

SIMSBURY

Genealogical and Historical Research Library

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The Eno Family from Their Origins in France to the Present Part II: Into the 20th Century

In Part I, we shared the unpublished typescript of Abigail Eno Ellsworth's records compiled between 1940 and 1947.¹ Her records, along with those of Henry Lane Eno, gave us the full story of the earliest recorded lives of the family as they moved from France/Belgium to England and finally to America in 1648. We ended with Jonathan and Mary Eno who were the first in the family to settle on the family farm which they bought from John Case in 1774. This house still stands at 12 Eno Place. The farm stayed in the family for five more generations – from father to son – until it was sold in 1960. In this article we will follow the owners of the farm as well as the branch that left Simsbury and became known as the “New York branch.”

Jonathan and Mary Eno had nine children. The two we will follow are Chauncey, who became a deacon of the Congregational Church, and Salmon.

Deacon Chauncey Eno (December 19, 1782 – January 13, 1845)

Chauncey Eno was the eighth child and upon the death of his father in 1813, he bought the homestead and farm from the rest of the heirs. Deacon Chauncey moved into the farm house with his family, which included his mother Mary until her death in 1834, his wife Amrille Case (February 12, 1788/9 – August 22, 1860) and their five children. They lived and worked as so many of the farming families of the early 1800s. They were successful in this business and continued to enlarge the size of the farm with purchases of more acreage in the north end of Simsbury.

Deacon Chauncey was a deeply religious man and very active in the affairs of the church – as implied by the Deacon title he used during his life and which is on his tombstone in Simsbury Cemetery. During his life he witnessed the construction of the third church building which replaced the second church, erected in 1743 but outgrown by 1830. His oldest son Elizur Hart Eno is said to have driven the

About the Author

Jackson F. Eno, a Simsbury native, has always been an avid collector of family histories and Simsbury memorabilia. He noted recently that he is fortunate to have had several great aunts who had lived with some of the people featured in his two-part article. When he was younger, they would tell him stories about Simsbury and their families. He drew upon his fond memories of those stories and his collections of pictures and writings for this brief account of some of the Simsbury and New York Enos.

Mr. Eno has been involved with many not-for-profit organizations. Currently he is in his thirty-third year as president of the Simsbury Cemetery Association and he is the longest-serving board member of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. He is also a director of the Simsbury Main Street Partnership. His professional career has been in banking and investments. He was the lead organizer and chairman of the organizing board of The Simsbury Bank and Trust (now Director Emeritus) and presently a vice president of Morgan Stanley.

family oxen to help move the sandstone blocks for the foundation and cornerstone of the third church building. This is the building that is on the hill now (with alterations and additions which have occurred in the past 180 years).

Dea. Chauncey was very close to Rev. Samuel Stebbins who led the church for approximately twenty-nine years between 1777 and 1806. When Rev. Stebbins died his widow was in need of funds, so Dea. Chauncey purchased the desk and secretary used by Rev. Stebbins. One can only wonder about all those sermons written at that desk. One can also visualize Dea. Chauncey going to the Stebbins farm in Weatogue with his wagon to pick up the desk from the Widow Stebbins and hauling it north on the rutted dirt road past the church to the Eno farm. The desk stayed at the Eno farm until 1957 and it is still in the family today.

Dea. Chauncey was a member of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1828 and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in Simsbury in 1834. Dea. Chauncey died on January 13, 1845, and his wife Amrille lived in the farmhouse with her son Elizur and his family until her death on August 22, 1860. Rev. Allen McLean, pastor of the church from 1809 to 1861, wrote of Dea. Chauncey in his diary:

He was a good man and full of faith and the Holy Ghost. It was difficult to find anything to allege against his moral or religious character. He knew very well when to speak and when to be silent. He could govern his tongue. He was a peace maker. He was a wise adviser. He was correct and decided in his religious principals. He would not leave his post of duty. He could keep a secret. You might tell him all your heart and he would never betray you. He was a fast friend to his Minister. He was gifted in prayer. He used the office of a Deacon well. During the whole progress of his Christian life he let his light shine. When he died a strong pillar in the Church fell. God grant that his sons may fill the vacancy in the visible Church of Christ, which has been made by his departure.²

My great-great grandfather Elizur Hart Eno was the oldest of Chauncey and Amrille's five children. He was born November 7, 1809, and he married Sarah Elizabeth Tuller on May 24, 1848. Upon the death of his father, Elizur purchased the farm and homestead from the other heirs and his mother Amrille lived with him until her death in 1860. Elizur and Sarah Elizabeth had two children, my great grandfather Chauncey Hart Eno and Frances A. Eno Welch.

