

CHAPTER ONE

THE DE LA HAYES OR GUYS OF NIMES, FRANCE

Prior to 1703 a Protestant family whose name may have been DE LA HAYE or GUY and from whom the Gie family is descended lived in Nimes, France.

It would seem that Nimes was a stronghold of the Protestants as the Pastor RABOUT SAINT - ETIENNE - who was a great fighter for the Protestant cause and a deputy to the States General - lived in Nimes.

The history of the persecution of the Protestants during the 16th and 17th century, is well known. After many years of bitter strife and wars, the EDICT OF NANTES was promulgated on the 13th April, 1598, which guaranteed religious and political freedom. 'HUGUENOTS' was the name given to the Protestants during the 16th century. The Catholics were called 'papistes'. The name 'Huguenot' originated in the following manner - as will appear from an extract from the Encyclopaedia Britannica, namely :-

" The Protestants at Tours used to assemble by night near the gate of King Hugo whom the people regarded as a sort of spirit. A monk therefore, in a sermon declared that the Lutherans ought to be called Huguenots as kinsmen of King Hugo in as much as they only go out at night as he did. This nickname became popular from 1560 onwards, and for a long time French Protestants were always known by it. "

The Catholics were not satisfied with the Edict of Nantes and found ways and means of evading it, and ultimately it was revoked by Louis XIV on the 18th October, 1685.

As a result thousands of Protestants fled from France. It is estimated that 400,000 left the country. Some went to England, some to Germany, some to Holland, some to Switzerland, some to America and some to South Africa.

Among those who fled from Nimes in France to Zurich in Switzerland was a man called ANDRE GUY. This French Huguenot arrived in Zurich in 1703. His grandson Hans Conrad Guy emigrated to the Cape of Good Hope in 1757.

The arrival of Andre Guy in Zurich is recorded in the archives of that city, a translated extract of which reads as follows:-

" 16 December 1703 Andre Guy from Nimes France a weaver in silk, 42 years of age in the service of Mr. Werdmuller....."

THE FAMILY IN FRANCE

Every effort has been made to obtain some information about the family while in France but with little success. Unfortunately the archives and early genealogical records of the town of Nimes were destroyed during the wars of the middle ages.

One of the most baffling questions is the name of the family while in France before the first emigrant fled to Zurich. It may have been Guy, the name which appears in the first record in the Swiss archives but there is some evidence that it was GUIZELLE DE LA HAYE or GUIZELLE or DE LA HAYE.

Contact has been made with the Historical Society of French Protestantism in Paris, with Mr. Hughes Jean de Dianous, genealogist in France who, in particular, interests himself in the history of the

Huguenots, with Mr. Gilbert Ferrier, the French Consul in Cape Town and with Mlle. Y. Grand of the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. All of them have very kindly done what they can to find some facts about the family while they lived in France but unfortunately with little success, presumably because of the destruction of the early records in Nimes.

Mlle. Y. Grand who searched the register of births, deaths and marriages in Nimes reported that in this register there was no mention of the names Gie, Gye, Guizelle or de la Haye, nor do these names appear in the register of Master Merchants of Nimes.

The only names that appear are Guy, Gay, Guigne, Gilly, Gion, Gal and Guizot.

The name Guy is common in France. Mlle. Grand had photographs taken of tomb stones and old documents in which the name Guy appeared but in none of these is there an Andre Guy or Andre Caspar Guy, nor is there anything in these names or documents to connect these persons with the family that fled to Switzerland.

Yet there must be some origin of the name Guizelle de la Haye and some reason why it appears in the Old Cape Records of the Gie family. It could not have been invented by the early Cape settlers. There must be some source from which it came.

On the Coat of Arms of the Gie Family we get the words :-

"Coat of Arms: Guizelle de la Haye"

Dr. Pama in his "Heraldry of South African Families" at page 43 states :-

"GIE Sable, a weir argent JOHANN CONRAD GIE Arr 28.1.1751. bringing with him his seal with the above arms of GY which he changed to GIE. Bell also says that GY arms were originally the same as DE LA HAYE and that both names were pronounced in the same way."

Then at page 323 and 324 we get the note:

"DE LA HAYE - Malaquet : Argent, a hedge vert ; De La Haye (Guizelle) : argent, a hedge (hoarding) sable."

A search in the records of the French Consul in Cape Town, shows that there are at least three villages called la Haye in France, one is on the Somme and another in the Vosges District.

A letter written to the Societe D L'Histoire du Protestantisme Francois (The French Huguenot Society) in Paris produced no result.

