

GEORGE MERRIMAN (abt. 1580-1655/6) ae. abt. 75

(before 1655)

George Merriman was the father of Nathaniel Merriman, the immigrant. (4-13) A line of Merriman ancestry was found in a bulletin written by Mansfield Merriman in 1913. This bulletin was found while the writer was searching for material in the Public Library of Wallingford in 1973. The following concise statement was given of George Merriman:

"George Merriman, a citizen and cooper of London, made his Will 31 Oct., 1655 and the same was proved 19 May, 1656." ¹ (Map 1 #32)

The terms of the Will recognized Nathaniel as a son who had emigrated to New England. This Will is further referred to in Nathaniel's story (4-13). Mansfield Merriman goes on to mention the Will as follows:

"The above Will renders it certain that George Merriman of London was the father of Nathaniel Merriman...The only other person bearing that name, of whom a record has been discovered in early New England, was Nathaniel Merriman, Jr., who was the son of Nathaniel Merriman, Sr., and the grandson of George...

"Mr. G.F.M. Merriman of London has found an important record of chancery proceedings that took place in 1596, the plaintiff being Gregory Merriman, weaver, of Whitney County, Oxon. The bill of complaint, dated 7 May, 1596, says that Gregory Merriman was seized in fee, about 40 years previously, of two tenements and a close which were settled on his 'now weif Mary Merryman for her natural life', that his brother-in-law William Ringe, yeoman, of Whitney, then advanced him 40 markes thereon by way of mortgage; that said Ringe has now let the premises to another and that he now claims possession. William Ringe's reply says that he bought the property about 1557 from Gregory Merryman, who married his sister, Mary and he refers to other property in Whitney, namely, two tenements and a close, held in lease by Thomas Merryman, father of Gregory, as that on which he made the loan.

"From these brief notes, found by Mr. G.F.M. Merriman of London, it appears that Gregory Merryman was married to Mary or Maria Ringe before 1557; that his suit was begun before the death of Thomas Merryman, and that the property referred to in Ringe's reply is probably some of the same property as that mentioned in the Will of Thomas." ²

We are also given, in this review, the name of George's grandfather, Thomas Merryman. The line is shown thus:

Thomas¹, Gregory², George³, and then Nathaniel, the immigrant, who becomes the 4th in this line-up of ancestors.

Donald Lines Jacobus, who edited "Families of Ancient New Haven", writes his firm statements regarding the ancestry of Nathaniel Merriman, in these words:

"The ancestry of Nathaniel Merriman was as follows: (1) Thomas Merryman, a weaver of Whitney Co., Oxford, Will proved at Oxford 22 July, .1559; wife Joan

sons:

Gregory Merryman, md. Mary Ring (Ringe)
 John Merryman
 James Merryman

daughters:

Joan (Merryman) Norigg
 Alice (Merryman) Peytonton
 Marrie (Merryman)

- (2) Gregory Merryman (above), a weaver, of Whitney, died 1596, married before 1557, Mary Ringe, sister of William Ringe, yeoman, of Whitney; children included:

George Merryman
 Anna Merryman, bap. 23 Jan., 1561
 Henry Merryman, bap. 4 June, 1570, the last two recorded at Whitney

- (3) George Merriman, (Oldest child of Gregory above), cooper, of London, died 1655
 children:

John Merriman
Nathaniel Merriman
 Elizabeth Merriman (wife of John Norman)" 3

Mr. Jacobus, affirms the facts that the Will referred to here is authentic and proof of Nathaniel's ancestry. He writes concerning this matter, as follows:

"A biographical sketch written by Samuel Merriman, a descendant of Nathaniel, soon after the Revolutionary War, stated that Nathaniel's father was named George...The Will of George Merriman of London, published by Waters in 1899, mentioned his son Nathaniel as 'resident in New England' in 1655. The original Will is at Somerset House, and has been inspected by Merriman descendants since Waters brought it to light." 4

There seems to be no record that names George's wife, so we have to assume that she died prior to his making his Will in 1655, mentioning only his living children.

All of the information found recorded on George's ancestry in England has been combined with this story, rather than make separate, brief entries.

George B. Merriman wrote a chapter entitled, "The Ancestry of Nathaniel Merriman" in the works of Jacobus, and I quote:

"It is possible that a record of George's birth or baptism and also that of Nathaniel's (4-13) may be found in one of the Parish Registers of London, but as not all are published, and even those published are not all indexed, it would be no small undertaking to look them through. As George was a cooper, I found that the Cooper Company, an old guild in London, have his name on the register, but nothing more, not even the parish or precinct in which he lived. And London had no directory in those days." 5

1. #8 p. 5

2. #9(b) p. 1

3. #3, Vol. 9, p.93

4. *ibid*, p.92

5. #9 p. 34