

SEVENTH MARVEL REUNION AT WAYNESVILLE—1926

On Sunday, August 22, 1926, at Waynesville, Ill., the Marvels held their seventh annual reunion. It was also the centennial of the settling of the Marvels and Barrs at that place. In February, 1826, Prettyman Marvel and his good wife Rebecca (Barr) Marvel located at Waynesville.

The 1926 reunion was held on the High School campus at Waynesville. Many of the old citizens were there.

The program was opened by singing, "America", led by Arthur Swam, Reverend Harold Dagley of Atlanta Illinois, made a prayer, Miss Mildred Marvel read the poem, "Pilot Grove", which was written by Mrs. Ella Yeakel. Reverend George A. Marvel of Oxford, Kansas, made an interesting address, George B. Marvel of Clinton, Illinois, told some interesting facts in Marvel history. All sang "Blest Be The Tie That Binds." Dinner was served by the ladies of the "Star."

Mr. Wasson the photographer from Decatur took a picture of the crowd, about 15 by 36 inches, a very good picture. There are some of these left which can be purchased by writing Mr. Wasson, price \$1.25

The Clinton Band furnished the music.

At the business meeting the date of the 1927 reunion was decided on the next to the last Sunday in August, which is August 21st. The place of the reunion to be Dew Drop Inn in Lee Township, Fulton County Illinois, but owing to the heavy rains and the river being out of its banks so often, the place was changed to Big Creek Park, Canton Illinois.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Raymond Marvel, Galesburg, Illinois; Vice President, Henry Marvel, Fairview, Illinois; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Hettie Marvel Markley, 234 East Hurst Street, Bushnell, Illinois.

Family history is printed each year. 212 pages have been printed and more has been completed for 1927. Anyone can obtain history by writing the secretary.

There were people from California, Oregon, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois at the 1926 reunion. Any Marvel can become a member of the association by paying one dollar, which entitles them to the history each year. (at \$1.00 each.)

Mrs. Hettie Marvel Markley,
Sec., Treas., of Marvel Association.

EVOLUTION OF THE NAME MARVEL

(Prepared by Mrs. Ethel Marvel Blomberg)

The pride of ancestry seems to be innate in nearly everyone and there are very few who claim indifference to the origin of their family or its name. It has been asserted that "he who cares nothing about his ancestors will rarely achieve anything worthy of being remembered by his descendants." The knowledge of the origin of our family name brings to us a generous enthusiasm and a harmless vanity created by the fact of its antiquity. The family name, Marvel, is not the result of any scientifically created system of nomenclature, but the result of an adoption of a place-name by the first man who bore it.

When the gallant Robert de Merveille left his native hamlet in France, to pursue fame and adventure with William the Conqueror, in the 11th century, he became the progenitor of a family who for nine hundred years have borne his name.

The family name, Merveille, takes its origin from a town in what is today a part of France, though in the middle ages when surnames were in the process of formation, it was a part of maritime Flanders. This name was first applied to Robert because his friends found it a convenient label to distinguish him from others bearing the same given name. No more natural method of referring to the man of alien birth could have arisen to designate him from others than this custom of attaching the name of the locality from whence he came. Thus Robert became the bearer of the name of his native town, Merveille.

This peaceful French village with its quaint old stone houses, is situated in the valley of the river Lys. It was the scene of tragic conflict during the World War when the Allied and German armies contended in the last great battle for military control of the French seaports, along the English channel. The spelling of the name of this town Merveille, has been modernized to the form of Merville.

The early form of the name, Merveille, was retained for a period of two centuries or more in England, in which the Norman Conquerors spoke only French, the language which they brought across the channel with them. The Anglo-Saxon language was spoken by the conquered population. The nobility was almost without exception of the former race. Hence in the castles only the French language was spoken and naturally the French forms of names pre-

vailed. Robert of Merveille was written Robert de Merveille since the word 'de' is the French word for 'of'.

Later, owing to the political severance of Normandy from England, there was an amalgamation of languages that was basically Anglo-Saxon and from which modern English has developed. Following this period, 'de' was dropped from its former usage in family names. Thus de Merveille became Merveille.