Dr. Hugues Jean de Dianous an eminent genealogist in a letter to the French Consul states :-

"A name such as Guizelle de la Hay(e) is absolutely not Provincial or Lanquedoc. It is more like a name from the north of France (French Flanders). There were however, contacts between the huguenots of the North and the South. The South had always attracted people from the North and it is possible that in the 16th century Flemish industrials or artisans came to Nimes."

The surname de la Haye was however, known in France. In September 1670, the second Fleet of the French East India Company put into Table Bay under Admiral de la Haye (see History of South Africa by Theal Vol 1. Chapter 8 page 201).

Incidentally he saluted the fort with five guns but received only one in reply. He considered this an insult to the King of France. He expected to get what he wanted in the way of provisions but was soon deceived as orders had been issued by the Cape Authorities to do as little as possible for the French Admiral.

Then there was a catholic bishop in France between the years 1663 and 1740.

But most significant is the following extract from the standard work on French Heraldry known as "DICTIONNAIRE DES FIGURES HERALDIGUS" by T. de Renne (Vol 6 page 634 under the title Haye).

" de la Haye, Guizelle de la Haye
de la Haye, Marlaquet, de Haye."

The Coats of Arms of these families are shown. Although the writer was unable to find a copy of this book in the Public Library to confirm this, it appears that the Coat of Arms of the family ' de la Haye ' was similar to the Coat of Arms now in the possession of the Gie family.

THE GUY FAMILY IN ZURICH

With little definite evidence to support it, it is suggested that the following sequence of events reflect the possible movement and existence of the family in France.

That in a small hamlet named la Haye there lived a family known as Guizelle. At least one member of such family was attracted to the industrial town of Nimes in the South.

There he prospered and became a specialist in the weaving industry. He and his family became known as or adopted the name of Guizelle de la Haye. It was not unusual in the middle ages for the families to add to their surname the name of the village or area from which they originated.

Unfortunately he was a Protestant and a Huguenot. As a result of the repeal of the Edict of Nantes, his life and the lives of his family were now endangered. He, like so many other Huguenots had no alternative but to flee from France. This was a dangerous operation. The authorities did everything possible to prevent the Huguenots from fleeing from France. Soldiers were stationed in the border towns to stop travellers and examine their papers.

Many Huguenots who tried to escape were arrested and imprisoned.

soned. A vivid description of their plight and suffering is given by JEAN MARTEILLE in his book "Galley Slave". He was a Huguenot and caught on the border and forced to serve as a galley slave for some years.

Because of this, those fleeing from France used every device possible to conceal their identity and clearly one method would be to change their names. It is not therefore unreasonable to suggest that when they fled from France the Guizelle or Guizelle de La Haye family deleted the ".....zelle" and "de la Haye" from the name leaving the simple "Gui" which in french would be "GUY;".

THE GUY FAMILY IN ZURICH

As stated before, the French Huguenot ANDRE GUY who fled from Nimes arrived in Zurich, Switzerland in 1703. This is confirmed by the following extract from the Archives in Zurich which gave the official lists (in German) of refugees residing in Zurich :-

" 16th December 1703 Andre Guy from Nimes France, a weaver in silk, 42 years of age in the service of Mr. Werdmuller."

Thus Andre Guy arrived alone in Zurich on the 16th December 1703. He obtained temporary accommodation with Mr. Zureich, the baker.

Although the records in the archives state that Andre Guy was "in the service of Mr. Werdmuller", the textile factory of the Werdmullers had actually been taken over in 1702 by the renowned ESCHER family, but probably the Werdmullers retained some interest in it or remained on as managers or in some other capacity.

The history of the factory which was known as "Wollenhof" is interesting. It was originally a monastery. As a result of the reformation it was converted into a silk factory.

In 1590 it was owned by DAVID and HEINRICH WERDMULLER. In 1702 it was bought by the ESCHER family. Long after the last GUY had left Zurich the factory which was always known as "ZUM WOLLENHOF" remained in the possession of the ESCHERS. In 1878 this old historic building was sold to the Town Council of Zurich and demolished in order to enlarge the quay on the so called LIMMAT so that part of the town named the Schipfe could be reached by road.

The next entry in the official lists of refugees in Zurich records the arrival of the wife of Andre Guy and their children which reads as follows:-

" 20th July 1704 Catherina Almerasse, 42 years, wife of Andre Guy, Andre 8 years, Jeanne 3 years, Anna Catherina $\frac{1}{4}$ year his children 'bei dem Pfister Herrn Zureich" , meaning with the baker Mr. Zureich. These words were scratched out and the following substituted.

