

The Marvel Family in England

{This essay was originally prepared by Charles A. O'Conner and was printed, beginning on page 296, in the Marvel History developed by J. E. Marvel [61334121], Ethel (Marvel) Blomberg [61334123] and Ella (Armstrong) Yeakel [613346(10)]. Additional information from the files of Mildred (Marvel) Burwell [61334(10)32] has been added and several logical modifications have been made to the O'Conner essay. Two personal visits to Meldreth & Melbourn England have given special insights. Numbers in parentheses have been added to the members of the Marvel lineage. The number indicates the generations removed from John Marvell [6] the immigrant to America.}

According to Bardsley in his "English and Welsh Surnames," the name Marvel, or Marvellis, a nickname, meaning "the marvel." Medieval English, Marvel; French, Mereveille; THE WONDER. Probably the name of some youthful prodigy in learning or physical prowess. The Marvell or Marvel family were originally from France, having come to England about the year 1200. They settled in the parishes of Melbourn, Meldreth and Shepreth in Cambridgeshire (a shire is similar to the American county) where they resided for centuries. The name is now almost extinct in this locality, although there are a few people of the name in Yorkshire, who no doubt are descended from this same family. John Marvell [6], the original emigrant to America, was born in the parish of Melbourn, May 27, 1630. He was a son of Thomas Marvell (1) who was born in the same parish in 1594.

This Thomas (1) was a cousin of Andrew Marvell, the elder, who was born in Meldreth in Cambridgeshire, England in 1586. Andrew was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. In 1608, he took the degree of M. A. In 1610, he is found signing the registers of Flamborough in Yorkshire as "minister" and in 1611, as curate. Three years later, he was at Winestead in Holderness, to which he was inducted on April 23, 1614. In 1624, he removed to Hull as master of the grammar school there and became about the same time, master of the Charter house and lecturer at Holy Trinity Church. He was drowned on January 23, 1640-1, while crossing the Humber.

The Rev. Andrew Marvell married twice, first Anne Pease, October 22, 1612, and secondly Lucy Alured Harris, daughter of John Alured and widow of William Harris, November 27, 1638. By his first wife, who was buried in Holy Trinity Church, Hull, on April 28, 1638, the Rev. Andrew had three daughters and two sons, viz:

Anne : born 1615 ; married in 1633 to James Blaydes.

Mary: born 1617; married Edmund Poppie in 1636.

Elizabeth: born 1618; married Robert More in 1639.

Andrew, the poet, born 1621.

John, born 1623, died 1624.

(Grosart, Vol. 1, page XXXII, Aitken, Poems of Andrew Marvell Vol. 1, page XX. History of Hull, ed. 1735, page 141, Fuller's "Worthies" edited by Nichols, vol. 1, page 165, etc., etc., etc.,)

Andrew Marvell, son of the Rev. Andrew Marvell, was born March 31, 1621, at Winestead in Holderness, in the Rectory House, the elder Andrew Marvell being the parson of the parish: (For the complete life of Andrew Marvell, read "Andrew Marvell" by Augustine Birrell, published 1905.)

Thomas Marvell (1), born in Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, England in 1594, was the son of John Marvell (2), who was baptized in Melbourn, November 2, 1569, the son of John Marvell (3). Thomas (1) married Mary Wright, June 8, 1617, and they had:

Thomas: born May 10, 1618, in Melbourn.

Mary: born April 14, 1620.

Daniel: born September 3, 1623.

Susanna: born April 18, 1626.

Robert: born November 22, 1629.

John [6]: born August 4, 1630.

John [6] of this family, the original emigrant to America, sailed with a number of the young men of the district for Virginia in 1661.

John Marvell (2), the father of Thomas Marvell, was born in Melbourn in 1567. He was the son of John (3), born in the same parish about 1540. John (3) married about 1560 (name of his wife not mentioned) and had:

Roberte, baptized ye 25th of November, 1561, ye sonne of John Marvell.

Jane, baptized ye Nov. 15th, 1563, ye daughter of John Marvell, .

John (2), baptized November 1567

The Registers often do not go beyond 1550 and in most of the parishes and where they do, it is difficult to decipher the sketchy records. In Shepreth the records indicate a John Marvell (3) was born in 1551. He could well have been the John that was the father of John (2) and Rev. Andrew. This John (3) was the son of John (4) born in 1528. He was the son of John de Marvell (5).

This lineage has been extended to Sir Rogerus de Marvyll of Sandbach, Kunsford, County Chester, who came out of France with William the Conqueror in 1066. With a generous helping of imagination it can be said to include Hugh de Meurville who was one of the four Knights who assassinated Archbishop Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral in 1170.

In the village of Meldreth in Cambridgeshire, there is an old manor house called "The Marvells." It was in Meldreth where Andrew Marvell, the elder, was born in 1586.

From Burke's "General Armory of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales:" Andrew Marvel: (note spelling). The patriotic member of Parliament, temp. Chas. I and II. or, a chev. engr. between three leopards' faces sa. Crest: out of a ducal coronetor, a plume of featlrs ar'.

{Most of the above is factual but some is conjectural. It has been written that the first "Marvel" to settle in England came from Merville in France but there is a Merville in Flanders, decimated in WW I, and a Merville in Normandy, decimated in WW II. What is known is that there were Marvells living in Cambridgeshire, England. The court records show that in 1331 "John Mervele drew blood maliciously upon Nicholas the cobbler" and was fined twelve-pence. Andrew Marvell's name is among the list of Rectors in the All Saints Church in Melbourn. There is a beautiful Marvell Court (shown on attached map) in Meldreth including a house formally owned by the Rev. Andrew Marvell. Inside the old part of the house is a mirror designed by superimposing an "A" over a "M". It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Powles, a very wealthy family. Two birth dates are given for the John [6] we have coming to America, or are they different people? One scenario does not include Thomas.

We know, with high certitude, that a John Marvell left Cambridgeshire, in the middle of the 15th century, and settled on the east shore of Chesapeake Bay, and he now has thousands of progeny.}

