

I. JEAN/JOHN CAVALIER 1644 - 1696

(Parentage Unknown)

In *A Description of New Netherland*, Adriaen van der Donck had poured his knowledge of the colonies, people, its natives, plants, winds, insects, mountains, snows, dangers, and its promises. He died in 1655 but his book became a best seller and went into a second publishing the following year. It fueled a passion for the New World colony of Manhattan.

The following entry places Jean Cavalier's birth date as 1644: New York City Wills of



In R.D. Owen's *Lineage of the Caverlys*, (see note below), he says that "Jean Cavalier, born 1644, Picardy, France, came to New York before 1670. He died in 1699 and had served as a clerk in a law court." But tax records seem to indicate he died in 1696 as noted later.

1665-1707, page 150,

"The deposition of Hartman Wessels, aged 54, or thereabouts, and John Cavalier, aged 45, deponents being sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, that on or about the 9th day of July, 1689,...."

Per *New York Marriages Previous to 1784* by the Genealogical Publishing Co whose source was NY General Entries, Vol. IV, pg. 99, we find a marriage license dated Feb. 6, 1671 for John Cavlier and Eleanor La Chare. Other references show her as Eleanor de la Chaire or Heyltie Salomons. New Amsterdam (NYC) was heavily Dutch and they had their own naming conventions. Eleanor de la Chaire would have been the more formal usage. In the familiar usage an "ie" or "je" was often added to indicate a child or young person. In the use of Heyltie Salomons it would indicate daughter of Salomon. Her father Saloman La Chair was listed as a member of the Dutch Reformed Church in 1660-65 and was one of the few attorneys at that time. Her mother, Annette (Jacobs) Salomon became a member in 1660 and Heyltje became a member on Nov. 4, 1670. The following baptisms prove Eleanor and Heyltie are the same person.



Neiuw Amsterdam in 1653

NOTE: In 1993 I had traced my great great grandfather Redford Caverly's father back to Ulster Co., NY. I wrote to the Huguenot Historical Society in New Paltz, NY asking for any information on Caverlys. After sending a check to cover copying and mailing, I received a sizable package of papers. In it was a *Lineage of the Caverlys* by Ralph D. Owen of Springfield, PA done in the 1960s. His research covered 1644 through the 1840s. I have confirmed many of the sources for his information and also found much that he did not include in his work. In this work on the Caverlys I will refer to R.D. Owen when I have not found other legitimate sources.

Please let me know of any corrections or additions that you would like made for posterity.

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Jean/Jan must have died in 1696 because the Tax Assessments for his West Ward house in Feb. 1697 show “the Widdow of Jan Cavelier house &c.” There were multiple assessments through the year. Some were for maintenance of the minister and the poor, some for support of local government, and some to “Secure the Frontiers at Albany and for Recruiting his Majesties three Companies posted there”. These early tax assessment records can now be found on the internet at <http://historical.library.cornell.edu>.

Of the six children of Jean and Elinor, Peter Gerardus was our direct ancestor and a page on him follows. Dutch church records give us some information on some of the other children. Anna Catharyn was baptized in 1675 as mentioned earlier and she married Peter White on March 2, 1697. Magdalena baptized in 1682, married William Chisnell, Dec. 22, 1701 in New York City. Mary may have married Daniel Jouet of New Jersey and I am currently researching this line to prove or disprove this theory. Nothing is known about John Jr. and Elizabeth at this time.

From *Colonial New York-A History* by Michael Kammer we find some interesting facts regarding the new world to which our ancestor had immigrated. In 1661 New Amsterdam (NYC) was a town of some 300 buildings and 1300 inhabitants. In 1665 it had a population of about 1,470 and in 1676 the city had grown to more than 2,200. And a census was taken in 1698 showing about 4,500 for the city.

Based on the percentage of military personnel able to sign their names versus only make their marks, it was estimated that 79% of adult white males were illiterate.

A Rev. Miller lamented that “Tis in this country a common thing even for the meanest persons, so soon as the bounty of God has furnished them with a plentiful crop, to turn what they can as soon as may be into money, and that money into drink.....There are many couples living together without ever being married in any manner of way; many of whom, after they have lived some years so, quarrel, and, thereupon separating, take unto themselves. . .new companions.” Even when couples married, complained Rev. Miller, “enjoyment precedes the marriage.”