During the 12th and 13th centuries, surnames had their period of formation and became permanently established. Custom decreed that a person should be known by his father's name. About this time the Anglo-Saxon influence began to assert itself upon the spelling of the family names. For this reason Merveille changed to Merveyle and Merveyl. The name, Geoffrey Merveyle, appears on the Patent Rolls in 1202. In the year 1273 the names of Richard Merveyle and Warin Merveyl appear on the Hundred Roll of County Cambridge. (A hundred is a division of a county in England, supposed to have originally contained a hundred families or freemen.)

For five centuries following the Norman conquest the language of England made a constant and rapid change. During this entire period English was in a state of dialectical confusion. The spelling of words was unstable and varied in form. By the close of the Old English period which dates around 1350, the name in question had evolved to the form, Mervaille. Out of this grew the family name of Mervell which has been found by the famous Cambridge antiquary, William Cole, in his copies of early wills. There were families of Mervells that lived at Meldreth, Cambridge. Mervell is only a variation of Marvell.

In 1843 the Herald's college, an ancient Corporation dependent on the crown, was established in England by Richard III. This College of Arms retains from the Middle Ages, the charge of the armorial bearings of persons privileged to bear them. In Burke's "General Armory of England, Scotland and Wales," there is registered all the old and noble families who were granted a coat of arms. From this list four names are quoted: "Marvell, Marvyle, Morvill, and Morvil."

At the beginning of the 16th century the name is recorded Marvyle. This family stands forth with highest dignity and exalted rank because of their claim to a coat of arms. In the spelling of that age,

other vowel sounds such as 'i' or 'e'. The final silent 'e' was dropped from many words and orthography became comparatively fixed. Thus Marvyle became Marvel or Marvil.

In the peninsula of the Cotentin, Normandy, was located the ancient castle of Morvil (sometimes spelled Morville) constructed in the 11th century. It was built on a high rock of granite, towering over the surrounding neighborhood. The citadel of the fortress was enclosed by high walls of granite which was very common in the western part of the peninsula. Much reliance was placed on the inherent strength of these walls which defied the battering-ram of an enemy. They could be undermined only at the cost of much time and labor. The narrow apertures were constructed to exclude arrows or flaming brands. As the occupants of the castle in that age were sometimes given to feuds, it was necessary to fortify themselves in a manner to make it possible to subdue their equals.

"Our castles strength
Will laugh a siege to scorn."—Shakespeare.

The first to go forth from this old Norman stronghold allied himself with William the Conqueror and therefore placed the name of Morvill on the roll of Battle Abbey in 1066 A. D.

Baring-Gould gives the following account:

"On the morrow of the Battle of Hastings, William, Duke of Normandy, summoned to himself a clerk who had enrolled the names of all those who had accompanied him to England, and bade him read it aloud, that he might learn who had fallen and who were still alive.

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Later, William founded Battle Abbey on the site, not only as a memorial of his victory, but to serve as a chantry for the slain, and the names of his companions-in-arms enshrined in this bede-roll were to be read in the church on special occasions, and notably on the day of commemoration of the battle, the Feast of St. Calixtus.

This roll was accordingly preserved in the abbey. It was on parchment and bore a Latin superscription that may be translated: 'This place is named Battle, on account of a battle fought here, in which the English were defeated and left dead upon the field. They fell on the festival of St. Calixtus, Christ's Martyr. In the year 1066 the English fell, when a comet appeared.'

Hugh of Morvill Castle left his native land, endowed with the Norman spirit of enterprise, despising his own inheritance in the hope of gaining a better one and became the founder of the English house of de Morvill in 1158. He was born of a race who were "desirous of good report, skillful in flattery, given to the study of oratory, altogether unbridled unless held down by the yoke of justice. A race given to great physical endurance whether it be of toil, hunger, or cold whenever fortune laid it on them, given to hunting and hawking, delighting in the pleasure of horses, and of all the weapons and garb of war."

Hugh de Mervill rendered knight-service to Henry II. When a clash arose between the King and Thomas Becket, English Chancellor and archbishop of Canterbury, he was one of the four knights of the Royal Household who bound themselves together by oath to force Becket to submission in one way or another. At last they brought the conflict to a close by an act of zealous chivalry in the death of Becket. This aroused the ire of the Pope to such an extent that it was necessary for the four to remain in hiding for a year in Knaresborough Castle, a place in Mervill's keeping. This old castle was founded in the 11th century by Serle de Burgh, follower of the Conqueror, and was built with a massive keep rising from a cliff above the Nidd river in Yorkshire. Later it was granted to Robert de Stuteville, whose descendant became the wife of Hugh de Mervill.

