Reiff/Reif Family Huguenot Ancestry

Herly-en-Boulonois, Bisopric of Cambrai, Spanish Netherlands,

Present-day Herly, Pas-de-Calais, Arras, Hauts-de-France, France

To

Mannheim, Electorate of the Palatine, Holy Roman Empire,

Present-day Mannheim, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

To

New Paltz, Ulster County, Province of New York,

Present-day New York

1642-1802

By

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Introduction

The Protestant Reformation began by Martin Luther (10 Nov 1483-18 Feb 1546) in Germany about 1517, spread rapidly in France, especially among those having grievances against the establishment. As Protestantism grew and developed in France, it generally abandoned the Lutheran form and followed the teaching of John Calvin (10 Jul 1509-27 May 1564), which was based on a belief in salvation through individual faith without the need for the intercession of a church hierarchy, and on the belief in an individual's right to interpret scriptures for themselves. The movement placed these French Protestants in direct theological conflict with both the Catholic Church and French royalty. The Huguenots, who were followers of this new Protestantism, were soon accused of heresy against the Catholic government and the established religion of France, and a General Edict urging their extermination was issued in 1536.

Nevertheless, Calvinism continued to spread and grow, and about 1555 the first Huguenot church was founded in a home in Paris. The number and influence of the Huguenots continued to increase after the establishment of this church, leading to an escalation in hostility and conflict between the Catholic Church/State and the Huguenots. Finally, on 1 Mar 1562, during the reign of Charles IX (27 Jun 1550-30 May 1574), about 1200 Huguenots were slain by troops of the Duke of Guise, at Vassey, France, igniting the French Wars of Religion, which would devastate France for the next thirty-five years.



Spanish Slaughter Huguenots

French Huguenot Persecution

One of its most notorious episodes was the Aug 1572 St. Bartholomew's Day massacre, a targeted group of assassinations and a wave of Catholic mob violence directed against the Huguenots. The massacre started after the 18 Aug marriage of King Charles IX’s sister Margaret to the Protestant King Henry III of Navarre. Many of the wealthiest and most prominent Huguenots had gathered in largely Catholic Paris to attend the wedding. The massacre began in the night of 23–24 Aug 1572, the eve of the Feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle, two days after the attempted assassination of Admiral Gaspard de Coligny (16 Feb 1519-24 Aug 1572), was a French nobleman, Admiral of France, and Huguenot leader during the French Wars of Religion. Charles IX had ordered the killing of a group of Huguenot leaders, including Coligny, and the slaughter spread throughout Paris. Lasting several weeks, the massacre expanded outward to the countryside and other urban centers. Modern estimates for the number of dead across France vary widely, from 5,000 to 30,000.

Print by Frans Hogenberg shows the attempted assassination of Admiral Coligny at left, his subsequent murder at right, and scenes of the general massacre in the streets of Paris.

The massacre marked a turning point in the French Wars of Religion. The Huguenot political movement was crippled by the loss of many of its prominent aristocratic leaders, and many rank-and-file members subsequently converted. Those who remained became increasingly radicalized. Though by no means unique, the bloodletting was labeled by historians as the worst of the century's religious massacres. The fighting ended with a compromise in Apr 1598, when Henry of Navarre, who had converted to Catholicism in 1593, was proclaimed Henry IV (13 Dec 1553-14 May 1610) of France and issued the Edict of Nantes, which granted substantial rights and freedoms to the Huguenots. However, Catholics continued to disapprove of Protestants and of Henry, and his assassination in 1610 triggered a fresh round of Huguenot rebellions in the 1620s. The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV (5 Sep 1638-1 Sep 1715) in Oct 1685 began anew persecution of the Huguenots, and hundreds of thousands of Huguenots fled France once more to other countries.

Since the Huguenots of France were in large part artisans, craftsmen, and professional people, they were usually well-received in the countries to which they fled for refuge. Most of them went initially to Germany, the Netherlands, and England. Considerable numbers of Huguenots subsequently emigrated to the colonies in North America, especially the Carolinas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The Freer/Freres family is the only Huguenot family in the Reiff/Reif family ancestry, but, as described in the following paragraphs, their position in the family tree is important due to the number of descendants. The first known family member was Hugo Freer. He was born in 1642 in Herly, Cambrai, Spanish Netherlands, now Pas-de-Calais, Hauts-de-France, France. [[1]](#footnote-1) About 1650 when he was about 8 years old, his family, along with many other Huguenot families, who had been intimidated and persecuted by Spain, France, and the Catholic Church, fled to Mannheim in the Electorate of the Palatinate (Paltz), Holy Roman Empire, which had been settled by Huguenots in the previous century to escape earlier persecution and war. Sometime after Oct 1674, the family joined with other Huguenots to make their way first to England and then to the Province of New York, eventually settling in the Esopus District around Kingston by 1676.

