

The

Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the

Hancock County Genealogical Society

Volume 23, No. 3

August 2017

**HANCOCK COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES
August 12, 2017**

The August meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was called to order by President Patti Leland at 10:05 AM in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library with 10 members present. Wayne Smith was unable to give his presentation on *the Millikens of North Bend Road and the Migration to California* presentation due to a conflict in scheduling. He will do the program at a later date.

Minutes of the June 2017 meeting were read and approved. There was no meeting in July.

Max reported income of \$390 in dues and \$.29 interest with expenses of \$26.36 for copying; \$25.00 Domain renewal; newsletter postage of \$25.00 and dues postage of \$18.80 for a total net inflow of \$295.11. Current balance \$4,995.26. The report was accepted as read.

New Business: Charlene asked for \$2,500.00 for the library to be put towards the purchase of a new digital microform reader. Total cost of the project is about \$17,000.00 with \$5,000.00 from a memorial gift in memory of Joe and Charlotte Fortier and \$1,500.00 from a grant plus HCGS \$2,500.00 paying for nearly half the cost. The library will pay the remaining cost. The request was approved.

Old Business: Ralph Harris updated us on his Hermon Cemetery project and gave an unindexed copy to the library.

Ralph and Charlene gave an update on their day at the Genealogy Fair in Augusta in July.

Patsy Jordan talked about Joseph Fougère/Fisher who died in Sullivan and the Sullivan Death Records which she now has a copy of.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons
Secretary

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

September 9: Emery DeBeck will speak on the Card family and Paul Firlotte will speak on Butler family.

October 14: Patsy Jordan and/or Alice Long will speak on using DNA test results in genealogy research.

November 4: Max Brenninkmeyer will talk about Moses Hammond. (Note the change in meeting date to the first Saturday in November. This is due to Veteran's Day falling on Saturday the 11th.)

From the Library

The Board of Trustees voted at their July meeting, to purchase a new digital microform reader for the genealogy department. As those of you who use the current machine know it is showing its age and is in need of replacement.

The new machine, an ST ViewScan III system will probably arrive this fall. With this machine, we will be able to email newspaper articles rather than having to print everything out. Articles can also be downloaded onto a flash drive or printed depending on your preference. You will be able to copy the entire page or crop a specific article. To make viewing easier, the monitor will be a 23" LED screen.

Ron Fortier and I went to Bangor and tried the machines there and then attended a demonstration with this machine and both felt it was a far better machine. The forward / rewind control is very similar to what we are used to with the Minolta, making the transition easier for all. On-screen controls using the mouse are also available and I am sure many folks will use them with great success.

We are looking forward the arrival of the ViewScan III. Stay tuned for updates.

See you at the library,
Charlene

The Milliken Family of North Bend and the Migration to California

by Dr. Wayne H. Smith

This is based on an oral presentation made by the author to the Surry Historical Society on July 17, 2017. A good deal of the information in the presentation was provided by the author's cousin Catherine Blosser of Oregon who is a descendant of the James Wallace Milliken discussed in the article.

The Milliken family that inhabited the North Bend Road area of Surry in the mid 1800s descends ultimately from the first progenitor of the Milliken family in America, namely **Hugh Milliken** (also Mulliken) who was born in 1632, probably in Scotland, and who died in Boston in 1681. He married his wife, **Eleanor Allison** (b. 1629 in Scotland, d. 1681 in Boston), in 1651. Following down through the generations we have:

Their son **John Milliken** (b. 1660s in Scotland?, d. 1749 in Scarborough), m. 1690 to **Elizabeth Alger** (b. 1669 in Boston, d. 1754 in Scarborough); then

Their son **Edward Milliken** (b. 1706 in Boston, d. 1764 in Scarborough), m. 1726 to **Abigail Norman** (b. 1710 in Boston, d. 1751 in Scarborough); then

Their son **Benjamin Milliken** (b. 1728 in Boston, c. 1791 in St. Andrews, New Brunswick), the "Founder of Ellsworth," m. 1754 to **Elizabeth Banks** (c. 1735 in York, d. 1766 in Scarborough); then

Their son **Joseph Milliken** (b. 1758 in Scarborough, d. 1835 in Surry), m. 1778 to a woman possibly named **Sarah** (b. abt. 1760 in Surry, d. 1810 in Ellsworth).

