’ were possible ancestors of the John Merrill’s. Except for the wills, no sources were cited identifying the origin of the data which was as follows:

- John Merrell (d. 1600) married Prudence Bird in 1570. The couple had the following children:
  1. Nathaniel, b. 1571
  2. John, b. 1578
  3. Micheal, b. 1578
  4. Thomas, b. 1580; d. 17 March 1625/26
- John Meryell (b. 1495; died 1551; Wherstead). In 1521, John married Katherine (b. 1507; Wherstead; d. 28 January 1551/2; Wherstead) in Wherstead, Suffolk, England. The couple had ten children. No vital information was provided for the children.
- John Meryell (b. 1475, Wherstead, England; d. 1528/9 in Wherstead, England). In 1493 John married Ann Belchan in Wherstead and the couple had the following children:
  1. John-Oldest b. 1495: Theorized was John (d. 1600) who married Katherine.
  2. Julian, b. 1501
  3. Eleanor, b. 1503
  4. John-Youngest, b. 1509

The prior research of the listed authors was summarized in the descendency charts on the proceeding pages (Charts A1, A2, and A3).

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<sup>70</sup> Hauk, *A Memorial to Charles Henry and Priscilla Jane Lindsay Hauk*, pages 140-141. **Document 4 and Document 5**

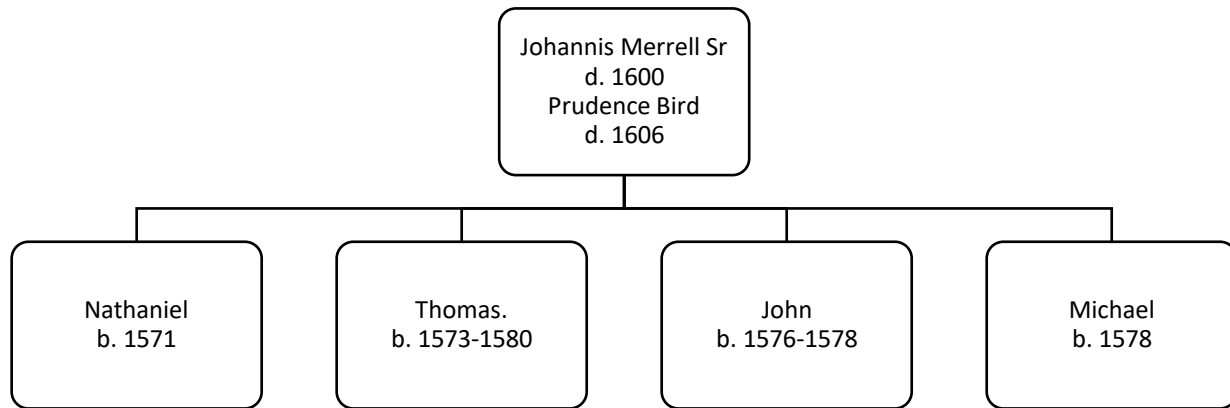
<sup>71</sup> Allen R. Merrill, *Merrill: A Family History* (Allen R. Merrill, 2008), pages ii, 10-15; digital images, FamilySearch

(<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/336223/?offset=0#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=> : accessed 28 October 2024.





Chart A1:  
Descendancy Chart  
Johannis Merrell Sr. and Prudence Bird (a.k.a.: Byrd)



Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*, pages 32-46.

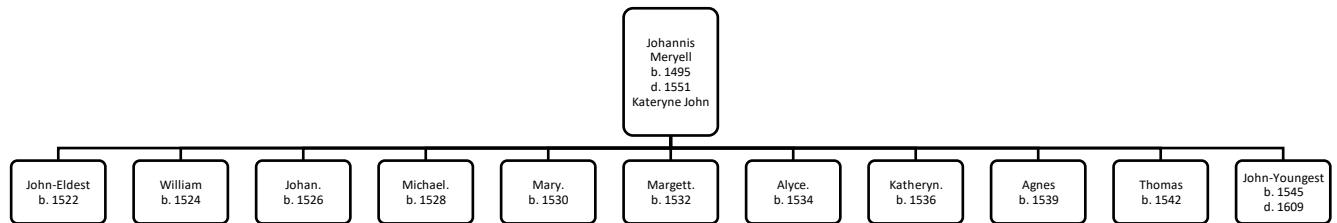
Suffolk, England, Johannis Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead. **Document 6 to Document 8**

Youngman, *From Roots to Branches*, page 96. **Document 3**

Hauck, *A Memorial to Charles Henry and Priscilla Jane Lindsay Hauck*, pages 140-141. **Document 4 and Document 5**



Chart A2:  
Descendancy Chart  
Johannis Meryell and Kateryne John



Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*, pages 32-46.

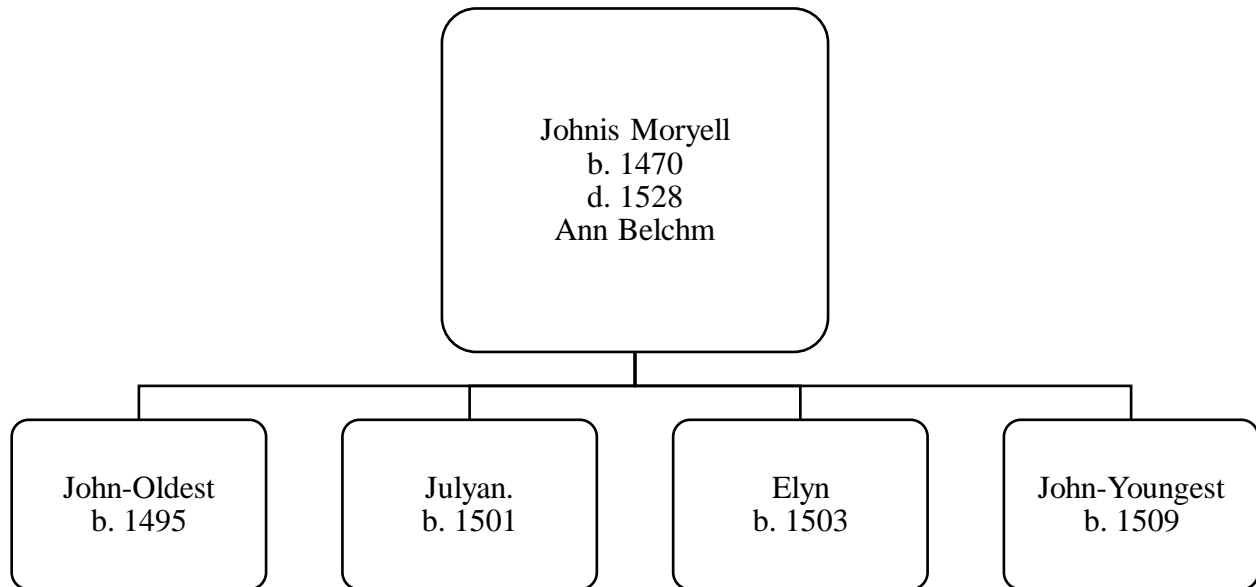
Suffolk, England, Johannis Meryell d. 1551, Wherstead. **Document 9**

Youngman, *From Roots to Branches*, page 96. **Document 3**

Hauck, *A Memorial to Charles Henry and Priscilla Jane Lindsay Hauck*, pages 140-141. **Document 4 and Document 5**



Chart A3:  
Descendancy Chart  
Johnis Moryell and Ann Belchm



Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*, pages 32-46.

