

V I G N E

GUILLAUME/GULEYN VIGNE<sup>1</sup> (Arianetje/Adrienne Cuvilje/Cuvelier)

CHRISTINA VIGNE<sup>2</sup> (DIRCK VOLCKERTSEN)

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GUILLAUME/GULEYN VIGNE<sup>1</sup> b France; d before 30 Apr 1632; m ARIAENTJE/ADRIENNE CULVILJE/CUVELIER (d May 1655); she m/2 Jan Jansen Damen (d 21 June 1651). Both were Walloons from Valenciennes, France. They were probably victims of the Spanish Inquisition and fled to Holland. Their family was one of the first to be established in New Netherlands. They must have been in the crew of the "Tiger," which caught fire off Manhattan Island and was beached. They passed the winter in huts on the southern shoulder--about 39 Broadway. He was a "free person" as distinguished from the regular colonists who were bound to the Dutch West India Co. They found employment in Dutch commerce and their French names were Dutchified. He was a brewer. He had a farm east of the original sheep pasture, lying mostly east of the Palisades and across the Island. He was an Indian trader. She owned a farm near Wall and Pearl Streets which was occupied by her son Jan in 1679. She was heiress of the Calk Hook farm--perhaps the farms were one and the same. Ariaentje is said to have been endowed with a violently rebellious streak and to have played football with Indians' heads brought to New Amsterdam after Kieft's attacks in 1643. Her second husband, Jan Damen, was in New Amsterdam as early as 1638 where he amassed considerable wealth. Jan Damen was one of the owners of the privateer "La Garce." He went to Holland in 1649 and died upon his return in 1651. There were no children of record of the marriage of Jan Damen and Ariaentje.

- Issue: 1 Maria b Valenciennes, France; d before 2 Feb 1688; m/1 by 1632 Jan Roos of Haarlem, Holland; m/2 1630? Abraham Isaacsen Verplanck (will proved 24 July 1672) of Edam, a trader and large land owner; one child of first marriage; nine of second.
- 2 CHRISTINA b c 1610, France; d between 21 Feb 1663 and 24 Apr 1677; m c 1630 DIRCK VOLCKERTSEN, "the Norwegian" (d 1675/6, Bushwick, Long Island, NY)
- 3 Jan b c 1614; will proved 4 Jan 1689; m Emmentje Van Der Sluys; no children. He was a brewer and farmer; was the first male born to Europeans in New Netherlands
- 4 Rachel d 18 Feb 1663; was a minor when her father died; m Cornelis Van Tienhoven (d 1658); 2 sons; 1 daughter. He came to New Netherlands as Koopman (keeper of account) in 1633; was promoted to provincial secretaryship.

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Elston, John. DESCENDANTS FROM 79 EARLY IMMIGRANT HEADS OF FAMILIES. 1962. p. 109  
NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD. Vol. 47, p. 163; Vol. 90, p. 164-165  
Stewart, Robert. COL. GEORGE STEWART AND HIS WIFE MARGARET HARRIES. Labore, India, 1907.

VIGNE

Julian Vigne m. Adriana Cuveillé  
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 Christina Vigne m. Dirck Volckertsen  
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 Madaleen Volckertsen m. Harman Hendricksen Rosecrans  
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 Anna Rosecrans m. Humphrey Davenport  
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 Elizabeth Davenport m. David de Duyster  
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 David de Duyscher m. Aegje Freer  
 |  
 David Dutcher m. Margrietic Fonteyn  
 |  
 David Dutcher m. Ellen Romer  
 |  
 Seneca Dutcher m. Rachel Depuy  
 |  
 Helen Louise Dutcher m. Edward Irving Eldredge  
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 Edward Irving Eldredge, Jr. m. Althea Gibb

1 - JULIAN VIGNE and his wife Adriana Cuveillé, were from Valenciennes, France, and their son John, is said, by tradition, to have been the first male child of European parentage born in New Amsterdam. They probably came to America with the Walloon Colonists in 1623. He died before April 30, 1632 when she married second, Jan Jansen Damen. Julian Vigne and his wife owned a farm near Wall and Pearl Sts. The old homestead went to the son John, who was one of the great burghers of the city and as he left no children, he remembered in his will his deceased sister Christina and her children. John died Dec. 21, 1689 and was called the owner of a tract of land between Wall St. and Maiden Lane and also called an heir of Jan Jansen Damen whose estate was inventoried July 6, 1651.

