

SIMSBURY

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The Eno Family From Their Origins in France to the Present **Part I: The Late Middle Ages to the Early 19th Century**

The first of this two-part series is taken verbatim from “The Eno Family and Reminiscences of Abigail Eno Ellsworth.” This unpublished typescript of records compiled by Mrs. Ellsworth between 1940 and 1947 has been donated to the Simsbury Free Library by Jackson F. Eno. Mrs. Ellsworth (1879-1964) was Mr. Eno’s great aunt. In the second part of the series, Mr. Eno will recount the stories and records that he has compiled about his family.

Origin of the Eno Family

The following records were compiled by Henry Lane Eno, Professor at Princeton University.¹

The name is spelled variously – Henne, de Henne, Hennot, Henno and later in America Eno, Enos. It was not spelled Eno until about 1700. Some of James Enno’s descendants still spell the name Enos.

The first of the name of whom we have authentic record was Collard Henno of Mons, Capitoul of the Ancient [county] of Hainault, Belgium, whose presence at the reception of Burghers in Valenciennes, France, is given in the Registry of Burghers of that city, Feb. 7, 1463.² These records are supported by the Threadneedle Street Church Records, published by the Huguenot Immigration Society of London and extracts from documents relating to the Huguenot immigration of the 16th and 17th centuries in the British Museum.

The Henno Coat of Arms following, are certified by the Public Librarian at Valenciennes, and by the aldermen on April 6, 1903, and stamped with the seal of the Public Library, seal of the City and the seal of the French Government: “Azure, a chevron argent, two estoiles d’ or in chief, crescent argent in point.”

Jacques Henne, son of Collard Henno married (–) Pesquier. She was the daughter of Nicholas Pesquier, Bailiff of Gand. Gand is French for Ghent. He is given as father-in-law of Jacques Henne in the will of Pesquier’s nephew Francois Pesquier.

Feb. 1, 1463: At the Reception of the Burghers at the City of Valenciennes, Collard Henne of Mons is mentioned as the father of Jacques.

1466-P-10 Do; M.S.S 550-757, Library of Valenciennes. “Magistrates of the City of Valenciennes:” Jacques Henne was Alderman (échevin) of Valenciennes.³

1480-Do-He was Prévôt (Royal Governor)

1491-Do-was again Alderman

The children of Jacques Henne and (–) Pesquier were Jean and Francois. (No other mentioned.) Jean de Henne married Isabel Jeanne Caille.

1536-1539 – P.10.Do; M.S.S. 530-767 Library of Valenciennes Magistrates: Jean is here listed as Alderman of the City of Valenciennes.

1542-Do. He was again elected Alderman.

Sept. 23, 1547. His brother, Francois, makes a will naming Jean Henne as son of Jacques Henne.

Isabel Jeanne Caille in her will of Sept. 13, 1559, names Jean Henne as her deceased husband. Archives of Valenciennes 1559.

Their only child mentioned is Lt. Jacques De Henne, who married Jeanne Doye.

1540-P.10.Do: Archives of Valenciennes – Jacques Henne's father-in-law is given as Antoine Doye, Receiver of Gommegines.

1549-March 19-P.10-Do; Archives of Valenciennes – Jacques de Henne, in a bill of sale of this date, is mentioned as the son of the late Jehan Henne and Isabel Guaille.

1560-1561.P.10.Do: M.S.S. 550-767; Jacques de Henne, like his father, was Alderman of the City of Valenciennes. His father-in-law is given as Antoine Doye. Receiver of Gommegines.

1566-Do: Was Alderman again.

1577-Do; Here he appears as "Treize Homme."

Valenciennes became a headquarters of Huguenot strength especially about this time. It is on the border of Belgium about 25 miles from Mons where Collard Henno, great grandfather of Jacques de Henne lived. "Jacques was lieutenant of the guard formed by the Huguenot citizens of Valenciennes to resist the Spaniards; and who, after the capture of the Town fled to England toward the end of the 16th century." "Jacques Hennot," says the record, "late lieutenant of the military guard of Valenciennes, surrendered twice at Tournai, the first time with Guy de Bres (the celebrated Huguenot Preacher, executed there in 1567); the second time after the death of the latter. He was then taken under guard toward Lisle, but escaped through the intervention of a band of Huguenot horsemen, after which escape all trace of him was lost by the authorities. He was pursued by order of Theodore Cresia, commandant of the Italian Cavalry (under the Duke of Alva) who gave instructions to capture the body of Jacques Hennot wherever he might be found, promising an honorable sum to anyone who should deliver him dead, or a double amount if the said Hennot should be delivered alive." (Confiscations et ordonnances concernant les troubles survenus á la fin du VXi Siècle – Royal Archives, Brussels) where, also, is found the decree confiscating all the lands and goods of said Jacques Hennot, and branding him as an outlaw."