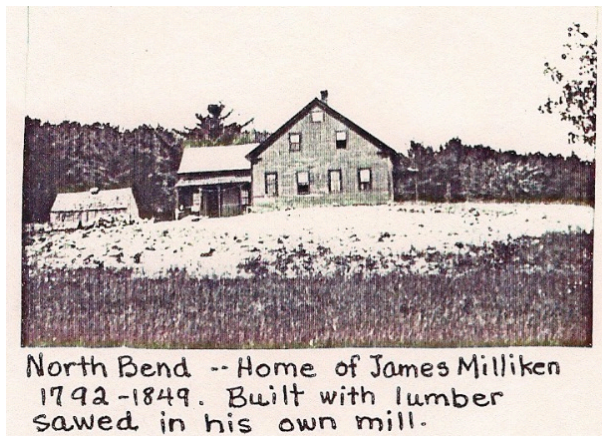
Joseph Milliken was the first member of the Milliken family to settle in Surry. He and his wife Sarah? had seven children: Dominicus (1777-1838), **John** (1780?-1853), Benjamin V. (1789-1874), **James** (1792-1849), Sarah "Sally" (1795-1827), **Daniel W.** (1799-1880), and Jesse (1800-1876).

Of these seven children, the author descends from **John** and his wife Mehitable Wormwood, as does Mr. Robert "Bob" Milliken, on the Board of the Surry Historical Society.

John's brother **James** plays a major role in the settlement of the North Bend area of Surry. James was born in Surry (or what was soon to become Surry) in 1791, the fourth child of Joseph and Sarah? Milliken. James spent his entire life in Surry. He was a sea captain out of Surry, and captain of a US revenue cutter, one of ten vessels that comprised the US Revenue-Maritime Service. At some point he met Nancy Head Jarvis, who was born in Surry on May 10, 1796, the sixth of seven children of Philip and Ann (Head) Jarvis. James and Nancy were married two months before her 18th birthday, in Surry. Their first child, Philip Jarvis Milliken, was born three months later. They were to have a total of nine children before she died in 1834:

1. Philip Jarvis (1814-1894), m. 1832 Phebe Wormwood Ray
2. James Augustus (1816-1899), m. 1834 Lydia Tittle Dutch
3. Horatio (1818-1893), m. 1850 Julia Ann Blaisdell
4. Sally Jarvis (1821-1852), m. 1846 Henry Sewall Brown
5. Ann Jarvis (1824-1891), m. Henry Flagg
6. Elizabeth Hall (1826-aft. 1860), m. Gomes Evans
7. Jane H. (1828-1891), m. bef. 1858 Jesse M. Ray
8. Henry Jarvis (1830-aft. 1900), m. Almira A. Eldridge
9. Emeline P. (1834-1926), m. Frederick William Jarvis

James originally lived in a house that he built off of what is now the Surry Road, east of his father-in-law Philip Jarvis's house, and west of the cemetery, a house later known as the Dyer Curtis house. Around 1840, some six years after his wife's passing, he sold this house and moved up to North Bend, where he became the ancestor of the North Bend Millikens, and the area where they lived became known as the Milliken settlement. James built a house there using lumber that he milled at his own mill located on Patten's Stream (this mill was later known as Gaspar Brothers Mill). Two of James' sons, Horatio and James Augustus Milliken later built their houses just north and south of their father's home.

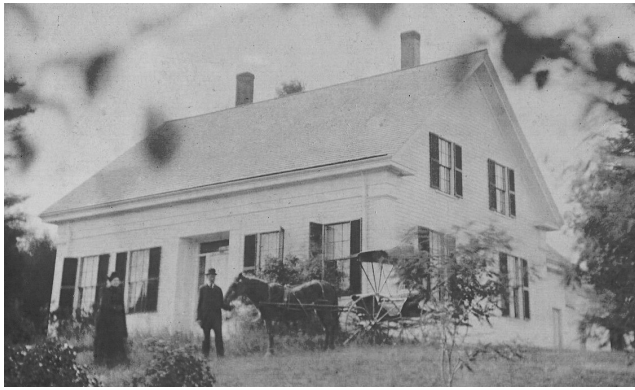




"The Milliken Settlement at North Bend"



"The Gaspar Brothers' Mill on Patten Stream"



"Horatio Milliken's home"



"James Augustus Milliken's home"

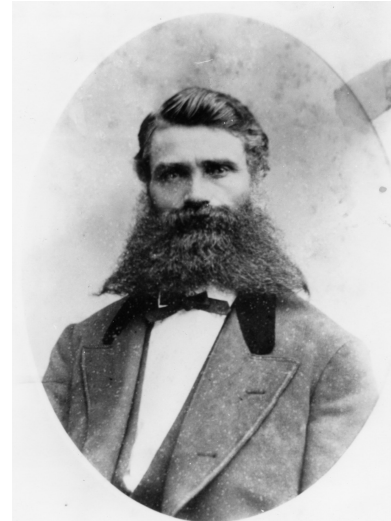
James himself passed away on June 22, 1849 just as news of the discovery of gold in California was reaching Surry. A surprising number of people from the North Bend area were taken with "gold fever" and joined the 300,000 individuals who headed out west to seek their fortune. One of those who left, and later returned, was Luther Townsend Smith who kept a written record of the Surry residents who went. Writing in the *Ellsworth American* in 1897, Smith noted:

It is interesting to one brought up in North Surry to look back to 1849, and count up the names of those former residents of this school district who have been, and more who still are citizens of California. Nearly all left here in the fifties and early sixties, and several in '49. I find the number so large that few would believe me if I made the bold statement that North Surry alone sent sixty-four citizens to California. Yet this is a fact, and to substantiate the statement I give below the names of those who went from here, and the year they left. Bear in mind that all these were from a district which now has only twenty-two voters, twenty-five pupils, and the entire population of which is less than 100.