2 CHRISTINA VIGNE, daughter of Julian and Adriana (Cuveillé) Vigne, married Dirck Volckertsen and died before 1689.

See Volckertsen.

References: History of Harlem, p. 613; Mrs. Lamb's History of N. Y., Vol. 1, p. 287; N. Y. Wills, Vol. 1, p. 154, Vol. 2, pp. 401, 402; N. Y. Dutch Mss., p. 54.

chimney sweep and was fined for stating some plain truths which hurt the dignity of a magistrate and had to defend herself alone, her bridegroom staying at home. After she married her second husband and went to Rochester, Ulster Co., N. Y., to reside she fell out with Capt. Brodhead and bathed his face with ale. She married first in New Amsterdam, Oct. 24, 1652, Cornelis Hendricksen Van Dort, who died in the Indian uprising, Sep. 15, 1655 and was left with six children, one being small. She stated her husband had no relatives in this country and Jan Vigne, one of her own, was asked to care for the youngest child's interest in the father's estate, but he declined to serve. On March 22, 1657 according to the Orphan Masters Records she had married Harmen Hendricksen (Rosecrans) of Bergen in Norway and demand was made for a settlement of her first husband's estate. She married second in the Dutch Church at New Amsterdam, March 3, 1657 as above stated. She became known as "The Flying Angel" and she and her second husband were banished for giving liquor to the Indians but were soon permitted to return. She died "full of years" at Rochester in Ulster Co., date not known.

See Rosecrans.

References: Minutes of the Orphan Masters of New Amsterdam, pp. 4, 29, 179, 192; New York Dutch Marriages, pp. 17, 21; Colonial Dutch Mss., pp. 2, 8, 36, 285; New York Record, Vol. 41, p. 713; Early Settlers of Kings Co., N. Y., p. 373; Stiles History of Brooklyn, Vol. 2, p. 321.

Ancestors of Edward Irving  
Eldredge - Frost

by Jones

At the portion of Smits Vly which we have now reached, the river front had been originally embraced in the farm of Secretary Van Tienhoven. He, however, had sold off various plots of the low-lying ground along the road, and one of these plots, which covered the sites of the present buildings Nos. 225 to 231 Pearl Street, together with a portion of the modern Platt Street,<sup>1</sup> was conveyed by him in the year 1656 to Willem Beeckman; it then contained a house, however, which in all probability stood there at the time of our survey. This plot of ground becomes of interest as having been for many years the residence and the seat of the brewing operations of Jan Vinje, as he was called among his Dutch neighbors (or Jean Vigne, as his parents would probably have called him), a leading citizen of New Amsterdam, and a man who, as there is every reason to believe, enjoys the distinction of having been the first child of European parentage born in New Amsterdam or in New Netherland.

Our information upon this point is derived from the Journal of the Labadist missionaries, Danker and Sluyter, who visited New York in 1679.<sup>2</sup> While in the town they lodged with one Jacob Hellekers, the site of whose house is now occupied by the building No. 255 Pearl Street, near Fulton Street. They were therefore near neighbors to Jan Vinje, with whom they soon became acquainted. He was then, they tell us, about sixty-five years of age, a prominent man, well known to all the citizens, many of whom had themselves resided in the town and had been intimately acquainted with him for from thirty to forty years. It was the common understanding that he was the first person born in the colony, and the date of his birth would therefore go back to the year 1614. His parents, so the Labadists inform us, were Guillaume Vigne, and his wife, Adrienne Cuville, from Valenciennes in France. How they came to be at New Amsterdam in the early days of the trading-post we do not

<sup>1</sup> Platt Street was opened in the period between 1829 and 1835.