Freer/Freres Family Ancestry

The earliest record of the Freer family is 1642 in Herly-en-Boulonois, Bishopric of Cambrai, Spanish Netherlands, present-day Pas-de-Calais, Hauts-de-France, France. The Freers were French Huguenot or Walloonian. The Huguenots were Protestants most of whom eventually came to follow the teachings of John Calvin, and who, due to religious persecution, were forced to flee to other countries in the 16th and 17th centuries. Some remained, practicing their faith in secret. Since the Huguenots were in large part artisans, craftsmen, and professional people, they were usually well-received in the countries to which they fled for refuge. Most of them went initially to the Palatinate in present-day Germany, the Netherlands, and England. In the 17th century, considerable numbers of Huguenots emigrated to the British colonies in North America, especially the Carolinas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Our Freer family fled the Spanish Netherlands for Mannheim, Electorate of the Palatine (Paltz), with many other Huguenots about 1650. They lived there for about 25 years before fleeing again, first to England and then emigrating to the Province of New York due to continued persecution in the Palatinate.

**Mannheim**

**Herly-en-Boulonois,**



1st Generation – Hugo Freer (Immigrant)

Relationship – 8th great-grandfather

Hugo Freer was born in 1642 in Herly, Cambrai, Spanish Netherlands, now Pas-de-Calais, Hauts-de-France, in northern France. His parents are unknown; although they were French Huguenot or Walloonian. Several secondary sources on Ancestry.com claim his father was Hugo Freer who was born in Mannheim, Electorate of the Palatinate, Holy Roman Empire; however, given their French Huguenot connections and the lack of any documented source confirmation in any of the family trees, the author does not put much credibility in these claims. According to several family trees, following the end of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) which had devastated much of the Palatinate, about 1650 when he was about 8 years old, his family, along with many other French Huguenot families, who had been intimidated and persecuted by Spain, France, and the Catholic Church, fled to Mannheim, which had been settled by Huguenots in the previous century to escape earlier persecution and war. Mannheim, however, was on a long struggle to recovery after the war, and life must have been very difficult for the family.

According to Paul W. Prindle, in “New Data For Hugo Freer of New Paltz, N.Y.,” the French Huguenot Church records in Mannheim contain his marriage records. On 2 Oct 1660, Hugo married Marie de la Haye (3 Nov 1645-8 Dec 1666), daughter of Georges de la Haye (about 1620-\_\_\_\_) & Jeanne Herault (about 1627-\_\_\_\_) of Douai, France. Following is a translated extract of their marriage from the French Congregation at Mannheim:

*“Hugues Frere young man native of Herly-en-Boulonois, Marie de la Haye, young woman native of Douaye in the reconquered land, have been married at this Church the 2 October 1660”.*

They had three children: a daughter Marie (13 Sep 1661-about 1666); a daughter Sara (22 Jan 1664-about 1666); and a son Hugo (1 Jul 1666-after 29 Jun 1732), my 7th great-grandfather. (See next generation.). According to Morrison, a Mannheim city map from 1663 has the name Hugo Freer on one of the houses. His wife Marie and both daughters died in Mannheim during the Great Plague of 1666, which is said to have wiped out half the congregation in seven months. On 22 Jan 1667, Hugo married Jeanne (Jannetje) Wibau (also spelled Verbeau), (1644-8 Dec 1693) daughter of Toussant Wibau of Bruyelle, near Tournai. She was the widow of Simon Floquet. Simon had probably also died during the Plague. They had eight children: Abraham (bpt. 29 Jan -1669); Abraham (11 Jun 1670-after 15 Jan 1728); Isaac (20 Feb 1673-9 Aug 1690); Marie (13 Sep 1676-1719); Jacob (bpt. 9 Jun 1679-after 15 Jan 1728); Joseph (1680-1681); Jan (bpt. 16 Apr 1682-after 15 Jun 1728 & Sarah (1688-1714). Marie, born in Hurley, was the first Freer family member born in America.

Sometime after Oct 1674, the last time any of the family names appeared in the church records in Mannheim, the family joined with other Huguenots to make their way first to England and then to the Province of New York, settling in the Esopus District around Kingston by 1676. According to Kenneth E. Hasbrouck in The Huguenots of New Paltz, N. Y., they sailed on *Bonte Koe (Spotted Cow)* in 1675. The Esopus District was predominantly Dutch and English at that time, and the Huguenots wished to have their own settlement, where they could maintain their French Huguenot culture and beliefs. Under the leadership of Abraham Hasbrouck (about 1650-17 Mar 1717), a Huguenot military leader and friend of the English Governor Edmund Andros (6 Dec 1637-24 Feb 1724), a group of 12 families, including the Freers, obtained permission from him to negotiate with the Esopus Tribe to acquire a tract of land. On 26 May 1677, 5 Esopus chiefs and 12 Huguenot family heads, including Hugo Freer, signed a formal contract for the purchase of 39,000 acres of land south of Kingston. This group was known as the “Duzine.”

Huguenots Welcomed in London - 1675

Following is an edited extract from the material included Ruth P. Heidgerd’s The Freer Family on Ancestry.com containing the details of the purchase contract with the Esopus chiefs:

*“On 26 May 1677 five chiefs of the Esopus: Matsaysay, Nekahakaway, Magakahas, Assinerakan, and Wawawanis, contracted for the sale of the land to Louis DuBois and eleven others for: 40 kettles 40 axes, 40 adzes, 40 shirts, 400 fathoms white network, 300 fathoms black network, 60 pairs stockings (half small sizes), 100 bars of lead, 1 keg of powder, 100 knives, 4 kegs of wine, 40 oars, 40 pieces duffel, 60 blankets, 100 needles, 1 measure tobacco, and 2 horses (1 stallion and 1 mare).”*

The Duzine then negotiated with the English to also grant them the territory they had purchased, and on 29 Sep 1677, they received a patent to their land from James, Duke of York (14 Oct 1633-16 Sep 1701). The patent, signed by Edmund Andros, was known as the New Paltz Patent.