A wonderful description of Elizur comes from Abigail Eno Ellsworth's reminiscences:

Grandma Eno, Sarah Elizabeth Tuller, must have been plain looking when young, but in her mature days she was a fine dignified looking woman of great strength of character. She was 28 and Grandpa Eno was 38 when they were married and at that time a girl was considered practically an old maid at 18. She delighted in telling the following story on herself. An elderly cousin always visited her home once a year and on arrival would never fail to remark, "Well Elizabeth not married yet. But if you get a good husband you will be paid for waiting, and if you get a poor one, you will have long enough to live with him." Grandma would always add, "I was paid for waiting for your grandfather Eno was one of the finest men who ever lived." Grandma's opinion of him seems to have been borne out by his townsmen for he was considered one of the foremost men in town both in church and town affairs. He was a handsome man over six feet tall with blue eyes and fair skin.³

Abby Ellsworth added this about her grandmother, "In the days of my childhood there were no professional nurses available in the small communities and families had to depend upon neighbors and friends to help care for the sick. I remember so well how often Grandma was called upon to perform the

neighborly kindness of sitting up nights with the sick and the dying. She was a blessed Samaritan and a veritable tower of strength to those in trouble and sorrow. She earned the undying gratitude of many for her never failing kindness.”⁴

Chauncey Hart Eno (February 19, 1849 – August 12, 1926) purchased the farm when his father died (January 16, 1883) and he and his wife Martha Abigail Goodrich Eno (April 10, 1850 – April 27, 1922) moved into the farmhouse with his mother Sarah who lived with them until 1902 when she went to live with her daughter Frances who had married Peter A. Welch of New York. Sarah died March 19, 1921 at 101+!

Abigail Ellsworth said this about her father, my great grandfather:

Chauncey Hart Eno was a prosperous New England farmer who took great pride in his herd of cows and oxen which he always exhibited in competition at the Simsbury Country Fair, held annually in October, but his special love was for good horses. Besides the farm horses, he had a span of prancing carriage horses which could be used singly or as a pair. He was a stalwart Republican and a man of great influence in all town affairs and frequently held Town offices and was elected to the State Legislature many times. He had more than the average New Englander’s love of politics and was always in the midst of every election fight. Feelings would run high and bitter for a few weeks every fall, but after election all was smooth and friendly again.⁵

Chauncey and Martha, who was called Mattie, had five children: Frank Hart Eno, Grace A. Eno Cadwell, Helen (called Nellie) Eno Carver, Jonathan E. Eno and Abigail G. Eno (Curtiss) Ellsworth. My grandfather was Jonathan (July 7, 1878 – July 25, 1930), who married on June 26, 1901 Georgia Colton Fancher (November 9, 1878 – September 17, 1957).

Jonathan E. Eno was a Spanish-American War veteran. He became a farmer and held many state and local positions. He was appointed head of statewide enforcement of prohibition in the 1920s. When his father Chauncey Hart Eno died, it was Jonathan’s son Chauncey Hart Eno II who purchased the farm and homestead from all the heirs. He did this because his father was not well at the time and died less than four years later. So the ownership of the farm skipped a generation. Jonathan’s widow Georgia lived in the homestead until her death in 1957. During that time, the tobacco business was sold and many of the easily developable parcels were sold or developed into housing because Simsbury after World War II began to change from a farming community to a bedroom community of Greater Hartford.

After Georgia died the remaining farmland and the homestead were sold out of the family in 1960. Chauncey II never was a farmer and after his graduation from Yale in 1926 he moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he founded an insurance business. His brothers Jonathan Jr. and Ralph (my father), who



Photo courtesy of Jackson F. Eno

The Eno Farm at 12 Eno Place in 1888

This road was part of the main road through town before Route 10 (Hopmeadow Street) was diverted to the west.

lived in Simsbury, did not wish to purchase the homestead from their brother – thus ending almost 200 years of Eno family ownership of this home.