"The next trace of him is in the documents of the British Museum relating to the religious wars of Flanders. There among the names is found that of Jacques Hennot, late lieutenant of the military guard at Valenciennes. This Jacques Hennot settled in an English Province. His son John, however, repaired to London, where we find the record in the archives of the Threadneedle Street Church of the baptism of James Hennot, son of John Hennot, on August 21, 1625. This last-named James Hennot is inscribed in the Historical Record of the British Museum as having left London for North America in 1648. – See Archives Threadneedle Street Church, Vol. II, 1576-1625. State papers, etc.,: 32091-32096 (from 1086 to 1760) and especially from 1571-1624, British Museum M.S.S."

It is interesting to note that from Collard Henno, who named his son Jacques, the names of Jacques and Jean alternated in each generation until they reached England when the English equivalent James and John was adopted. The James who came to America named his two sons born in Windsor [Connecticut] James and John. The name James continued through several generations, four and possibly longer. My line is James I, James II, David, Jonathan, Chauncey, Elizur, Chauncey, Abigail

Goodrich Enno.⁴

1657, Oct. 10, Vol. I, P. 879 Stiles Windsor: In Rev. Mr. Grant's record "the wife of James Enno" is recorded as one of nine persons to die in Windsor in the year 1657.⁵ On August 18, 1648, James Enno married "the widow Anna Bidwell." She was probably the widow of Richard Bissell who died in Windsor, on December 25, 1647. Eight months later she became the wife of James Enno and they had nine years of wedded life together. We have no knowledge of her age.

1646.P.8 The Historical Records of the British Museum relating to the religious wars of Flanders are inscribed with the note that James Hennot left London, England for North America in 1648. The inscription on a stone in the old Windsor, Ct. burying ground gives the date 1646 which is more probable all things considered.

1648-Vol. I-P. 878 Stiles: In the old Church Record of Windsor, among the deaths reported in 1648, is the item: "James Enno's two children." This record is proof that James Enno had been married before his marriage to Anna Bidwell the same year. As to who the wife was we do not know but the fact that he was married in England and had two children born there, is strongly evidenced by the notation of [] Matthew Grant in 1677 to the effect that James Enno had had but three children born in Windsor. They were his children by his wife Anna Bidwell.

In 1648 the Land Records of Windsor show that James Enno bought several tracts of land among them a house on Silver Street, which in 1859 was occupied by Samuel Enno a direct descendent, and known as "The Old Enno Place." James Enno evidently kept up the family tradition of holding public office as shown in the old Valenciennes Record, for in 1652 there is a record, "Peter Tilton and James Ennowes were chosen constables for ye yeare ensueing." In 1657 – "James Enno serves on the Jury in Hartford today;" in the next three years he is chosen for Jury duty five times, also in 1674. In 1669, James Eanno is on the freeman's census for Windsor, the only Enno on it. Here are the total freeman of a few towns: Hartford 118, New Haven 91, Wethersfield 58, Windsor 113.

1664, Oct. 17-Vol. I, P.194 Stiles Windsor: James Enno is one of seven to petition the General Court for privilege, as members of the established Church of England, to have children baptized or else pay no rates to the minister. This protest led to the resumption of the half-way covenant in the Windsor Church which had in March 1663-64 been abandoned. The original of this petition is in the State Library at Hartford.

Evidently the lot of the members of the Episcopal Church was not always easy for in 1673 (Vol. I, P. 207 Stiles), James Enno, Sr. is one of 36 to petition the "Governor and Counsell" for relief from the "spirite of bitterness boyling in the breste of some of thos in the old Congregation heare in Windsore." His sons James and John also sign with him.

1666, April, Vol. 1, P. 127 Stiles: James Enno and John Moses purchased from Nassahegon, Sachem of Poquonnos, land on both sides of the rivulet from Windsor to Massaco. (Old name of Simsbury) This tract contained some 28,000 acres and was confirmed to them in Dec. 1669 by Rippaquam and Seacet. The same year Enno and Moses released this purchase to the Town of Windsor, whose agents they were and received lands situated under the Simsbury mountain above Salisbury plain near the river, and known as Tilton Marsh.

James was evidently a man of importance in Windsor for there are many references to him in the Windsor Records. He died June 11, 1682 at the age of 57, 2 years after his marriage to his fourth wife. The inventory of his estate was 279 Pounds 4 Shillings, a large sum in those days.

James Eno, Jr.

