

STEPHEN AND MARY

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Until now, little has been known as to where the name MARY, wife of Stephen deceased, (son of Francois Martineau) came into our line. Harriet Rohda Stryker, a genealogist and historian, gave us the name Mary but failed to tell where the name came from. By our research we have found that we can claim two more NOBLE Huguenot blood lines from France.

Philippe Casier was born about 1614 in Pas de Calaias, France. Died 1663 in Harlem N.Y. Married Marie Taine about 1635. Their children were, Philippe born abt. 1636, Maria born abt. 1640, Jean born abt. 1654, Hester born abt. 1650, Jacques died abt. 1673.

Soon after Henry IV gained for France, by the Edict of Nantes, the rights of free worship, he was assassinated. Incidents of tyranny against the Protestants became more and more frequent, especially against the Huguenots. Philippe Casier and Marie Taine with a young family were among the many who could see the, "hand writing on the wall", and began looking for other places of residence. These people loved their France with it's history and great heritage, but with a painful sense of insecurity, it became an ever, momentous question with this afflicted people, how to avert the greater calamities, which passing events so plainly foreshadowed, except by quitting their country. The West Indies with its milder and more productive climate attracted many. So on the Isle of Martinique, the Casier family joined a French colony. In 1635 their Minister died. For five years they were without a preacher. In 1640 some Jesuit Missionaries arrived which caused much stress among the people and dissension broke out in the Islands. Martinique was especially hard hit and many Huguenots were glad to get back to Europe. Our Casier family went to Holland thence up the Rhine and finally to Harlem, arriving in 1662 where Sarah was born.

This Sarah Casier, became the wife of Jacques Guyon, merchant from St. Martin near La Rochelle, France, very much his junior. Their great grandson James Guyon married, 26 Sept. 1772, Susannah Martineau, daughter of Stephen and Annetje (Anne) Van Devender Martineau.

Hester Casier born abt. 1650 Sluis, Flanders, France, married 14 Mar. 1677, Jean Belleville, of the great French Belleville family from St. Martin Ile de Re, France. Their children were; Jean Belleville Jr. born 3 Nov. 1677. Philip Belleville baptized 25 May 1679, (Francois Martino) as witness. Mary Belleville born abt. 1681. The exact date of Mary's birth has not as yet been established.

In 1706 Francois Martense wills land to, " Stephen Martense, son of my son Stephen deceased". This means that Francois's son Stephen was deceased by 1706. It has been said that on the 1706 census of Staten Island, there was no Stephen to be found which could qualify for Francois's grand son Stephen. We found a boy, Stephen Martin or Marino. James Henry refers us to the fact that Marino in old Italy was Martineau. (Dictionaries and other reference books support James Henry on this point). So on the 1706 census we have a child, Stephen Marino (Martineau). Question; Who could be Stephen's mother? In the column preceding Stephen we find one, mary belville listed by her mother, Hester belville. (Harriet Rhoda Stryker) We know from Francois's will, (my son Stephen deceased 1706), that Mary was a widow, but where then was her father Jean Belleville, husband of Hester? We found the names of Jean Belleville and his brother in law Jean Casier on a long list of people (French Born) who for a few years beginning in 1701, petitioned the English government for citizenship which was granted to many. Why Hester Casier Belleville did not go to England with her husband Jean Belleville we do not know. The list of "Denizens" shows some women went with their husbands and families but most did not.

Reports have taken Hester, the mother of Mary, shown on the 1706 census, and made her Ester who later married Nathaniel Briton in 1732. Arithmetic shows that Ester was more likely to be daughter of Jean Belleville Jr. who was born in 1677, the granddaughter of Jean Belleville born in 1650, (the IGI indicates Jean Belleville may have been born in 1635) and Hester Casier, born 1652, who were the parents of (Mary Belleville), wife of Stephen Martino deceased, who were parents of Stephen Marino, (Martino) found on the 1706 census, the same Stephen Martino who married Annetje Van Devender.