Suffolk, England, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead. **Document 10**

Youngman, *From Roots to Branches*, page 96. **Document 3**

Hauck, *A Memorial to Charles Henry and Priscilla Jane Lindsay Hauck*, pages 140-141. **Document 4 and Document 5**



## **APPENDIX B**

### Taxation



## Suffolk in 1524 Being a Return for a Subsidy Granted in 1523

In 1523, the British Parliament enacted a graduated tax system wherein tax would be collected over a period of four years and consisted of the following:<sup>72</sup>

- First and second year: All citizens were taxed.
- Third year: Millionaire landowners were taxed
- Fourth year: Millionaires in goods were taxed.

Lands and houses were taxed by cost (£) and movable goods were taxed by weight in pounds. Taxes were delineated as follows:

Table B1: Suffolk Taxes, 1524<sup>73</sup>

First year	Second year	Third year	Fourth year
<b>Land and Houses</b>			
Payment: 1 shilling for each pound of their yearly value.	Payment: 1 shilling for each pound of their yearly value.	Land worth: ≥£50  Payment: One (1) shilling per pound	
<b>Movable Goods</b>			
Valued: <b>£1 and £2</b>  Payment: 4 pence per pound.	Valued: £1 and £2  Payment: 4 pence per pound.	Valued: ≥£50  Payment: 1 shilling per pound.	Valued: ≥£50  Payment: 1 shilling per pound.
Valued: > <b>£2 and &lt; £20</b>  Payment: 6 pence per pound	Valued: > £2 and < £20  Payment: Six (6) pence per pound		
Valued: ≥£20  Payment: 1 shilling per pound.	Valued: ≥£20  Payment: One (1) shilling per pound.		
<b>16 years and Older</b>			
Wages: > <b>£1</b> per year  Payment: 4 pence per pound.	Wages: > £1 per year  Payment: 4 pence per pound.		
Each person was taxed where they usually lived. Either movable goods or land and houses were taxed, whichever was greater, but not both. Aliens paid double. If not chargeable, aliens paid a poll tax of 8 pence.			
£=Pound			

<sup>72</sup> Booth, *Suffolk in 1524*, Document 1

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.



Table B2: Merrill's in the Suffolk Tax Records, 1524:<sup>74</sup>

Name	Residence		Payment
William Meryelles	Neylond	Babergh Hundred	£50 [Land or Goods] £2 10s 0d Anticipation*
William Meryellys	Neylond	Babergh Hundred	£50 [Land or Goods] Anticipation*
John Meryellys	Neylond	Babergh Hundred	£4 2s 0d
Thomas Muryell	Sudbury	Babergh Hundred	£10 [Land or Goods] 5s 0d
John Muriell, laborer	Stanstede	Babergh Hundred	£1 4d
John Meriell	Stanstede	Babergh Hundred	4s 0d
Thomas Meryell, yeman	Weston	Blackbourne Hundredum	£100
Thomas Moryelles	Weston	Blackborn Hundredum	£40 [Land or Goods] £2. 0s. 0d
Thomas Moryell	Weston	Blackborne Hundred	£10 in Movables 10s 0d
Thomas Moryell Jr	Weston	Blackborne Hundred	3s 4d
John Moryell	Weston	Blackborne Hundred	£6 in Movables 3s 0d
Stephen Moryell	Weston	Blackborne Hundred	£1 6s 8d
Robert Moryell	Eye Towne Cum Bourgh	Hartismere Hundred	£1 in wages and profett [profit] 2s 0d
Thomas Moreyl	Woobrege	Loes Hundred	12s
Thomas Muryell		Lothingland Hundred	£2 in wages and profyghtes [profits] 2s 0d

<sup>74</sup> Booth, *Suffolk in 1524*, Document 1



Roger Merielles	Stoke Juxta Clara	Risbridge Hundred	£3, 6s, 8d in Goods 3s 4d
John Meriell	Wherstead	Samford Hundred	£10 in Goods 10s
Thomas Merelles	Huntlysham (Hintlesham)	Samford Hundred	£1 in wages 1s
Richard Merrelles	Combis Cum Fymbarow Parva	Stow Hundred	£1 in wages 1s 6d
<p>£=pound; s=shilling; d=pence (Latin word for pence was denarius)          *Anticipation=paid before the money was due.          *The colors highlight adjoining counties.</p>			

The amount of money paid was a possible indicator of a taxpayer’s age as it usually took many years to accumulate wealth unless inheritance or other unknown circumstances were a factor.

John Merrill in Wherstead paid £10 in movable goods and 10 shillings. Since goods valued below £20 were charged 6d (pence) per pound (weight) and a pound (£) equaled 240d, John had approximately four hundred pounds of movable goods.<sup>75</sup> The law did not permit land and houses to be taxed if goods were taxed which meant John Merrill could have owned land. If John Merrill paid 10s (shillings) on his wages, the tax rate of four (4) pence per pound (£) with twelve pence equal to one shilling meant John had earned about £30 during the year. This amount was comparable to the wages earned by a 16<sup>th</sup> century skilled tradesman for one thousand days of labor.<sup>76</sup>

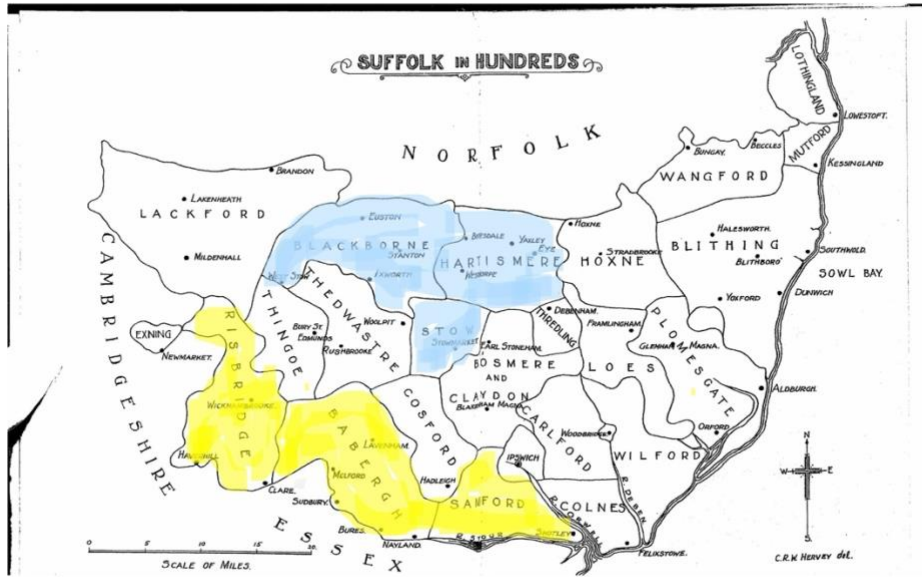
A taxpayers’ residence may be located near other relatives as this was common in 16<sup>th</sup> century England. John Merrill lived in the Samford Hundred District which shared a border with the Babergh Hundred District whose occupants may be John Merrill’s relatives. In Table B2 and Map B1, the colors highlight the adjoining districts with Merrill surnames.

