

Boxwood Hall State historic Site  
1073 East Jersey Street  
Eliabeth, NJ 07201-2503  
December 13, 1990

Mr. Wayne McKinstry  
555 Park  
Chatham, IL 62629

Dear Mr. McKinstry:

One of the more disappointing parts of this job is to inform people that the illustrious and hard working Elias Boudinot IV (b. 1740), lawyer and President of the Continental Congress, has no direct descendants.

Only one of Elias & Hannah Boudinot's children lived to adulthood. Her name was Susan Vergereau Boudinot (b. 1764); she married William Bradford, but there were no children from this marriage.

Aside from Elias IV, two of his brothers married and had children. Both brothers, John (b. 1735, Antigua, W.I.) and Elisha (b.1749, Philadelphia) had sons named Elias!

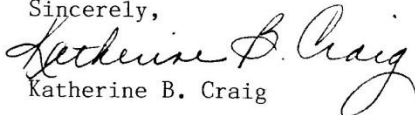
I believe you are descended from Elias Boudinot, son of John Boudinot and his wife, Rachel Catherine Van Norden. I cannot tell you the date of their marriage, but their first child, a daughter, Jane, was baptized at St. John's Episcopal Church in Elizabeth on April 15, 1764. My rather scanty references indicate three other children of the marriage: Elias, John & Tobias. The birth year of 1766 for your ancestor seems to fall within this family as Elisha Boudinot did not marry for the first time until 1778.

As for possible references, the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton include copies of marriage bonds, wills and other documents dating from before the Revolution. Boudinot family papers are as widely scattered as the New York Historical Society in Manhattan, the Princeton University Library, the Alexander Library of Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) and the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, RI. You might also search in the records of Somerset County, NJ, as Rachel Van Norden was from Bound Brook and there is a mention of John as "practicing physic [medicine]" there in 1764.

As John was the great-grandson of a Huguenot refugee, Elié Boudinot of Marans, Anis, France, you might also contact The Huguenot Society.

Good luck to you in your search. If I can help you, please write or telephone (201)-648-4540.

Sincerely,

  
Katherine B. Craig