Salmon Eno (December 13, 1779 – April 3, 1842)

Salmon Eno was the father of the New York branch of the family. He was the second son and seventh child of Jonathan and Mary (Hart) Eno. He was a member of the Connecticut Legislature in 1834. He lived first in the house of Mr. Colton just east of the railroad near Hoskins Station, now 14 St. John's Place. It was in this house that Amos Richards Eno was born. Afterwards Salmon lived in the house which he bought from Joseph Humphrey, 987 Hopmeadow Street today. This house was later occupied by his son Salmon Chester Eno, called Chester.⁶

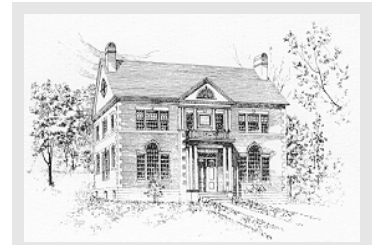
On June 2, 1805, Salmon married Mary Richards (September 29, 1785 – September 29, 1883) of New Britain, Connecticut. Salmon held many public offices during his lifetime: surveyor of highways, fence viewer and lister, assessor, selectman, grand juror, visitor of schools, and member of the board of relief. In 1840 Salmon and Mary moved to New Britain to the 100-acre Aaron Roberts' farm which Mary had inherited. In 1844 (after the death of her husband) Mary deeded the Roberts farm to her daughter and son-in-law, Emeline and Ozias B. Bassett. Mary then moved to a house on Washington Street in New Britain and was one of the most loved and honored persons in the town. Mary and Salmon had six children Emeline Eno Bassett, Aaron Roberts Eno, Amos Richards Eno, Salmon Chester Eno, Mary A. Eno Humphrey and Lydia Jane Eno (Lewis) Barber.⁷

Amos Richards Eno (November 1, 1810 – February 21, 1898)

Amos R. Eno was a farmer boy on the home place until his sixteenth year, and his schooling was acquired altogether in his native town. At the age of sixteen, he went to Hartford, Connecticut, as a clerk where he learned the dry-goods trade. He returned to Simsbury and opened a store at Hoskins Station and did a thriving business. In 1833 he established the firm of Eno & Phelps in New York City with his cousin, John J. Phelps. The firm was successful and it was there that he laid the foundation of his eventual twenty-five million dollar fortune.

In Simsbury on April 14, 1835, Amos Eno married Lucy Jane Phelps, daughter of Elisha and Lucy (Smith) Phelps. Lucy was born November 1, 1818, in Simsbury. Amos and Lucy settled in New York City. The partnership with his cousin was dissolved and he organized the firm of Eno, Mahony & Co. He began to purchase real estate and his interests in that direction became so large that in 1857 he gave up the dry-goods business entirely.

He was a daring buyer, but it was seldom that he made a venture which did not have a successful ending. In 1859 he conceived and put into operation the idea of building the Fifth Avenue Hotel, although it was considered at that time that the site was so far up-town as to render it impossible that a hotel there should pay. When the building was begun, it was generally known as Eno's folly. The risk was thought to be a tremendous one, but nevertheless the building was finally completed and opened as



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the leading hotel of New York City.

He was one of the founders of the Second National Bank of New York, which had its offices on the first floor of the hotel. When in 1884 the announcement was made that the bank was about to fail on account of private speculations made by his son John C. Eno, its president, he prevented its failure by the payment of every obligation in full, amounting to over three million dollars. Most of this was from his personal funds, including a new mortgage on the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

For many years he and Lucy lived in a house at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Twenty-Seventh Street. After the death of his wife's father, Elisha Phelps, he purchased her family's property on Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury. They spent their summers there when they were not abroad.