All of the patentees were Mannheim refugees, and their land grant was held as common land. The “Dusine,” distributed their produce from it, and it remained under the control of their families until 1826. They established the village of New Paltz and built log houses along the west bank of the Wallkill River, replacing them with stone houses about 1700. Four of the original stone houses still remain on Huguenot Street in New Paltz “The Oldest Street in America with its original houses." Among the houses is the Hugo Freer House which was constructed in two sections: “The North End” built by Hugo Freer, The Patentee, in 1694; and “The South Portion Addition” built by Johannes M. Low in 1735. A “Wooden Section” was added in the late 18th century. [[2]](#footnote-2) A bill of sale definitely established it in his possession before 1706.

Hugo Freer House, Huguenot Street - New Paltz

 As described in the Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Paltz, on 22 Jan 1683, the church in New Paltz was established with the arrival of Pierre Daille (1649-21 May 1715), who served as their minister. At a social gathering the following week, Hugo Freer was elected the first Deacon *“to assist the minister in managing the affairs of the church.”* Hugo and two of his sons, Abraham and Jacob, are also listed as having assisted in building the first church. They remained members of this church after the second church was established in 1767. Hugo was elected Elder of the church in 1690. On 27 Dec 1720, he is listed as having 3 seats in the 2nd row of pews. His sons Hugo, Abraham and Jacob are also listed as having seats in the church.

New Paltz, Ulster Co. New York

In 1689, during the reign of William and Mary, male residents of Ulster County were asked to take an Oath of Allegiance to the British Crown. Hugo and his son Hugo Jr. are listed among the names of the male inhabitants as:

*“takin the Oath of Allegiance in ye county of Ulster, by order of his Exclely: Ye Governor; ye ffirst day of September, 1689.”*

According to several family trees, including Jessica Johnson in the Johnson Family Tree and Juanita Ryan in The Viele Family Tree, Jeanne died 8 Dec 1693. Hugo’s will is dated 4 Jan 1697/8 and is written in French. His date of death is unknown, although as shown in the accompanying image, he probably died in 1698. Both are buried in the Walloon Cemetery on Huguenot Street, New Paltz, but the headstones have disappeared. A tombstone has been placed in the cemetery. It contains the name of Hugo’s first wife, although she had died in Manneheim during the Plague in 1666.



Hugo Freer Family Tombstone

The translation of his will, given in Anjou's Ulster County Wills and Heidgerd’s The Freer Family, The Descendants of Hugo Freer, Patentee of New Paltz, follows:

*“May our help be in the name of God who made the heavens and the earth. Amen.*

*Before Abraham Hasbrouck, justice of the peace at the Paltz, county of Ulster, and Louis Bevier and Jean Cottin living at the Paltz, appeared Hugo Frere, labourer, living also at the Paltz, of his (own) pure and free will, being of sound mind and understanding that the hour of death is unknown to all men, desiring that after his death all his children may live in good unity and concord, has declared to us his desire for his testament in regard to his properties, moveable and immoveable.*

*First, to wit, that Hugo Frere, his eldest son shall have ten pieces of eight as his birthright; also to wit, that three of the younger children, Jacob, John and Sara after his death shall have all the lands and his house and all the garden plat, in a word all the real property, until said daughter Sara attains the age of 16 years, without paying any rent whatever to their other brothers and sisters, and after the said daughter Sara is 16 years old they may divide equally among themselves all the household stock and the real property, after they have paid all the debts; with the reservation that the daughter Sara shall have one feather bed, one bolster and two covers (blankets) and one cow, and she shall have these over and above the others; and the son Jacob shall choose from his stable a horse and he shall have the said horse over and above the others; and his son Jean shall also choose a horse which shall be over and above the others, similarly to their brothers and sisters, who have each taken a horse, and Maria Frere a cow.*

*The aforesaid Hugo Frere, testator, appoints and entreats his son, Hugo Frere to maintain the good rights and interests of his brothers and sisters until they are of age. The said children Jacob, Jean, and Sara shall have the household things and the real property until the time specified.*

*The testator commends all his children to the divine protection of the good God and asks the blessing of his beneficence, temporal and spiritual.*

*Made at the Paltz the fourth day of January, one thousand six hundred ninety- seven (1697/8)*

*Mark x Hugue Frere*

*Witnesses:*

*Jean Cottin*

*Abraham Haasbrouck*

*Louys Bayvyr”*

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2nd Generation – Hugo Freer Jr. (Immigrant) (Needs update)

Relationship – 7th great-grandfather

Hugo Freer Jr., sometimes referred to as Senior, was born 1 Jul 1666 in Mannheim, Lower Palatinate (Pfalz), son of Hugo Freer and Marye Anna la Roye. According to Prindle and Rod Wilcox in Wilcox and Allied Families on Ancestry.com, he was baptized on 2 Jul 1666 in the French Huguenot Church in Mannheim. The sponsors for the baptism of were Alard Le Putre and Antoinette Delbse, wife of Jean Leleu. His mother and two sisters, Maria and Sarah, died in Mannheim during the Great Plague of 1666. His father then married Jeanne (Jannetje) Wibau on 22 Jan 1667. As stated in the previous generation, he had 6 half-brothers, one of whom, Abraham died as an infant, and 2 half-sisters.