<sup>75</sup> “Pounds, Shilling, and Pence,” *The Royal Mint Museum* (<https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/journal/history/pounds-shillings-and-pence/> ; accessed 9 November 2024).

<sup>76</sup> “Currency Converter,” *The National Archives-UK* (<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/#currency-result> ; accessed 9 November 2024).



Map B1: Suffolk in Hundreds, 1524<sup>77</sup>



<sup>77</sup> Booth, *Suffolk in 1524* with highlights for 1524.





## Suffolk in 1568 Being a Return for a Subsidy Granted in 1566

In 1566, the British Parliament enacted a tax system wherein tax would be collected over a period of two years and consisted of the following:<sup>78</sup>

Lands were taxed by cost (£) and movable goods were taxed by weight in pounds. Taxes were delineated as follows:

Table B3: Suffolk Taxes, 1568<sup>79</sup>

First year	Second year
Due: 10 February 1567	Due: 10 February 1568
Every person born in the realm shall be chargeable who is worth £3.	Every person born in the realm shall be chargeable who is worth £3
If not otherwise chargeable or worth £3:	If not otherwise chargeable or worth £3:
Payment: Poll tax of 4 pence.	Payment: Poll tax of 2 pence.
<b>Lands, Tenements, Rents, Annuities, etc.</b>	
Valued: For every pound (£) in annual value,	Valued: For every pound (£) in annual value,
Payment: 16 pence per pound.	Payment: 16 pence per pound.
<b>Pound in coin or pound's value in plate (i.e.: income or wages), Goods and Movables (i.e.: stock of merchandise, corn and grain, household stuff) jewels, gold, silver, stone and pearl.</b>	
Valued: For every pound or pound's value.	Valued: For every pound or pound's value.
Payment: 10 pence per pound.	Payment: 12 pence per pound.
Each person was taxed where they usually lived. Either movable goods or land and houses were taxed, whichever was greater, but not both. Aliens, strangers, and denizens paid double.	
£=Pound	

<sup>78</sup> Compiled by Paul and Mathew Butter Market, *Suffolk in 1568*.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.



Table B4: Merrills in the Suffolk Tax Records, 1568<sup>80</sup>  
(Second year tax collection)

Name	Residence		Payment
Walter Merrell	The South Warde	Ipswich	£7 in goodes [goods] 5s 10d
Widow Merells	Naylond	Babergh Hundred	£4 in goodes [goods] 3s 4d
John Merrelles	Naylond	Babergh Hundred	£3 in landes [lands] 4s 0d
Stephen Moryell	Bardewell	Blackborne Hundred	£7 in londs [lands] 9s 4d
Robert Moryell and Margaret his wyffe [wife]	Weston [Market]	Blackbourne Hundred	£11 in londes [lands] 14s 8d
Thomas Moryell	Weston [Market]	Blackbourne Hundred	£2 in londes [lands] 2s 8d
William Moryell	Thelnetham	Blackbourne Hundred	£8 in movables [goods] 6s 8d
Robert Morwell	Mendelsham	Hartismere Hundred	£ in terris 1s 4d
Michaell Merelles	Stoke Juxta Clare	Risbridge Hundred	£1 in landes [lands] 1s 4d
John Meryelles	Wixhoo	Risbridge Hundred	£10 in goodes [goods] 8s 4p
William Morrell	Thurloo Parva	Risbridge Hundred	£5 in goodes 4s 2d
John Merrell	Whestede [Wherstead]	Samford Hundred	£3 in goodes [goods] 2s 0d
Margarett Muriell	Northcove	Wangford Hundred	£4 in goodes 6s 8d

<sup>80</sup> Compiled by Paul and Mathew Butter Market, *Suffolk in 1568*.



Christofer Moriell	Debache Et Boudge	Wilford Hundred	£10 in goodes 8s 4d
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£=pound; s=shilling; d=pence (Latin word for pence was denarius)

\*Anticipation=paid before the money was due.

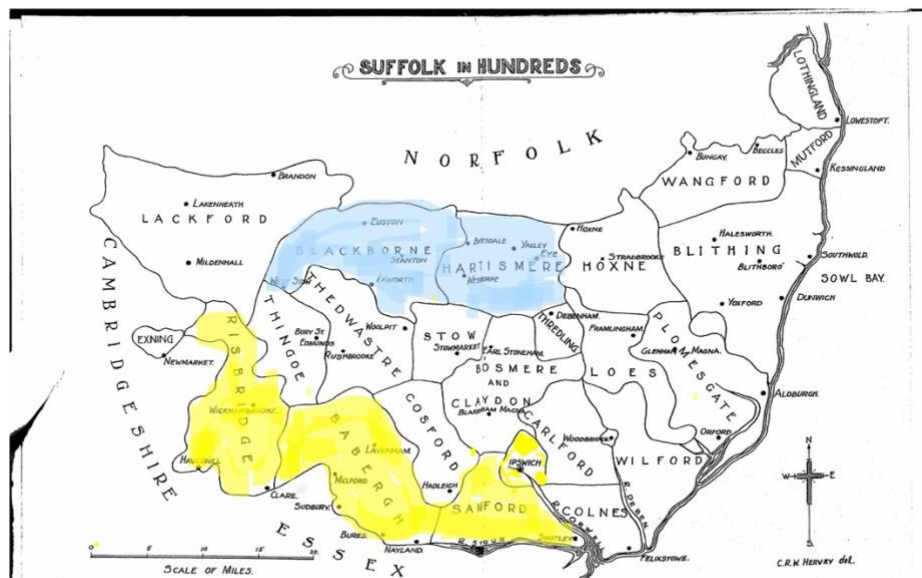
\*The colors highlight adjoining counties.

The amount of money paid was a possible indicator of a taxpayer’s age as it usually took many years to accumulate wealth unless inheritance or other unknown circumstances were a factor.

John Merrill in Wherstead paid £3 in goods and 2 shillings. Since goods were charged 12d (pence) per pound (weight) and a pound (£) equaled 240d, John had approximately sixty pounds of goods.<sup>81</sup> The law did not permit land and houses to be taxed if goods were taxed which meant John possibly owned land.

A taxpayers’ residence may be located near other relatives as this was common in 16<sup>th</sup> century England. John Merrill lived in the Samford Hundred District which shared a border with the Babergh Hundred District whose occupants may be John Merrill’s relatives. In Table B2 and Map B1, the colors highlight the adjoining districts with Merrill surnames.

Map B2: Suffolk in Hundreds 1568<sup>82</sup>



<sup>81</sup> “Pounds, Shilling, and Pence,” *The Royal Mint Museum* (<https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/journal/history/pounds-shillings-and-pence/>; accessed 9 November 2024).