Hugh of Mervill had his chief estate at Burgh-on Sands, Cumberland. He had been appointed Itinerant Justice in this county in 1169-70. Apparently he lived until 1202 or 1203 when his English estates passed into the hands of his two daughters, Ada and Johanna, as co-heiresses.

The de Morvills and Morvils (another form of the same name) each had a coat of arms which signifies that they were held in high repute. Some of them had obtained worthy positions in the northern part of England. The town of Morville in Shropshire derived its name from a line of this family. The name of Morvill became of great account in Scotland where it finally became Marvell. It is recorded as an extinct baronage.

The Morville name continued in France. Comte de Morville, born in Paris in 1686 was a French diplomatist. He was ambassador to Holland in 1718 and induce the State General to sign the Quadruple Alliance. He became Minister to foreign affairs in 1723 and was elected to the French Academy the same year. He died in 1732.

In the district of Holderness, Yorkshire, lies the hamlet of Winestead where Andrew Marvell was born on Easter Day, March 31, 1621 in the rectory house. No fitter place can be imagined for a "garden poet" to be born than in old Winestead, where the trees are mossy and the roses run riot, making his birthplace lovely.

His father was the Reverend Andrew Marvell who later resided at Hull. He was drowned in the Humber river. His mother was Anne Pease. The Pease family was destined to become widely known during later years when at various times seven of them became members of Parliament.

Andrew's sister, Mary, married Edmund Popple, afterwards Sheriff of Hull, Ann married James Blaydes of Yorkshire, from whom Frederick Henry Marvell Blaydes, well known English classical scholar, descended.

Andrew's personal appearance is described by John Aubrey as follows: "he was of a middling stature, pretty strong set, roundish face, cherry cheeked, hazel eyed, brown haired. In his conversation he was modest and of very few words." He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, after which he traveled in Europe for four years. He acted as secretary to the English legation at Constantinople, and on his return became secretary to John Milton, the famous poet. He was also employed by Oliver Cromwell as a tutor to his ward, William Dutton. In 1660 he was elected to Parliament from Hull, which he represented honorably as long as he lived. Besides a small handful of finely musical poems, he composed much humorous and satirical verse, and wrote a number of political pamphlets. It was impossible to win him by bribes because he kept his political virtue unspotted, and stood throughout his career as the champion of moderate and tolerant measures. When self-indulgence was the ordinary habit of his friends, he remained temperate. He died August 16, 1678 and was buried in London. At present writing the maiden name of his wife, Mary Marvell, is unknown.

Andrew Marvell had a coat of arms and a family crest. He was called the "Poet of Gardens" because of his intense admiration for flowers. This is well illustrated in the following poem:

"Thoughts in a Garden"

ANDREW MARVELL

"How vainly men themselves amaze
To win the palm, the oak, or bays,
And their incessant labours see
Crown'd from some single herb or tree,
Whose short and narrow verged shade
Does prudently their toils upbraid;
While all the flowers and tress do close
To weave the garlands of Repose.

Fair Quiet, have I found thee here,
And Innocence thy sister dear?
Mistaken long, I sought you then
In busy companies of men;
Your sacred plants, if here below,
Only among the plants will grow;
Society is all but rude
To this delicious solitude.

No white nor red was ever seen
So amorous as this lovely green.
Fond lovers, cruel as their flame,
Cut in these trees their mistress' name:
Little, alas, they know or heed
How far these beauties her exceed!
Fair trees! where'er your barks I wound,
No name shall but your own be found.

When we have run our passions' heat
Love hither makes his best retreat:
The gods, who mortal beauty chase,
Still in a tree did end their race;
Apollo hunted Daphne so
Only that she might laurel grow;
And Pan did after Syrinx speed
Not as a nymph, but for a reed.

What wondrous life is this I lead!
Ripe apples drop about my head;
The luscious clusters of the vine
Upon my mouth do crush their wine;
The nectarine and curious peach
Into my hands themselves do reach;
Stumbling on melons as I pass,
Ensnared with flowers, I fall on grass.