Sometime after Oct 1674 (the last time any of the family names appeared in the church records), the family joined with other Huguenots to make their way first to England and then to New York. They sailed on the *Bonte Koe (Spotted Cow)* in 1675. After their arrival in New York City, they traveled up the Hudson River to the Esopus District and by 1676 settled in Kingston.

In May 1677, when Hugo was 11 years old, his father was among 12 French Huguenot men who wanted to establish their own settlement. They purchased 39,000 acres of land south of Kingston from the Esopus Indian tribe. They named the settlement New Paltz. His father built a log house along the Walkill River which Hugo replaced with a stone house in 1700. Hugo had property outside the village which he farmed. He lived the rest of his life in this house in New Paltz.

Hugo Jr. and his father are listed among the names of the male inhabitants as:

*“takin the Oath of Allegiance in ye county of Ulster, by order of his Exclely: Ye Governor; ye ffirst day of September, 1689.”*

On 7 Jun 1690, Hugo married Marye Anna la Roye (7 May 1673-1718) who was bornborn Quebec, Montreal, Canada, daughter of Someon la Roye and Claude Deschalete, in the Dutch Reformed Church of New Paltz. Following is an extract from the church records (pg. 62):

*“June 7, 1690. Hugue Frere, son of Hugue Frere, his father, and Marie Haye, his mother, was married by Mr. Dailliez to Marie le Roy.”*

They had 15 children. We have four lines of descent: son, Isaac (bpt. 21 May 1693-, after 02 Jun 1745), my 6th great-grandfather, and three daughters, all my 6th great-grandmothers, Sarah (bpt. 15 May 1698-after 06 Feb 1743), Rachel (11 Oct 1710-before 04 Jan 1756) and Jannetjen (bpt 17 Jan 1713-. 24 Apr 1797). (See next generation.) Either they or their children married into the Terwilliger family. The other children are: Hugo F. (14 Oct 1691-28 Apr 1768); Simon (bpt. 9 Jun 1694-Feb 1759); Maritje (5 May 1696-7 Mar 1773); Esther (bpt. 15 Oct 1699-1 Apr 1775); Jonas (12 Apr 1701-12 Apr 1775); twins Blandina (4 Jul 1703-1772); Catherina (4 Jul 1703-1 Apr 1775); Johannes (bpt. 15 Apr 1705-15 Jan 1727); Benjamin (bpt. 20 Oct 1706-Jun 1727); Rebecca (bpt. 4 Dec 1715-1 Apr 1775) & Elizabeth (12 Apr 1718-10 Jan 1790). Four of them died of smallpox within days of each other in Apr 1775.

As described in Heidgerd’s “The Freer Family - The Descendants of Hugo Freer, Patentee of New Paltz” and J. K. Sully in the Simon Leroy – Loyalist family tree on Ancestry.com, Hugo Jr. had two wills, both written in Dutch and twenty years apart, and an indenture that includes interesting details of his family and the property he owned in New Paltz. The first will, made at the time of the division of his father's property, names his wife and 10 children; the second names 13 children and his wife, 2 children having died.

His first will was dated 12 Feb 1706/07. Unfortunately, only pages 1 & 2 remain. It contains a long religious preamble, which is not included herein:

*"my wife to remain in full possession of my whole estate during her widowhood and if she should happen to mary, she shall be bound to deliver one third of my said estate to my heirs and after her death said third part to go to the heirs.*

*to my eldest son, Huge, five pounds for his right of primogeniture.*

*To my children, Hugo, Isaac, Simon, Marie, Sara, Hester, Cattrina, Blandina, Johannes, and Benjamin and the children which I and my said wife may have shall divide equally with my other children.”*

According to Heidgerd and Le Fevre, during his life, Hugo Jr. acquired extensive land holdings around New Paltz. In addition to the property he inherited from his father from the original New Paltz Patent, by 1710, he had purchased the land his half-sister Mary (13 Sep 1676-1719), wife of Louis Vielle, had inherited from their father for £83. Then in 1713, he purchased the land his half-brother Jean (bpt. 16 Apr 1682-15 Jan 1728) had inherited for £80. Then on 30 Jun 1715, according to Le Levre, Hugo and his sons Hugo, Isaac, my 6th great-grandfather, and Simon received a patent on an additional 1200 acres about three miles southeast of New Paltz from the British Crown.

Hugo’s name appears in the list of those who built the first stone church in 1720, and he and his eldest son, Hugo, are assigned seats in the church. Sons Hugo and Isaac are listed as freeholders in 1728.

