

Descendants of Abraham², Son of Gideon¹ Merlet

NOTE: The following document represents a revision of an original article entitled "Abraham's Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren", which appeared in the family newsletter *Malott, Marlatt, Mellott Past and Present*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (October, 1996), pp 10-18; published by Frank Ruff of Davidson, MD. This revision eliminates Abraham³ from the genealogical line of descendants of Abraham² Marlett for reasons outlined below. Several additional modifications have also been included. Since the original article contained only limited information regarding Gideon¹ Merlet, the father of Abraham², an initial section providing documented information on Gideon has been added to provide more complete information about the founder of the North American Merlet clan for the edification of descendants of Abraham². Throughout this document, superscript numbers are used to designate the generation level of Marletts (e.g., Abraham²). Boldface superscripts in brackets (commencing with "R") are used to refer to specific literature references that are listed at the end. Due to the changes made in preparing this revision, the numbering sequence of the references is out of order at some places in the text.

SPECIFIC NOTE: The original newsletter article assumed that all of the known Marlett/Marlatt descendants of Abraham² (b 1656) were descended from his son Abraham³ (b 1680) and that the latter individual was the author of the will by Abraham Marlett dated 6 June 1714. Location of the complete 1714 will in 1997, combined with other information, has made it clear that all children formerly attributed to Abraham³ are actually the children of Abraham² who had two wives, (i) Christence Billiou and (ii) Elizabeth (surname unknown). An explanation of the rationale that brought about this correction is included in this revision and the complete wording of the 1714 will is provided at the end of this revised article. It is now presumed that Abraham³ died young since he is not mentioned in the 1714 will and no Abraham Marlett records can be attributed to him.

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Abraham's Children and Grandchildren

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In 1907, Mrs. Jane Marlett Taft (wife of the Chief Justice of Vermont's Supreme Court) compiled an extensive history of Gideon Merlet and his early descendants in North America. Her manuscript of nearly 300 pages is on deposit with the U.S. Library of Congress and a microfilm copy is available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.^[RA] Pencil numbers appear throughout the original manuscript that indicate the source of most of the information therein. Nearly all subsequent Marlet histories have been based either directly or indirectly on Mrs. Taft's scholarship with additional information added over the intervening years. Unfortunately, much of this later information is not well documented. Some undocumented items are clearly incorrect and others are questionable due to the fact that the origin of the material is unknown.

The current document attempts to review the information available for the second through fourth generations of descendants of Gideon¹ Marlet, starting with his son Abraham². The intent is to assist Marlet family researchers to identify the original sources for this information and to distinguish between that information which is documented and that which is not. Great effort has been made to provide references back to the primary sources (or, more commonly, to transcripts of primary sources—often translated from the Dutch) wherever possible. Where primary sources (or transcripts thereof) have not been examined, reasonably reliable secondary sources are cited, such as the extensive compendium by Monnette on the early records of Staten Island and Eastern New Jersey.^[RB] It should be noted that the latter type of information is more likely to contain errors. Data that are not referenced to either primary or reliable secondary sources are so noted and should be treated as family lore until they can be substantiated from dependable original sources. Several reference sources cited at the beginning of the appended reference list^[RC-RH] contain multiple records. Land records are not covered in the current document.

It is hoped that other Marlet family historians will examine the information that follows and bring all errors and omissions to the attention of the author of this document, Dave Rorabacher, [Address as of 2012: 1700 Duke Hollow, Traverse City, MI 49696] (e-mail address: dbr@chem.wayne.edu). Please cite the sources for all corrected information. It is hoped that this document will stimulate other family members to assemble similar articles dealing with the early descendants of Gideon's other sons: Josias², Paulus² (Paul) and Jan Pierre² (John Peterson) [see "The Sons of Gedeon" by Lois Hall, *Marlette, Mellot, Mallott Past and Present*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (July 1995), p 13 (Ed. and Publ. by Frank Ruff, 2924 Kilkenny Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035-1610)].

1. GIDEON¹ (or GEDEON¹)—Gideon Merlet was a Huguenot [French Protestant] who, along with large numbers of other Huguenots, left his native country due to the continual religious persecution encountered there. He is first mentioned at Leiden, Holland in 1643 where it is stated that Gideon Merlette and a Philip Marlet, apparently his uncle, came from Gouda, Holland. On 6 AUG 1644, he married Margriet Martijn [Margaret Martin] at Leiden,. Several subsequent records of this couple have been found in Holland and Germany as noted in the following document sent to Lois Hall from an official in the Netherlands. This letter is being reproduced here in its entirety as it represents the most official source of information relating to Gideon¹ prior to his emigration to North America.

REF: Newsletter: "*Marlatt, Melott, Mallott Past and Present*," Vol. 1, No. 2, April 1995, pp 17-18 (Ed. and Publ. by Frank Ruff, 2924 Kilkenny Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035-1610),

LETTER FROM HOLLAND

(Copies submitted by several people.)

The following letter from Centrall Bureau Voor Genealogie, The Hague, Netherlands, was sent to Mrs. Lois Hall, July 9, 1974.

Dear Mrs. Hall:

We did some research in the municipal archives of Leiden and in the States' archives at the Hague and found the following:

Gedeon Merlette (Jejedon Marlet), carpenter, young man from Roussy (probably Roussy-le-village), mentioned as member of the Walloon church of Leiden, coming from Gouda Dec. 1643; mentioned as member at Leiden, with his wife; 9 March 1651; Dec. 1651 member at Leiden, coming from Paris; Feb. 1661 member at Leiden, with his wife, coming from Hanau, parted from Leiden, with his wife, 15 March 1664 married Leiden 6 Aug. 1644 Margarit Martin. She is a spinster from Limburg and she has a cousin named Jenne Martijn.

Children of Gedeon Merlette and Margaret Martin:

1. Josias Merlette, bapt. Leiden 17 Sept. 1645, witnesses Glaude [should this be Claude?—DBR] Marcy, Jean Martijn, Clasine Tertelin.
2. Marie Merlette, bapt. Leiden 11 Sept. 1646, witnesses Daniel Fromavezijn, Francois Charret, Jacqueline de Mon, Catheryne de la Tour.
3. Eseschias Merlette, bapt. Leiden 26 July 1648, witnesses Paul Marlette, Augustine Gofin, Marie Cordies.
4. Abraham Melet, bapt. Mannheim 3 Feb. 1656.
5. Jean Pierre Merlet, bapt. Mannheim 2 May 1658.

Gedeon Merlette was, when he married, accompanied by his uncle Philip Marlet. He must be a brother of his unknown father.

A Philip Marlet is a member of the Walloon Church of Leiden, coming from Gouda, June 1643.

A certain Philip Marlet, born at Crum, widower of Magdalena Gilbert, married Amsterdam 12 Oct. 1647 Jannetie Pau, born at Sedan, widow of Isaack Rute.

One of the witnesses at the birth of Eseschias Merlette on 26 July 1648 is a Paul Merlette. Probably he is a brother of Gedeon and he will be the Paul Merlette who married Elysabeth Mareau. Paul Marlette is mentioned as a member of the Walloon Church of Leiden, coming from Paris. He is also mentioned as a member at Leiden on 7 July 1650 and 13 Nov. 1652..

On 19 Sept. 1660 he went from Leiden to Mannheim with his wife and mother (name unknown). Children of Paul Marlette and Elysabeth Mareau were:

1. Marie Marlet, bapt. Mannheim 15 Dec. 1655.
2. Gedeon Marlet, bapt. Mannheim 20 Sept. 1657.
3. Henry Marlet, bapt. Mannheim 27 Feb. 1659.
4. Elysabeth Marlette, bapt. Leiden 20 June 1660, witnesses Jean Corbisier, Catherine Godar and Marie Engel.

5. Noe Marlet, bapt. Mannheim 11 May 1662.

6. Jeanne Marlet, bapt. Mannheim, 4 Sept. 1664.

We found besides the following, which we cannot connect to the above mentioned branches:

— Member at Leiden 6 Oct. 1602 Marguarita Marlet, wife of Jan— Lenau. —bapt. Sedan 21 Sept. 1603 Elizabeth Marle, daughter of Jean at Melotin Harbin, witnesses Jean Polondelet and Elizabeth la Valee.

—bapt. Sedan 9 Feb 1631 Anne Marlet, daughter of Jean and Francoise Desjardin, witnesses Michel Roger and Anne Desvein.

—buried Sedan 16 June 1631 Anne Marlot, 4 months, daughter of Jean and Francoise Desjardins.

—buried Sedan 13 Sept. 1632 Jeanne Marle, 5 years, daughter of Jean and Francoise Desjardin.

—buried Sedan 20 Sept. 1632 Marte Marlet, 4 years, daughter of Jean et Francoise Desjardin.

—married Sedan 23 Jan. 1633 Jean Marlet, living at Sedan and Marguerite Craset, daughter of the late Daniel and Marie Renaut.

—Bapt. Sedan 28 Nov. 1633 Anne Marle, daughter of Jean and Marguerite Croisette, witnesses Michel Royer and Anne de Rain, his wife. —member at Goude 5 July 1636 Marie Marlet, wife of Michel Jolier coming from Utrecht.

—buried Sedan 28 Aug. 1639 Martin Marlet, 87 years, born at Monc—rnet, 1552.

—member at Leiden June 1643 Madelaine Marlet, wife of Claude —uc coming from Paris.

—member at Amsterdam Marie Marlet, wife of Jean Quenet, coming from Gouda.

—member at Amsterdam 25 March 1651 Marie Marlet, widow of Michel Golier, coming from Gouda.