<sup>2</sup> See their Journal (which we owe to the labors of Hon. Henry C. Murphy), in Vol. I. of the Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society.

know, but there is certainly nothing improbable in the assertion that a trader or an officer of the post should have had his family with him at New Amsterdam. In the mouths of their Dutch neighbors, the husband became known as Willem Vinje, and his wife as Adriana Cuvilje. There is reason to believe that Willem Vinje was the first tenant of the farm laid out north of the present Wall Street by the West India Company, and that he died there. In 1632 his widow married Jan Jansen Damen, with whom the farm is more generally associated. At the date last named, as we are informed by an instrument in the Albany records, of the four children of Willem Vinje and his wife, two were married, Maria (to Abraham Verplanck), and Christina (to Direk Volckertsen), while two, Rachel and Jan, were "minors": as both of the latter, however, were married within the next six years (Rachel to the Secretary Van Tienhoven), they must have been in the latter years of their minority in 1632, and the age of Jan Vinje, according to the Labadists, which would have been seventeen or eighteen at that time, is thus confirmed.<sup>1</sup>

The plot of ground we are considering, with its brew-house, came into the possession of Jan Vinje about the year 1664, that building having been erected a few years before, and at some date between 1656 and 1660: it had passed through the hands of two or three individuals who do not appear to have met with success in its management, and Vinje probably acquired it through the foreclosure of a mortgage. A partial description of the premises has been preserved to us. At the southwestern corner of the plot, upon ground now partly embraced in Platt Street and partly in the modern building No. 225 Pearl Street at the northwest corner of Platt, stood its mill-house; while the brewery itself appears to have occupied a rear position in the spacious enclosure which was about

<sup>1</sup> The statement has often been made that Sarah, the daughter of Joris Rapalje, was the first white child born in New Netherland. This statement is based upon an allegation made by her in a petition to the Council asking for a grant of land in 1656. Without discussing the value of this document as evidence, an examination of it will show that she merely describes herself as "the first born Christian daughter in New Netherland."

by Jones

eighty feet front by one hundred and sixty in depth. Both of these buildings were erected a short time after the period of our survey; but the dwelling-house itself, which in all probability stood upon a part of the ground now covered by the buildings Nos. 227 and 229 Pearl Street, appears to have been constructed by Secretary Van Tienhoven in 1647. His building contract with the carpenter Rynier Dominicus is still extant and affords some curious specifications. The house was to be thirty feet long by twenty feet wide on the inside; it was to have an "outlet," or entry, "eight feet wide, right through." The "story of the front room, nine and one half feet high: that of the back room, twelve and one half feet": with "five cross beams with girders and one without." The entry was to contain the usual "bedstead" built in. The exterior chimney was to be of timber; and the beams of the small structure were to have the capacious cross dimensions of ten inches by seven. Vinje remained in possession of this property until the summer of 1684, when he sold it to Nicholas de Meyer, in whose family it continued for many years. The old buildings seem to have been removed or destroyed before 1712, as a deed of the property, executed in that year,<sup>1</sup> mentions it as ground "upon which lately stood a messuage with a brew house and mill house." The premises remained, during the greater portion of the eighteenth century, only partly built upon, and at the time of the British occupation of New York, during the War of the Revolution, they were occupied by the barracks of the Hessian troops.

<sup>1</sup> Lib. xxviii. cons., page 9, N. Y. Register's Office.

## CHAPTER XXII

### SECRETARY VAN TIENHOVEN'S BOUWERY OF "WALLEN-STEIN." — THE GOUWENBERG. — VAN TIENHOVEN'S LANE. — THE VANDERCLYFF FAMILY

O Earth, what changes hast thou seen!  
There where the long street roars, hath been  
The stillness of the central sea.

The hills are shadows, and they flow  
From form to form, and nothing stands;  
They melt like mist, the solid lands,  
Like clouds they shape themselves and go.

TENNYSON: "In Memoriam."

AS one passes along the modern John Street, between Cliff and Pearl streets, he sees, upon the north side of the first-named street, a row of small shops, gradually diminishing in depth, till they terminate almost in a point at the corner of Pearl Street. Through the windows of these diminutive structures one can catch a glimpse of a sickly looking tree or two in an interior enclosure, and is apt to wonder at this bit of *rus in urbe* at such a spot. Beyond the diagonal line which marks the north side of these shops, a gated alleyway and stairs of correspondingly diminutive size leads to some mysterious region within, which would seem to be perforce a closed district to all individuals of a corpulent habit. Many persons have doubtless wondered at this odd nook, so much of the character of those which Charles Dickens delighted in for the scenes of his novels; but it is safe to say that very few indeed have recognized in the line of these buildings one of the oldest landmarks in New York, or have known that it marked the north side of the lane which once led from the