

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – September 5 – 9, 2011

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Who was Laurent Clerc's deaf teacher?

- a. Thomas H. Gallaudet
- b. George W. Veditz
- c. Jean Massieu
- d. Abbe de l'Epee

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: "c" – Jean Massieu - Born deaf at Semens; 5 other siblings were also born deaf. Went to the school for the deaf at Bordeaux, founded and supervised by the Abbe Sicard. When Sicard was called to Paris to succeed the Abbe de l'Epee, Massieu followed him there, and soon became a teacher at the Paris Institute for 32 years where he was one of Laurent Clerc's teachers. Taught for a short time at a small school for the deaf in Rhodéz, then started a new school for the deaf at Lille, serving as its superintendent. SOURCE(S): Gallaudet Encyclopedia, vol.2 p.207-208; Notable Deaf Persons, p.54-56; The Deaf Experience, p.73-80; The Conquest of Deafness, p.91-93; American Annals of the Deaf, April 1848, p.142-143; vol.2 no.4, July 1849, p.203-217; Peeps into the Deaf World, p.316-317; The Frat, Dec. 1939, p.2.

Read an a description of Massieu by his pupil, Laurent Clerc, published in 1849

<http://saveourdeafschools.org/massieu.pdf>

Note: All previous issues of DCQW are archived at the Washington School for the Deaf website: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>