—married Middelburg 4 May 1655 Gilles Marlet and Marguerite Fl—

—married Sedan 8 Nov. 1665 Charlotte Marlet and Daniel de la Fueille. —parted as member of the church at Leiden Caterine Marlet 30 Oct. 1667. —buried Sedan 24 Jan. 1669 Elizabeth Marlet, born at Chaudarde, 3 years, daughter of the late Claude and Marie Lefevre, witnesses Francois Chayer and Jacob Deguer, living at Sedan.

—member at Leiden Aug. 1669 Catherine Marlet, coming from the Hague.

—married Mannheim 25 Aug. 1675 Judith Marlett and Antoine Bernard widower of Marie Fumaux.

—member at Leiden Feb. 1681 Marie Marlet, wife of Nicolaas Leibret, coming from Paris.

—member at Amsterdam 12 Oct. 1681 Simonne Marleste, wife of Pierre le Bau coming from Paris.

Sincerely yours,

W. Wijnaendts van Rosandt, Director

Two related documents are also of interest, the first providing a more exact wording of Gideon's marriage record and the second recording the baptism of another child not cited above:

Letter from Mrs. Leach to William P. Marlatt postmarked 18 December 1986 with enclosed letter from A. J. Versprille, Geleente-Archief Van Leiden, Boisotkade 2A, Leiden, Holland to Mrs. Josef Finck dated August 14, 1965, Dutch Betrothal book N pg 114 translated to:

"Entered 6 August 1644. Gedeon Merleth, carpenter from de Rousy, dwelling in Stantstraet, accompanied by Philip Merleth, his uncle, also there with Margriet Martijn from Limbouch, accompanied by Jenne Martijn, her cousin, also there"

Package from Eva G. Malott to William P. Marlatt postmarked 28 October 1986 with enclosed summary of Mannheim records from Mrs. William Heidgerd, Secretary, Huguenot Historical Society, New Paltz, New York,

"#12 GEDEON MARLET and MARGUERITE MARTIN have had baptized their son PAUL who has had for godfather PAUL MARLET and for godmother JEANNE TONDEUR and has been born the 14th of September (1653)" [This took place in Leiden.]

Gideon¹ Merlet arrived in Nieuw Amsterdam (New York City) in the then Dutch Colony of New Netherland (New York State) aboard "De Purmerlander Kerk," arriving 12 OCT 1662.^[R2,R3] He was accompanied by a wife and four sons aged 15, 8, 6, and 4. The four sons are respectively identified as Josias [Joseph], Paulus [Paul], Abraham, and Jan Pierre [i.e., John Peterson]. This implies that Gideon's daughter Marie and his son Eseschias had died in Holland.

Shortly after his arrival, Gideon¹ joined a small group of other Huguenots (including Pierre Billiou who later became the father-in-law to Gideon's son, Abraham) in petitioning the Governor for supplies. Within a year, most of this group were among the original band of settlers on Staten Island and they remained there after the British took control of the Dutch Colony in 1664. Gideon is mentioned in a number of Staten Island records, including records of land acquired by him and his sons. His date of death is unknown although it has been assumed to have occurred around 1689 or so.

From the records located in Holland and Germany, Gideon Merlet and Margriet Martijn had six known children. In view of the regularity of births in this family, it is likely that there was another child born about 1650 who did not survive.

Children of Gideon¹ Merlet and Margaret Martin:

- (i) Josias², bapt 17 SEP 1645 at Leiden, Holland [witnesses: Glaude Marcy, Jean Martijn, Clasine Tertelin].
- (ii) Marie², bapt 11 SEP 1646 at Leiden, Holland [witnesses: Daniel Fromavezijn, Francois Charret, Jacqueline de Mon, Catheryne de la Tour].
- (iii) Eseschias², bapt 26 JUL 1648 at Leiden, Holland [witnesses: Paul Marlette, Augustine Gofin, Marie Cordies].
- (iv) possible unknown child, b abt 1650-1651; d young?
- (v) Paulus², b 14 SEP 1653 at Leiden, Holland [witnesses: Paul Marlet and Jeanne Tondeur].
- (vi) Abraham², b 26 JAN 1656, bapt 3 FEB 1656 at Mannheim, Baden (Germany) [witnesses: Abraham Vilancart and Marthe Jollette].
- (vii) Jan Pierre² [John Peterson], b 18 APR 1658, bapt 2 MAY 1658 at Mannheim, Baden (Germany) [witnesses: Jean Pierrat and Marie le Noir].
- (viii) Ann², probable daughter of Gideon¹ or Josias²; drowned in a canoe accident off Staten Island 25 AUG 1681 [REF: *New York Historical Society*, Vol. 25, p 427].

NOTE RE. SUBSEQUENT RECORDS: For many years there was no resident pastor on Staten Island, so the residents were served by pastors who made occasional visits from New York City—or later from New Jersey. Therefore, the baptismal records tend to be found in the home churches of the visiting pastors even though the ceremonies may have taken place on Staten Island. During the period 1682-1685 there was a resident pastor on the Island, but he subsequently moved to Schenectady, NY, where he was killed in an Indian raid. It is known that his records do not survive. In fact, the Staten Island baptismal and marriage records for members of the Marlett family are largely missing for the period 1681-1703.

2. ABRAHAM² (Gideon¹)—Abraham, son of Gideon¹ Merlet and Margriet Martijn (Margaret Martin), was born 26 JAN 1656 at Mannheim, Baden (Germany) and bapt 3 FEB 1656 at the French Reformed Church in Mannheim.^[R1] Abraham is presumably the child who was six years old when the family arrived in New Amsterdam (New York) aboard the ship "De Purmerlander Kerk" 12 OCT 1662.^[R2,R3] He married about 1677 Christence (Chretienne, Christine, Corten) Billiou (Billeau, Billieu), the daughter of Pierre Billiou. Pierre was reputedly born in Normandy about 1632 (or 1630^[R6] or 1625)^[R8] and is reported to have emigrated to North America from Walslant in the Walloon area.^[R4] He was listed as from "Pays de vaud"^[R5] [region of "Vaud"]

when he arrived in New Amsterdam 9 MAY 1661^[R5a] or 6 AUG 1661^[R5] aboard the ship "St. Jan Baptiste" accompanied by a wife and four children.^[R6,R7] One source states that Pierre was born in Wilcres, French Flanders,^[R7] while another claims that he was a native of Artois, France, and, reputedly, a "cadet of the nobel [sic] family of that name."^[R8] He married at the Walloon Church of Leyden, Holland, 6 APR 1649^[R4] or 20 APR 1649,^[R8] Francoise du Bois, dau of Christian du Bois, "a signeur [gentleman] of Beaufermer, Artois, another titled French Huguenot," and sister of Louis du Bois, known as "Louis the Walloon," founder of the Huguenot Colony of New Paltz, NY.^[R8] The four children who accompanied their parents were, presumably, Martha (bapt Leyden 3 FEB 1652), Catharine (b Leyden 1654), Francoise (b 1655) and Christence (b about OCT 1658). Pierre's oldest daughter, Marie (bapt Leyden 3 MAR 1650), preceded her parents to North America in the company of her uncle, Louis du Bois.^[R7] Apparently, the passenger list was not updated to include Isaac Billiou who was purportedly "born at sea" and bapt 10 AUG 1661 after the family had landed in New Amsterdam.^[R8] In addition, Pierre and Francoise had several more children after their arrival including: Jacob, Pierre (bapt 8 OCT 1668), John (d young) and a daughter who "married Brittain."^[R8] In his will, written in 1699,^[R9] Peter Biyon [i.e., Pierre Billiou—see monograph by Van Name for erroneous transcription of his surname as Biyon]^[R4] identifies his wife as "Perize" [another transcription error; this is his second wife, Gerritje, widow of Jan Spiegelaer of Flatbush]^[R4] and his sons Isaac and Jacob, the latter of whom was deceased with two children. He also mentions his daughters Maria (deceased), wife of Arent Prall; Martha, wife of Thomas Stillwell; Christence, wife of Abraham Marlet; Catherine, wife of Richard Curtis; and Frances, formerly the wife of Nicholas Largillier (deceased) and now the wife of John Morgan. The daughter who reputedly "married Brittain" is not mentioned nor are the sons Pierre (will dated 17 JAN 1695/96, d ca. 1698)^[R8] and John who presumably died young. Pierre Billiou was a recognized leader of the permanent settlement of Staten Island.^[R7,R8]

There are several references to Abraham Marlet in the early Staten Island records. On 17 MAR 1678, his older brother Poules² gave him "out of my free will" half the "Lott of land that I am to have out of the paten [sic] with my father."^[R10] This implies that Abraham was not of age at the time the land patent was surveyed for his father and older brothers on 19 OCT 1675^[R11] but that he had become of age by 1678. In a noteworthy court case held on Staten Island 2 JAN 1681/82, Abram Marlet, "aged 29 or ther A Bouts" and his wife, Corten, "aged 26 or ther A Bouts" testified in the case of a mare which had been shot by their fence.^[R12] Both Abraham and Paules Marlett are included in a 1678 list of first settlers of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York;^[R13] and Abraham Marlett is included on maps of colonial grants on Staten Island for both 1694 and 1699.^[R13] The last known Staten Island record is dated 1 APR 1703 when Abraham Merlet was chosen as a Collector for the South Division of Staten Island.^[R14]

As noted above, Christence Billiou is identified in her father's 1699 will as the "wife of Abraham Marlet" so both she and Abraham were alive at that time. It has been stated that a census of Staten Island taken in about 1706 includes "Christense, wife of Abraham Marlatt"^[R15] although there is no mention of Abraham himself. Versions of this census seen by the author of this document do not include her name. [Moreover, it is not certain that this undated census was actually taken in 1706.] In the baptismal record for his son, Abraham³, in 1680, Abraham's wife is identified as "Christina Pieterse" (or Peters).^[R16] Some researchers have concluded that Christina Pieterse is a different individual than Christence (Christina) Billiou. However, it should be noted that, at the time of the settlement of New Netherland, many Dutch families had not yet adopted surnames and, thus, individuals were commonly identified by their patronymics (i.e., their father's names with an "s", "se" or "sen" ending), or by their occupations or locales.^[R17] Thus, "Christina Pieterse" is synonymous with "Christina daughter of Pieter" which is consistent with the fact that Christence was the daughter of Peter (Pieter or Pierre) Billiou.