<sup>82</sup> Booth, *Suffolk in 1524*, Map with highlights for year 1568.



## **APPENDIX C**

### Suffolk Wills



## Wills and Testaments

In 16<sup>th</sup> century England common law, the eldest son inherited most of his father’s estate in a designation known as “primogeniture.”<sup>83</sup> In the event the eldest son died without children, the next male would inherit. There were exceptions to this rule, but this inheritance pattern dominated.

During this period, mortality rates for children were very high for reasons such as: plagues, famines, scarlet fever, smallpox, and other diseases.<sup>84</sup> Children named in wills are not necessarily all children born to a couple but children who survived to that point in time.

England customs consisted of naming children after parents, relatives, or prestigious people such as a local wealthy landowner or royalty.<sup>85</sup> A British naming convention that was used but not strictly adhered to was as follows:

Table C1: British Naming Convention<sup>86</sup>

	Birth Order	Named After
<b>Son</b>		
	1	Paternal Grandfather
	2	Maternal Grandfather
	3	Father
	4	Oldest Paternal Uncle
	5	Second Oldest Paternal Uncle
<b>Daughter</b>		
	1	Maternal grandmother
	2	Paternal grandmother
	3	Mother
	4	Oldest Maternal Aunt
	5	Second Oldest Maternal Aunt or Oldest Paternal Aunt

<sup>83</sup> What is a coheiress? Manors, Moieties and English Inheritance Law," *The National Archives-UK*, (<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/what-is-a-coheiress-manors-moieties-and-english-inheritance-law/#:~:text=Inheritance%20followed%20English%20common%20law,daughters%20would%20inherit%20as%20coheiresses> ; accessed 15 November 2024); and “Primogeniture and Ultimogeniture," *Britannica* (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/inheritance-law> : accessed 15 November 2024);

<sup>84</sup> Lynda Payne, “Health in England (16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> c),” *Children & Youth in History*, Item #166 (<https://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/teaching-modules/166.html#:~:text=One%20measurement%20of%20health%20in,under%20the%20age%20of%2015> ; accessed 15 November 2024); and Anne Roberts, “The Plague in England,” History Today Ltd., *History Today*, (<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/plague-england> ; accessed 15 November 2024).

<sup>85</sup> “England Naming Customs," Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England\\_Naming\\_Customs#:~:text=When%20they%20were%20christened%2C%20children,Faith%2C%20Hope%2C%20and%20Charity](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Naming_Customs#:~:text=When%20they%20were%20christened%2C%20children,Faith%2C%20Hope%2C%20and%20Charity) : accessed 7 November 2024).

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*



Last wills and testaments may include the names of the testator's (decedent's) children but their first appearance or name order in the document may not necessarily reflect birth order. The eldest son was usually identified and received the most inheritance.

In the summary of wills provided in this document, the numbers next to children's names are the number of children named in the will and not necessarily their birth order. Further research was required to locate birth records and verify birth order.



Table C2  
**Index of Wills**  
**Suffolk, England\***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
John Maerall	1608	Wherstead
John Merrill	1601	Shottleye [a.k.a.: Shotley]
Anges Myreill-Widow	1600	Trimley St. Martin
Thos <sup>s</sup> [Thomas] Merrell	1600	Wulverston [Woolvertone]
Johannis Merrell, Senior	1600	Wherstead
Lioneli Merrell	1598	Shottleye [Shotley]
William Merrell	1584	Washbrok [Washbrook]
Cristofer Merrell	1583	Ipswich
Elizabeth Merrell alias Kyrkeman-Widow	1583	Tattingston[e]
John Merrill	1566	Chelmondiston
Thomas Murrell	1554	Woodbridge
Johannis Meryell	1551	Wherstead
Johnis Moryell	1528	Wherstead

\*This index of wills did not include all the wills of Suffolk but only wills found near Wherstead, Suffolk, England



**Will**  
**of**  
**John Maerall, 1608<sup>87</sup>**  
Wherstead, Suffolk, England

The original will of John Maerall was examined and summarized below.

John Maerall, d.1608:

- Will: Authored: 8 May 1608; Proved: 1608.
- King James had ruled England and Ireland for six years.
- John was a laborer who lived in Wherstead, Suffolk, England.
- John's children were:
  1. John
  2. Robert-Younger
- John's brother was Robert Maerall.
- Executor for probate was John Osborne

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<sup>87</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, John Maerall. 1608, Wherstead; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>; accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8040706, page 201. **Documents 11-13**





**Will**  
**of**  
**Johannis (John) Merrill, 1601<sup>88</sup>**  
Shottleye [a.k.a.: Shotley], Suffolk, England

The original will of Johannis Merrill was examined to confirm accuracy and summarized below.

Johannis Merrill, d. 1601

- Will: Authored: May 1601; Proved: April 1601.
- The names Johannis Merrill and John Merryll were used for the testator.
- Requested burial in the churchyard of Shottleye [a.k.a.: Shotley] Suffolk, England.
- Johannis's wife was Margaret Merryll [né: Fairer] and his child was:
  1. Marye Morryll [a.k.a.: Mary Morryll]
- Johannis' brother-in-law was Ritchard [a.k.a.: Richard] Fairer.
- Executors were Johannis' wife Margaret and his brother-in-law Richard Fairer.

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<sup>88</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Johannis Merrill 1601, Shottleye [Shotley] "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>: accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8313681, page 366



**Will**  
**of**  
**Johannis (John) Merrell Sr., 1600<sup>89</sup>**  
Wherstead, Suffolk, England

The original will of Johannis (John) Merrell Sr. was examined to confirm accuracy and summarized below. A full transcription of the will can be viewed in *A Merrill Memorial*.<sup>90</sup>

Johannis (John) Merrell Sr., d. 1600:

- Will: Authored: 2 December 1600; Proved: 11 December 1600.
- Queen Elizabeth had ruled England and Ireland for forty-three (43) years.
- The names Johannis and John were used for the testator.
- Johannis was a yeoman [*Freeholder of land of the value of forty (40) shillings a year-cultivator of land-Farmer*] who owned land and tenements in (1) Wherstead that included a leased messuage [*a.k.a.: dwelling house*] called “Ampsons,” (2) little Belstead [*a.k.a.: Belstead*], and (3) Sprowton [*a.k.a.: Sproughton*] in Suffolk, England.
- Twenty (20) shillings was designated to Clerke [*a.k.a.: Clergyman*] Edward Kettle of Freston, Suffolk, England.
- Johannis’ wife was Prudence and his children were:
  1. John: Inherited a share of the dwelling [house] and lands in Wherstead, little Belstead, and Sprowton [*a.k.a.: Sproughton*].
  2. Michaell-Michall [*a.k.a.: Michael*]: Inherited a share of the dwelling and listed lands.
  3. Nathaniell [*a.k.a.: Nathaniel*]: Inherited money and “Ampsons”.
  4. Thomas
- Johannis’ grandchildren were:
  1. Marie Merrell, less 18 years old, daughter of Nathaniell.
  2. Martha Merrell, less 18 years old, daughter of Nathaniell.
  3. John Merrell, less 21 years old, son of Nathaniell.
  4. Thomas Merrell, less than 21 years old, son of Thomas.
  5. Ann Merrell, less 18 years old, daughter of Thomas.
- Executors were Johannis’ sons John and Michaell.
- Supervisor was Johannis’ loving friend Cristopher Wright.