He was always interested in the affairs of Simsbury, and was ever ready to give to any cause he considered worthy. He established and endowed the Simsbury Free Library. He bought a large farm and gave it to the town as a home for the town's poor. John S. Ellsworth (son of Lemuel S. Ellsworth and resident later in his life of Folly Farm) once recalled that, when he was growing up across the street from the Amos Eno home, he was involved in the formation of a baseball league in Simsbury. He needed funds to purchase equipment for this new game and his father suggested that he visit Amos Eno for a donation. When he went to the Eno house, he was escorted to a front sitting room where he explained his need to Mr. Eno. The response was, "How much do you need?" The answer was, "Four dollars." J. S. Ellsworth then said that Mr. Eno opened a drawer in a table that was filled with bills and removed the needed capital to found the baseball league.

Amos Eno was a natural student and keen observer, and taught himself through constant reading. Every hour not devoted to business was passed in study, which afforded him the greatest pleasure possible. The languages especially appealed to his taste, French and Italian being his favorites. He read French with great fluency.

Lucy died March 4, 1882, and in his later years he moved to Simsbury permanently. At that point extensive renovations transformed the old farm house, making it an elegant country retreat. Additions created more room for visitors and servants. The house would be further improved later when his daughter Antoinette took possession of the property after his death. Shortly before his death, Amos Eno established a New York City home at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Tenth Street, where he died February 21, 1898.⁸

One of my favorite quotes from Amos is in his letter to the trustees of the Simsbury Free Library dated January 28, 1890, where he explains his gift of the library to the people of the Town of Simsbury.



Photo courtesy of Jackson F. Eno

Amos R. Eno in front of 731 Hopmeadow Street

Taken in 1890 on Mr. Eno's 80th birthday, this picture shows the house just before his renovations and additions. Later it was occupied by his daughter Antoinette Eno Wood and it is now the Simsbury 1820 House.

“The boy who goes barefooted in youth seldom goes barefooted in old age. The frozen dew that tingles his feet as he winds his way to the pasture in the autumn morning will stir his blood, but will never vitiate it.”

Amos and Lucy had nine children:

1. Amos F. Eno (June 13, 1836 - October 21, 1915) never married. He served in the Civil War on the staff of his uncle General John Phelps of Missouri, retiring with the rank of Colonel. He followed in his father's footsteps with real estate in New York City and when he died his gift of the majority of his estate to Columbia University caused a huge controversy in the family that took years to settle.
2. Mary Jane Eno Pinchot (September 23, 1838 - August 25, 1914) married James Wallace Pinchot. They had three children, Gifford who was born in Simsbury in the family's summer home (now the Simsbury 1820 House); Antoinette Eno Pinchot, who married to Sir Alan Johnstone and moved to England; and Amos Richards Eno Pinchot, a graduate of Westminster School and father of Rosamond Pinchot. She is the subject of Bibi Gaston's recent book *The Loveliest Woman in America*.
3. Anna Maria Eno (February 26, 1839 - March 25, 1884) never married.
4. Henry Clay Eno (October 28, 1840 - July 16, 1914) married Cornelia Lane and had one son, Henry Lane Eno. Henry Clay Eno was a physician and served in the Civil War as a medical cadet. He practiced his profession in New York City until 1882.
5. Antoinette Eno Wood (January 20, 1842 - January 11, 1930) married Charles B. Wood (Wood Brothers Carriage manufacturers of New York gave President Lincoln the carriage he rode in to Ford's Theater as a gift for his second inauguration.) “Nettie” gave generously, through her will, to many organizations. She left the Town of Simsbury the Eno Memorial Hall in memory of her parents and she left to every Eno girl who was given the name Antoinette \$25,000!
6. Salmon Elisha Eno (July 26, 1846 - February 19, 1847).
7. John Chester Eno (January 22, 1848 - February 28, 1914) was awarded the Wooden Spoon by his class at Yale as the most popular member of the class. He married Harriet Andrews Christmas and they had three children: Florence Christmas (Eno) Graves; Mary Pinchot (Eno) Steffanson, whose husband was a Titanic survivor; and Antoinette Wood Eno.
8. Lucy Phelps Eno (October 9, 1849 - August 6, 1851).
9. William Phelps Eno (June 3, 1858 - December 3, 1945) married (1) Alice Rathbone, (2) Alberta Paz. William devoted his life to traffic regulation and founded the Eno Foundation for Transportation. His early writings and awards are now in the Simsbury Free Library. He published (among other things) the first rules of the road for driving and developed the highway rotary and traffic signal towers.