Based on the existing baptismal records of early New York churches, only two children, Margaret³ and Abraham³, can be documented as belonging to Abraham² Marlet and Christence. However, as explained later in this article, other records indicate that they also had a daughter named Frances who was born about 1682-84. A Frances Laforge is identified as Abraham's daughter in the 1714 will. Records of baptisms for several children of Jan [John] LaForge and his wife Frances are recorded at the Raritan Reformed Church in New Jersey starting in 1704. These same children are named in the order of their birth in the will of Frances LaForge dated 3 OCT 1751. An additional son who is named first in the will is presumed to be the oldest, meaning that he would have been born about 1702. Thus, we infer that Frances was born about 1682-84. Since this Frances is identified as the daughter of the Abraham Marlett who wrote the 1714 will, all other children named in that will must be the children of

Abraham². Margaret (bapt 1678) and Abraham (bapt 1680) are not mentioned as children in the 1714 will so they are presumed to have died young. A daughter Elizabeth "who has a son" is presumed to have been born about 1686-1696. Thomas, the oldest son in the will, had children baptized beginning in 1721 so he is presumed to have been born 1695-98. Another son, Gideon, had children baptized beginning in 1725 suggesting that he was born 1699-1704.

Abraham's first wife, Christence, must have died sometime between 1699, when she is mentioned in her father's will, and 1705, since Abraham had a child by his second wife, Elisabeth, in APR 1706. Perhaps Christence's death prompted Abraham's move from Staten Island, where he was named as a Collector on 1 APR 1703, to New Jersey, where Abraham Merledt and wife were sponsors at two baptisms on 25 OCT 1704 at the First Reformed Church of Raritan,^[R22] the wife not being named in the latter records. Elizabeth's name first appears in the records in 1706 when Abraham Malet and his wife Elisabet had a son, Joris, born on 14 APR 1706 and baptized that day at the Raritan church.^[R21] In addition to land records (not reviewed here), other New Jersey records include mention of Abraham's ear mark for identifying his livestock which was registered in Piscataway, NJ, in 1707.^[R23]

Children of Abraham² Marlet and Christence Billiou, first two baptisms recorded at the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church:^[R16]

- (i) Margriet³ (Margaret), bapt 31 MAR 1678 at Flatbush, NY [parent: Abm. Marlet; witnesses: Jan Crosseson, Jr. and Margriet (presumably his wife)]; d young.
- (ii) Abraham³, bapt 16 MAY 1680 at Flatbush, NY [parents: Abm. Merlet and Christina Peters; witnesses: Jean Bandaig (Bodyn?) and Maria Croisson (wife of Jan Crosseson above?)]; d young.
- (iii) Frances³, b about 1682-84; m Jan [John] LaForge.
- (iv) Elizabeth³, b about 1686-1696; had a son though apparently unmarried.
- (v) Thomas³, b about 1696-1698; m Neeltje [Nelly].
- (vi) Gideon³, b about 1699-1703; m Neeltje Bakker.
—perhaps two or three other children b 1686-1696 who d young.

Children of Abraham² Marlet and Elisabet (surname unknown) baptized at the First Reformed Church, Raritan NJ:^[R21]

- (vii) Joris³ (George), b 14 APR 1706, bapt same day [parents: Abraham Malet and Elisabet; witnesses: David Willemsen and wife]; m Rispha Runyon.
- (viii) Dirck³ (Richard), bapt 27 OCT 1708 [parents: Abraham Merlet and wife; witnesses: Derck Middage and wife]; m Jannetje Schamp.
- (ix) Jan³ (John), b 15 MAR 1711, bapt 25 APR 1711 [parents: Abraham Merlet and wife; witnesses Jan Theunissen and wife]; m Malle (see later entry regarding confusing records for John).

In his will, dated 6 JUN 1714, Abraham² is listed as yeoman of Piscataway, Middlesex Co., NJ.^[R20] His sons are listed in order of age: Thomas, Gedion, George, Derick, John. His daughters are listed as "Elizabeth Marlaret (who has a son) and Frances LaForge." The wording included in quotation marks here has caused much confusion regarding the identification of Abraham's daughters as noted in the last comment (i.e., comment 6) below.

ERRONEOUS AND QUESTIONABLE RECORDS:

1. It has been suggested by some family historians that the children of Abraham² and Christence included an additional son named Jan (John) who was born about 1682. The documentation to support this claim is unknown and this assignment must remain questionable.
2. Monnette states that Abraham³ was baptized in New Utrecht^[R18]—and this information is generally repeated in Marlet family histories; but this baptism is included in the records of the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church^[R16] and there is probable cause to believe that the event actually took place on Staten Island since the island residents were generally served by visiting pastors from Manhattan and environs. In fact, on that same day "Abm. Merlet" and "Christine Peters" also served as witnesses at the baptism of Mathys, child of Wm. Jan and Belitje Mathysen of Staten Island, also recorded at the Flatbush Church.^[R16]

3. Monnette states further that Abraham² had a daughter, Jannetje, bapt 18 MAY 1679 at Flatbush.^[R18] However, the Flatbush Church records clearly show that the child "Janneke" baptized on the latter date was the daughter of Paulus Merlet and Lisbet Buwyk [sic] with Jan Merlet and Lisbet V. (i.e., van) der Wall serving as witnesses.^[R16] Paulus² and Jan² (i.e., Jan Pierre) are, of course, brothers of Abraham², so that the child in question was Abraham's niece, not his daughter.
4. Many family histories (including the original version of this document) have assumed that Abraham³ is the author of the 1714 will, making him the father of all children named in the will: Thomas, Gedeon, George, Derick [sic], John, Elizabeth and Frances Laforge. But the baptismal records of the children of Frances LaForge, which begin in 1704, make it impossible for her to be the daughter of Abraham³. Monnette correctly attributes both the first two children, Margaret (bapt 1678) and Abraham (bapt 1680), and the later son, Joris (b 14 APR 1706), to the same Abraham².
5. The maiden name of Abraham's second wife, Elisabeth, is listed in many family histories, but none has been substantiated by the records. The common assumption that her name was Morgan seems to have derived from the erroneous assumption that Elisabeth is the wife of Abraham³, that the latter is the author of the 1714 will which names Thomas as the oldest son, that Elisabeth is, therefore, the mother of Thomas and that Thomas was named for Thomas Morgan who is then presumed to be Elisabeth's father. From his apparent date of birth before 1699, Thomas must actually be the son of Christence from which we may more correctly assume that he was named for Thomas Stillwell, a prominent citizen of Staten Island who was Christence's brother-in-law. All other surnames which have been suggested for Elisabeth are similarly unsubstantiated. [NOTE: Thomas Morgan was the son of Charles Morgan of Gravesend, the latter of whom mentions his sons Charles, Thomas, John and Daniel and dau Mary, Rachel and Susannah as well as wife Katharine in his will dated the 13th day of the 7th Month (i.e., September by the old calendar) 1668; proved 7 OCT 1668.^[R24] The records of the Flatbush Dutch Church show that Thomas Morgan had children Thomas, 2 yrs, and Margrietie both baptized on 9 JUL 1678 and a son Adam baptized on 27 JUN 1680.^[R16] No record has yet been located for a daughter Elisabeth. The absence of such a record does not rule out the possibility that Elisabeth might have been the daughter of Thomas Morgan, however.]
6. Until the original 1714 will was located in the New Jersey archives by Phyllis Ryerse in 1997, most family researchers had seen only the abstract of the will.^[R20] The abstract refers to Abraham's daughters as "Elizabeth Marlaret who has a son and Frances LaForge." The wording included in quotation marks here has caused much confusion regarding the identification of Abraham's daughters. In the first place, "Marlaret," which appears to represent a permutation of "Marlet," had been interpreted by Jane Marlett Taft^[RA] and others to represent a misspelling of "Margaret". Ms. Taft quotes the abstract of the will as "Elizabeth, Marlaret, a son Frances LaForge." This interpretation of the will not only differs from the published abstract, but it led Ms. Taft to suggest that Elizabeth was one daughter and "Margaret" was a separate daughter who either married a man named "Francis" LaForge or else that the son was named "Frances" (Francis). From the original will it would appear that Elizabeth was an unmarried daughter who had a son. "Frances LaForge" is the name of a married daughter for whom the records of her children's baptisms and her own will have been located. Since, as noted under her entry (below), Frances was much too old to have been the daughter of Abraham³, her identification as a daughter of the individual writing the will leads to the unavoidable conclusion that the author of the will was Abraham², not his son Abraham³.

3. MARGARET³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—No additional information is known regarding Margaret, the daughter of Abraham² Marlet and Christence Billiou who was baptized 31 MAR 1678 as recorded at the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church. She may have died young or she may have married. She may possibly be the wife of "Johannes Sebrige", referred to as a sponsor in a 1704 baptism (see comments under Frances³ below) and the records of that family should be examined. However, the fact that Margaret is not mentioned in her father's will suggests that she was not living in 1714. It is possible that she may have died as an infant or young child.