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<sup>89</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Johannis Merrell Sr. 1600, Wherstead; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>; accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Film Number 8313681, p. 243. **Documents 6 to Document 8**

<sup>90</sup> Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*, pages 32-46.



**Will  
of  
Agnetis [Agnes] Myreill, 1600<sup>91</sup>**  
Trymlie [Trimley] St. Martin, Suffolk, England

The original will of Agnetis Myriell. was examined to confirm accuracy and summarized below.

Agnetis Myreill, d 1600:

- Will: Authored: 18 September 1600; Proved: January 1601
- Queen Elizabeth had ruled England and Ireland for about forty-one (41) years.
- Requested burial in the churchyard of Trimley, St. Martin, Suffolk, England.
- Agnetis was a widow who lived in Trimley, St. Martin, Suffolk, England.
- Agnetis' children were:
  1. Edmund
  2. William
- Executors were her sons.

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<sup>91</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Agnetis [Agnes] Myreill 1600, Irrmlis der Martin "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>: accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8313681, page 44. **Document 37**



**Will  
of  
Thom<sup>s</sup> [a.k.a.: Thomas] Merrell, 1600<sup>92</sup>**  
Wulverston [a.k.a.: Woolverstone], Suffolk, England

The original will of Thomas Merrell was examined to confirm accuracy and summarized below.

Thomas Merrell, d. 1600

- Will: Authored: 1600; Proved: July 1600.
- Requested burial at the churchyard in Wulverston [a.k.a.: Woolverstone], Suffolk, England.
- Thomas' wife was Agnes and his children were:
  1. Edmund-Eldest
  2. Wlm [a.k.a. William]-Youngest
- Judeth Morrell is named in Thomas' will.
- Executor was Thomas' wife Agnes.

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<sup>92</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Johannis Merrill 1601, Shottleye [Shotley] "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>: accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8313681, page 366. **Document 38 to Document 39**



**Will  
of  
Lioneli Merrell, 1598<sup>93</sup>**  
Shottleye (a.k.a.: Shotley), Suffolk, England

The original will of Lioneli Merrell. was examined to confirm accuracy and summarized below.

Lioneli Merrell, d. 1598:

- Will: Authored: 9 November 1598; Proved: September 1584.
- Requested burial in the churchyard in Shottleye [a.k.a.: Shotley]
- Lioneli's wife was Margery and his children were:

Sons:

1. Robert Merrill
2. Thomas Merrill
3. Henery Merrill [a.k.a.: Henry]

Daughter:

4. Margery
- Executor was Lioneli's wife Margery

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<sup>93</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Lioneli Merrill 1599, Shottleye [Shotley], "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>: accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8313680, page 461. **Document 35 and Document 36**



**Will**  
**of**  
**William Merrell, 1584<sup>94</sup>**  
Washbrok [Washbrook] Suffolk, England

The original will of William Merrell was examined and summarized below.

William Merrill, d. 1584:

- Will: Authored: 1584; Proved: September 1584.
- King James had ruled England and Ireland for six years.
- William lived in Washbrok [Washbrook], Suffolk, England.
- William's wife was Johane [Joan] Moerrell

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<sup>94</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, William Merrell. 1584, Washbrook; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>: accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 7904054, page 127. **Document 14**



**Will  
of  
Christofer Merrell, 1583<sup>95</sup>**  
Ipswich, Suffolk, England

The original will of Christofer Merrell was examined and summarized below.

Christofer Merrell, d. 1583:

- Will: Authored: 15 November 1583; Proved: September 1584.
- Requested a Christian burial.
- Queen Elizabeth had ruled England and Ireland for twenty-four or twenty-five years.
- The letter “X” was used for “Christ’ in the name Christopher. <sup>96</sup>
- Christofer was a merchant who lived in and owned land and tenements in Ipswich, Suffolk, England.
- Christofer’s wife was Anne and his children were:
  1. Christofer-Eldest
  2. Anne
  3. Thomas
  4. Walter
  5. Francis [male]
  6. Anne Marie
  7. James-Youngest
- Christofer’s son-in-law was Lynell who was probably Anne’s husband.
- Executors were: Christofer’s wife Anne; sons: Christofer, Thomas, Walker and Francis; daughters Anne and Anne [Marie]; and son-in-law Lynell

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<sup>95</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Christofer Merrell 1583, Ipswich; "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>: accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 804700, page 600. **Document 17 to Document 27**

<sup>96</sup> "Abbreviations Found in Genealogy Records," Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Abbreviations\\_Found\\_in\\_Genealogy\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Abbreviations_Found_in_Genealogy_Records) : accessed 11November 2024).



**Will**  
**of**  
**Elizabethe Kyrkeman, alias Merrell 1583<sup>97</sup>**  
Tattingston[e], Suffolk, England

The original will of Elizabeth Kyrkeman, alias Merrell, was examined and summarized below.

Elizabethe Kyrkeman, alias Merrell, d. 1583:

- Will: Authored: November 1583; Proved: January 1584
- Requested burial in the churchyard in Tattingston[e].
- Elizabethe was a widow and lived in Tattingston[e], Suffolk, England.
- Elizabethe's children were:

Son:

1. William

Daughters:

2. Marie Payne the wife of Samwell [Samuel] Payne
3. Judethe [a.k.a.: Judith]

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<sup>97</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Elizabeth Merrell 1583, Tattingston[e], "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>; accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 804700, page 542. **Document 28 to Document 30**





**Will**  
**of**  
**Johanis (John) Merrill, 1566<sup>98</sup>**  
Chelmondiston, Suffolk, England

The original will of Johanis Merrill was examined and summarized below.

Johanis Morrill, d.1566:

- Will: Authored: February 1566; Proved: 1566.
- The names Johanis and John were used for the testator.
- Requested burial in the churchyard in Chelmondiston.
- Johanis was a laborer who lived in Chelmondiston, Suffolk, England.
- Johanis' wife was Elizabeth Barkelez and his children were:

Sons:

1. Edmund-Eldest [son]
2. Willm [a.k.a.: William]-Youngest [son]

Daughters:

3. Johan [Joan-daughter] [b. before 1528]
4. Anne
5. Lusila [Lucilla-possible name]
6. Margaret [b. 1542]

- Johanis' son-in-law was Shettyll who was married to Anne.
- Johanis' brother-in-law was Thomas Bakelez or Barkelez
- Executors were Johanis' wife Elizabeth and son Edmund.

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<sup>98</sup> Suffolk, England, Johanis Merrill d. 1566. **Document 15 and Document 16**



**Will  
of  
Thomas Murrell, 1554<sup>99</sup>**  
Woodbridge, Suffolk, England

The original will of Thomas Murrell was examined to confirm accuracy and summarized below.

