

DESCENDANTS
of
MARRINER WOOD MERRILL

Material obtained from various sources—mainly from
questionnaires and letters written by members
of the family, September 1937 to June 1938.



Compiled by
Joseph F. Merrill
1938

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MARRINER WOOD MERRILL

A FEW ERRATA

Page	Reads	Should Read
17	Adrian Reid May 5, 1913	March 5, 1913
25, 32	Russel Gooding	Russel Goudin
28	Flossie Mildred Neff	Flossie Mildred Webb
28	Maurice Neff	Maurice Webb
29	Clere Wettstein	Cleve Wettstein
42	John Edward Erickson	Justin E. Erickson
51	Logan Temple April 17, 1916	through Logan Temple, June 1919
55	Married Margaret Jones in Salt Lake Temple Oct. 25, 1923	in S. L. City, Oct. 25, 1922
62	Alyan Richard	Alyn Richard
81	Elan Kent Bergesen	Elna Kent Bergesen
98	Janet LaVon, May 21, 1938	Sept. 6, 1924
98	Ralph Taft, Sept. 6, 1924	July 15, 1932
98	Paul Kent, July 15, 1932	May 21, 1938
114	She married Ronald Lee McBride, March 25, 1925	March 25, 1935
115	Velferd July 26, 1908	July 26, 1909
135	Irvin Stoddard Merrill	Ivin Stoddard Merrill
139	Marriner William Jr.	Insert—Died Nov. 27, 1930
141	Her husband died in Rich- mond, Dec. 20, 1923	Dec. 20, 1933
143	Rebecca Barbara, Aug. 16, 1926	Aug. 16, 1924
146	Liola Dudley Merrill Jen- sen	Loila Dudley
149	Albert Marion, Jr., June 8, 1904	July 4, 1901
171	She married John Reid Christiansen, Jan. 5, 1936	June 5, 1936
205	Thelma, Aug. 22, 1905	Aug. 22, 1909

Add the following to page 53:

Litha Linford graduated at the East High, Salt Lake City, valedictorian East Seminary, attended the U. of U. three years, is active in the Church and married LeRoy Clark Wilcox, a high school teacher, in the Salt Lake Temple, Aug. 10, 1935. To them **Sharlene Wilcox** was born in Salt Lake City, May 9, 1936.

Twila R. Linford graduated from the East High, the Salt Lake East Seminary and the U. of U. School of Education. She is active in the Church. Married Erwin C. Henderson in the Salt Lake Temple July 2, 1937. In 1937-38 her husband was a B. Y. U. student.

Carrie Linford is a high school graduate, and left the U. of U. after one year to marry a chemist, Ralph Leslie Nuttall, in the Salt Lake Temple Sept. 17, 1936. To this marriage **Ronald Leslie** was born Sept. 18, 1937, in Salt Lake City where the family lived.

Correction of Foreword, page 5

Marriner W. Merrill, according to the names printed in this book, had 46 children, 291 grandchildren, 492 great grandchildren, and 53 great-great grandchildren, total 882. Of these there were living early in 1938, 25 children, 227 grandchildren, 460 great grandchildren and 53 great-great grandchildren, total 765.

FOREWORD

Marriner W. Merrill, sturdy Utah pioneer and remarkable for his strong personality, had 46 children, 280 grandchildren, 511 great-grandchildren and 43 great-great-grandchildren, total 880 descendants, to the close of the period covered by this book—end of 1937, and, in a few cases, early 1938. Of these, at the time we speak of, there were living 25 children, 227 grandchildren, 459 great grandchildren, and 43 great-great-grandchildren, total 754. Of the 46 children 41 grew to maturity, 40 married and had families of their own. These children and their parents were discussed in the volume "Marriner Wood Merrill and His Family," published in 1937. This book continues the story for the grandchildren, etc.

This book names and gives some data on every one of these descendants—in many cases too few data but all that the informants concerned seemed to think necessary to furnish. And so it would have been impossible for the compiler to prepare this book except for the ready and willing help given by some members of the family, among whom were Chloe Howell, Ida Hadley, Maggie T. Merrill, A. Lowell Merrill, Olonzo D. Merrill, Mary Gee, Lois Stoddard, Peter Van Orden, Chloe H. Merrill, Laura R. and Millie L. Merrill and several others. These and others were written to repeatedly and always promptly replied with such data as they could secure. To these and to all others who furnished data the compiler is deeply grateful and thanks most heartily.

And to Emily T. Merrill, the compiler's wife, and his sister, Lucy Funk, grateful thanks are extended for the many hours of labor given the work of compilation. Yet for the errors both of omission and commission

that make the book defective, the compiler blames no one except himself. It is sufficient to say that very many hours of time were spent in efforts to keep the book free from mistakes. But in spite of this some of course will be found. And the compiler is sorry that they exist.