4. ABRAHAM³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—Baptism recorded at Flatbush Reformed Church 16 MAY 1680. All records of an Abraham Marlett in New Jersey after 1704 are frequently assigned to Abraham³. Since the first two children of Abraham² and Christence were baptized in 1678 (Margaret³) and 1680 (Abraham³) and the next recorded baptisms begin in 1706 in New Jersey, it has been natural to assume that the latter children belonged to Abraham³ which would mean that he was the author of the 1714 will. As explained under the entry for Frances

(below), however, this assumption does not fit the facts regarding Frances LaForge. All New Jersey records are, in fact, attributable to Abraham². Since no son named Abraham is named in the 1714 will, it is assumed that Abraham³ died young.

5. FRANCES³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—As noted above, Frances LaForge is mentioned in the 1714 will of Abraham² as his daughter.^[R20] It has been assumed by most recent Merlet family researchers that she was a married daughter and that her husband was Klaes LaForge, perhaps based on the fact that Klaes Laforsij and Fransyna Marlet served together as witnesses at the baptism of a child, Nathanael, of John Leforsij and Sara Marten on 14 AUG 1729.^[R25] In fact, Frances was married to Jan [John] LaForge as indicated by the following records.

The will of Frances Leforge, widow, of Piscataway, Middlesex Co., NJ, was written 3 OCT 1751 and proved 31 OCT 1755. In it she mentions her sons Abraham, Nicholas, David, and Isaac; and grandchildren John, Nathaniel, David, Frances (wife of Nathaniel Blackford), and Sarah, children of deceased son John.^[R26] No daughters are mentioned. The baptismal records for her four surviving sons are to be found in the records of the First Reformed Church, Raritan, NJ,^[R27] as cited below. In these, the father is identified as Jan LaForge. [The many mutilated spellings of the LaForge surname in these records may well be the result of misreadings of the original handwriting in addition to misspellings at the time the records were made.] The will of the deceased son John Leforg, "Jun'r," (John⁴) a weaver of Piscataway, Middlesex Co., was written 3 MAR 1748/49 and proved 30 MAR 1749.^[R27a] In it John Jr. names his wife, Sarah, and his children John, Nathaniel, David, Frances Blackford, and Sarah Leforg (under age)—all of which are identical to the grandchildren named in Frances' will. No birth or baptismal record has been located for John LaForge, Jr. However, the baptismal records for his children, as cited later in this article, begin in 1724 which suggests that John Jr. was born about 1700-1703. The baptismal records for the other sons named in Frances LaForge's will have been located as noted below.

Children of Jan (John) LaForge, Sr., and Frances (Marlet) LaForge, the last five baptized at the First Reformed Church, Raritan, NJ^[R27]—surname LaForge:

- (i) John⁴, b about 1702, m Sara Martin about 1723.
- (ii) Abraham⁴, bapt 25 OCT 1704 [parents: Jan Lavors and wife; witnesses: Johannes Sebrige and wife, Merledt]; m Raghel (Rachel?).
- (iii) Nicholas⁴ (Niclaes, Klaes, or Klaas), bapt 27 OCT 1708 [parents: Jan Lafos and wife; witnesses: Willem Ooldien and wife], m about 1730 Ragel (Rachel?)
- (iv) Unnamed Child, bapt 6 AUG 1712 [parents: Jan Lafasi and wife; no witnesses]—this may be a child who died at or shortly after birth.
- (v) David⁴ (Davit), bapt 18 MAY 1715 [parents: Jan Laforsi and wife; witnesses: Abraham Bodyn and Janitjen Middagh].
- (vi) Isaac⁴, bapt 12 JUN 1723 [parents: Jan Lafas and Francentje]

Only the last baptismal record identifies the mother as Frances; but the names of the last four sons as given in Frances LaForge's will are in the exact order of age shown in the baptismal records above. Therefore, there can be no doubt that Frances is the mother of these children and, thus, the wife of Jan LaForge, Sr. The baptismal records of three of Frances' grandchildren by her sons John Jr. and Nicholas are also pertinent:

3 APR 1726—parents: Jan La Foercy and Cery—child: *Francentje* (witnesses: Jan La Foerscy and wife, Francentje—i.e., apparently the grandparents were the witnesses)^[R28]

14 AUG 1729—parents: Jan Leforsij and Sara Marten—child: *Nathanael* (witnesses: Klaes Leforsij and Fransyna Marlet)^[R25]

17 JUN 1736—parents: Nicolaes Laforse and wife—child: *Niklaes* (witness: Nelle Marlet)^[R29]

Taken together, the foregoing records provide several useful clues regarding Frances LaForge: (1) In the 1729 baptism of her grandson, Nathaniel, Frances is identified by her maiden name as Frances Marlet. (The other witness is apparently her third son, Nicholas ("Klaes"), who would have been 21 at the time; his inclusion as a witness may suggest that John Sr. died between 1726 and 1729.) (2) The 1704 baptism of her son Abraham identifies the wife of witness Johannes Sebrige as "Merledt" which would seem to imply that her maiden name was Merlet; since witnesses were generally family members, this represents a second tie to the Marlet family (and may indicate that Frances had a sister, cousin or aunt who married Johannes Sebrige). (3) A Nelle Marlet was a witness at the 1736 baptism of Frances' grandson, Niklaes. This may be the wife of Frances's brother Thomas³ or of her brother Gideon³ since both had wives named Neeltje (Nelly). (4) It was a common practice to name the oldest son after the

paternal grandfather and the second son after the maternal grandfather; and Frances named her oldest son John (after both her husband and father-in-law) and her second son Abraham after her father. (5) The 1708 baptism of Nicholas occurred at the same place and on the same day that Dirck³—son of Abraham² Merlet and his second wife, Elizabeth—was baptized (and is the adjacent entry in the records). (6) The sponsors of the 1715 baptism of David were named Bodyn and Middagh, surnames which show up for baptismal witnesses for grandchildren of Abraham², suggesting that these families were related to the Marlets. (7) Frances LaForge is named as a daughter in the will of Abraham². Since Frances LaForge had children as early as 1702, she was probably born somewhere around 1682-84, too old to be the daughter of Abraham³. Therefore, if she is a Marlet and her father's name is Abraham, she is the daughter of Abraham² and the sister of Abraham³. In further support of this conclusion, we note that Abraham² and Christence named their first daughter Margaret after Abraham's mother; and it is not surprising that they would have named their second daughter Frances after Christence's mother. Assuming that Frances was born in 1682-1684, the fact that no record of her baptism has been found is consistent with the fact that there was a resident pastor on Staten Island at the time whose records are known to be missing.

Frances' husband, John LaForge, is identified by Monnette as the son of Jean (John) La Forge, a French Huguenot who emigrated from the region of "Ancienne Poitou" in France and settled on Staten Island before 1700.^[R30] In his will dated 3 NOV 1706 and proved 3 OCT 1707, John La Ford (i.e., Jean La Forge, Sr.) of Albany County, NY, names his wife Margaretta, sons John, Daniel, Abraham, Nicholas, Jacob and Isaac and daughter Mary, wife of John Vedder, and Anna.^[R31] The son, John, husband of Frances, is listed in Piscataway as early as 1700.^[R32] Monnette notes that an "unidentified Francis Leforge is hovering near him" which may represent Monnette's mistaken identity for John's wife, Frances.

6. ELIZABETH³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—Elizabeth Merlat is mentioned as a daughter in her father's 1714 will. In the will forty shillings is designated for Elizabeth's son. Since she is called Elizabeth Marlaret, it is presumed that she was unmarried. She is generally presumed to be the Elizabeth Merlat who married Cornelius Slegt (many variant spellings) as the latter is called the "brother-in-law to John Morlat" in the 1736/37 accounts of the store owned by Jacob Janeway in eastern New Jersey.^[R19] [However, there is some uncertainty as to which John Marlet this record refers and it is also possible that the John in question was married to Cornelius's sister—see discussion of records for Jan³ later in this document.] Cornelius Slegt and his wife Elizabeth Merlat are known to have had one daughter, Jannetje⁴, bapt 1731, though there may have been others. The Janeway Accounts of 1736-37 also refer to Cornelius as the "father-in-law of Robert Allen"^[R19] which suggests that he had a daughter born before 1720. The fact that Gideon Merlat (along with Elizabeth Merlat—possibly the mother?) served as witnesses at Jannetje's baptism is supportive of the fact that this is the Elizabeth who belongs to Abraham². Cornelius Slaght [sic] of Piscataway, Middlesex County, yeoman, died intestate before 12 JAN 1746.^[R44] The record mentions Elizabeth Slaght, the widow, and Gideon Merlett of Somerset Co., fellow bondsman.

Child of Cornelius Slegt and Elizabeth³ Merlat, bapt Reformed Dutch Church, Harlingen, NJ:^[R45]

- (i) Jannetje⁴ (Jane), bapt 1 APR 1731 [parents: Cornelis Slegt and Elisabet Merlet; witnesses: Gideon Merlat and Elizabeth Merlat]

NOTE—There is an intriguing entry in the translated transcription of the baptismal records for the First Reformed Church of Raritan, NJ, for 30 APR 1707: "Parents: Mother [that is, the parents are not named; the record simply says 'Mother'];—Margriet; witnesses: Abraham Merlet and wife."^[R46] The fact that this baptismal record simply says "Mother" in place of the parents' names suggests the possibility that this is the baptism of an illegitimate child. Since Abraham and his wife were the sponsors, there is the intriguing possibility that the mother of the child may have been their daughter. However, since the child appears to be named "Margriet", this would not appear to be the baptism of the "son" of Elizabeth who is mentioned in Abraham's will. If the original handwritten church records are available, it would be worthwhile to study this entry.