An extract of his later will, dated 15 Jan 1727/28, also written in Dutch, follows:

*"to my eldest son, H(ugo)., the choice of a horse for his right of primogeniture.*

*to my son I(saac)., my weaver's loom with what thereto belongs, as well as two reeds and a sorrel mare, in advance of division for his faithful service.*

*my youngest children shall be provided for and brought up as well as possible and permitted to attend school.*

*and if any of the children should die before the age of majority, the survivors are to divide the share of the deceased.*

*when the minors marry, they are to have an outfit similar to those which my married children received when they married.*

*to my daughter R(achel) £ 5, to my daughter Jannetie £ 6, to daughter Rebecca £ 7, and to daughter Elisabeth £ 8, as well as my silver tumbler.*

*The children to give their brothers and sisters preference if they wish to sell their shares.*

*Executors: sons Hugo, Isaac, Simon.*

*Guardians: my three (half)-brothers, Abraham Freer, Jacob Freer and Jan Freer and my friend Aart VanWagenen.*

*HUGH FREER (his mark)*

*Witnessed by Ande Le feure, Samuel Beuier and Daniel Hasbroucq”*

Of even greater interest is the following indenture, dated 28 Jun 1732, which lists his 13 living children—(Johannes (bpt. 15 Apr 1705-15 Jan 1727) and Benjamin (bpt. 20 Oct 1706-Jan 1727) had both died—and describes the property he owned within the village of New Paltz, as well as other property within the Patent:

*“This indenture made the 29th day June, in the sixth year of the reign of our sovereign, George the second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith &c., Anno Domini, 1732, between Hugo Freer senior, of the New Paltz, in the county of Ulster and province of New York, yeoman, of the first part, and Hugo junior, Isaac (our ancestor), Simon, Jonah, Mary wife of Isaac LeFevre, Sarah (our ancestor) wife of Evert Terwilliger, Esther wife of John Terpening, Catharine wife of Isaac Van Wagonen, Dina wife of Michael Van Kleeck, Rachel wife of Hendrick Ter Boss, Janitje, Rebecca (afterwards wife of Johannes Low) and Elizabeth all of them sons and daughters of Hugo Freer senior of the other part, witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of five shillings, current money of New York to him in hand paid by the said 13 children he hath granted to the said 4 sons and 9 daughters all that certain lot of land in the New Paltz Patent, near the north end of the town (village) of New Paltz, on the east side of the street, being bounded to the west by the street aforesaid, to the south by the house lot of Daniel Hasbrouck, to the east by Andries Lefever, to the north by the said Andries Lefever and the street aforesaid, together with all buildings, houses, barns, stables, yards, gardens, orchards and other improvements; also all that other certain piece of land lying and being within the limits and bounds of the New Paltz, bounded to the east by the said street, to the south by the house lots of Daniel DuBois, to the west by the said lots in Wassamakos land, and to the north by lot of Maltys Sleght, and also all that other lot or piece of ground being a lot which the said Hugo Freer senior hath purchased of Anthony Crispell, deceased lying on the east side of said street, being bounded to the west by the street aforesaid, the south by a lot of Andries Lefever, to the east by the said Asdries Lefever and to the north by a lane that leads to Daniel Hasbrouck's mill; also all that certain lot lying in the great pature within the bounds of the patent of New Paltz bounded on the west by the road that leads to Walravens bourey, to the south by a lot of John Terpening, to the east by the Paltz common or undivided lands, and to the north by a lot of Daniel DuBois, and also all that four-sixth the parts of him the said Hugo Freer, senior of the one-twelfth part of the undivided lands there now are lying undivided and in common within the limits and bounds of the Patent of New Paltz aforesaid, which was ceased, together with all ponds, pools, etc., etc., yielding and paying therefore unto the said Hugo Freer senior his heirs or assigns the rent of one pepper corn only on the first day of May next ensuing if demanded.*

 *Hugo Freer, Senior, his mark”*

The old homestead in New Paltze eventually passed to his son-in-law, Johannis Lowe (17 Mat 1707-1771), husband of Rebecca Freer, whose descendants occupied it for a long time.

The exact date of Hugo Jr’s death is unknown, but several sources claim he died on 29 Jun 1732. He most likely died in New Paltz.

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3rd Generation – Isaac Freer, brother of Sarah, Rachel & Jannetjen

Relationship - 6th great-grandfather

Isaac Freer was born prior to 21 May 1693 in New Paltz, Ulster County, Province of New York, son of Hugo Freer and Marye Anna la Roye. He was baptized on 21 May 1693 in the Reformed Dutch Church of New Paltz. Witnesses were Denis Reille and Haguette (?). He grew up in New Paltz. According to Le Fevre, in 1715, Isaac, his father Hugo, and his two brothers Hugo and Simon, obtained a patent for 1200 acres of land from the British Crown about three miles southeast of New Paltz. Isaac located on this land and remained there for the rest of his life.

Isaac married Marytjen de Joo (Deyo), daughter of Abraham Pierre de Joo (Deyo) (16 Oct 1676-7 Oct 1725), the Patentee, and Elsje Klaarwater (7 Dec 1679-Oct 1725), sometime after 22 Aug 1723 in Kingston, Ulster County, Province of New York. Their wedding banns were published in the Kingston Dutch Reformed Church on 22 Aug 1723. They had 9 children: Isaak (bpt. 26 Sep 1725-1734); Joseph (bpt. 12 Feb 1727-\_\_\_\_); Benjamin ( bpt. 23 Jun 1728-\_\_\_\_); Elizabeth (bpt. 28 Jun 1730-\_\_\_\_); Mary (bpt. 27 Feb 1732-1802), my 5th great-grandmother, who married Jonathan Freer Terwilliger (bpt. 18 Aug 1734-Feb 1803) (see next generation); Isaac (10 Dec 1733-30 Aug 1801); Wyntje (bpt. 12 Feb 1738-30 Aug 1801); Daniel (bpt. 5 Jun 1743-9 Aug 1829) & Jannetjen (bpt. 2 Jun 1745-\_\_\_\_).