1674-75, January 16, Vol. 1, P. 10 Town Votes⁶: “Given at the Towne meeting of ye inhabitants of Simsbury to James Eno, his heirs and assigns forever, foure acres of land on the west syd of his marsh joyning to ye other upland given by the Towne to his father.” Thus before the age of 23, James Jr. was beginning to acquire property, his interests extending into Simsbury, 10 miles west of Windsor. He acquired much land both through purchase and through gifts and inheritance from his father. He was a man of sound judgement as well as a man of property.

1705, May Vol. 1, P. 225 Stiles: James Enno is one of eleven petitioners, who believe themselves “sole survivors of the Swamp fight” asking for a grant of land for services in King Phillip’s war, 1675.

James Eno, Jr. died July 16, 1714, and was buried in the old burying ground at Windsor where a white marble stone shows his service in King Philip’s war. His wife, Abigail Bissell, lived 14 years longer and was buried in Simsbury. His estate inventoried at 642 Pounds 7 Shillings.

David Eno

David Eno, son of James Jr., was the youngest of nine children all born in Windsor. David was born August 12, 1702, and was only 12 when his father died. It is probable that he was brought up in the homestead in Windsor and lived there until he married Mary Gillett of Simsbury Oct. 20, 1726.

James Eno, Jr. willed property in Simsbury to his sons William and John and it is probable that one of them built the large Colonial house on the east side of the Mountain, on the old road from Simsbury to Windsor, that runs just below the mountain for several miles after crossing the mountain at Terry’s Plain. The house though old and in poor condition still stands (1940). David was willed land in Windsor, but when he married Mary Gillett he bought the property on Hopmeadow Street where the Catholic Church and Mrs. Edson Curtiss’ house now stand (1940), and built a house that remained standing until about 1885.⁷

1729, March 2[4] – Vol. III, P.4, T.V.⁸ – David Enos is one of nine citizens of Simsbury, “observing sundry eregular and unjust votes, acts and proceedings” in giving away common and undivided lands, who now protest against such practice.” He was thus one of the early advocates of “Conservation of Natural Resources.”⁹

1745, June. Vol. II, P. 242 Stiles: David Eno lays down his life for his country in the Cape Breton campaign [1745]. He died intestate at the age of 43. In this campaign Louisbourg, the French stronghold was captured by New England Colonists fighting for England in The French and English Wars.

1746 Sept. 1, Vol. XV P. 60, Probate Court Hartford, “An inventory of the estate of David Eno of Symsbury Deceased, as delivered to us the Subscribers being under oath.”

This consisted of sundry articles of house and farm for the sum of 80 Pounds 11 Shillings. The real estate was not listed but evidently there was considerable of it for the bond required of the administrators was 400 Pounds.

He left six children of whom my ancestor Jonathan was the 5th child. He was born March 15, 1738/9 and was seven years old when his father died. He was 21 when his mother Mary Gillett died.



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There were three boys in the family and it is notable that, though their father died in war, they all became military officers. General Roger Enos, Lt. David and Captain Jonathan Eno. His mother did not remarry and when she died in 1760 the Simsbury home was probably continued by one of the older sons. Jonathan went to New Britain where his sister and her family were living. There he met and married Mary Hart, daughter of Deacon Elijah Hart, on January 7, 1764/5. New Britain was at this time a part of Farmington.

1765, April 14, P. 127 Andrews¹⁰: Jonathan Eno and his wife of three months “owned the covenant” in the New Britain church. They attended church there for nine years, then took letters to the Simsbury Church.

1774, April 27, Vol. 12, P. 56 L.R. [Land Records] Simsbury: “I John Case for the consideration of Four Hundred ninety two pounds, lawfull money to me in hand paid – Received to my full satisfaction of Jonathan Eno of Farmington ----. Thirty three acres more or less, containing My Dwelling House, Garden and other improvements, with the Privelege of a Pathway to my well on the west side of the Highway, and of Drawing water with me and my family during the continuance of Said Well, Dated 27th April in the 14th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Third of Great Britain and etc. --- King --- Anno Domini 1774.”

This land, and buildings, was situated in Simsbury “between Westover’s Plain and Hopmeadow bounded East on the river and westerly on the Highway.”---To this he added much land by additional purchases. In the same volume his purchases show 1074 Pounds paid for five pieces of land. At the time of his death in 1813, the inventory of his Estate showed 225 acres.

