

Toussaint Briel, a French Huguenot, and his wife, Maria Coutaine, lived in this little house for twenty years. He died in the summer of 1671.—*Rec. N. Am.*, VI: 320. She survived him but a year, leaving the cottage by will to Lidia Mintern, wife of Itlene Guyon. The deacons of the Dutch Church administered her estate.—*Liber Deeds*, B: 189; *cf. Book of Records of Deeds & Transfers* (etc.), 1665–1672 (translated), 208–9.

For many years, Toussaint Briel worked as a warehouse porter. His oath bound him

“to repair at six o'clock in the morning at the City Scales and there or in that neighbourhood remain until twelve o'clock at noon, to return at One o'clock and then to continue further to the going down of the sun.”—*Rec. N. Am.*, V: 256. Many and varied were his duties, as set forth in the *Records*; that he faithfully performed them is attested by the fact that he died in office. His gentle character is shown by his statement on the witness-stand, in the suit that Adrian Vincent brought against Marcus de Sousoy, for slander, in 1659. De Sousoy and his wife had accused Vincent of having “another wife with four children.” The court asked Briel if the fact was known to him. He answered, simply, “that he being for four and twenty years at Amsterdam has heard it so stated.”—*Ibid.*, III: 70. Until February, 1660, Briel owned the vacant land shown east of his house, on the Plan. He sold it, at that time, to Dirck Jansen, from Oldenburgh.—*Liber Deeds*, A: 189. There were Briels among the early members of the French Church, no doubt descendants of this settler.—List of Names in *An Historical Sketch of the Eglise Françoise à la Nouvelle York*, by Rev. Alfred V. Wittmeyer.

Site: No. 29 Beaver Street, and the western part of the Morris Building.