

I wish to support the Freer-Low Family Association and Huguenot Historical in their programs. Enclosed is my check for: _____ \$25.00 individual membership or _____ \$35.00 household membership, along with an additional donation in the amount of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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E Mail _____

I am _____ a Freer descendant; _____ a Low Descendant: _____ a friend of the families

Please make your check payable to:

Freer-Low Family Association

And mail to:

Diane Rumble, Membership
11 Montgomery Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

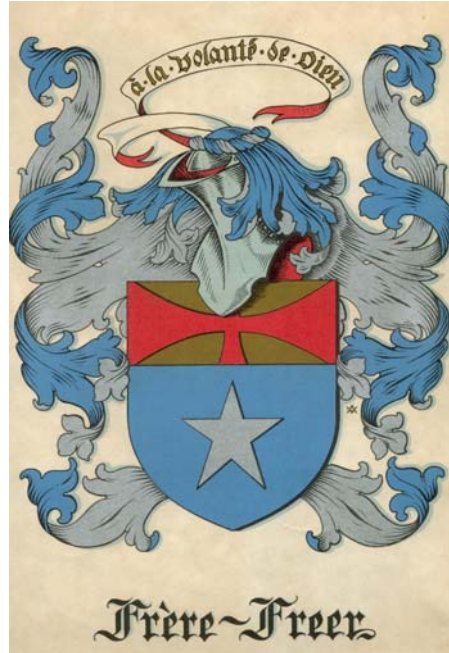
E-mail: jrumble7903@comcast.net

Items available for purchase:

“Freer Family in America”

Official family genealogy, Vol.1 and Vol. 2, the set for \$100.00 for members and \$125.00 for non-members plus \$12.00 shipping can be ordered from Richard Yaun, Treas., 268 Lindholm Road, Hurleyville, NY 12747

Freer Coat of Arms can be purchased at the museum shop on Huguenot Street in New Paltz.



Freer - Low Family Association

*Affiliated Family
of the
Huguenot Historical Society
New Paltz, NY*



*98 Huguenot Street
New Paltz, NY 12561*

The Freer – Low House

Hugo Freer, one of the 12 original patentees of New Paltz, built this house in 1694. In 1735, Hugo's granddaughter, Rebecca, daughter of Hugo's oldest son, Hugo, Sr., married Johannes Low and took over the family homestead – thus the Freer-Low designation. Over the years the home was occupied by a succession of families until it was sold to the Huguenot Historical Society in 1955. Since then it has been maintained as an historic site.

The original house consisted of one room with a cellar and loft and stonewalls thirty inches thick. As you face the house from Huguenot Street, this is the left side. The three windows in this section are original, and the original door is now the window to the left of the present door – note the difference in the window heights. An outside door is blocked over in the center of the inside wall of the living room. The projecting beams would indicate that originally this room had a hood fireplace. A small mantelpiece held candles. Soot marks are still visible on the beams.

The south section, to the right as you face the house from Huguenot Street, was probably added during the 1720's, when Hugo Freer, Sr. was owner, and contained a hall and a single large room. The fireplace is now blocked over. The so-called "dark bedroom" was the result of dividing the large room into a hall, bath,

and bedroom. One of the attic windows on this side is original. The other began as a "mow door", used to bring up hay into the loft, was converted to a window, and has now been restored to its original condition.

The wooden extension was added at the time of the Revolution. A cobbler's shop was once located in a corner of what is now the study in this portion of the house.

The first mention of Hugo Freer, or Hugues Frere to use the contemporary form, comes from the records of the French Congregation of Mannheim, Germany. The record shows: "Hugues Frere, young man native of Harly-en-boulonois and Marie de la Haye, young woman native of Douaye in the reconquered land, have been married at the Church the 2 October 1660." Harly, spelled Herly on present maps, is a tiny village about 20 miles southeast of the channel port of Boulogne, France. Douaye, now Douai, is about 20 miles south of Lille, France.

Hugues and Marie, as Huguenots or French Protestants, married in Mannheim after both had fled to the Palatinate in Germany (an area around the Rhine River) to escape religious persecution in their native France. In 1666, Marie and their two daughters died in the Great Plague, and Hugues later married Jeanne Wibau, a widow. In 1675 they and their children made their way to America and eventually to Ulster County. In 1677 the small group

of Huguenots of which Hugues was a part contracted with the Esopus Indians to buy land on the fertile plains of the Wallkill Valley. After receiving a grant, called a patent, from the English king, eleven of the twelve families built their log cabins and church on what is now the south end of Huguenot Street. As they prospered and settled in, the families replaced their original dwellings with the impressive stone structures that line Huguenot Street today.

The most famous descendant of Hugo Freer is Charles Lang Freer, an industrialist and art collector, born in Kingston, NY. After retiring from business, Charles Lang Freer traveled throughout Europe and Asia to collect more than 8,000 items of Oriental Art. He also brought together the first comprehensive collection of works by James McNeill Whistler. In 1906 Freer donated his collection to the Smithsonian Institution and also gave money to build a gallery in which to house the collections. This is now the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Many thank to Terri Freer Wilson for this information.