

Elie Neau

May 2007

We are looking for:

References to Masse/Mercereau in

Histoire des Souffrances du sieur elieu neau

Of the gall et ch m

Abraham archer

Mdcci

P 99

*Histoire des Souffrances du Sieur Elie Neau*, at State Archives in La Rochelle, France contains info about Moeze and a list of "refugees from the vicinity. Here we find references to Elizabeth Dubois, widow of Jean Mercereau and Pierre Masse'." This record is the first source for the child Marie Masse.

Hug Soc of Am vol 1

The coll may have abridged it

1696? About France

*Elie Neau was captured by French Privateers, as was our Andre', but he was taken back into France, where he was held for five years in galleys, prisons, and dungeons. When pitied by his captors, he replied, "Sir, do not pity me, for could you but see the secret pleasures my heart experiences, you would think me happy."*

*"...we continued all four in the other pit for some time without seeing any light at all; but at last they gave us leave to have a lamp while we ate our vitals. The place being very damp, our clothes were rotten by this time; but God was pleased to have mercy upon me, ...and another of my fellow sufferers ...The Lord broke our fetters... We left two of our companions in that dreadful pit, and about 370 others on board the galleys, where they glorify the name of God with unparalleled courage and consistency."*

*After his release, he says he writes his account, "To comfort ...the faithful servants of Jesus Christ, and to confound the Emissaries of Satan, who would fain make the world believe that there is no persecution in France."*

David C. A. Agnew, *Protestant Exiles From France*, Vol 2 p 32-37

1704 before Sept NYC

*(Signatures of heads of families to decisions at death of Rev. Peiret)*

<i>L. Bongrand</i>	<i>Jean Barberie an.</i>
<i>Daniel guillard</i>	<i>Jean David acnien</i>
<i>Josué David</i>	<i>Paul Droilhet an.</i>
<i>Viencent Tillou</i>	<i>Auguste Jay anc.</i>
<i>Elie pelletreau</i>	<i>Elias neau ancn.</i>
<i>Jean perlier</i>	<i>P. nontels</i>
<i>Jean Le cheullier</i>	<i>Nicolas Jamain</i>
<i>Denis Richer</i>	<i>Estienne De lancey</i>
<i>Jean faget</i>	<i>André Lauran [Who???]</i>
<i>Jean Lafont</i>	<i>f. Viencent</i>
<i>Jean Calzalz</i>	<i>Augustus Grasset</i>
<i>J. garreaau</i>	<i>rené Foucaut</i>
<i>Thomas Bayeux</i>	<i>André Foucaut</i>
<i>Elias Boudinot</i>	<i>P Bontecou</i>
	<i>Daniel Nenard</i>
<i>Benjamin Dhariette</i>	<i>D. Jandin</i>
	<i>Abraham Giraud</i>
<i>Jean Magnon</i>	<i>Isaac Garnier</i>
	<i>P. Soumain</i>
	<i>Pierre Morin</i>
	<i>A. Bonin</i>

*The next entry says "Aujourd'uy dimanche dixieme de Septembre 1704, les chefs de fammille etant assemblés avec le consistoire Sont demeurés d'acord qu'on Eceiroit par la premiere ordinaire a monsieur Laborie pour luy demander s'il veut nous venir precher et administrer les Sacremens dans la Circonstanceou nous nous trouuons*

*(Signatures same – two colimns only and Josué david next to last of right...)*

*"New York French Church records, Staten Island, New York, 1694-1886  
LDS Film #509,193*

1704 June-Nov

*“Trinity Church, New York City. Elias Neau's Effort To Form A General Ministerial Society.  
1704, June - Nov.*

*“Dr. Berrian In his history of Trinity Church gives a lengthy account of this man. [Elias Neau] He was an Elder of the French Church Society for Propagating the Gospel, and finally was led to unite with the Episcopal Church. He tried to bring the different denominations in New York into some kind of union. In a letter to the Society, dated June 22, 1704, he says:*

*“The fine project, ... I took all the care imaginable, to reassemble our three Pastors, [Gualterus Du Bois, (Dutch); Pierre Peiret (French); Wm. Vesey, (English.)]*

