

**A Brief Outline of the History
of the
Merriam Family**

Originally Written by
Johnston Merriam
About the Year 1834

Rewritten by
Justice Merriam
1898

Copied verbatim 1999
G. R. Cutting

Forward

This brief history of the Merriam family was originally written, by my great grandfather Johnson Merriam, about the year 1834. The original manuscript was lost or destroyed by age. It was closely guarded for many years, by my grandfather, Justice Merriam. After he returned to Canada, following his participation in the Patriot Movement, in the year 1838, Grandfather was of the opinion, that, if some of the information contained in the manuscript, became known generally it might be detriment to the progress of himself and his family. In the year 1898, grandfather rewrote the history and the following pages of this booklet are printed exactly as written by him, in a small pocket size note book, which I have in my possession, at the present time. Grandfather was 80 years old at the time he did the writing in this note book and his hand had apparently become quite shaky, owing to this, and the fact that this little book is now 35 years old, some of the writing is not as legible as it might be, some of the words may appear to be misspelled, but, considering the facts, that, it was about 110 or 115 years ago that grandfather received his education and that the backwoods schools of that time were not likely as efficient as our educational system of to-day, and that the spelling of a great many words has been changed in the last century, it was considered advisable to print it exactly as he wrote it, without making alterations. I have been endeavoring for the past ten years, to get some member of grandfather's family to write a sketch of the history covering the period, from the time that

the family moved from Newcastle to Holland township, and of the trip itself, but they all were of the opinion that it was to big a task for people of their age. It was was my intention, if I could have obtained this information, to have communicated with members of the family and requested that they contribute sketches of any interesting incidents, which they could remember, I was then going to try and have a book compiled, from this information, and the history written by grandfather.

The possibilities of accomplishing this seem to be decreasing, as time goes on.

We have decided to print and distribute, the information in my possession, in the form of this booklet, to the members of the family with whom we are personally acquainted, as a Christmas gift for the year 1933, with the hope that we may stimulate an interest in the compiling of a more complete history.

**Wishing you
A Merry Christmas and a
prosperous 1934**

R. Merriam

Mr. and Mrs. A.

The History of The Merriam Family

DEDICATION

We wish to dedicate this booklet to two of Canada's hardy pioneers. A man and his wife that succeeded in life by their love and trust in the Almighty, our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Justice J. Merriam.

+A Sketch of the History of connection with the Merriams written by J. J. Merriam in the year 1898." (J. J. Merriam recopied this from the original manuscript composed by Johnson Merriam. The original manuscript was lost or destroyed through age.)

"they Emigrated from England in the early setelment of the Eastern States and remained there until the year 1792, when John Merriam and famely and James his brother come to Canada. they crossed Lake Ontario from Oswego to Presque Ile harbour

and then went 15 miles through the woods to the township of perry in Northumberland and setld on a bush farm about 20 miles from a post of or store or Mill and they had to goe that distance with an ox team when they wanted a little grain ground, or a little tea, or the mail, and it was a big job, and they had many hardships to undergoe. They would pound their corn in a mortar made by heating a stone and burning a hole in the top of a stump, then they would sift it, and make porrige of the coarse part and corn bread of the finer and thus save going to mill and there was plnty of game in the bush bear and der Patridge hares etc, which they could Kill and have plnty of Meat, and thus lived, and hope Kept the hart whole.

Buth the hardships of the new Country and loss of wealth preyd on grandfather mind until it gave way and he refused to pertake of food suffisant to heep him alive and he literailly starved to Death about the year 1802 and he left his wif a widow and it was the second time for fhe was a widow when grandfather married her, and with her family she strugeld for a few years, then she sold the farm married to a man by name of Sherwood and left the township of Perry and went to live in the township of Murey and lived ther until sh Died in the year 1828 after being married three times, her first husban's name was Justus Johnson, James Merriam that came with John to the country married and lived in the township of Perry and raised a large family 7 boys and 6 girls and lived to be nearly 100 years old.

Johnson, the son of John Merriam was born in Wallingsbord, St., of Conneticut in the year 1788, and came with his parents to Canada, and after his father Died and his mother got married again he left home and worked out and taught school until the year 1810 when he got married to Elizabeth Massey the daughter of Daniel and Rebecka Massey in the township of Haldimand and she lived to be 33 years old and she Died and left 6 children, 3 boys, and 3 girls, the youngest 9 months old, and he Johnson Merriam lived a widower for 13 years and then Married again to thankful, daughter of Samuel Towons. they had 1 boy his name is Zimron he went to york state near watertown with his Mother after his father Died.

It was hard times in Canada when my father was first married when war broke out in 1812 between England and the United States and it made it stil harder in the first part of the

year 1814 nearly all the able men of Upper Canada (that is Ontario now) were Drafted and taken from their home to be soldiers to protect the Country, and my Father with the rest and he was taken to Kingston to learn the art of war, and he did not like it very well, in the fall he with a company were sent with a brigade of Boats loaded with supplies for York fort now (Toronto) and they were 6 weeks making the trip sometime they sailed other times they rowed, they got to York Dec 24th pretty well used up.

When the war closed in 1815, and my father returned home but times were very bad and the next 2 years the summers were very cold and the crops did not mature and there was great want if not starvation but the third year was good crops and after that the country prospered until 1837 and then the rebellion broke out and there were bad times. The people ready to destroy each other and many suffered

wrongfully but it got settled and we got Responsible government we are prospering and should be thankful.