Thomas Murrell d. 1554:

- Will: Authored: January 1554; Proved: July 1554.
- Queen Mary was in the first year of her reign in England and Ireland.
- Requested burial in the churchyard in Woodbridge, Suffolk, England
- Thomas was a blacksmith who lived in Woodbridge, Suffolk, England
- Thomas' wife was Margerye [Marjorie], and his children were:

Sons:

1. Robert
2. Chrxtani [a.k.a.: Christian]

Daughters:

3. Marye Masson [a.k.a.: Mary Masson]
  4. Agnes [lined out and another name written above Agnes]
  5. Sosan [Susan]
  6. Alice
- Thomas' son in law was Gerge Masson [a.k.a.: George Masson] who married Marye

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<sup>99</sup> Suffolk, England, Wills, Thomas Murrell 1554, Woodbridge, "Church of England. Archdeaconry of Suffolk, Probate Records, 1444-1857," digital images, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/338254>; accessed 4 November 2024); FamilySearch Library, Film Number 8313677, page 43. **Document 31 to Document 34**



**Will  
of  
Johannis Meryell, 1551<sup>100</sup>**  
Wherstead, Suffolk, England

The original will of Johannis Merrell was examined to confirm accuracy and summarized below. A full transcription of the will can be viewed in *A Merrill Memorial*.<sup>101</sup>

Johannis Meryell, d. 1551:

- Will: Authored: 13 December 1551; Proved: 28 January 1551/2.
- Requested burial in the church of Wherstead.
- Johannis Meryell owned a house and land in Wherstead.
- Johannis Meryell’s wife was Kateryne, and his children were:

Sons:

1. John-Eldest: Inherited the house and all the land.
2. Wyllyam [*a.k.a.; William*]
3. Myghell [*a.k.a.: Michael*]
4. Thomas
5. John-Youngest: Inherited money.

Daughters:

6. Mary
7. Margett [*a.k.a. Margaret*]
8. Alyce [*a.k.a.: Alice*]
9. Katheryn
10. Agnce [Agnes]

- Executors were Johannis’ wife Kateryne and son John-Eldest.
- Supervisors were sons Wyllyam and Myghell.

Analysis:

- Executors of a last will and testament were charged with great responsibilities and were probably the age of majority or “full age” which in Medieval England was twenty-one (21)

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<sup>100</sup> Suffolk, England, Johannis Meryell d. 1551, Wherstead. **Document 9**

<sup>101</sup> Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*, pages 32-46.



years for males, fourteen (14) years for married females, and sixteen (16) years for unmarried females.<sup>102</sup> In this case, the eldest son John and Kateryn were designated co-executors which could indicate John was not 21 years old and required guidance from his mother.

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<sup>102</sup> Judith Ford, "A Study of Wills and Will-Making in the period 1500-1533 with Special Reference to the Copy Wills in the Probate Registers of the Archdeacon of Bedford, 1489-1533", *The Open University*, (<https://oro.open.ac.uk/57388/1/DX175920.pdf> : accessed 7 15 November 2024); and "Age of Majority (England)," *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age\\_of\\_majority\\_\(England\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_majority_(England)) : accessed 7 November 2024). Citing Sue Sheridan Walker, *Proof of Age in Feudal Heirs in Medieval England*, published in *Mediaeval Studies*, Volume 34, 1973, page 307; quoted in Charles Robert Young, *The Making of the Neville Family in England, 1166-1400*, p. 44, note 5.



**Will**  
**of**  
**Johnis Moryell, 1528<sup>103</sup>**  
Wherstead, Suffolk, England

The original will of Johnis Merrell was examined to confirm accuracy and summarized below. A full transcription of the will can be viewed in *A Merrill Memorial*.<sup>104</sup>

Johnis Moryell, d.1528:

- Will: Authored: 3 December 1528; Proved: 12 March 1528/29.
- Requested burial in the churchyard in Wherstead.
- The names Johnis [*possible abbreviation for Johannis*] Moryell and John Merrell were used for the testator.
- Johnis was a husbandman [cultivated land] who resided on a farm and owned lands in Wherstead and Belstede (a.k.a. Belstead), Suffolk, England.
- Johnis paid money to churches in Wherstead and Belstede (a.k.a.: Belstead).
- Johnis' wife was Anne Belchm, and his children were:

Sons:

1. John-Oldest: Inherited lands including a tenement in Belstead.
2. John-Youngest: Inherited money for his “fynding to lernyng” (Expense of education).

Daughters:

3. Julyan [a.k.a.: Julian], unmarried daughter.
  4. Elyn [a.k.a.: Ellen], unmarried daughter.
- Johnis' granddaughter was:
    1. Johan [Joan] Meryell who was the daughter of his son [*Unspecified son*].
  - Executors were Johnis' son John-Oldest and brother-in-law Thomas Belchm.

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<sup>103</sup> Suffolk, England, Johnis Moryell d. 1528, Wherstead. **Document 10**

<sup>104</sup> Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial*, pages 32-46.



## **APPENDIX D**

### Vital Records Suffolk, England



A summary of Merrill’s names found in the vital records of Samford County was the records was compiled into the following table. The listed names are not inclusive as further research was required to locate additional records.

Table D1: Vital Records

Name	Date	Event	Parents	Spouse	Location
John Merrell <sup>105</sup>	24 January 1628	Marriage		Anis Bishops	Wherstead
Nath <sup>1</sup> [Nathaniel] Merrell <sup>106</sup>	17 March 1626	Buried			Wherstead
Mary Merrell <sup>107</sup>	1 May 1624	Buried		Nath <sup>1</sup> [Nathaniel] Merrell	Wherstead
Eliz [Elizabeth] Merrell <sup>108</sup>	29 March 1605	Baptized	Th <sup>os</sup> [Thomas] Rose		Wherstead
Rose Merrell <sup>109</sup>	17 May 1607	Buried		Tho <sup>s</sup> [Thomas] Merrell	Wherstead
Mich <sup>1</sup> [Michael] Merrell <sup>110</sup>	3 April 1603	Baptized	Nath <sup>1</sup> [Nathaniel] Mary		Wherstead
Rose Merrell <sup>111</sup>	23 August 1602	Baptized	Th <sup>os</sup> [Thomas] Rose		Wherstead
Nath <sup>1</sup> [Nathaniel] Merrell <sup>112</sup>	4 May 1601	Baptized	Nath <sup>1</sup> [Nathaniel] Mary		
John, Merrell Sr <sup>113</sup>	6 December 1600	Buried			Wherstead
John Merrell <sup>114</sup>	16 August 1599	Baptized	Nath <sup>1</sup> [Nathaniel] Mary		Wherstead
Francis Merrell <sup>115</sup>	1 August 1598	Buried	Nath <sup>1</sup> [Nathaniel] Mary		Wherstead
Francis Merrell <sup>116</sup>	1598	Baptized	Nath <sup>1</sup> [Nathaniel]		Wherstead

<sup>105</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Wherstead, "Parish register transcripts, 1590-1683," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/163462> : accessed 5 November 2024), Merrill names in Wherstead Parish records.; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7810579

