Marriott Family Tree

1550

Marriott is a Norman family name with Viking origins (since Normandy was granted to the Vikings in 940 AD). The Marriott family first arrived in England from Normandy with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 AD. Three brothers, Rudolph, Augustine and William Marriott were granted lands as Lords of the Manor in Leicestershire, Yorkshire and Kent by King William.

The Marriott name is derived from Mary, meaning 'wished-for-child' and the suffix 'ot', a diminutive form. There are several variations in the spelling of "Marriott", particularly before the 18th century, when the name was usually written phonetically. These include Marriot, Merrett, Merriott, Marryatt. Maryott, Merrytt, Merritt, and Mariate. The most common present day spelling is Marriott.

In the late 12th century, Maid Marion, the alleged mistress of Robin Hood, was said to have popularized the name in plays in which she acted through the use of carved figuers of the Virgin Mary that became known as Marionettes. Thus, the increased use of the spelling Mariot and Maryatt is found.

During the 13th century the family branched out to Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Suffolk, however, by the 14th & 15th centuries the family name became well established in Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.

Our research has uncovered the presence of many Marriott family groups living in the London area from the 1500s for which over 3,000 parish records have been examined and cross referenced.

1600

This Marriott family branch was a very large and close-knit maritime family whose lives were centered on the River Thames during the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

In the late 1500s and 1600s they were primarily mariners, shipwrights and watermen in the days that Limehouse was an important maritime center for London and the home to many sea captains and new world expeditioners. London was the busiest port in the world. Information on the family during this period comes from the intact survival of the St Dunstan's, Stepney parish records, dating back to 1538. The riverfront communities in which the family lived were a part of this parish until 1730.

The family name spellings shown here in the 1600s and early 1700s are those reported on the parish records at christening, unless more accurately confirmed from another source. After 1700 the name was typically spelled in its present form.

The first members of the family for whom there is considerably more recorded information, were those that were born in the early to mid 1700's. These were the first family members that joined the Company of Watermen & Lightermen City guild with fathers typically apprenticing sons, grandsons, nephews and in laws from the age of 14 to 21.

1650

Excellent company records survive from 1692 to 1908 and the apprenticeship bindings and freedom admissions have been researched for the entire period.

The family was closely tied to the parish of St Anne, Limehouse, after its consecration in 1730, where many Marriott's were christened, married and buried throughout the remainder of the 1700's. Churchwarden's Account Books of the mid-1700s often mention the participation of family members in church and community affairs. However, other less fortunate family members were very poor and living in the workhouse.

Frem Roman times until the 19th century, the Thames was London's main thoroughfare and thus filled with craft of all kinds. Lightermen carried loads from ships to quays and Watermen carried passemgers.

Watermen have always been a sturdy, rough breed with their own jargon and the cry for "Oars" has reverberated through the centuries. In Elizabethan times approximately 40,000 watermen earned their living on the river between Gravesend and Windsor, however, that number was reduced to 20,000 by the end of the 18th century and the trade practically disappeared by the end of the 19th century after the building of numerous bridges.

Thus, during the mid 19th century the Marriott family moved into the lighterage business with the growth of the docklands and expansion of foreign trade.

1700

According to Land Tax Assessment records, it appears that there was a family-owned business of watermen between 1740 and 1785 with moorings at Duke Shore, centered around several family groups. It is in this period that "William" becomes the dominant family given name.

The family had all moved away from Limehouse by the early 1800's and the direct family line moved to Rotherhithe, attending the old parish of St Mary's until the building of Holy Trinity Church in 1838.

Holy Trinity, that served as the family's parish throughout the remainder of the 1800's, was completely destroyed in World War II, along with all the parish records. With the construction of several London bridges in the late Georgian era and the declining need for water ferries, the trade of watermen began to disappear and family members focused on the business of lighterage.

William Marriott (jr) formed the family-owned business of William Marriott & Sons, Lightermen & Watermen in c. 1858 which rapidly grew during the heyday of international trade at the expanding London docklands.

William George Marriott (sr) broke away from his father's company to form W. G. Marriott & Sons, Lightermen, Barge & Tug Owners in the late 1800's.

1750

St. Anne, Limehouse

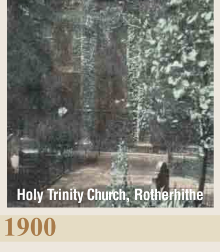
1800

St. Mary, Rotherhithe & River Thames

1850

The family business of W.G. Marriott and Sons prospered throughout the Victorian era and William George entered local politics, representing Rotherhithe on the Bermondsay Borough Council for 23 years, becoming Chairman of the Rotherhithe Conservative Club. The family moved residence to Brockley, while maintaining company offices in Rotherhithe.

Marriott Family worshipped here in the late 1800s. The church was bombed in WWII. All records were destroyed.



Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe

1900

William George Marriott (jr) succeeded his father as Chairman of W. G. Marriott & Sons and was a member of the Deptford Borough Council for many years. From the 1940s to early 1950s, he represented both England and Sussex on several occasions in Bowls Championships.

Three sons, Don, Bill & Malcolm Marriott continued the family business of W. G. Marriott & Son until the 1970's, ending an era of at least 12 continuous generations of Marriott lightermen, watermen and mariners on the River Thames. Douglas Marriott became a renowned international architect and was listed in Debrett's Distinguished People.

The extended family moved to Bromley after World War II and raised their children within a short distance of one another, continuing the close-knit family relationship. Bill, Douglas, Malcolm, Graham, Christopher and David Marriott all attended Ardingly College in Sussex.

By the late 1960s, the family had dispersed to various parts of England, primarily in Kent, ending a 500 year extended family living in close proximity. Douglas and penny Marriott retired in Offham, Bill Marriott retired in Luton, Malcolm and Maida Marriott retired in Broadstairs and Anthony Marriott settled in Cornwall.

Graham Marriott emigrated to California, USA and David Marriott moved to Paddock Wood.

This dedicated research will hopefully inspire future generations to continue this undertaking.

1950

PRIMARY RESEARCH SOURCES

International Genealogical Index
Parish Records of:
- St. Dunstan, Stepney
- St. Anne, Limehouse
- St. Olave, Southwark
- St. Mary, Rotherhithe
- St. Mary, Whitechapel
- All Saints, Poplar

Churchwarden's Accounts:
- St. Anne, Limehouse

Pallot's Marriage Index
Boyd's Marriage Index
Census records 1841-1901:
- Limehouse, Poplar, Stepney,Whitechapel, Rotherhithe, etc.

Land Tax Assessments:
- Limehouse
- Rotherhithe

Company of Watermen & Lightermen:
- Apprenticeship Bindings
- Christening Affidavits
- Boat ownership records
- Pension records

Civil Registration:
- Birth, Marriage & Death records

Internet:
- Genuki, Ancestry.com, ONS,

Various other archives, libraries and genealogical resources.

This Marriott family tree has been researched, illustrated and coloured by:

Graham H. Marriott
3473 Primera Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90068 USA
Telephone: (323) 969-9769
e-mail: gmarriott@cartifact.com

In loving memory of Douglas Marriott who inspired this venture with help from Kath Murchie, Dave Marriott and others.

Revised: September2010

2000