7. THOMAS³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—Thomas is believed to be the oldest surviving son of Abraham², as he is mentioned first in the 1714 will and is given a specific piece of property (a common practice for the oldest son).^[R20] Since he had children baptized beginning in 1721, he was probably born about 1696-1699, indicating that he must be the son of Abraham's first wife, Christence. Thomas was presumably born on Staten Island (Abraham being located there until 1703) where baptismal records are scarce. His wife's name is Neeltje (or Nelly),

but little is known of her. She may be related to the Titsort (Titzor) family since Willem and Susanna Titzor were witnesses at the baptism of Thomas' and Neeltje's first daughter in 1721 and Neeltje Mollet was a witness at the 1723 baptism of a daughter of Wilm. and Marietje Titzor.^[R33] Moreover, a Mark Merlet, presumed to be the son of Thomas³ and Neeltje, received money from the estate of Gertrude Titsort, widow of Abraham Titsort, in 1766.^[R34] This Abraham Titsort could be a brother or a brother-in-law of Neeltje, but cannot be her father as he was apparently a young man at the time his will was written in 1754, naming his wife Geertruy, six children, all under age, and mentioning an expected child.^[R35] Thomas³ and Neeltje are believed to have had seven children, six of whom are documented in the baptismal records.

Children of Thomas³ Marlet and Neeltje, first six baptized at the First Reformed Church, Raritan, NJ:^[R36]

- (i) Margrietje⁴ (Margaret), bapt 2 APR 1721 [parents: Thomas Madalet and wife Neeltje; witnesses: Willem and Susanna Titzor), m 31 SEP 1748 William Brewer^[R37]
- (ii) Abraham⁴, bapt 17 MAR 1723 [parents: Thomas Mollet and Neeltje], m 25 FEB 1748 Martha Vail^[R38]
- (iii) Jan⁴ (John), bapt 10 JAN 1725 [parents: Thomas Marrelet and Neeltje], m (1) his cousin Maria⁵, dau of Gideon⁴, m (2) 25 SEP 1752 Jane Van Sickle^[R39], m (3) Baatie, m (4) in NY Hannah Sheldon of Rhode Island;^[RA,R37] moved to Albany Co. (later became Tryon Co. and then Montgomery Co.), NY, in 1769.
- (iv) Catholyntje⁴ (Catherine), bapt 14 JAN 1728 [parents: Thomas Mollet and Neeltje]; she may be the Catherine Marlatt of Somerset who m John Goldtrap of Somerset on 14 JUL 1750.^[R40]
- (v) Thomas⁴, bapt 16 MAY 1731 [parents: Tomas Marlet], m Elizabeth Armstrong^[R37]
- (vi) Mark⁴, bapt 25 OCT 1734 [parents: Tomes Marlet and wife Nellie], m Sophia Fonteyn (Font^ayn or Fontine)^[RA]
- (vii) Daughter (Nelly⁴??), perhaps b about 1736.

In his will dated 25 AUG 1748, proved 18 JAN 1748/49 [see Newsletter: *Malott, Marlatt, Mellott Past and Present*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (April 1996), p 12], Thomas names his wife Nelly as executrix and mentions his sons John, Thomas, and Mark, the latter two being noted as under age.^[R41] (Thomas does not mention Abraham, however.) Thomas also mentions in the will three daughters who are not named. Two of the daughters are presumably Margrietje⁴ and Catholyntje⁴, listed above. Nelly is included here as the name of the third daughter based on the document by Jane Marlatt Taft,^[RA] but no source is indicated for this assignment. No record for the baptism of a Nelly Marlet has been found. Thomas' wife Neeltje may have remarried after his death as the will of Thomas' son Abraham⁴, dated 5 MAR 1777, refers to "my mother Elenor [sic] Randle."^[R42] (Eleanor appears to be another variant of Neeltje.) (Edmund R. "Dick" Cordtz has suggested that Randle may stand for Fitz Randolph and that Neeltje Fitz Randolph may be the maiden name of Thomas' wife; but this appears to be speculation only.)^[R43]

8. GIDEON³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—Gideon is first mentioned in the New Jersey records on 21 FEB 1726/27 as having his identifying ear mark registered for his livestock.^[R47] Although there were other Gideon Merlets in the New Jersey area during the early decades of the 1700's, Gideon³, son of Abraham², can be distinguished by his proximity to his siblings. Since Gideon's oldest son is believed to have been born in about 1725, Gideon was probably born in 1699-1703. Based on these dates, it is speculated that Gideon is the son of Abraham² by his first wife, Christence. However, this cannot be stated with certainty.

Gideon was married to Neeltje (or "Nelly" or "Cornelia" or "Pieternelle" or "Penelope" or "Eleanor") Bakker (or "Baker")—not to be confused with the Backer family. The baptisms of five of Gideon's children have been found in the records. The baptismal witnesses include Elisabet Merlat, Dirk Morlat and George Morlat, all of whom would appear to be siblings of Gideon³.

Children of Gideon³ Marlet and Neeltje Bakker; second through fifth baptized at the Reformed Dutch Church, Harlingen, NJ;^[R48] last baptized at First Reformed Church, Raritan, NJ:^[R49]

- (i) Abraham⁴, b ca 1725.
- (ii) Marietje⁴ (Maria), bapt 18 MAY 1727 [parents: Gideon Merlet and Neeltje Bakker; witnesses: Hendrick Vroom and Elizabeth Merlat]; she m her first cousin Jan⁴, son of Thomas³ (see above).

- (iii) Gideon⁴, bapt 18 JUN 1729 [parents: Gideon Merlet and Neeltje Bakker; witnesses: Derick Morlat and Elizabeth Morlat].
- (iv) Elisabet⁴, bapt 29 MAR 1732 [parents: Giedeyon Morlet and Neeltje Baeker; witnesses: Jores Morlat and Jannitye Vroom].
- (v) Elisabet⁴, bapt 9 MAY 1734 [parents: Gidion Marlet and Neeltje Backer; witnesses: Cornelis Pieterston and Aeltie Pieterston].
- (vi) Jeremias⁴, bapt 11 MAR 1744 [parents: Gideon Morlet and Pieternelle].

It is presumed that the first Elisabet died in infancy since the name was re-used. The ten year gap between the last two children suggests the possible existence of other children. However, only these children are named in Gideon's will dated 2 APR 1747, proved 22 APR 1747.^[R50] The many variant spellings given to Neeltje's name can lead to some confusion. She is Neeltje in the baptisms of the second through fifth children and "Pieternelle" in the baptismal record for Jeremias. It is presumed that these names refer to the same wife since Gideon Merlat and "Peternelle" Merlat were sponsors at a baptism at the Reformed Dutch Church, Harlingen, on 3 APR 1728,^[R51] when Neeltje was very much alive. She is called "Penelope" in Gideon's will which also mentions his children Abraham, Mary, Elizabeth, Gideon and Jeremiah [see the Marlett family newsletter: *Marlett, Mellott, Malott Past and Present*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (January 1995), p 17]. From his special treatment in the will, we surmise that Abraham was the oldest, which suggests he was born about 1725. Witnesses to the will include George Marlett, Gideon's brother.

9. JORIS³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—Joris (George) was baptized 14 APR 1706 at the First Reformed Church, Raritan, NJ, as the son of Abraham Malet and Elisabet. He was married, before 1731, to Rispha (Rise, Rypa, Rizpah, Rutsifer) Runyon, who was born 5 NOV 1704, a daughter of Vincent² Runyon (Vincent¹) and Mary Hull who were married 2 DEC 1691.^[R51-R54] The latter was the dau of Hopewell Hull and Mary Martin. Rispha's grandfather was Vincent¹ Rognion (Rognion, Runyon), a French Huguenot who purportedly fled to the British Isle of Jersey and then emigrated to Elizabethtown, New Jersey where he married Anne Martha Boutcher (or Bouchierre)—another French Huguenot and possibly the dau of John Boutcher of Hartford, England—on 16 JUL 1668.^[R52] Rispha was the sister of Reune Runyon, who often appears in official records of this era since he was the town clerk for many years. Both Reune and Rispha are listed in the wills of their father Vincent² and of their brother Vincent³.^[R55] George's wife is listed as "Veshefy" in the church record of his youngest son's baptism; but a handwritten copy (made in 1790) of the original civic record for this same baptism lists her as "Rypa."^[R56] Joris served as a witness at the baptism of a child of Cornelis Klaesse and Martja Bries on 3 APR 1728, and at the baptism of Gideon, son of Gideon Merlet and Neeltje Bakker, on 29 MAR 1732, both at the Reformed Dutch Church, Harlingen.^[R57] He may be the George Morlat (Jr.) appearing in the account records of Jacob Janeway's store in January 1734 (see Added Note to entry for Jan⁴).^[R58] In that case, the "Jr." would not mean that his father's name was George but only that he was the younger of two George Morlatt's living in the same vicinity. (This was a common utilization of "Jr." and "Sr." at the time.) The George Morlatt, "Sr." referred to in these records would presumably be a cousin, George³, son of Josias² and grandson of Gideon¹. This latter George is known to have been living in the same vicinity and appears in several early records of the area (see below). George³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²) had his identifying earmark for his livestock registered in Piscataway about 1737.^[R59]

Children of Joris³ (George) Marlet and Rispha Runyon, all born Piscataway, NJ,^[R60] third baptized at the First Reformed Church, Raritan, NJ,^[R61] other three baptized at the Reformed Dutch Church, Harlingen, NJ:^[R56]

- (i) Marietje⁴ (Maria), b 27 JUN 1731, bapt 14 JUN 1732 [parents: Joris Merlet and Rutsifer Runjen; witnesses: Derick Merlat and Jannetje Schamp].
- (ii) Abraham⁴, b 30 DEC 1732, bapt 9 MAY 1734 [parents: Jores Marlet and Rise Runien; witnesses: Gideon Merlat and Maria Bodine].
- (iii) Vincent⁴ (listed as "Fenson" in the church record, but "Vincent" in the civic record), b 2 MAR 1739, bapt 3 JUN 1739 [parents: Jores Merlet and wife, Veshefy].
- (iv) Elisabeth⁴, bapt 9 APR 1745 [parents: Joris Morlet and Rispye Ronyen; witnesses: Henderick Smack and Antie van Duyn].