**Document 43**

<sup>106</sup> England, "Parish register transcripts, 1590-1683," Merrill names in Wherstead Parish records.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid,

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid



			Mary		
Martha Merrell <sup>117</sup>	21 September 1596	Baptized	Rob <sup>t</sup> [Robert] Mary		Wherstead
Thos <sup>s</sup> [Thomas] Merrell <sup>118</sup>	15 July 1595	Marriage	Rose Pearson		Wherstead
Mary Merrell <sup>119</sup>	23 February 1594	Baptized	Nath <sup>l</sup> [Nathaniel] Mary		Wherstead
Joan Morrell <sup>120</sup>	25 April 1581	Buried			Washbrook
William Merrill <sup>121</sup>	16 April 1600	Baptized	Roger		Woolverstone
Mary Meril <sup>122</sup>	26 November 1600	Buried			Woolverstone
Tho [Thomas] Merill <sup>123</sup>	7 December 1600	Buried			Woolverstone
Roger Merill <sup>124</sup>	13 December 1600	Buried			Woolverstone
Margery Mirrell <sup>125</sup>	31 October 1596	Baptized	Roger		Woolverstone
Rich [Richard] Merrell <sup>126</sup>	22 April 1571	Baptized	John Elizabeth		Woolverstone
Johan [Joan] <sup>127</sup> Merrell	11 January 1551	Baptized	William		Sproughton
Mich [Michael] Merrill <sup>128</sup>	20 August 1616	Death			Belstead

<sup>117</sup> England, "Parish register transcripts, 1590-1683," Merrill names in Wherstead Parish records.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> "Cemetery Inscriptions: Washbrook, Suffolk, England," burial records, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/119340> : accessed 5 November 2024), Joan Morrell, d. 25 April 1581 in Washbrook, England.; citing The register of English monumental inscriptions. London : English Monumental Inscriptions Society, 1912. FamilySearch Library Film #7810576. **Document 42**

<sup>121</sup> England, "Parish register transcripts for Woolverstone, 1539-1812," Merrill names in Wooverstone Parish records.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid.

<sup>125</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Woolverstone (Suffolk), "Parish register transcripts for Woolverstone, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/163462> : accessed 5 November 2024), Merrill names in Woolverstone arish records.; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7810580 **Document 43 to Document**

<sup>126</sup> England, "Parish register transcripts for Woolverstone, 1539-1812," Merrill names in Wooverstone Parish records.

<sup>127</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Sproughton, "Parish register transcripts 1540-1711, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/163462> : accessed 5 November 2024), Merrill names in Sproughton parish records.; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907608.

**Document 48**

<sup>128</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/83014> : accessed 5 November 2024), Michael Merrill, d. 20 August 1616; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751.

**Document 50**





Prud. [Prudence] Merrill <sup>129</sup>	22 December 1609	Death			Belstead
Mich [Michael] Merrill <sup>130</sup>	1602	Marriage		Margt [Margaret] Scrivener	Belstead
Wm [William] Merrill <sup>131</sup>	1601	Marriage		Su [Susan] Plumley	Belstead
Nath [Nathaniel] Merrill <sup>132</sup>	1592	Marriage		Mary Blacksoll	Belstead
Joan Morell <sup>133</sup>	1583	Marriage		Rob [Robert] Andrew	Belstead
Rich [Richard] Merrill <sup>134</sup> Parson	22 April 1580	Death			Belstead
Margt [Margaret] Merryell <sup>135</sup>	1555	Marriage		John Backler	Belstead
Margery Merrell <sup>136</sup>	20 November 1543	Baptized	John		Freston
Ann Morrell <sup>137</sup>	18 May 1597	Baptized	W <sup>m</sup> [William]		Ipswich

<sup>129</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/83014> : accessed 5 November 2024), Prudence Merrill, d. 22 December 1609; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751.

**Document 49**

<sup>130</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 5 November 2024), Michael Merrill married Margaret Scrivener, m 1602; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 790775. **Document 51**

<sup>131</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 5 November 2024), William Merrill married Su[Susan] Plumley, m. 1601; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 790775. **Document 52**

<sup>132</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 5 November 2024), Nathaniel Merrill married Mary Blacksoll, m. 1592; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751. **Document 54**

<sup>133</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 5 November 2024), Joan Morrell married Rob {Robert} Andrew, m. 1583; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751. **Document 56**

<sup>134</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 5 November 2024), Richard Merell, parson, d. 22 April 1580; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751. **Document 55**

<sup>135</sup> Church of England Parish Church of Belstead, "Parish Register Transcripts, 1539-1812," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 5 November 2024), Margaret Merreyell married John Backer, m. 1555; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 7907751. **Document 53**

<sup>136</sup> Church of England. Parish Church of Freston (Suffolk), "Parish Register Transcripts," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/41688> : accessed 5 November 2024), Margery Merrell, baptized 20 November 1542; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 8081891. **Document 57**

<sup>137</sup> Church of England. St. Matthew's Church (Ipswich, Suffolk). "Parish Register Transcripts, 1559-1701," church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/167972> : accessed 5 November 2024), Ann Morrell baptized 18 May 1597; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 8068731. **Document 58**



Robert Morrell <sup>138</sup>	16 November 1592	Christened	John		Ipswich
W <sup>m</sup> [William] Merrell <sup>139</sup>	28 November 1591	Christened	W <sup>m</sup> [William]		Ipswich
Sam <sup>l</sup> [Samuel] <sup>140</sup>	6 November 1586	Christened	John		Ipswich
Ann Merrell <sup>141</sup>	2 December 1588	Christened	Walter		Ipswich
W <sup>m</sup> [William] Merrell <sup>142</sup>	23 July 1582	Christened	W <sup>m</sup> [William]		Ipswich

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<sup>138</sup> Church of England. St. Matthew’s Church (Ipswich, Suffolk). “Parish Register Transcripts, 1559-1701,” church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/167972> : accessed 5 November 2024), Robert Morrell, christened 26 November 1592, citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 8068731. **Document 58**

<sup>139</sup> Church of England. St. Matthew’s Church (Ipswich, Suffolk). “Parish Register Transcripts, 1559-1701,” church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/167972> : accessed 5 November 2024), William Merrell, christened 28 November 1591; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 8068731. **Document 60**

<sup>140</sup> Church of England. St. Matthew’s Church (Ipswich, Suffolk). “Parish Register Transcripts, 1559-1701,” church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/167972> : accessed 5 November 2024), Samuel Merrell, christened 6 November 1586; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 8068731. **Document 59**

<sup>141</sup> Church of England. St. Matthew’s Church (Ipswich, Suffolk). “Parish Register Transcripts, 1559-1701,” church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/167972> : accessed 5 November 2024), Ann Merrell, christened 2 December 1588; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 8068731. **Document 59**

<sup>142</sup> Church of England. St. Matthew’s Church (Ipswich, Suffolk). “Parish Register Transcripts, 1559-1701,” church record, Intellectual Reserve, Inc., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/167972> : accessed 5 November 2024), William Merrell, christened 23. July 1582; citing FamilySearch Library Film Number 8068731. **Document 60**



## **APPENDIX E**

### Timeline



A summary of some of the Merrill information accumulated from records found during this research was compiled into the following timetable. The listed names are not inclusive as further research was required to find additional records. Unless another surname was provided, all listed persons had the surname, Merrill.