*“... Mr. Neau and a few friends formed a little society, consisting of seven persons, of whom the French pastor, Rev. Pierre Peiret, was president, and they met every Wednesday in a kind of devotional conference. About this time Mr. Neau was appointed as Catechist by Lord Cornbury, ... Suspicions were entertained of Mr. Neau, as not in Sympathy with the spirit of the Church, ... On August 29, 1704, he wrote again to the Society, explaining the difficulty of his situation, inasmuch as if he proceeded with the work of Catechist, he would displease Mr. Vesey, while if he remained inactive, he would offend Lord Cornbury. However, the happy solution of the trouble came finally in his conforming to the Church of England. In explanation and defense of his cause, he wrote. Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1704, that he had performed his promise "to quit the employment of order (in the French Church) and 'tis now about ten days since I am entirely settled in the English Church, ... I have done it through a principle of conscience, because I find more comfort in celebrating the Mysteries in your Church and in Praying. I had learnt in my Dungeon part of ye English Liturgy by heart, by the means of a Bible which I hade there, and to which there was the Common Prayer Book annexed. I did my devotions therewith night and morning in my solitude. Thus, I beseech you and the whole Illustrious Society to believe that I have a very great affection for the Common Prayer, and that it shall not be my fault that the Church is not established everywhere according to the directions that shall be given me concerning It".*

*Ecclesiastical Records, State of NY, Hugh Hastings p 1552*

*[NOTE: Elias Neau's will written in 1722 mentions the following churches and ministers:*

*The Church of England, called Trinity Church*

*The French Church, being Refugees, residing in the city of New York -*

*Rev. Mr. Daniel Bondet, the present minister at New Rochelle*

*Rev. Lewis Row, minister of the French Congregation in New York*

*Rev. Mr. Thomas Pover, minister at Jamaica, on Nassau Island,*

*Rev. Mr. Jenny, Chaplain to the Forces at Fort George, in New York*

*Rev. Mr. William Vesey, Rector of Trinity Church*

*The will of Elie Neau, see 1722 Aug 15*

*“...the new refugees, who left the kingdom, whether immediately after the revocation or after the fall of James II, ... Massachusetts... New Oxford... Boston... The colony of New York was increased by so great a number of fugitives, that the French church of that city became for some time the metropolis of Calvinism in the New World.” P 334*

*M. Charles Weiss, History... French Protestant Refuge...Nantes- Our Day, vol 1*

*[Note: He was released on May 4, 1706. The capture & all must have happened before this time. Find out.]*

*Other interesting entries here include,*

*1706 Mar 30 “Rates of pilotage for New York harbor, .....p96”*

*1706 April 16 “Bond. Daniel Bondet, of New Rochelle and Elias Neau, of New York, in relation to certain warrants for his salary...” .....p 106*

*1706 April 17 “Order. Capt. Miles of H.M. Triton's Prize, to release one James Hawes, an impressed seaman,” ..... p 113*

*1706 May 1 “Order. Civil & military officers of the counties of Kings & Queens, to assist Richard Rogers, carpenter, of H.M. Triton's Prize, to arrest deserters, .....p125”]*

*1706 May 4 “Order for the discharge of **Andrew Lamarue**, capt. of a merchantman, impressed,” ....p 125*

*1706 June 9 “Order. Lieut. John Porson to go on board H.M. Triton's Prize, with a party of men,” ...p143*

*1706 June 10 “Order. Capt. Thomas Miles, to discharge Edward Craig & Roger Dousell, two seamen belonging to a sloop of Nicholas Craxton, of Pennsylvania, .... P 144*

*1706 Jun 24 “Letter. Secretaary Clarke to Capt. Miles, of H.M. Triton's Prize, relative to her supply of water,”*

*O'Callaghan, Edmund, Calendar of Historic Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N.Y.1664-1776 part II – page 345*

*Elie Neau was captured by French Privateers, as was our **Andre'**, about 10 years earlier, he was taken back into France, where he was held for five years in galleys, prisons, and dungeons. This very possibly might have happened to Andre' also. “...we continued all four in the other pit for some time without seeing any light at all; but at last they gave us leave to have a lamp while we ate our vitals. The place being very damp, our clothes were rotten by this time; but God was pleased to have mercy upon me, ...and another of my fellow sufferers ...The Lord broke our fetters... We left two of our companions in that dreadful pit, and about 370 others on board the galleys, where they glorify the name of God with unparalleled courage and consistency.”*

After his release, he says he writes his account, "To comfort ...the faithful servants of Jesus Christ, and to confound the Emissaries of Satan, who would fain make the world believe that there is no persecution in France."

David C. A. Agnew, *Protestant Exiles From France*, Vol 2 p 32-37

[Elie Neau left some money to Catherine Lamoreaux, a widow, in his will. WHY? He also paid her back money owed]

## 1704-1706 New York French Church- "Rev. Jacques Laborie,... His ministry in New York was of short

duration, extending over not quite two years, from October 16th, 1704, to August 25th, 1706.