This house that Jonathan Eno bought stands on the spur of a hill that overlooks the Farmington river valley. John Case is supposed to have started building this house in 1754 or 1756, while he lived in an old house just opposite on the west side of the Highway. It is a large, solid well built house with all the rooms paneled, and with higher ceilings than most of the houses of that day. He sent to England for many things, among them the bull’s eye glass for the front door, and practically bankrupt himself building it. So in 1774 he sold it to Jonathan Eno with all the land on the East side of the highway from the elbow in the river (called the Dug way also Nigger’s Elbow) on the South to “Bissell’s Brook” on the north. Jonathan later bought the house and land on the west side of the Highway from John Case.

One of the stories of the house that has come down in the family was originally told by Elizabeth Eno, daughter of Jonathan, who married Alexander Phelps. During the Revolutionary War the house was a Tavern. Simsbury was on the Post Road from Albany to Boston. So after the defeat of Burgoyne’s Army, the prisoners marched through Simsbury on their way to Boston, and stopped at the Capt. Jonathan Eno’s Tavern, for their noonday rest and meal. Elizabeth though only a child was assisting in serving the Officers. She noticed two Hessian officers sitting at the table opposite each other, whom she realized were quarrelling violently. Suddenly to her horror one of them seized the carving knife and threw it at the head of the other. It just missed his head and hit the paneling above the fireplace, taking out a large chip of wood. This incident made an indelible impression upon Elizabeth’s mind, and in her old age whenever she came to the house, she would tell this story and walk to the fireplace putting her finger in the large dent that remained there. My grandmother, Mrs. Elizur H. Eno [Sarah Elizabeth Tuller] often told this story and would also walk over to the fireplace and show me the dent, saying “As Aunt Betsy Phelps used to do.” Unfortunately the old fireplace had to be removed about 1896 as the

Correction to the Spring 2010 issue: Henry E. Ellsworth was chairman of Simsbury’s 1935 Tercentenary Committee. His son, John E. Ellsworth, wrote the history that was published by that committee. Please attach the enclosed label to the bottom of page four to make this correction.

house was settling dangerously around it, but as long as the mantle remained in position the evidence of the incident could be plainly seen.

The following was taken from papers of John Owen Pettibone and corroborates the story of Elizabeth Eno.

March of Burgoyne's Army Through Simsbury

Burgoyne's Army went by Hosford Tavern at Canton, past Levi Case's house where Hemen Humphrey used to live. They camped at the foot of the mountains, went to the house of Tim Alderman where Harry Ensign lived at one time in Bushy Hill, on past the Bushy Hill School House, past Mr. Stockings house, then down to Weatogue, past Miss Antoinette Phelps' house then on to Hop Meadow.¹¹

There are many entries in the Simsbury Records concerning Jonathan Eno, all showing him to be an active and influential man in the affairs of the Town. Among them are records showing he served in the Revolutionary War. In 1776 he served as Corporal in Major Shelden's Regiment Light Horse, Capt. Uriah Seymour Co. "Conn. Men in Revolution P. 483¹², Simsbury Town Record P. 265 – 266."

1779, April 13th, Vol. 14, Nos. 2631 a and b. Military Documents: Jonathan Eno heads petition of 14 members "all belonging to ye Troop of Horse in ye 18th Regiment of Militia of Connecticut." Shortly after this Jonathan was elected Captain of the Company. He held this Commission until 1788 when he asked to be relieved. The title of Captain clung to him through the rest of his life.

Jonathan Eno died December 5, 1813, and is buried in the Simsbury Cemetery where a stone marks his grave inscribed: "In memory of Capt. Jonathan Eno who died Dec. 5, 1813 at 75 – The Hoary head is a crown of glory if it be found in the ways of righteousness."

The preamble to his will shows him to be a God-fearing man – this was made –

1801, July 4, Vol. VII, P. 259-261 Probate Court Simsbury. "In the name of God Amen, I Jonathan Enos of Simsbury calling to mind the frailty of my body and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die and considering the uncertainty of the time of my dissolution and now being of sound mind and memory do make and ordain this for my last will and testament intending to dispose of other Worldly Estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me not as Passion might dictate but as Equity and Justice may demand and in the first place I recommend my soul into the hands of that God that gave it me humbly hoping in the merits of Christ to receive and enjoy a blessed immortality, and my body I commit to the Earth to be buried in a decent Christian manner as my Executor hereinafter named may direct, and my property of every kind name and nature I dispose of in manner following that is to say: -

Jonathan Eno's granddaughter, Emmeline Eno Bassette in her "Recollections of Life in Simsbury" says Jonathan owned the first carriage in town.¹³ In his will among the personal items, he gave to his "Beloved Wife Mary" his riding carriage and white horse. To his son Jonathan Jr. a pair of Pistols and Cutlass. "To my son Salmon my great Bible and to my son Chauncey my Silver Spurs."