The first three names that Smith listed as leaving in 1849 were from the family of James Milliken, namely his oldest son Philip Jarvis Milliken (1814-1894), his youngest son Henry J.

Milliken (1830-1912), and his grandson (P. J.'s son) George Emery Milliken (1832-1910), the last of whom remained in California.

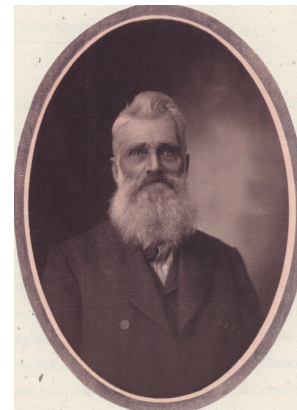
James' nephew, **Daniel Brewer Milliken** (1829-1880, the son of Daniel W. Milliken), left for California in 1851. He was also a mariner and had made trips to Cuba and the eastern seaboard of the U.S. At the time there were three ways that one could reach San Francisco: (1) the overland route, that could take 4-6 months, (2) the Panama route, which took about a month, and (3) the Cape Horn route that could take 6-8 months. He opted to travel through the Isthmus of Panama, which at the time was not a pleasant trip. There being no canal at the time, it involved sailing by ship to Panama, then traveling southeast from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean (you'll need a map to figure that one out!) through the hot jungle, to say nothing of the bugs, snakes, and who knows what other creatures along the way.



Daniel Brewer Milliken

The good news was that he made it. After his arrival, Daniel began prospecting and contracting. In the mid 1850s, he returned to Maine where he married Charlotte Smith and had a son. He brought them back to California and settled in Big River, Mendocino County in 1857 where six more children were born. He switched to the lumber industry and made his biggest financial success.

By 1876, Daniel had moved his family to the Oakland area where he tried his hand again in the mining industry, but without much success. In 1883, he and a partner named George D. Haven purchased 520 acres of dry desert land (which everyone laughed at), planted their vineyard, and exceeded all expectations, expanding their vineyards into a major industry by the 20th century. Daniel took his profits and built a large ranch house where he remained until his death in 1912. His son Newell added more acreage to the vineyard, and at his death, Newell's daughter Ruth ran the business for 40 more years. A local newspaper, the *Ontario Daily Report*, wrote in 1973: "At work, she wore boots, riding breeches, and a mannish shirt and a helmet. She was in the vineyard at 7 a.m. At the end of the day she would don a skirt and indulge in her favorite hobby...cooking."



Daniel B. Milliken

Going back to Luther Townsend Smith's account of North Surry people who left for California, we find the names of 25 more people who had left by the end of 1851:

Joseph F. Smith
Julia Smith
Capt. Richard Carlton
Rodney Phillips
Willard Phillips
Mrs. Rodney Phillips
Miss Retta Phillips
Henry Flood
James Gaspar

Alva Buker
C. L. Means
Edward Wood
Mrs. Eliza Milliken
Carlton
Joseph Smith
Lucy Smith
George P. Clark
Will Phillips

Rufus Phillips
Agnes Phillips
Emery N. Flood
Ed Gaspar
Huch Ray
Nathan Wilson
Horace Wood
Frank Wood

Subsequent years saw the following names added to the list:

- 1852: Horace Milliken, Luther Townsend Smith
1854: Thomas Smith, Mrs. Thomas Smith
1856: Joseph S. Milliken, Robert Milliken, Henry Smith, Leander Smith, Lewis Smith, George D. Smith
1859: Mrs. Charlotte Milliken, Mrs. Clara Milliken Smith, Charles Miller, Newell Miller, Mrs. Louise Miller, Fred Milliken, Lillian Milliken
1861: Ashie Smith, Francis Smith, Helena Smith, Ruel Smith, Gorham Smith, Mrs. Maria F. Smith
1862: Edward Milliken, Frank C. Milliken, William Milliken, Howard Milliken, William Roland Milliken, Robert Smith
1863: Charles Smith, Hezekiah Smith
1864: Mrs. Sarah E. Milliken Smith, Mrs. Clara Milliken, Dr. James Milliken
1875: Horace Milliken 2d

Luther Townsend Smith's *Ellsworth American* article concludes with the comment:

In addition to the above, there are several who have visited California and returned, but all those named have been citizens of California. If other towns of the country had sent in like proportion, California would have to-day a population of near fifty million, instead of the million and a quarter she now has.