Monnette states that the George Merlet who married "Rizpah" Runyon was in Middletown by 1707,^[R18] but this latter record obviously refers to his first cousin, George³ [Gideon¹, Josias²] (see above) with whom George³ [Gideon¹, Abraham²] may easily be confused. George³ (son of Josias²) Merlatt is named in many New Jersey land deeds in the era of 1718-1719^[R62] when the younger George³ (son of Abraham²) would have been too young. George³ (son of Abraham²) is presumably the George Marlett who made inventories of several estates including those of his wife's relatives: Providence Runyon in 1752 and Joseph Runyon in 1760.^[R63] "Risphah" Marlett was a witness to the will of John Roy on 9 JUN 1779.^[R64] Therefore, both must have survived beyond these dates. No record of a will has been located for either George³ or Rispha.

10. DIRCK³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—Dirck (Dirk, Derck, Derick or Richard) Marlet was baptized 27 OCT 1708 as the son of Abraham Merlet and wife. He married Jannetje Schamp by 14 JUN 1732 when they were both witnesses at the baptism of the oldest daughter of Joris³ (see above) and their first son was baptized 10 months later. The records for Dirck are strongly tied to the Schamp family. In the account books for the store run by Jacob Janeway, Dirrick Morlat had a joint account with George "Scomp" during the period 1735-1739.^[R58] This must be either his father-in-law, Joris (George) Schamp, Sr., or his brother-in-law, George Schamp, Jr. One of the latter was also a witness at the baptism of Dirck's first child in 1733. George Schamp, Jr., did not marry until about 1738, after which "Joris" or "Joost"—both variants of George—Schamp and Kniertje Monfoort had several children baptized at the Readington Church.^[R65]

In his will dated 28 MAY 1760, George Schamp, Sr., makes mention of the children of deceased daughter Yanika (i.e., Jannetje), "wife of Derick Merlot."^[R66] The exact date of Jannetje's death is unknown but it was after 1 JAN 1744 when her last known child was baptized and before 16 JAN 1755 when Dirck married his second wife, Jannetje Vliereboom as recorded at the Reformed Dutch Church of New York City [see note appended to the end of this document]. The most confusing record regarding Dirck³ Marlet is that found in the Janeway Accounts where he is identified as "son of John."^[R58] Presumably, Jacob Janeway was in error here and the record should read "brother of John." If the Dirck who married Jannetje Schamp is truly the "son of John," a snowball effect results which would indicate that many of the relationships in this document are incorrect. (For a further discussion of this issue, see the section on Jan³ below.)

Derrick Morlatt is listed among Hunterdon County Freeholders in 1741.^[R67] Dirk and Gideon Marlett are listed together in the New Jersey Ratetables of MAY 1778,^[R68] but this latter record is presumed to refer to members of the next generation since Gideon³ had already died.

Children of Dirck³ Marlet and Jannetje Schamp, first baptized Reformed Dutch Church, Harlingen, NJ^[R69] and the remainder at the Readington Church, Readington, NJ:^[R70]

- (i) Abraham⁴, bapt 13 APR 1733 [parents: Dirk Merlet and Jannetje Schamp; witnesses: Joost Schamp and Margrietje Lok].
- (ii) Elizabeth⁴, bapt 1 JAN 1736/37 [parents: Dirck Marlet and Jannetje].
- (iii) Jannetje⁴, bapt 18 MAR 1739 [parents: Dirck Marlet and Jannetje].
- (iv) Joost⁴ (George), bapt 6 JUN 1741 [parents: Dirck Marlett and Jannetje Schamp].
- (v) Dirck⁴, bapt 1 JAN 1744 [parents: Dirck Marlet and Jannetje Schamp]; m 23 NOV 1772 to his first cousin-once-removed, Nelly⁵ Merlatt [Gideon¹, Abraham², Thomas³, Abraham⁴]^[R40]

Dirck Marlatt was named an executor in the will of his brother-in-law, George "Scompt" Jr. dated 20 APR 1752^[R71] and he made inventories of several estates during the period 1752-1772 (including that of David Slight, presumably a relative of his brother-in-law Cornelius Slegt),^[R72] He was also a fellow bondsman for the estate of Margaret Schomp, widow, in 1773.^[R73] No record of his own will has been found.

11. JAN³ (Gideon¹, Abraham²)—Jan³ (John) was baptized 25 APR 1711 as the son of Abraham Merlet and wife. He cannot be distinguished readily in the New Jersey records as there are few records which tie Jan³ in with his siblings. Without such ties, it is difficult to be certain to which Jan a specific record refers. During the era considered in this document, there are five individuals named Jan (John) Marlet. In order of age, they are: (i) Jean Pierre² (often referred to as John Peterson or John P.) (b 1658) [Gideon¹], (ii) Jan³ (b bef 1699) [Gideon¹, Jean Pierre²], (iii) Jan³ (b 1711) [Gideon¹, Abraham²], (iv) Jan⁴ (b abt 1721) [Gideon¹, Josias², George³], and (v) Jan⁴ (b

1724/25) [Gideon¹ Abraham² Thomas³]. (It has also been suggested that Abraham² had a son Jan³, b about 1682 by his first wife, Christence, but there is no substantiation for this.) John Peterson² Mellat [Mallat, Marlet], a blacksmith of Piscataway [sic], had a will dated 30 JAN 1702-3, proved 18 APR 1704.^[R74] Therefore, he is not a factor in the records we are considering. As far as is known, the second and the fourth of these Jans do not often appear in the Somerset County records which form the basis for most of the discussion in this document; therefore, the main confusion is presumed to be between Jan³, son of Abraham², and Jan⁴ who was the son of Thomas³, who were uncle and nephew to each other.

One of the early records found for a Jan in the Piscataway region is the John Morlat mentioned in the accounts for Jacob Janeway's store during the period March 1736/37-March 1741/42.^[R58] This John is identified as brother-in-law to Cornelius Sleight, as noted above.^[R58] Since Cornelius' wife is named Elizabeth Merlat, it is assumed that she is Elizabeth³, daughter of Abraham², which would mean that the John of the Janeway Accounts is Jan³ [Abraham²] (although, of course, John might be married to Cornelius' sister). In these same records, Dirck³ Morlat is described as "son to John." The only John who would be old enough to have an adult son in 1735-39 would be Jan³ [Jean Pierre²]. We do not know the names of all the children of this particular Jan and, therefore, we do not know if he had a son named Dirck. The only other John who would be of adult age during the period 1736-1742 is Jan³ [Abraham²], the subject of this section. If the John in the Janeway Accounts is this Jan³, then Dirck³ should be called the "brother of John." It is hoped that Jacob Janeway's Accounts are simply in error on this point, for if Dirck Morlat of the Janeway records is truly the "son of John," then Elizabeth, Dirck and John are all mis-assigned in this document and their close association with Joris would also cast his lineage into doubt. To maintain sanity, we will continue to assume that Elizabeth, Joris, Dirck and Jan are the children of Abraham².

Jan³ is thought to be the Jan Morlet who, with wife Malle, had a son named Dirck baptized at the First Reformed Church in Raritan on 7 SEP 1745.^[R75] [NOTE: This Dirck was born after the dates of the Jacob Janeway accounts and, thus, cannot be the "son of John" referred to therein.] Since Jan³ would have been 34 years old by the time of this Dirck's baptism, one might expect that he had children (possibly with a different wife?) before this date. However, no earlier baptisms have been found in the churches of this region—unless Jan's surname has been mutilated beyond recognition. It is also interesting to note that, whereas Elizabeth³, Joris³, Dirck³ and Gideon³ served as witnesses at baptisms for each other's children, Jan³ never appears as a recognizable witness.

Child of Jan³ Marlet and Malle (= Matta?):^[R75]

- (i) Dirck, bapt 7 SEP 1745 at the First Reformed Church, Raritan, NJ

It has been suggested by Jane Marlett Taft that Jan³ married (1) Matta — (probably identical to "Malle" since we are relying on someone's interpretation of handwritten records) and (2) Elizabeth Sleigh, and had issue Samuel and Dirck by his first wife.^[RA] If Jan³ married an Elizabeth Sleigh, she was likely a relative of his brother-in-law Cornelius Sleight. In fact, if she were the sister of Cornelius Sleight, this, in itself, would account for John being described as Cornelius's brother-in-law in 1735-1739. However, that would require that Elizabeth to be John's first wife, not his second. Jan's wife might then be the Elizabeth Merlat who, along with Gideon Merlat, was a witness at the baptism of Jannetje⁴, dau of Cornelis Slegt and Elizabeth³ Merlet, on 1 APR 1731. [NOTE: Women who were baptismal sponsors are sometimes listed with their maiden names and sometimes with their married names.]

ADDITIONAL "JAN" RECORDS:

Jan⁴ (Thomas³)—The child Dirck, whose baptism is cited above, has sometimes been attributed to Jan⁴ (son of Thomas³) and his wife Maria⁴ (Maria = Malle?), daughter of Gideon³. Jan⁴ would have been 20 years old in 1745 and Maria⁴ would have been 18, so such an assignment would be feasible. There are records of two baptisms at the Readington Church in 1751 in which the parents are listed as Jan Marlet and Maria Marlet. Lois Hall has identified this couple as Jan⁴, son of Thomas³, and Maria⁴, daughter of Gideon³—i.e., the parents were first cousins [see *Marlette, Mellot, Mallott Past and Present*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (July 1995), p 13]. There seems to be no reason to dispute this assignment.