At his death his real estate was inventoried at \$10,840.59. His executors gave a Bond for \$15,000. So his personal property must have been about \$5,000. A large estate for a farmer of those days.

Mary Hart Eno outlived her husband by 21 years. She died at the age of 90 and is buried in the Simsbury Cemetery beside her husband and her mother Abigail Goodrich Hart. Oct. [8], 1834 – Stiles Vol. II. P. 245.

❖ To be continued ❖

Jonathan and Mary had nine children. In Part II we will follow two of them because they are responsible for what is known as the New York Branch (Amos Richards Eno) and the Simsbury Branch – the ones who kept the family farm going until 1960 when it was sold out of the family.

Donation of Gifford Pinchot's *To the South Seas*

All of us at the library are grateful to J. Paul Lanza for donating two copies of Gifford Pinchot's book published in 1930, *To the South Seas*. Mr. Pinchot wrote the book on a seven-month voyage aboard his three-masted schooner, *Mary Pinchot*, which he had named after his mother, the former Mary Jane Eno, daughter of Lucy and Amos R. Eno, founder of the Simsbury Free Library.

Mr. Pinchot took this voyage to the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal, and on to the Galapagos, the Marquesas and the Tuamotu Archipelago to Tahiti during the lull between his first and second terms as governor of Pennsylvania. He was accompanied by his wife Cornelia, their thirteen-year-old son, a young friend of his, and a party of scientists. Adventure and scientific discovery were his goals.

The copies of the book that Mr. Lanza donated came to him by way of family friends Jesse Stratton and Fred Corbin, who became acquainted with Gifford Pinchot during the early days of the Boys Scouts of America. When that organization was organized in 1910, Gifford Pinchot, former head of the U.S. Forestry Department, was named Chief Scout Woodsman.

Mr. Stratton was the commissioner of education in Massachusetts and Mr. Corbin was superintendent of Mary E. Welles High School in Southbridge. Mr. Lanza's father, Joseph Benedict Lanza, taught math and shop and coached football at the school. Joseph Lanza also was one of the first artisans to be hired by the Welles family to restore the interiors of the houses that were the beginning of the living museum, Sturbridge Village. It was thanks to his friendship with Mr. Stratton and Mr. Corbin that his son came to own *To the South Seas*. One copy is available to circulate among members of the library.

Notes

1. The records concerning the Eno family in France and England are taken from *The Eno Family: New York Branch* published by Henry Lane Eno in 1920, probably printed by the Princeton University Press. The Simsbury Free Library has a copy of this scarce book. It can also be accessed on the Heritage Quest Web site through www.iconn.org

2. The feudal county of Hainault included area that is now in both Belgium and France.

3. In her notation "P-10 Do" Mrs. Ellsworth refers to page ten in Professor Henry Lane Eno's book. She uses Do, or ditto, as more recent scholars would use *ibid.*, meaning that the source is the same as above.

4. Abigail Goodrich Eno Ellsworth's ancestry parallels Jackson Eno's for seven of these generations. His forbears are James I, James II, David, Jonathan, Chauncey, Elizur, Chauncey, Jonathan and Ralph.

5. The source Mrs. Ellsworth refers to throughout as "Stiles Windsor" is Henry R. Stiles' two volume *The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut* (Hartford, Conn.: Press of The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1891-92). She is in error when she refers to Matthew Grant as "Reverend." He was Windsor's second town clerk. See Stiles 2:635. Grant compiled what became known as the "Old Church Records," which include some of the earliest church and civil records of the town.

6. This volume of records is now bound and titled *Simsbury Town Records, Vol. I. 1670-1692*. The record she quotes is on page 9.

7. The information about the property on Hopmeadow Street is added. See Abigail Eno Ellsworth's "A Record of the History of Some of the Old Homes of Simsbury," compiled in 1935 with the help of the Abigail Phelps Chapter, DAR.

8. This volume is now bound and titled *Simsbury Records, Book III: Town Proceedings, Marriages, Births, Etc.*

9. Lucius I. Barber in his *A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury* (Simsbury: Abigail Phelps Chapter, DAR, 1931), 218-22, explains the controversy that raged in town over the proposed division of land that had never been granted to individuals. It is more likely that David Eno and the others wanted the land for their use rather than to conserve it.

10. Alfred Andrews, *Genealogy and Ecclesiastical History of New Britain, Connecticut* (Chicago: A. H. Andrews, 1867)

11. The editor would appreciate information about the John Owen Pettibone papers.

12. Adjutants-General, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution* (Hartford: State of Conn., 1889)

13. The editor would appreciate information about Emmeline Eno Bassette's "Recollections of life in Simsbury."

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

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