Table E1: Timeline

Year	Name	Children	Sp	S i b	Samford Hundred											Ip Hund	Colneis Hund
					Parishes												
					We	B	Sp	F	H	Sh	Wo	Ta	Wa	Ch	Ip	Tr	
1609	Prudence <sup>1</sup>					X											
1608	John			*	X												
		Robert		X	X												
		John		X	X												
1608	Robert <sup>1</sup>			*	X												
1602	Michael <sup>1</sup>		X			X											
	Margaret Scrivener		X			X											
1601	William		X			X											
	Su		X			X											
1601	John		X							X							
	Margaret		X							X							
		Mary								X							
1600	John <sup>4</sup>		X		X	X	X										
	Prudence <sup>1</sup>		X														
		John		X	X												
		Michael <sup>1</sup>		X	X												
		Nathaniel <sup>1</sup>		X	X												
		Thomas <sup>2</sup>		X	X												
1600	Thomas <sup>1</sup>		X#								X						
	Agnes		X													X	
		Edmund		X												X	
		William <sup>2</sup>		X												X	
1600	Mary										X						
1600	Tho [Thomas]										X						
1600	Roger										X						
		William									X						
1599	Nathaniel <sup>1</sup>		X		X												
	Mary <sup>1</sup>		X														
1598	Lioneli		X							X							
	Margery		X							X							
		Robert		X						X							



		Thomas		X						X				
		Henry		X						X				
		Margery		X						X				
1598	Nathaniel <sup>1</sup>		X		X									
	Mary <sup>1</sup>		X											
1597	William												X	
	Ann												X	
1596	Robert <sup>1</sup>		X		X									
	Mary		X		X									
1596	Roger									X				
1595	Thomas <sup>2</sup>		X		X									
	Rose		X		X									
1594	Nathaniel <sup>1</sup>		X		X									
	Mary <sup>1</sup>		X											
1592	John <sup>5</sup>												X	
	Robert												X	
1591	William												X	
	William												X	
1588	Walter <sup>1</sup>												X	
	Ann												X	
1586	John <sup>5</sup>												X	
	Samuel												X	
1584	William <sup>1</sup>		X									X		
	Johane [Joan]		X									X		
1583	Joan <sup>1</sup>		X		X									
	Robert Andrew		X		X									
1583	Christofer		X										X	
	Anne		X										X	
	Christofer		X										X	
	Ann		X										X	
	Thomas		X										X	
	Walter <sup>1</sup>		X										X	
	Francis (m)												X	
	Anne Marie												X	
	James												X	
1583	Elizabeth Kyrkman alias Merrill		#								X			
	Judeth		X								X			
	William <sup>2</sup>		X								X			



		Marie		X							X			
1582	William												X	
		William											X	
1581	Joan										X			
1571	John		X							X				
	Elizabeth		X							X				
		Richard								X				
1568	John <sup>4</sup>				X									
	Walter <sup>1</sup>												X	
1566	John <sup>3</sup>		X										X	
	Elizabeth Barkelez		X										X	
		Edmund		X									X	
		Johan [Joan]		X									X	
		Margaret <sup>1</sup>		X									X	
		Anne		X									X	
		Lusila		X									X	
1555	Margaret <sup>2</sup>		X			X								
	John Backler		X			X								
1554	Thomas		X							X				
	Marjorie		X							X				
		Robert		X						X				
		Christian		X						X				
		Mary		X						X				
		Agnes		X						X				
		Susan		X						X				
		Alice		X						X				
1551	William <sup>1</sup>							X						
		Johan <sup>1</sup> [Joan]						X						
1551	John <sup>2</sup>		X		X									
	Kateryn		X											
		John <sup>4</sup> -Eldest		X	X									
		William <sup>1</sup>		X	X									
		Michael		X	X									
		Mary		X	X									
		Margaret <sup>2</sup>		X	X									
		Alice		X	X									
		Katheryn		X	X									
		Agnes		X	X									
		Thomas <sup>1</sup>		X	X									



		John-Youngest		X	X												
1542	John <sup>3</sup>							X									
		Margery <sup>1</sup>						X									
1528	John <sup>1</sup>		X		X	X											
	Anne Belchm		X		X												
		John <sup>2</sup> -Oldest			X												
		Julian(f)			X												
		Ellen			X												
		John <sup>3</sup> -Youngest			X												
1524	John <sup>1</sup>				X												
	Thomas							X									

Key						
Sp=Spouse	Sib=Sibling	Name <sup>#</sup>	We=Wherstead	B=Belstead	Wa=Washbrook	Ch=Chelmondiston
#=Spouse	*=Sibling	=Probably Same person	H=Hintlesham	Ip=Ipswich	Sh=Shotley	Tr=Trimley St. Martin
			F=Freston	Sp=Sproughton	Wo=Woolverstone	Ta=Tattingstone
						Hund=Hundred



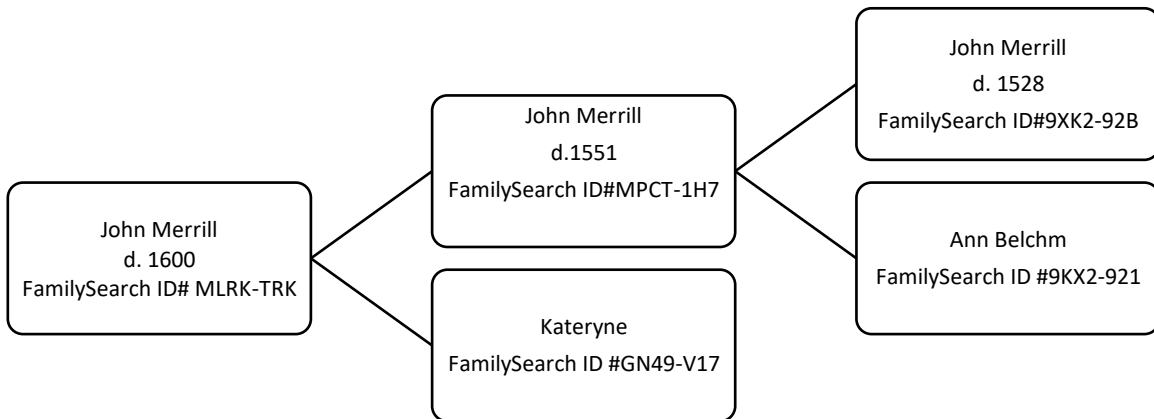
## **APPENDIX F**

### **Pedigree Chart: John Merrill (d. 1600)**





Possible Paternal Ancestry Pedigree for John Merrill (d. 1600):



FamilySearch ID numbers are included with the names and can be used to view the additional research online at FamilySearch.org. On November 16, 2024, the Merrill names are not connected, and the dates are incorrect in Family Search.



## **APPENDIX G**

### Digital Copies of Pertinent Documents



Digital Copies of Pertinent Documents Attached