Children of Jan⁴ Marlet and Maria⁴ Marlet:

- (i) Gideon⁵, b 14 JAN 1747,^[R76] bapt 29 SEP 1751,^[R77] d 13 SEP 1820,^[R76] m Mary Quackenbush^[RA]
- (ii) Margrietje⁵, bapt 1 SEP 1751^[R77]

(NOTE: The baptisms of Gideon and Margrietje are adjacent entries in the Readington Church records, but different dates are listed in the printed transcription.)

Jan⁴ (Thomas³) is also believed to be the John Marlatt of Hunterdon County who married Jane (Jannetje) Van Sickle, also of Hunterdon, on 25 SEP 1752.^[R39] This couple had several children baptized at the Readington Church during the period 1753-1767.^[R78] Since Jan³ (son of Abraham²) would have been 56 years old by 1767, these latter baptismal records are presumed to represent children of a second marriage for Jan⁴, son of Thomas³. Identification of Jannetje Van Sickle's husband as Jan⁴ is made more probable by the fact that the other Merlat families appearing in the baptismal records at the Readington Church at this same time are those of Mark⁴ and Abraham⁴, also sons of Thomas³. A Van Sickle family history^[R79] claims that Jannetje was probably the daughter of Johannes² Van Sicklin, son of the original immigrant Ferdinand¹ who arrived in North America from Holland in 1652. This seems to stretch out the generations beyond credibility. It is more likely that she is either the Jannetje who was baptized 20 JUN 1731 as the daughter of Reynier Van Sickelen and Anaatye Van Leuven^[R79a] or the Jannetje bapt 12 APR 1733 as the dau of Jan van Sickle and Lena van Leuven,^[R79b] both at the Harlingen Reformed Church. In Reinier's will, dated 31 AUG 1749, proved 6 MAR 1749/50, he mentions his wife, Styntie, daughters Jannetie and Marya and sons Ferdinand and Ryke.^[R80] (Joost Schamp and Peter Slight are also mentioned in accounts of this estate.)

Children of Jan⁴ Merlet and Jannetje (Jane) Van Sickle, baptized at the Readington Church, Readington, NJ:^[R78]

- (i) Abraham⁵, bapt 7 OCT 1753 [parents: Jan Marlett and Jannetje Van Sichelien].
- (ii) Thomas⁵, bapt 27 NOV 1755 [parents: Jan Marlet and Jannetje Van Sichelien].
- (iii) Jan⁵, bapt 8 JUN 1763 [parents: Jan Merlatt and Jannetje].
- (iv) Nieltje⁵, bapt 14 JUN 1767 [parents: Jan Merlett and Jannetie].

According to Lois Hall, this Jan⁴ married two additional times: m (3) Baatie Batic and m in 1772 (4) Hannah Sheldon. In the records of the Caughnawaga Reformed Church near Fonda, NY, John Melatt and Baatje Melatt were sponsors at the baptism of John⁶, son of Gideon⁵ (John⁴) and Maria Quackenbush on 25 MAY 1772. This record led Jane Marlett Taft to conclude that Baatje was a third wife of John⁴.^[RA] This generates a tight time squeeze as the Caughnawaga baptismal records also include two children born to John Melat and Hannah Shelden, the first of whom, Peggy, was b 31 JUL 1773.^[R94] There are many reasons to associate this John with John⁴ (Thomas³), including the fact that he served as a sponsor at baptisms of children of Gideon⁵ (b 1747), son of John⁴ by his first wife (see above).^[R94]

Children of Jan⁴ Merlet and Hannah Sheldon, the first and third baptized at the Caughnawaga Reformed Church, Fonda, NY [Ref: Baptism Record of Caughnawaga Reformed Church, Fonda, NY--now the Reformed Church of Fonda, NY, 1758-1899. Transcribed and indexed by Arthur C. M. Kelly, Rhinebeck, NY, 1985].

- (i) Margaret⁵ (Peggy), b 31 JUL 1773, bapt 5 SEP 1773 [parents: John Melat, Hannah Shelden; sponsors: Lewis Clement, Cattalyntyte Clement]; m Jonathan Hoff.
- (ii) Mary⁵, b 25 NOV 1774 [included in the notes of Lois Hall]; m William C. Newkirk.
- (iii) Jellis⁵ (Giles), b 3 OCT 1777, bapt 27 OCT 1777 [parents: John Marlat, Hannah Shelden; sponsors: Jellis Fonda, Jannetje Fonda]; m 29 Jan 1801 Rachel Newkirk; d 24 DEC 1819.

The fact that, after the death of his father, Jellis⁵ was raised by Gideon⁵, son of John⁴ and Maria⁴ Marlat, strengthens the case for assuming that the same John was the husband of Maria⁴ Marlat, Jannetje Van Sickle and Hannah Sheldon. (Baatje remains a mystery, however.)

Much more is known about John⁴ (Thomas³) from the records compiled by Jane Marlett Taft and, later, by Lois Hall. He emigrated from New Jersey to the Mohawk Valley of New York in about 1767. His brothers Mark⁴ and Abraham⁴ either accompanied him or followed soon after. There are many records of John⁴ in the Mohawk Valley before and during the Revolutionary War [see *Mohawk Valley in the Revolution* by Maryly B. Penrose].

In later records, a John Marlatt, "single man who keeps a horse," is mentioned in the Hunterdon County [NJ] Ratetables for May 1778.^[R68] A John Marlatt of Mansfield, Woodhouse, Sussex Co., farmer, in his will dated 10 AUG 1780, mentions his wife Lydia, eldest daughter Hannah, eldest son, George, sons John, Nathan and Joseph, and daughters Sarah, Lidia, Martha and Ann.^[R81] This last individual is probably Jan⁴, son of George³ Merlat and

Hannah Bowne since the two oldest children are named George and Hannah. A will dated 21 APR 1800 for a Samuel Marlatt of Somerset Co., calls him the "son of John Marlatt."^[R82] The will of a Henry Stricker of Middletown Twp., Monmouth Co., dated 3 MAR 1800, leaves a plot of land to John Merlat and Mary, his wife, later to be divided between the three children of Mary Merlat, i.e., Mary, John and Martha.^[R83]

ADDED NOTE: In addition to John and Dirck Morlat, the Janeway Accounts^[R58] also include individuals named George Morlat, Sr., George Morlat (presumably Jr.), Paul Morlat "son of George, Sr.," and Elizabeth Morlat. The only George who would seem to match George Sr. with an adult son named Paul is George³ [Gideon¹, Josias²] who was born in 1685 and married Hannah Bowne. George³ and Hannah are known to have had two sons, Paul⁴ (b 1716) and John⁴ (b 1721), but no son George has been identified. However, the fact that the older George is called "Senior" does not necessarily imply that he is the father of the younger George. In colonial times, if there were two individuals of the same name living in the same locale, the older would be called "Senior" and the younger "Junior" even if they were totally unrelated. Therefore, the younger George Morlat may well be Joris³ son of Abraham². The Elizabeth Morlat listed is unidentified. Is it possible that Elizabeth³, daughter of Abraham², had a separate account from her husband Cornelius Sleght? Or is this Elizabeth (Sleght) Morlat, wife of Jan³, with a separate account from her husband (see above)? (If so, Elizabeth would have to be John's first wife, not his second.) Or is this the Elizabeth³ who is the dau of Abraham² (who had a son), implying that she remained single and is not the individual who was the wife of Cornelius Sleght?

NOTE: The records of the children of Abraham² and their families ends at this point. However, since the location of records pertaining to Frances [Marlett] LaForge (as noted above) have been so crucial to proving that the writer of the 1714 will was Abraham² rather than Abraham³, and since nothing has previously been written about Frances's descendants, we continue here with the families for the sons of Frances [Marlett] LaForge.

12. JOHN⁴ LAFORGE, JR. (Gideon¹, Abraham², Frances³)—As noted in the section for his mother, Frances³ (Marlet) LaForge, John LaForge, Jr., (actually, he was John III) was probably born about 1702 since he had children baptized starting in 1724. His wife was Sarah Martin who is called "Cery" in some of the baptismal records for their children. The will of John⁴ LaForge was written 3 MAR 1748/49 and proved 30 MAR 1749.^[R84] In it he names his wife Sarah and his five children, John, Nathaniel, David, Frances Blackford and Sarah, the last of whom was underage.

Children of John⁴ LaForge and Sarah Martin, the third baptized at the Reformed Dutch Church, Harlingen, NJ,^[R85] and the first two and last two at the First Reformed Dutch Church, Raritan, NJ,^[R86] —surname LaForge:

- (i) Jan⁵ (John), bapt 20 DEC 1724 [parents: Jan La Faers and Cery]; will written 9 FEB 1779, proved 8 JUN 1779, names wife Rachel and children Samuel, David, Elizabeth, Delilah and Rachel.
- (ii) Francentje⁵ (Frances), bapt 3 APR 1726 [parents: Jan La Foercy and Cery; witnesses: Jan La Foerscy and wife, Francentje]; m Nathaniel Blackford before 1749.
- (iii) Nathanael⁵, bapt 14 AUG 1729 [parents: Jan Leforsij and Sara Marten; witnesses: Klaes Leforsij and Fransyna Marlet].
- (iv) David⁵, b probably about 1731/32.
- (v) Rigel⁵ (Rachel?), bapt 1 MAY 1734 [parent: Jan Lafors; witness: Areyaente Bodeyn]; died before 1749.
- (vi) Saertye⁵ (Sarah), bapt 18 OCT 1741 [parents: Jan Laforsee and wife, Saertye]; she may be the Sarah Laforce of Piscataway who m David Crow of Middlesex Co. 4 JUN 1757.^[R86a]

13. ABRAHAM⁴ LAFORGE. Abraham was baptized 25 OCT 1704. In the Janeway Account Books, Abraham Laforge resided "on the place of George Van Nest, Sr."^[R86b] As shown in the following baptismal record, his wife's name was Raghel (Rachel).^[R87]

Child of Abraham⁴ LaForge and Rachel, baptized at the First Reformed Dutch Church, Raritan, NJ,^[R87]—surname LaForge:

- (i) Jan⁵ (John), bap^t 24 FEB 1739/40 [parents: Abraham Leforse and wife, Raghel].