Isaac's name appears in the list of Captain Hoffman's Company in 1716, also in the list of soldiers enrolled in New Paltz in 1738. His old stone house burned down about 1880. Sons Daniel and Isaac served in the 1st Company, 3rd Regiment, Ulster County Militia during the Revolutionary War—Daniel as a Lieutenant and Isaac a Private.

Isaac is mentioned in his father’s will and indenture as inheriting some of the property his father owned in New Paltz and land outside the village within the New Paltz Patent. Like his father, he was probably a farmer. According to Le Fevre, Isaac is listed as a freeholder, along with his brother Hugo, in 1728. Unfortunately, not much else is known about Isaac. His date and place of death are unknown; however, as is proved by the baptism of his youngest daughter Jannetjen, he was still alive on 2 Jun 1745. Numerous family trees on Ancestry.com claim that he died in Kingston, but no date is given. According to the Ten Eyck Family Tree on Ancestry.com, Marytjen died on 24 Apr 1797 in Kingston.

Sources:

Heidgerd, Ruth P., The Freer Family - The Descendants of Hugo Freer, Patentee of New Paltz, The Huguenot Historical Society, New Paltz, New York, 1968, pgs. 1-4

Le Fevre, Ralph, History of New Paltz, New York and Its Old Families…, Brandow Printing Co., Albany, New York, 1909, pgs. 351-354

Sully, J. K., Simon Leroy – Loyalist, “Wills of Hugo Freer,” http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/4948205/person/-1519197323.

The History of Hugo Freer Sr. The Patentee and his wives, Marie de la Haye and Jeanne Wibau, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/memories/memory/1793053>.

Ten Eyck Family Tree, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/5101026/person/-1162535279>

Sarah Freer, sister of Isaac, Rachel & Jannetjen

Relationship – 6th great-grandmother

Sarah Freer was born before 15 May 1698 in New Paltz, Ulster County, Province of New York, daughter of Hugo Freer and Marye Anna la Roye. She was baptized on 15 May 1698 in the Kingston Dutch Reformed Church. Witnesses were Jonas la Roye and Sara la Roye. Relationship of the witnesses is unknown, but must have been family members.

Sarah married Evert Terwilliger (bpt. 23 May 1686-29 Mar 1767), son of Jan Evertsen Terwilliger (about 1658-1716) and Sytje Christina Jacobs VanEtten (bpt. 25 Mar 1668-1730) sometime after 18 Aug 1717 in Kingston. Their marriage banns are listed on 18 Aug 1717. His surname is listed as Van der Willigen. Following is an extract from Hoes’ Kingston DRC Records:

*“Evert Van Der Willigen j. m., born in Mormel (Marbletown), and Zara Freer, j.d., born in the Pals (New Paltz). Banns registered 18 Aug.”*

Evert was a farmer. They had 11 children, including Jurian (bpt. 25Jun 1732-29 Mar 1797) and Jonathan (bpt.18 Aug 1734-Feb 1803), both my 5th great-grandfathers and both born and baptized in Kingston. (See Terwilliger family history.) As detailed in the previous generation, Sarah inherited some land from of her father’s estate in New Paltz. She died sometime after the baptism of her youngest son Joseph which is recorded in Hoes’ Kingston DRC Records (pg. 264) 6 Feb 1743. Evert died 29 Mar 1767 in Kingston.

Sources:

Heidgerd, Ruth P., The Freer Family - The Descendants of Hugo Freer, Patentee of New Paltz, The Huguenot Historical Society, New Paltz, New York, 1968, pgs. 1-4

Le Fevre, Ralph, History of New Paltz, New York and Its Old Families…, Brandow Printing Co., Albany, New York, 1909, pgs. 351-354

Sully, J. K., Simon Leroy – Loyalist, “Wills of Hugo Freer,” http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/4948205/person/-1519197323.

Rachel Freer, sister of Isaac, Sarah & Jannetjen

Relationship – 6th great-grandmother

Rachel Freer was born 11 Oct 1710 in New Paltz, Ulster County, Province of New York, daughter of Hugo Freer and Marye Anna la Roye. She was baptized on 10 Nov 1710 in the Kingston Dutch Reformed Church. She married Hendericus Ter Bosch (bpt. 28 May 1804-about 1761), son of Johannes Ter Bosch (18 Oct 1685-1724) and Elizabeth Hendricksen (30 Jun 1669-15 Fen 1762) sometime after 5 May 1728 in Kingston. Their marriage banns are listed on 5 May 1728 in the Kingston Dutch Reformed Church. Following is an extract from Hoes’ Kingston DRC Records (pg. 555):

They had 10 children, including Hendricus (bpt. 9 Feb 1735-between 1790-1800), my 5th great-grandfather. Rachel died sometime before 4 Jan 1756, probably in Fishkill, Dutchess County. Hendricus married 2nd Catherina Kierstede (bpt. 11 Sep 1709-\_\_\_\_) on 4 Jan 1756 in Kingston.