His ecclesiastic views were not, apparently, satisfactory to his people, who "paid him his wages and discharged him."

During Mr. Laborie's brief ministry, nothing of special note occurred in the New York church; but during the four years' vacancy which ensued, the French, ... were accused for the second time of treason against their adopted country. A certain ... master of the sloop ... pretended to have found on board, during a voyage he made in the latter part of 1706, some letters written in French ... This story, industriously circulated, caused the French great harm; and they at once appointed a committee, composed of Etienne de Lancey, Augustus Jay, Elie Neau, Abraham Jouneau, [more] ... to petition the authorities carefully to inquire into the whole matter. ... Lord Cornbury consequently issued an order, taken in Council, fully exonerating our refugees from the accusation brought against them; but not, of course, before their good name had greatly suffered from the wide circulation of so base and absurd a slander." P xxxvi

Eglise Francoise a la Nouvelle york, Registers of the births, marriages, and deaths from 1688 to 1804; Rev Alferd V Wittmeyer

1706 - 1710 New York French Church- "Upon the departure of Mr. Laborie, the pastor of the French churches on Staten Island, the Rev. Mr. de Bonrepos served as supply until the arrival of the new minister. This was the Rev. Louis Rou, who officiated here for the first time on July 30th, 1710. p xxxvi

Eglise Francoise a la Nouvelle york, Registers of the births, marriages, and deaths from 1688 to 1804; Rev Alferd V Wittmeyer

1712 Aug 21 NY Will of Daniel Jandain (wife, Catherine Lamoureux) [born abt 1675] (Written in the French Language.) "Au Nom Du Pere, Du Fils et De St. Esprit, Amen I, DANIEL JANDIN, of New York, being sick.. I leave my body to be buried according to the wishes of my executors. After all debts are paid I leave all the remainder to my dear wife, Catharine Jandin, during her life, to enable her to bring up my children in the fear of the Lord, as a good mother such as she is, will do. And I make her executor.

(Names of children not given.)

Dated August 21, 1712. Witnesses, Jean Lapons, Alexander Moore, Elias Neau." Proved, April 1, 1717. [Born about 1675?]

Database: New York City Wills, 1706-90; At the Ancestry.com website

"New York City Wills, 1706 - 1790;" newly offered.:

From Isabelle Cluff, ilhc@home.com Found; 23 Aug 2000

1717 Apr 1 Will of Daniel Jandain (wife Catherine Lamoureux) is Proved. Therefore, he must be dead. [See 1712 Aug 21] (Written in the French Language.) Au Nom Du Pere, Du Fils et De St. Esprit, Amen. I, DANIEL JANDIN, of New York, being sick. I leave my body to be buried according to the wishes of my executors. After all debts are paid I leave all the remainder to my dear wife, Catharine Jandin, during her life, to enable her to bring up my children in the fear of the Lord, as a good mother such as she is, will do. And I make her executor. (Names of children not given.)

Dated August 21, 1712. Witnesses, Jean Lapons, Alexander Moore, Elias Neau.

Proved, April 1, 1717.

Isabelle Cluff" <ilhc@cox.net. - 3 Aug 2000

Ancestry.com, New York City Wills, 1706 - 1790

[Elias (Eli, Elies) Neau has been listed with the Lamoreaux family in other records He was captured in the West Indies, like André. But he was taken back into France and put in a dungeon for five years.]

Elie Neau Will - Listing reverends of churches in New York & New Rochelle -

Mentions Catherine Lamoreaux Jandien - Elie witnessed Catherine's husband's will.

Date	Place	Event & Source
1722 Aug 15	New York	"In the name of God, Amen. I, ELIAS NEAU, of New York, merchant, being sick. I give and bequeath to the Parish Church and Corporation of the Church of England, called Trinity Church, the sum of \$20. "I leave to the Poor of the French Church, being Refugees, residing in the city of New York, \$20. "I leave to Rev. Mr. Daniel Bondet, the present minister at New Rochelle, and to Rev. Lewis Row, minister of the French Congregation in New York, to each \$10. To Rev. Mr. Thomas Poyer,

minister at Jamaica, on Nassau Island, and to Rev. Mr. Jenny, Chaplain to the Forces at Fort George, in New York, to each Â£5.

“To the wife of Mr. Paul Droillet, and to Catharine Jandine, widow, each Â£3.

“To Andrew Ecert and Daniel Mercherow, both of Staten Island, and to Mary Magon, widow, and to Catharine Jandine, the balance due to me from them.