It was our ardent desire to get data on every descendant of Marriner W. Merrill born previous to 1938. We do not know that any have been missed. In any case, we hope the number will be extremely small.

The descendants are named under the Family heading where they belong. Every descendant comes from one of the six wives that were the mothers of the children of Marriner W. Merrill. Hence there are six family groups, designated by Roman numerals. Each group contains one or more chapters, depending on the number of children in each group that had families of their own. The name of every descendant in each chapter is printed once in heavy type, grandchildren at the middle of a line, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren at the beginning or elsewhere in the line.

A special feature of the book is the section of pictures. The fathers and mothers of all grandchildren named in the book are pictured in this section. These with many other pictures were printed in the first family book, 1937, "Marriner Wood Merrill and His Family." This little book is only an extension of that more elaborate and more precious volume.

If these two books shall have an influence in keeping alive among their descendants a memory and a knowledge of Marriner Wood Merrill and his noble, devoted wives, they will be amply worth all the work and sweat they have cost.

JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

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INTRODUCTION

This little book is the second volume of the story of "Marriner Wood Merrill and His Family" which began with the publication of the first volume in July, 1937. The first volume centered in a study of the father of the family, gave some attention to his wives and children, and recorded the names and dates of birth of all his grandchildren. This book carries on the story—obviously in outline only—beginning with the grandchildren and continuing through all branches of the large family until the close of 1937.

The continued story is based of course upon data published in the first volume. Thus the name of every descendant found in the first volume is also written in this one and a large number of new names added. It is hoped that not a single name is omitted. It was the very earnest desire of the compiler to include in this book the name and some data on every descendant of Marriner W. Merrill down to the close of 1937. If he has failed in reaching this objective no one will regret it as much as he.

Yet the circumstances under which this compilation proceeded did not make omissions and errors unlikely. This work has been done at many brief intervals, subject to numerous interruptions, and in the face of much discouragement. More than a thousand letters and cards were mailed out soliciting information and data, many of them without result. The compiler had no reason to believe there was anywhere any opposition to his project, but seemingly there was much indifference. And for this the compiler was perhaps more at fault than any one else. He did not succeed in creating enough enthusiasm for the project among all those from whom data were asked.

But there was one fundamental difficulty. Many members of the Family were too much subject to inherited modesty, which is more or less a family trait. "There is nothing important in my life" was a reaction that came from many members who were reticent to fill up their data sheets. This feeling was apparently so strong among some that their data had to be secured second-handedly by the favor of relatives. In most cases the compiler desired fuller information than he received but, under the circumstances, he decided to be content without it. Time would not wait while he further pursued his quest, which was done, however, up to the moment of sending the printer's proof to press.

"Why do we publish these family books?" has been asked. "Because we thought the Family would like to have them" was the answer. Every member of the Family knows there was absolutely no profit motive. The compilers knew they would never get their money back from the books. Yet they wanted to do what they felt the Family as a whole would like to have done—have a book printed outlining the life and activities of Marriner W. Merrill. Service to the Family was the impelling motive.

"Not to know the past is to be always as a child," some one has truthfully said. For a descendant of Marriner W. Merrill not to be acquainted with his great ancestor would possibly be to miss in part at least the influence of his practical teachings as an aid to living a successful life. And the influence of such teachings as he gave, by both precept and example, might with profit be much greater in these times than it is.

The energy and thrift, persistence and resourcefulness, loyalty and dependability, faith and self-reliance, cooperative willingness and helpfulness, sense of fairness and right—all these qualities were continually exhibited in the life of our great forebear. His writings

and sermons, printed in the first volume, indicate how he applied these qualities in his life. Any of his descendants could profit by reading this material. It was very interesting to this compiler to observe the extent to which the characteristic qualities of Marriner W. Merrill appear to be exhibited in the lives of his descendants. A careful reading of the two books will reveal the persistence of certain of his traits. Marriner W. Merrill lived a successful life. Will not a careful study of him indicate how to live a successful life?

Years ago it was freely predicted that Mormonism would disappear when the third and fourth generations of Mormons came on. How false such a prediction was may readily be discovered by reading this little book. One remarkable thing about this large family is the fidelity of its members to the Church. The family is spread all over America, particularly over the western half of the United States, but the record shows that with very few exceptions the members are still true to the religious faith that brought Marriner W. Merrill to Utah in September, 1853. Perhaps no large family in the Church can show a superior record in this respect.

It is the hope of the compiler that this little book may have some influence in helping members of the family to get and to keep better acquainted with one another to the end that mutual helpfulness and the integrity of our parents may be continued among us.

JOSEPH F. MERRILL.