

Appendix II

The Piercing of the Veil

(A tract published on Jan. 15, 1957 by Ernest William Cody, Secretary-treasurer of The Cody Family Association)

Introduction

To us, as members of this Cody Family Association, a very clear picture has been presented concerning our first American ancestor, Philip Le Caudey, his wife Martha, and their children, insofar as the Massachusetts origin is concerned. Over a period of years dating back to 1880, the vital and historical records of Beverly and Hopkinton, and other Massachusetts towns, were thoroughly probed, first by the late James L. Chapman, and in the last thirty years in considerably more detail by the late Luther Morrill Cody and Miss Lydia S. Cody. To these three in particular we owe our present knowledge of the American beginning of our family. In the 1941 Directory Miss Lydia Cody presented us with a masterful chapter on Philip, his wife, his children, and their sojourn at Beverly and Hopkinton, based on the vital and historical records she had accumulated after arduous and diligent search.

The first actual American record of Philip is in 1698 at Beverly when he purchased land. We know that five of his six children were born in Beverly, but the oldest, John, born January 1, 1695, while entered in the Beverly baptismal records, is not shown as having been actually born in Beverly.

The children of Philip and Martha were as follows:

- John—born Jan. 1, 1695
- Joseph—born Aug. 12, 1700, at Beverly
- Abraham—born Sept. 21, 1701, at Beverly
- Isaac—born Jan. 17, 1703, at Beverly
- Thomas—born June 19, 1707, at Beverly
- Mary—born May 2, 1710, at Beverly

Down through the years the uppermost questions in our minds have been—where did Philip come from, where was he born, what was his wife's maiden name, who was his father, and all the pertinent questions of ancestry that might go with such queries.

We now have the answers to these questions, which, in progressive stages, will be laid before you.

The Clue which launched "The Piercing of the Veil"

A few years ago I received a letter from Miss Ruth Slater of Webster, Mass. Her reason for writing me was that she was preparing an article on the early history of Webster, and wished more information concerning our fifth generation Nathan Cody and his descendants. Nathan Cody was a pioneer resident of Webster. In her letter Miss Slater mentioned that Nathan Cody was descended from Philip Le Cody of the Le Cody family of the Isle of Jersey. In replying to Miss Slater I asked her for the source of this information concerning the Isle of Jersey. Some time elapsed and then through her nephew I was advised of Miss Slater's death. The nephew, Mr. Frederick D. Brown, searched his aunt's papers and found the following reference: "Philip Le Cody, born 1670, resided

Isle of Jersey"; no source of the information could be secured. We felt that this reference was most important, for several reasons—Miss Slater's letter to me was entirely unsolicited, she had never been in touch with any member of our family before, she had picked up this reference to Jersey from somewhere. She had long experience in genealogical work and was a life member of the New England Historical Association. Certainly she had received the reference from a source, and that was the highly significant fact that seemed so important to us. After consulting experienced genealogists and historians we were strongly urged to investigate the Jersey reference as being well worth the effort.

Launching the Search

The person who gave us the short cut to the source of Jersey information was my half-brother, the late Reverend Canon Henry John Cody, of Toronto; through his long friendship with Dr. Fisher, the Archbishop of Canterbury, we were put in direct touch through the Bishop of Winchester with the Very Reverend M. Le Marinel, Dean of the Isle of Jersey at St. Helier. M. Le Marinel proved a pillar of strength because he knew Douglas Powell Le Caudey of St. Helier and his brother, Lieutenant-Commander Archibald Le Caudey, and knew that the pronunciation of their name was the same as ours. Fortunately, the two Le Caudey brothers were close friends of two Jersey historians, Frank Le Maistre and George Le Feuvre. We supplied the Le Caudey brothers and Messrs. Le Maistre and Le Feuvre with every available record we had of our Massachusetts Cody family origin, and so the search was launched in the spring of 1950.

The Search

The Isle of Jersey consists of twelve ancient parishes, namely St. Ouen, St. Marys, St. Pierre, St. Brelades, St. Helier, St. Johns, St. Lawrence's, Trinity, St. Martins, St. Clements, Grouville and St. Saviour's. The vital records of these parishes date back for centuries. To find anything concerning our ancestor, the records of each parish had to be searched, and also the court and land records of the island. The magnitude of the search can be well imagined, and had it not been for the labor of love performed by Messrs. Le Maistre and Le Feuvre, due to their long and close friendship with the Le Caudey brothers, we would have accomplished little. Due to their lifetime of knowledge, and their experience in such searches, and knowing just now and where to probe, they were able to complete the search in the early summer of 1953, and present to me their complete report and copies of all vital records, land and court records, relevant thereto.

The Principal Findings of the Search

(a) Baptism in the Parish of St. Pierre, "1668, Aug. 23, Philippe Lescaude, son of Philippe, was presented at the baptism by Elie Le Feuvre and his wife."