14. NICHOLAS⁴ LAFORGE (Gideon¹, Abraham², Frances³)—Nicholas was baptized 27 OCT 1708 as the third son of Jan LaForge, Sr., and Frances Marlet. Baptismal records for the children of Nicholas (Klaas or Klaes) Laforse and wife (named "Raghel" in one record) commence in 1731. The will of this Nicholas Leforge is dated 12 JUN 1759 and proved 14 AUG 1759, naming children Nicholas, Jane, Fremis(?) (should be Frances), Mary and Temperance.^[R26]

Children of Nicholas⁴ LaForge and wife "Raghel", first four baptized at the First Reformed Dutch Church, Raritan, NJ:^[R88]

- (i) Sacrias⁵, bap^t 16 MAY 1731 [parent: Nicolaes Laforse]; d before 1759.
- (ii) Jannete⁵ (Jane), bap^t 6 AUG 1732 [parents: Niclas Laforse and wife; witness: Neelte Laforse].
- (iii) Niklaes⁵ (Nicholas), bap^t 17 JUN 1736 [parents: Nicolaes Laforse and wife; witnesses: Nelle Marlet].
- (iv) Franceynty⁵ (Frances), bap^t 13 MAY 1739 [parents: Nickolaes Lafosse and wife Raghel].
- (v) Mary⁵
- (vi) Temperance⁵

The child Niklaes⁵ may be the Nickolas Laforse of Perth Amboy, Middlesex Co., NJ, who died intestate 4 MAY 1813.^[R89]

15. DAVID⁴ LAFORGE (Gideon¹, Abraham², Frances³)—David was baptized 18 MAY 1715 and is sometimes confused with David⁵, son of John⁴ Jr. who was born about 1731/2 (see above). There are two marriage records for "David Leforge of Middlesex Co.," one to Anne Jennings of Somerset Co. on 14 JUN 1756 and the second to Martha Pierson of Middlesex Co. on 4 JUN 1757.^[R89a] The will of a David LaForge of Piscataway, Middlesex Co., written 17 MAY 1787 and proved 6 JUN 1787 is probably for either David⁴ or David⁵ [Jan⁴]. In this will, David names his wife Catherine, sons David, Peter and Benjamin and daughter Mary, wife of Cornelius Clawson.^[R90] The will of the widow, Catherine (nee Drake), written 4 DEC 1790 and proved 8 JAN 1791, mentions the children (not named) of her deceased husband, which would seem to imply that they were not her children. (The son Benjamin may be the Benjamin Le Forge of Piscataway who died intestate 2 APR 1798.^[R92] The administratrix was Rizpah Le Forge, presumably the widow.)

16. ISAAC⁴ LAFORGE (Gideon¹, Abraham², Frances³)—Isaac was bap^t 12 JUN 1723. An Isaac Le forege of Piscataway had his earmark registered 28 APR 1755.^[R93] No other information is known about Isaac. An in-depth search of the records would be useful.

CONCLUSIONS

Not all baptismal records have been found and many wills are also missing for individuals included in this document. It is certain that some families had additional children who are not included here. However, caution should be exercised in attributing other children to a specific family unless additional records are discovered or convincing arguments can be formulated based on the existing records.

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- R12. Ref. **RD**, Vol 1, "Richmond County Records," p 10.
- R13. Ref **RB**, "First Settlers of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York," pp 121, 122.
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- R17. *Collection of the Holland Society of New York*, Vol. IV, 1913-1915, "Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen, NJ, Now Jersey City." [A discourse on patronymics is provided near the end of these records (page numbers not visible in microfilm).]
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- R19. Ref **RG**, Vol 34, pp 47, 80; Vol. 35, pp 41-43.

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- R23. Ref **RG**, Vol 22, "Piscataway Earmarks," p 14.
- R24. Ref **RH**, p 9.
- R25. Ref **RG**, Vol 15, p 81.
- R26. Ref **RE**, Vol 32, p 195.
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- R27a. Ref **RE**, Vol 30, p 297.
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- R64. Ref **RE**, Vol 34, p 436.
- R65. Ref **RF**, Vol 4, pp 218, 219, 302, 303, 305.
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 R74. Ref **RE**, Vol. 23, pp 314-315.
 R75. Ref **RF**, Vol 3, p 56.
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 R89a. Ref **RE**, Vol 22, p 239.
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 R91. Ref **RE**, Vol 37, p 225.
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 R93. Ref, **RG**, Vol 26, "Piscataway Ear Marks," p 17.
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ADDENDA: Facts discovered after publication of the original article on Abraham's descendants in the Newsletter: *Malott, Marlatt, Mellott Past and Present*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (October 1996), pp 10-18.

1. BAPTISM OF ABRAHAM MARLET (SON OF GIDEON)

[REF: Photocopy of the original baptismal record, supplied by Wendy McLeod of Bermuda.]

The baptism of Abraham² took place in Mannheim 3 FEB 1656. (The version of the article which appeared in the newsletter did not include this correction.) Although difficult to read, the date can be deciphered with care on the original baptismal certificate as 3 FEB, not 2 FEB as cited in the published article.

2. WILL OF ABRAHAM MARLET (SON OF GIDEON)

[REF: Middlesex Wills, NJ, Liber A, p 17; new number: 00129/130—as photocopied from the microfilm and from the official transcription by Phyllis Ryerse in JUL 1997]

Will is dated 6 JUN 1714; probated 16 MAY 1716

In the Name of God Amen. the Six day of June In the Year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fourteen I Abraham Marlett of piscataway in the County of Middlesex and province of New Jersey yeoman being In perfect health and Memory, Thanks be given unto God therefore, calling unto

mind the mortality of my body, and Knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament—: That is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my Soul into the hand of God that gave itt and for my Body, I recommend itt to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my Executors nothing doubting but att y^e generall Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty Power of God and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and and [sic] form.

Imprimis: I will that all those Debts and Duties as I owe in right or consience to any manner of person or persons whatsoever Shall be well and truly consented and paid, or ordained to be paid within convenient time after my decease by my dearly beloved wife my Executrix.

Item: I give and be Queath unto Elizabeth my dearly beloved wife all my Household goods and moveables.

Item: I give unto my Dearly beloved wife the place where we know [sic] live, to be Injoyed by her as long as she remains a Widdow, then to be sold att a publick vandue[??] by my Executors and to be Equally divided amongst all my Children.

Item: I give unto my son Thom Marlett one hundred acres of Land to him and his heirs and assigns for ever Joyning to the Land that Abraham Corriel[??] the Jun^r: [or "the Jew"??] bought of Robert Burnet the remained part of y^e land to be Sold and Equally divided between my Sons Gedion: [transcription says "Guedion"] George: Derick: John and Elizabeth my Daughter—

Item: I give to my Daughter Elizabeth Marlaret her son forty shillings—

Item: I give to my Daughter Frances Laforge ten shillings—

I do likewise Constitute, make and Ordain Elizabeth my dearly Beloved wife my Executrix and Derrick [transcript says "Derick"] Medar and Dowse Hudely[??] my Executors to dispose of the same or either two of them to dispose of the land according to this my last will And do hereby utterly disallow revoke and disannull all and every other former Testaments Wills Legacys and Executors or Executrix by me in any waies before this time named, willed and be Queathed Certifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. I witness whereof I have hereunto Sett my hand and Seal the day and year above written.

Abraham Merlat

Signed Sealed Published Pronounced
and Declared by the said Abraham Marlett
as the last will and Testament in the presence
of us the subscribers viz

Tho: Broderwick

his

John IF Flat

mark

Sam^l: Walker

The following two memoranda are appended at the bottom of the original will:

Memorandum that on y^e sixteenth day of May Anno Dom 1716 came before me James Smith Surrogate authorized and appointed to take the Probate of Wills Thomas Broderwick, one of the hereunto subscribing Witnesses who being solemnly swore upon the holy Evangelist of Almighty God did declare that he saw the within written Testator sign seal publish and declare the within written Instrument to be his last Will and Testament and that he was of sound mind and memory to y^e best of his understanding, and also did see the the [sic] other two subscribing witnesses sign the Same in presence of the Testator

Ja Smith

Anno 1716

Memorandum that on y^e 16 day of May came before me James Smith Surrogate Elizabeth Marlet and took the oath of Executrix of this said last Will and Testament

Ja Smith

NOTE: Since Frances Laforge is clearly called Abraham's daughter in this will, and the baptismal dates for Frances' children make it apparent that Frances must have been born about 1682-84, this 1714 will must be that of the original Abraham², son of the immigrant Gideon¹. Thus, Abraham² had children by two wives, Christence Billiou and Elizabeth. There are no known descendants who can be ascribed to Abraham³..

3. SEOND MARRIAGE FOR DIRK MARLET (SON OF ABRAHAM)

REF: "Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam and New York: Marriages 1639-1801" by Samuel S. Purple, M.D.; publ. New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1890.

p. 190: Banns dated 16 JAN 1755; Marriage dated 16 Jan 1755: Dirk Merlot & Jannetje Vliereboom, Wed. [i.e., Widow].

(This is apparently a second marriage for Dirck³, son of Abraham² and Elizabeth — following the death of his first wife, Jannetje Schamp who is known to have died prior to 1760 according to her father's will.)