Each of Amos and Lucy's children had very successful lives and contributed much to society. Their grandchildren did also. Gifford Pinchot's famous saying when he graduated from Yale was “I've inherited my life's wages so now it is time to earn them”. He did as the founder of the U.S. Forestry Department and twice governor of Pennsylvania. Much has been written on this branch of the Eno family and can easily be researched by those wishing to learn more of their significant contributions. With the exception of Mary Pinchot, all of Amos and Lucy's children are buried in the Eno mausoleums in Simsbury Cemetery.

By Jackson F. Eno

SGHRL Updates

Richard Curtiss, chairman of the Simsbury High School Social Studies Department, and a contingent of history students have been meeting in the library on Tuesdays and Fridays all summer to work on a film about the two summers that Martin Luther King Jr. spent with fellow Morehouse College students working in tobacco in town. The students have filmed interviews with a number of longtime residents and have uncovered a most interesting period of Simsbury's history.

We all hope you will come to their program on Saturday, September 11, when the students and many of the participants will discuss their findings and the progress of their project. Please see the back cover for details.



The program on the Eno family that Jackson Eno presented in the library on May 15 is now being shown on the Simsbury Community Television Web site: www.simsburytv.org. Click on "videos" to access the program. Anyone who enjoyed his article that concludes in this newsletter will certainly want to view his hour-long talk, illustrated with abundant and rare family photographs. Special thanks, also, to Trustee T.J. Donohue who took a group photo of the Eno and Phelps family members who were present.



Everyone at the library is most grateful for the many donations of research materials received during the past few months:

- *The Biography of John Carey, an Ohio Pioneer* by Muriel Kinney and Carol Kinney Grimes. Donated by Carol Kinney Grimes.
- *The Eno Family and Reminiscences* by Abigail Eno Ellsworth. Donated by Jackson F. Eno.
- *The Genealogy of the Descendants of John Clough of Salisbury, Massachusetts* (revised 2009), 2 vols., compiled and edited by Sheila C. Anderson. Donated by Celia Ann Roberts.
- *Giff and Stiff in the South Seas* by Gifford Bryce Pinchot. Donated by Dr. Lawrence Carlton. This book was written by Gifford Pinchot's son about the same trip described by his father in *To the South Seas* (see the Summer 2010 issue). Dr. Carlton's uncle gave him this book when he was a boy.
- *Historic and Architectural Resources Inventory for the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut* compiled by Lucas A. Karmazinas for the East Westogue Historic District Commission and funded by the Commission on Culture and Tourism. Donated by Lucas Kamazinas (Introduction only, listing all Ensign Bickford company houses studied, 60 pages on CD.)
- *The Le Roy ~ Mangan Genealogy: The Ancestry of Jane Gates, Elizabeth Everts and Robert Otis Le Roy* compiled by Newbold Le Roy. Donated by the Newbold Le Roy. This study goes back twenty-one generations from the author's children and includes both their paternal and maternal lines.
- *Simsbury - A Sense of its People & Places* compiled by Tom Ayres (on a CD). Donated by Tom Ayres. This study includes information both published and unpublished from many sources.

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1. Abigail Eno Ellsworth, "The Eno Family and Reminiscences," 1947. Unpublished typescript.
 2. Ibid., 13. "Stories Found in the Records of Rev. Allen McLean," a typed transcription by Ruth Cost Duncan, also contains this passage on pages 11-12.
 3. Ellsworth, 22-23.
 4. Ibid., 23-24.
 5. Ibid., 18-19.
 6. Henry Lane Eno, *The Eno Family: New York Branch* (Princeton: By the author, 1920), 26.

Did you know....

....Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spent two summers in Simsbury?

To learn more join us as Simsbury High School history students, under the guidance of Social Studies Chairman Richard Curtiss, tell us about researching and producing a documentary film about the two summers that Martin Luther King Jr. spent with a group of Morehouse College students earning money for their education by picking tobacco in Simsbury.

Last year the students produced the well-received documentary about the 1878 Tariffville Train Wreck. The library strongly supports these talented young people and their efforts to delve into Simsbury's rich history.

Please come and participate in this fascinating discussion.

Saturday, September 11, 2010

11:00 A.M.

At the library

Free and open to all.

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