Jannetjen Freer, sister of Isaac, Sarah & Rachel

Relationship – 6th great-grandmother

Jannetjen Freer was born before 25 Jan 1713 and was baptized in the Kington DRC on 25 Jan 1713. She married Ahasuerus Van Kleeck (bpt. 8 Feb 1713-3 Feb 1789), son of Barent Van Kleeck (1677-Sep 1756) & Antoinette Parmentier (27 Jul 1684-1749). He was born in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co. Province of New York. They had 7 children, including daughter Maria (9 May 1740-after 1780), my 5th great-grandmother.

Sources:

Heidgerd, Ruth P., The Freer Family - The Descendants of Hugo Freer, Patentee of New Paltz, The Huguenot Historical Society, New Paltz, New York, 1968, pgs. 1-4

Le Fevre, Ralph, History of New Paltz, New York and Its Old Families…, Brandow Printing Co., Albany, New York, 1909, pgs. 351-354

Sully, J. K., Simon Leroy – Loyalist, “Wills of Hugo Freer,” http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/4948205/person/-1519197323.

4th Generation – Mary Freer

Relationship – 5th great-grandmother

Mary Freer, the last in the direct Freer family line, was born before 27 Feb 1732 in New Paltz, Ulster County, Province of New York, daughter of Isaac Freer and Marytjen de Joo. She was baptized on 27 Feb 1732 in the Kingston Dutch Reformed Church. Witnesses were Marthinus Hofman and Ariaantjen Tappen. Mary’s first husband and date of marriage are unknown. She married 2nd Jonathan Terwilliger (bpt. 18 Aug 1734-Feb 1803) her 1st cousin, son of Evert Evertsen Terwilliger and Sarah Freer, her father’s sister, on 18 Jan 1761 in New Paltz. (See Terwilliger family history.) Following is an extract from the Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Paltz:

*“1761, Jan 18. Married: Jonathan Terwilligen, Y. M., born at Shawenkonk,and Maria Freres, widow, born at New Paltz, both living in New Paltz.”*

They had 5 children, including son David Terwilliger (bpt. 29 Dec 1771-5 Mar 1836), my 4th great-grandfather.

Several Ancestry.com family tree sources claim that Mary’s first husband was Jacobus DeGraff and that they married 27 Jan 1746 in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. However, these same sources claim that Jacobus died in 1825. In this author’s view, since Mary was a widow at the time she married Jonathan, her marriage to Jacobus is in doubt. Either that or Jacobus died prior to 18 Jan 1761. Additionally, she would have been only 14 years old in 1746, casting further doubt on the marriage.

Mary died about 1802 and Jonathan in Feb 1803, both in New Paltz, Ulster county, New York.

**Filter out & merge with above generations**.

Hugo-Immigrant

b. 1642, Herly-en-Boulonois, Bishopric of Cambrai, Spanish Netherlands, during the reign of Philip IV (8 Apr 1605-17 Sep 1665) of the House of Habsburg.

Relationship. 8th great-grandfather

Emigration. after Oct 1674, probably Amsterdam, County of Holland, Republic of the Seven United Provinces, 1st to London, Middlesex, England with Huguenots fleeing Mannheim, Electorate of the Palatinate, Holy Roman Empire, and then in 1675 on to New York with his 2nd wife and extended family, probably aboard the Bonte Kow (Spotted Cow).

m. 1st 02 Oct 1660, Marie de la Haye (03 Nov 1645-08 Dec 1666), daughter of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Mannheim, Electorate of the Palatinate, Holy Roman Empire.

2nd 22 Jan 1667, Jannatje Wilbau (1644-08 Dec 1693), daughter of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Mannheim, Electorate of the Palatinate, Holy Roman Empire.

Remarks: Following the end of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). which had devastated much of the Palatinate, about 1650 when he was about 8 years old, his family, along with many other French Huguenot families, who had been intimidated and persecuted by Spain, France, and the Catholic Church, fled to Mannheim in the Electorate of the Palatinate, Holy Roman Empire, which had been settled by Huguenots in the previous century to escape earlier persecution and war. Mannheim, however, was on a long struggle to recovery after the war, and life must have been very difficult for his family.

French Huguenot Church records in Mannheim contain his marriage records. On 2 Oct 1660, Hugo married Marie de la Haye of Douai, France. They had three children: a daughter Marie born 13 Sep 1661; a daughter Sara born 22 Jan 1664; and a son Hugo, our ancestor, born 1 Jul 1666. According to Morrison, a Mannheim city map from 1663 has the name Hugo Freer on one of the houses. His wife Marie and both daughters died in Mannheim during the Great Plague of 1666. On 22 Jan 1667, Hugo married Jeanne (Jannetje) Wibau (also spelled Verbeau), daughter of Toussant Wibau of Bruyelle, near Tournai. She was the widow of Simon Floquet. Simon had probably also died during the Plague. One year later a son Abraham died in infancy. A second son Abraham was born on 16 Jun 1670 and a son Isaac on 20 Feb 1673.

Sometime after Oct 1674 (the last time any of the family names appeared in the church records), the family joined with other Huguenots to make their way first to England due to persecution in Manneheim and then in 1675 to New York, eventually settling in the Esopus District around Kingston by 1676.