Meanwhile the mind from pleasure less
Withdraws into its happiness;
The mind, that ocean where each kind
Does straight its own resemblance find;
Yet it creates transcending these,
Far other worlds, and other seas;
Annihilating all that's made
To a green thought in a green shade.

Here at the fountain's sliding foot
Or at some fruit tree's mossy root,
Casting the body's vest aside
My soul into the boughs does glide;
There like a bird it sits and sings,
Then whets and claps its silver wings,
And, still prepared for longer flight,
Waves in its plumes the various light.

Such was that happy Garden state
While man there walk'd without a mate;
After a place so pure and sweet,
What other help could yet be meet!
But 'twas beyond a mortal's share
To wander solitary there;
Two paradises 'twere in one,
To live in Paradise alone.

How well the skilful gardener drew
Of flowers and herbs this dial new!
Where, from above, the milder sun
Does through a fragrant zodiac run:
And, as it works, the industrious bee
Computes its time as well as we.
How could such sweet and wholesome hours
Be reckoned, but with herbs and flowers."

The name of William Marvel is recorded in 1702 on the baptismal roll of St. James, Clerkenwell, a district on the north side of London. In 1724 the marriage of Richard Marvel and Elizabeth Walford is recorded at St. Mary Aldermary, London. These reports go to show that the spelling of the name, Marvel, was used two hundred years ago in the same way it is today. It is chiefly in Yorkshire that the surname exists in this form.

When the first member of the Marvel family migrated to America, he settled in Accemac county, Virginia, John Marvel was born in

England in 1632. After residing in Virginia for a number of years he moved to a part of Worcester county, Maryland, which has since become a part of Delaware. His wife's name was Ann As the records stand, it is nearly impossible without the most extensive and expensive research to obtain the names of many of these early settlers in Virginia unless they were patentees of land. In the book, "Early Virginia Immigrants" 1623-1666 by George Greer, page 220, is found the name of this early ancestor, John Marvel, who entered land in 1652 and again in 1653. This land registry was made in Northampton county, where no doubt the land office of that day was located. It is the county south of Accemac. He died in 1707 leaving two sons, John and Thomas. These names have been preserved by the old church records. The genealogy of John is unknown but Thomas married Elizabeth Huggins. To this union were born four sons, namely:

1. David, born 1727, died 1796.
2. Thomas, Jr., born 1730, died 1801.
3. Phillip P., born 1734, died 1795.
4. Robert, born 1737, died 1775.

delete

David Marvel (1) married Sarah Prettyman and were the parents of seven children:

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| 1. David Jr. | 4. Polly | 7. Prettyman, Sr. |
| 2. Burton | 5. Prudence | |
| 3. Elizabeth | 6. Patience | |

Thomas Marvel Jr., (2) married Susanna and had the following children:

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| 1. Thomas | 4. Parker | 7. Stephen |
| 2. Robert | 5. Patience | 8. Elisha |
| 3. Joseph | 6. Obadiah | 9. Eli |

Phillip P. Marvel (3) married Comfort Rodney and to this union were born:

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| 1. Phillip | 4. Adam | 7. Aaron |
| 2. Rhoda | 5. William | 8. Mary |
| 3. Thomas | 6. David | 9. Chloe |

Robert Marvel(4) married Rachel Chase and had nine children:

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| 1. Ann | 4. Robert Jr. | 7. Phillip |
| 2. Thomas | 5. Chloe | 8. Rachel |
| 3. Joseph | 6. Patience | 9. Betty |

Many old records and letters were often destroyed that would be priceless now and would afford much valuable information concerning the Marvel family. Among their ranks are found many eminent attorneys, physicians, ministers, bankers, teachers, and other professional and business men and women. They have held important positions of trust in the affairs of state and nation. Many were pioneers in the settlement of the great middle west and endured the privations and hardships of those days.

Perhaps no better conclusion can be offered to our readers than the following anonymous quotation,

"No virtuously disposed mind can look back upon a long line of truly venerable ancestors without feeling his motive to a virtuous life strengthened. He can scarcely help feeling that it is not for him to be the first to bring disgrace upon his lineage. It will, however, lead him to reflect that his posterity will also be looking back and comparing life with that of his progenitors."