

**MRS. AARON [OR AMOS?] G. (MERRILL) DRAPER  
POSSIBLY LUELLA BELL MERRILL (1857–1937)**

Chroniclingamerica.org; The Manchester Journal, Manchester, Vt., August 17, 1899, Image 2

*Mrs. Aaron G. (Merrill) Draper knew of six ancestors who fought in the Battle of Bennington, three who were distinguished men: Josiah Bartlett, Jonas Galusha, and Jeremiah Clark.*

—Landlord Batchelder was favored with many notable guests the past week. Among them were Rev. S. M. Warren, Mrs McCollough and Miss Valentine of Bennington, Hon. Loveland Munson and wife and daughter of Washington, D. C. Mrs Draper is a sister of Rev. C. H. Merrill. They unexpectedly met Monday at the Stark Monument ceremonies. Mrs. Draper's impromptu speech will long be remembered. Here is a little matter of history applicable to the time. Aaron G. Draper and wife of Washington, D. C. had six among their ancestry in Bennington battle. Among the six were three who became distinguished men. These were Josiah Bartlett, the first governor of New Hampshire, the first to vote for and the first after Hancock to sign the Declaration of Independence; Jonas Galusha, the fifth governor of Vermont, who was elected to that office nine times; and **Jeremiah Clark**, a member of the council of safety, and first judge of Bennington County. In the latter capacity he passed sentence up on David Redding, the first man executed in Vermont. **Jeremiah Clark** also had a son only sixteen years old who fought in the battle of Bennington.