Let's jump back to James Milliken once again and follow the trail blazed by another branch of his family to California. James' third son, Horatio Milliken, was born in Surry in 1818. He grew up in Surry, and in 1850 married Julia Blaisdell, the daughter of John and Clarissa (Myrick) Blaisdell, who had come from Orland to Surry to teach at the North Surry School, also known as the District 7 School, which had been built on land given by James Milliken.

In November of that same year, the couple gave birth to their first son, James Wallace Milliken, who also attended the North Surry School, and later went on to study at the Eastern State Normal School in Castine, where he graduated in 1872. After teaching elementary and high school in Swan's Island, he studied medicine at New York Medical College, receiving his degree in 1877. He practices medicine in the Holden and Brewer area for six years, boarding with a family named Farrington. He married their daughter, Lizzie Farrington, on Dec. 14, 1878 in Holden, but one day after barely escaping death after falling through the ice while crossing a pond, he said to his wife: "This is it!



Horatio & Julia Milliken



District school built on land given by James Milliken. Julia Blaisdell came here to teach from Orland, Maine in 1850. She married Horatio Milliken, son of James Milliken.

I am, or we are, moving to California." He left for Mendocino in 1883, and his family followed in 1884.

James Wallace Milliken was a most interesting man, and he frequently questioned the religious, social, and medical norms of his time. He made medical visits to communities in a wagon pulled by the family Morgan horse "King," and he was "a visionary who loved music, poetry, spiritual things, who never kept books on his medical practice, and let people pay him whenever they felt like it in fish, meat, fruit, eggs, potatoes, beans, or whatever they raised in their gardens." He was also very interested in the supernatural. He was first exposed to a séance at a neighborhood party in 1871. He later wrote: "I was a materialist of pronounced type. None could force me to believe in an intelligent being who could not be seen and heard by mortals." In 1881, he sought out a medium following the deaths of a few friends and his sister Sadie.



Dr. James Wallace Milliken

The medium was a complete stranger who proceeded to accurately answer three questions that James posed. After he moved to California, he also attended "materializing séances" wherein as many as four spirits became visible, and even touchable, to the entire group. He also discovered that he was a "writing medium" and frequently used this technique to seek medical advice from spirit guides in the diagnosis and treatment of his patients. His deceased sister Sadie communicated to him that "*...the life in all earthly habitations is very similar. All are being influenced and governed in a large measure by spirit friends or enemies.*" James' mother, Julia (Blaisdell) Milliken, would have nothing to do with any of this. She wrote to him saying that she hoped he would "write often but let that trash alone."

Around 1883-1884, James wrote a manuscript entitled: "*A Treatise for Families on the Cause of Disease and Natural Remedies*" in which he offered common sense suggestions on such topics as hygiene, food, water, sunlight, clothing, work, recreation, rest, and bathing based on his training and experience." In California, he was also the "beloved friend" of the Portuguese citizens of Mendocino County for whom he was the designated physician. At his funeral in 1909, held at a local Presbyterian church, over 200 people stood outside the doors, unable to gain admission, and a large number of them were Portuguese.

James' brother Horace Fremont Milliken was born in Surry in 1854 and died in Tracy, California in 1930. He traveled to Mendocino, California in 1874 where he joined many other Surry residents in the lumber industry, and later ran a mercantile store in Mendocino. He eventually moved to Ft. Bragg where he purchased and developed a 900-acre tract of land where he built a home and raised cattle, sheep, and hogs. Horace also created a vineyard, peach orchard, and orange grove in Cucamonga and built a water plant in Ft. Bragg. By 1923, he had moved to Stockton, and later to Tracy where he died in 1930, and his wife Annie in 1937.



Horace F. Milliken

James and Horace's sister, Clara Frances Milliken, known as "Carrie," was born in Surry in 1857 and, like her brother James,

attended the Eastern State Normal School in Castine. She married her sister Sadie's widower, Lewis Frank Smith, in 1877. In 1882, Lewis & Carrie moved out to Cucamonga where they had a 40-acre fruit ranch. They gave birth to three children: Lewis "Elmer" Smith, b. 1881 in Maine, Sadie May Smith (b. 1889), and Charlotte Genevieve Smith (b. about 1900). Sadie & Charlotte came east in 1948 to visit the home of their grandparents, Horatio & Julia Milliken in North Surry.



Sadie Smith



Charlotte Smith

Hancock County Genealogical Society
c/o Wayne Smith, Newsletter Editor
15 Jellison Ridge Rd.
Surry, ME 04684-3340