The Esopus District was predominantly Dutch and English at that time, and the Huguenots wished to have their own settlement, where they could maintain their French (Walloonian) culture and beliefs. Under the leadership of Abraham Hasbrouck, a Huguenot military leader and friend of the English Governor Edmund Andros, a group of 12 families, including the Freers, obtained permission from Governor Andros to negotiate with the Esopus Tribe to acquire a tract of land. On 26 May 1677, 5 Esopus chiefs and 12 Huguenot family heads, including Hugo Freer signed a formal contract for purchase of 39,000 acres of land south of Kingston. The others were Luis DuBois and his sons Abraham and Isaac, Christian Deyo and his son Pierre, Louis Bevier, Abraham and Jean Hasbrouck, and brothers, Simon and Andres LeFever. This group was known as the “Duzine.” The Duzine then negotiated with the English to also grant them the territory they had purchased, and on 29 Sep 1677, the Huguenots received a patent to their land from James, Duke of York. The patent, signed by Edmund Andros, was known as the New Paltz Patent.

All of the patentees were Mannheim refugees, and their land grant was held as common land. The “Dusine,” distributed their produce from it, and it remained under the control of their families until 1826. They established the village of New Paltz and built log houses along the west bank of the Wallkill River, replacing them with stone houses about 1700. Four of the original stone houses still remain on Huguenot Street in New Paltz “The Oldest Street in America with its original houses." Among the houses is the Hugo Freer House which was constructed in two sections: “The North End” built by Hugo Freer, The Patentee, in 1694. In 1700, his son Hugo replaced the orginal house with a stone house. In 1735, an addition was made to the “South End” of the house and in the late 18th century a wooden section was added.

On 22 Jan 1683, the church in New Paltz was established. At a social gathering the following week, Hugo was elected the first deacon “to assist the minister in managing the affairs of the church.” Hugo and two of his sons, Abraham and Jacob, are also listed as having assisted in building the first church. They remained members of this church after the second church was established in 1767.

Hugo was elected Elder of the church in 1690. On 27 Dec 1720, he is listed as having 3 seats in the 2nd row of pews. His sons Hugo, Abraham and Jacob are also listed as having seats in the church.

In 1689, during the reign of William and Mary, male residents of Ulster County were asked to take an Oath of Allegiance to the British Crown. Hugo and his son Hugo Jr. are listed among the names of the male inhabitants as “takin the Oath of Allegiance in ye county of Ulster, by order of his Exclely: Ye Governor; ye ffirst day of September, 1689.”

Hugo’s will is dated 4 Jan 1697/8 and is written in French. His date of death is unknown. Both he and his wife Jannatje are buried in the Walloon Cemetery on Huguenot Street, New Paltz, but the headstones have disappeared.

d. after 04 Jan 1698, New Paltz, Ulster Co. Province of New York.

Hugo Jr. - Immigrant

b. 01 Jul 1666, Mannheim, Electorate of the Palatinate, Holy Roman Empire, during the rule of Charles I Louis (Karl I. Ludwig), (22 Dec 1617-28 Aug 1680), Elector Palatine.

bpt. 2 Jul 1666 in the French Huguenot Church in Mannheim.

Relationship. 7th great-grandfather

Emigration. after Oct 1674, probably Amsterdam, County of Holland, Republic of the Seven United Provinces, 1st to London, Middlesex, England, with Huguenots fleeing Mannheim, Electorate of the Palatinate, Holy Roman Empire, and then in 1675 on to New York, with his father, step-mother and the extended family.. Probably aboard the Bonte Kow (Spotted Cow)

m. 07 Jun 1690, Marye Anna la Roye (07 May 1673-1718), daughter of Simeon la Roye (\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_) and Claude Deschalets (\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_), New Paltz, Ulster Co. Province of New York. She was born in Quebec, Montreal, Canada. Following is an extract from the church records:

“June 7, 1690. Hugue Frere, son of Hugue Frere, his father, and Marie Haye, his mother, was married by Mr. Dailliez to Marie le Roy.”

They had 15 children. We have four lines of descent from Hugo: son, Isaac, and three daughters, Sarah, Rachel and Jannetjen.

Remarks: His mother and two sisters, Maria and Sarah, died in Mannheim during the Great Plague of 1666. His father then married Jeanne (Jannetje) Wibau on 22 Jan 1667. He had 6 half-brothers, one of whom, Abraham died as an infant, and 2 half-sisters.

In 1700 Hugo replaced the house that his father had built in New Paltz with a stone house He had property outside the village which he farmed.

Hugo had two wills, both written in Dutch and twenty years apart, and an indenture that includes interesting details of his family and the property he owned in New Paltz. The first will, dated 12 Feb 1706/07, made at the time of the division of his father's property, names his wife and 10 children; the second, dated 15 Jan 1727/28, names 13 children and his wife, 2 children having died.

d. after 29 Jun

1. The Spanish Netherlands was a portion of the Low Countries controlled by Spain from the 16th to 18th centuries. When part of the Netherlands separated from Spanish rule and became the Republic of the Seven United Provinces in 1581, the remainder of the area became known as the Spanish Netherlands and remained under the control of Spain. This region comprised modern Belgium, Luxembourg, as well as part of northern France, including present-day Nord Pas-de-Calais. This region was under constant warfare between Spain and France in the 17th century, but French control over the area was established in 1678.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nord-Pas-de-Calais>. . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The house was acquired by Historic Huguenot Street, with the support of the Freer-Lowe Family Association, in 1955, and has been maintained with support of Freer family members. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)