(b) Marriage in the Parish of St. Brelades, "15 Sept. 1692, Philippe Le C_____ to Martha Le Brocq of Guernsey." The letters following C_____ were undecipherable in the original parish record copied. However, the date and "Philippe Le C_____" support a justified assumption that "Caude" was the name, and without question the marriage of our Philip and Martha.*

(c) This date of marriage in 1692 ties in perfectly with the birth of their eldest son, John, shown in the Beverly, Mass., records as January 1, 1695.

(d) There is no further record in the Island of this family, which is strong evidence they left the island before the birth of John, unquestionably to the New World. In fact, they could have before the baptism of John.

(e) All through the Jersey vital records are found the same old family names in the Le Caudey family as repeated so many times in the Massachusetts records—Philippe, Abraham, John (Jean), Samuel, Thomas, and so on.

(f) In the Beverly and Hopkinton records, our Philip is mentioned as a "weaver," as a "mariner," as a "yeoman." As St. Helier was one of the largest ports of the Old World, almost every Jersey lad at some time or other was a "mariner"; similarly, every Jersey home had its loom and its spinning wheel; men, women and children augmented the family's living from the land by weaving.

(g) In the old journal manuscript kept by Jean Le Caudey, brother of our Philip, mention is made that two of his sons, Philippe and Samuel, made voyages to the "New England," no doubt receiving their incentive from their uncle, our Philip, who had gone before.

Spellings of the name as revealed by the Jersey records

Lecaudey, Lescaudey, Lescaude, and Lecaude, are the most plentiful. Le is simply the singular prefix and Les the plural. Caudey is pronounced exactly like our name of Cody.

The Le Caudey family in Isle of Jersey today

Douglas Powell Le Caudey and his brother, Lieutenant-Commander Archibald Le Caudey, head the male lines. During the search we made delightful contacts with these two brothers and their sister; they have been keenly interested, and the search was really of as much benefit to them as to us. This family is descended from Jean Le Caudey, brother of our Philip.

The Brother and Sister of our Philip

Sara Le Caudey was the eldest of the family, born 1666, and married Nicolas Du Bois. Our Philip was next, born 1668. Jean Le Caudey, mentioned in the preceding paragraph, was the youngest, born 1678, and three times married.

The Isle of Jersey ancestors of our Philip

The first record of our family in Jersey is found in a court record of January, 1566, mentioning Guillaume Lescaude as a purchaser of land. As revealed by the various vital records, it would appear that the births and deaths of our Philip's ancestors would be about as follows:

Guillaume	—	Born 1480	Died 1568
Raulin	—	1500	1578
Jean	—	1530	1590
Nicollas	—	1560	1620
Abraham	—	1610	1676
Philippe	—	1637	1688
Philippe	—	1668	1743

(Our Philip of Beverly)

Isle of Jersey Geography

The Island is about nine miles long by five miles wide, and about 20 miles from the French coast, 80 miles from the English coast. It is the main island

of the Channel Islands group, the other principal islands being Guernsey, Alderney, Saark, Herm, with numerous smaller ones.

Isle of Jersey History

Jersey was originally part of the Duchy of Normandy. Normandy and England were under the joint rule of Duke William (William the Conqueror). Jersey, while now a part of England, is entirely self-governing by a legislative body known as "The States." French is the language in use, and the English are still considered as more or less foreigners.

Isle of Jersey Church History

Before the Reformation, Jersey was under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Coutances, in Normandy. Due to the distance and the isolation from Coutances, Mother Church neglected Jersey, and the island accepted Protestantism practically 100%, and became a haven of refuge to thousands of persecuted Huguenots from the French mainland, 20 miles away.

Thanks Due

No report of this Jersey matter would be complete without reference to the photostatic work done for us by Mrs. Mary Dearth of Marietta, Ohio. Copies of all the vital records, court records, land records, charts and reports, both in English translation, and the French originals, were made by her with the photostat process and no charge whatever. Some hundreds of copies of manuscripts were made in this manner, and her great help is deeply appreciated.

Final Disposal

The Jersey findings were accepted by our family association on July 3, 1954, at Cody, Wyoming, at our 26th annual convention, on motion of Chester Cody Crouch, seconded by Joe Hufford—motion unanimously carried.

The minutes of the 26th annual convention at Cody, Wyoming, July 2, 3 and 4, 1954, were adopted at the 27th annual convention at Harding, Illinois, on August 13 and 14, 1955, on motion of Aldus M. Cody, seconded by Neil Cody—motion unanimously carried.

*Subsequently a question was raised on the marriage record. Frank LeFeuvre stated in 1962 "I could not possibly have given this information to Ernest and Frank LeMaistre wrote Ernest in 1953 that 'x x x Philippe left Jersey as a young man and evidently married in America x x x Martha is an uncommon name x x x Your task will be to pursue investigations in the USA.'" Replies Ernest, "This is all rather mystifying; during my visit in Detroit with Mr. LeFeuvre some years ago he supplied the information from his note book which I copied in mine. x x x I cannot locate my notebook of that time, but I do know that the information was given to me by George." In June of 1961 LeFeuvre made a fruitless search. "I cannot fathom the mystery for the entry is certainly not in the St. Brelade's register."