“To Mr. David Ayraut, of Rhode Island, merchant, Â£40.

“To the children of my sister Susanah, wife of John Girote, of Boston, Â£300.

“To the children of my sister Rachel, wife of John Petell, of Boston, Â£300.

“To Rachel, daughter of my sister, Susanah Girote, and to Susanah, daughter of my sister, Rachel Petell, each Â£30, and to her son Elias Girote, Â£40.

“I give the sum of Â£50 for and towards the printing of 152 Hymns, composed by myself; which said sum of money I desire may be deposited in the hands of Rev. Mr. Lewis Row, minister of the French Church in New York, for the better effecting, and printing said Hymns in the French Language.”

“I leave to Rev. Mr. William Vesev, Rector of Trinity Church, Â£25, and to Alexander Moore, of New York, Â£20, for their trouble in supervising this will.

“I leave all the rest of my estate to my loving cousin Elias Grefeller, and Jude Robineau, and I will them executors.

Dated, August 15, 1722 - Witnesses, Anthony Byvanck, Elisha Bonett, William Huddlestone.

Proved, September 17, 1722.

Isabelle Cluff" <ilhc@home.com, Wed, 6 Sep 2000,

Ancestry.com, Full Context of New York City Wills, 1708-28, Page 329

“I think the Daniel Mercherow is probably referring to Daniel Mersereau --- son of Jean or John Mersereau and Elizabeth Dubois. Though we know Catherine Lamoureux Jandine / Jandein was still living in 1723 (when she witnessed a will) --- this 1722 mentions her as a widow and refugee.”

Isabelle LH Cluff

Ancestry.com Database: Full Context of New York City Wills, 1708-28, p 329

“More on Catherine Jandine. Though we know Catherine Lamoureux Jandine / Jandein was still living in 1723 (when she witnessed a will) --- this 1722 mention of her as a widow and refugee is exciting I think.” [Isabelle Cluff]

I think the Daniel Mercherow is probably referring to Daniel Mersereau --- son of Jean or John Mersereau and Elizabeth Dubois. Elie Neau was the witness for Catherine's husband's will. It appears he was forgiving a debt or borrowed or invested money??? As well leaving 3 pounds???

Catherine Jandine & Daniel Mersereau.

[NOTE: The ministers of all the French Churches & others are listed in this will.

Elias Neau's will mentions the following churches and ministers:

The Church of England, called Trinity Church

The French Church, being Refugees, residing in the city of New York -

Rev. Mr. Daniel Bondet, the present minister at New Rochelle

Rev. Lewis Row, minister of the French Congregation in New York

Rev. Mr. Thomas Poyer, minister at Jamaica, on Nassau Island,

Rev. Mr. Jenny, Chaplain to the Forces at Fort George, in New York

Rev. Mr. William Vesev, Rector of Trinity Church

[If we could find their records we might have a more complete record of our family. akrc]

Date Place  
1722 Sept 17 NY

Event & Source

Elie Neau Will, Proved, September 17, 1722. Dated, August 15, 1722

Isabelle Cluff" <ilhc@home.com, Wed, 6 Sep 2000,

Ancestry.com, Full Context of New York City Wills, 1708-28, Page 329

“After Mr. Peiret's death, Governor Cornbury endeavored to have the church conform, and Mr. Laborie's dismissal was probably due to his sympathy with his protector's efforts in that direction. The same cause, ... was at the root of the difficulties which arose during Mr. Rou's ministry; and, ... Mr. Carle, ..., finally resigned in 1764, because the church refused to conform. Nor was this predilection for the Church of England confined to the ministers of the church... the saintly Neau, whose self-denying work among the Negroes and the Indians should never be forgotten, was an elder in the French church before he became catechist of New York; ... in Trinity parish”

Eglise Francoise a la Nouvelle york, Registers of the births, marriages, and deaths from 1688 to 1804; Rev Alferd V Wittmeyer

“As the violence of persecution increased in France, other Huguenots sought refuge in the Antilles, Among these, in 1679, came Elie Neau...” left his home in Soubise, in Saintonge, at the age of 18. “He spent several years in the Dutch & French islands of the West Indies.”

Charles W. Baird, History of the Huguenot Emigration to America, p 213

Histoire des Souffrances du Sieur Elie Neau, at State Archives in La Rochelle, France, copied and translated by Kimball S Erdman.. Contains info about Moeze. Lists Elizabeth Dubois, widow of Jean Mercereau also Pierre Massé