My father Johnson Merriam died in Haldimand in the year 1853 aged 65 yrs and 5 months the family Almira Merriam daughter of Johnson Merriam was born in the year 1813 and was married to Goldsmith Richardson in the year 1822 and he died in the year 1835 and she married the second time in the year 1837 to Levi Blagot and he died in the year 1871 and Almira Blagot died in the year 1889 aged 76 yrs and left 9 children 5 girls and 4 boys.

Susana second daughter born in the year 1816 and married to Jermiah Lap in 1844 and died in the year 1889 and left 3 children 1 girl and 2 boys.

Lucy S third daughter of Johnson Merriam born in year 1822 and was married to Albert Adams in the state of New York in the year 1848 and her husband died in 1894 and left 2 children 1 girl 1 boy and she is living in Bellevue state of Michigan.

Justus J. Merriam first son of Johnson Merriam was born in the year 1818 was married to Caroline E. Honeywell daughter of Amos Honeywell in 1842 and are still living and have 9 children living 2 girls and 7 boys and 38 grand children and 6 great grand children.

John Merriam second son of Johnson Merriam born in the year 1825 and was Married to Lysitta Allen in the year 1846 and they have 7 children.

Samuel S Merriam third son of Johnson Merriam was born in the year 1828 and married to Clarisa Allen daughter of Ira Allen in the year 1850 and his wife died in the year 1856 and left 4 children and he married the second time to Alvira Winters daughter of Henry Winters and they have 6 children and he lives in the state of Michigan.

I want to write a little about myself Justus Merriam. I was 10 years old when my mother Died and my father put me to live with my uncle and I lived there a few years and then left and worked wherever I could get a job and when the rebellion broke out in 1837 I was working in a Brewery. I was 19 years old and I volunteered in a company at the village of Grafton under Captain Williams and we drilled 2 days in the week and we found our own arms and Clothing and boarded ourselves for 3 months and got no pay and with the advise of my friends I left Canada and went to the States near Watertown where I had relatives and worked in a grocery and provision store and was getting along vary well.

The people there sympathised with the rebels in Canada and got up a secret society for the purpose of raising an army to come over and help the rebels in upper Canada and they organized a bank and sold stock to the amount of 7 or 8 million dollars and that furnished money for the Rogues to carry on their scheme and they held secret meetings all over the states along the frontier and there was great excitement there was plenty of men with the use of this bank money to pay expenses called themselves Patriots and went everywhere to keep up the excitement and they succeeded well, there was thousands of people like myself unwise and carried away with the idea of establishing a good government in Canada and making it a free and prosperous Country there were about 20 thousand enrolled for the invasion in the later part of October there were 2 divisions of the supposed army I was in the Eastern division and we were warned to rendezvous at different points to be ready to embark and the company I was in went to Sackets Harbours and after staying there about a week we went to Milery bay and the next night the Steam Boat United States with 5 schooners in tow and we went on board there was about 1800 on board and went down the River to Wind Mill Point just

below Prescut just opsite Ogsdenburg we got on a bar stuck for awile and then the steambot got off and 1 schooner and the other one on the bar and we got to the landing and abot 300 got off the boat went back to get the schooner that was still on the bar and whil she was trying to get off there was a small armed steamboat came out from Prescot and commence fireing on her and she ran into Ogdensburg and about that time the United States Marshall with an armed steamboat came along and seized the steambot and schooner and army and a good many men and took them to Ogdensburg and we ware left on Wind Mill point without any means of getting away. we had 2 small canon and plenty small arms. and we made ourselves as comfortable as we could expecting they would come and take us away but they did not doe it.

the next morning being Nov 15th 1838. there ware 2 armed steam botes down from Kingston with a company of soldiers and they stacked us and serrended us and whin I saw that and saw the Boats on the river and all escape cut of I thew down my arms gave myself up and was teaken to the fort at Prescut.

there was over twenty taken that day and we ware put on a boat that night and taken to fort Henry at Kingston. the rest held out for 2 day longer and then they surrendered and war brought to the same fort at Kingstone and tried for treson and all found guilty but 2 and thar war 7 hanged and the rest ware kept in prison until the next April and then those twenty eight Repreived and sent to Sackets Harbour and I was with the 28 and I enjoyed my liberty and the rest of the prisonors ware banished to Vandimands lands a penal Colony belonging to England.

and I worked at od jobs around about that Part of the states until the year 1840 and then I came back to Canada and found the times greatly improved and I worked around Haldimand for 2 years and then got maried and about six years after I moved too Newcastle in the townsiip of Clark and worked for Hart a Massey in the foundry and lost my health and the doctor advised me to leave the hip and work out in the open air so I came to Owen Sound country in the year 1855 and I worked in the town of Owen Sound that fal and winter in the spring I moved to the township of Holland and seteld on a bush farm went to wood chopping and clearing away the bush and got better health and the help of an excelent good wife and the blessing of God we sucseded in making a living and raising our large

famely and about 10 years ago when the Children had all left home and got married we sold the farm and bought property in the village of Chatsworth where we are now living. we have a good house and a little means to by the nesarys of life and we are vary comfortable. 2 of our children are living near us and we hav Kind friends and neighbourins and we belong to the Methodist Church and attend its metings and enjoy them and feel thankful to Almy God for his blessing all along the pathway of life.

We enjoy vary good health for our age I was 80 last August and Mrs Merriam was 74 last November.

before closing this sketch I want to say a few words in praise of my noble wife in the 56 years we have lived together she has been a true help mate she has helped in procureing the nesasary of life and comforted me in trouble cherd me when cast down and helper me when tempted and tryed, wated on me in health and nursed me in sickness and she was hopeful which was than medison and she is stil chearful and we are than medison and he is stil chearful and we are hapy and I bes God for having given me such a noble Companion.

Signed Justus Merriam