"Auf dem Predigerkirchhof" i.e. near to the Prediger Church (Preacher's Church).

There is a further entry in the archives, namely:-

"16th December, 1704

Andre Guy from Nimes, weaver in silk (42) at the PREDIGERKIRSHOF, with his wife Catherina Almerasse (42) and his children "Andre (8), Jeanne (3) Anne Catherina ($\frac{1}{4}$). "

It is clear therefore that Andre Guy was married in France prior to 1696, that his wife and children only joined him seven months after his arrival in Zurich and that his wife was also of French origin and a Huguenot.

It is interesting to note that among the names in the 1702 official list of refugees is that of a certain CESAR ALMERASSE (25 years) who arrived from ST. SERRES in Pauphine France, with his sister MARTHA ALMERASSE (22 years). They are mentioned as living in Zurich. Martha Almerasse either died or left Zurich as her name is scratched out. It is very probable that Cesar Almerasse was a brother of Catherina Almerasse, the wife of Andre Guy, and it is highly probable that it was on his suggestion and recommendation that Andre Guy decided to flee to Zurich. As late as 1725 Cesar Almerasse is still mentioned as an inhabitant of Zurich.

Either because of his improved financial position or because there was no room for his family in the lodging of the baker, Zureich, Andre Guy rented lodging in a house near the PREDIGERKIRCHOF (Churchyard of the Preaching Friars), shortly after his wife and family arrived in Zurich. There he had the misfortune to lose his daughter Jeanne in 1704 and his youngest child Anna Catherina in 1705.

The old PREDIGERKIRCHE is still in Zurich, and the state Archives are now kept in the choir of this old church. (Photographs Annexed).

Johann Jacob Escher, and Alderman Christoph Werdmuller.

It was, inter alia, decided that a register of all emigrants be kept and that the Chamber consider all applications for exemption from extradition and that rules and conditions be formulated and laid down for those who obtained exemption.

For instance a survey made in 1705 refers to seven French stocking weavers who were employed by a manufacturer in Zurich. Of these only five, who were married, were allowed to work on two looms, while the two bachelors were only permitted to work on one loom. Moreover it was decided that none of them could weave stockings for their own account and that no new stocking weavers from abroad would be allowed to settle in Zurich.

In 1726 five Huguenots in Zurich, among whom was Pierre Liquire, were accused of manufacturing odds and selling them and were ordered to leave the town.

As a result of these decrees many of the Huguenots moved to villages outside the town such as the village of Understrass.

The refugees did however, during their temporary stay in Zurich receive an annual grant from the Town Council of Zurich, and among those who were assisted by these grants was Andre Guy.

The reason for mentioning the prominent Escher family is that years later Andre Caspar Guy the only surviving son of the Andre Guy prospered and became a friend of the Eschers. On the birth of one of his sons, HANS COENRAD ESCHER was asked to be his godfather. The boy was named HANS CONRAD GUY after his godparent and here we have the origin of the family name JOHAN COENRAAD.

It seems clear that both Mr. Werdmuller and Mr. Escher were very glad to employ Andre Guy in their factory and after a few years

applied for his exemption from extradition.

The following is part of report from the genealogist, Mr. J.K. Schultheiss:-

" In 1712 the Government of Zurich (this may have been the Town Council) and his employers being satisfied with Andre Guy's professional qualities wished to retain him in Zurich for good, and awarded him an annual premium of 20 florins in money and 6 mutt (about 13 bushels) of corn in natura."

Dr. Heese the genealogist states :-

" Because he was permitted to remain in Zurich he must have been an outstanding man."

Silk weaving was a very specialised occupation and in the extract mentioned above is even referred to as having 'professional qualities.'

It will be recalled that some of the Huguenots who settled in Britain were weavers and that they started the weaving industry there.

As will appear later Andre Caspar Guy, son of Andre Guy followed the vocation of his father and became a foreman in the factory of Mr. Escher.

In 1716 Andre Guy had a stroke and as a result suffered partial paralysis which rendered him unfit for further work. From then onwards his grant was increased to 24½ florins which was paid to him until his death. He died on the 7th February, 1725 aged 64 years.

After his death his wife continued to reside in Zurich and from 1726 she is referred to in the list of refugees as "the widow Catherina Almerasse". She received from the Town a widow's rent of 27 florins a year and also corn, wine and fire-wood. In 1740 she was 79 years old.

Mr. Schultheiss was unable to find any record of the marriage of Andre Caspar Guy and Jeanne Liquiere in any of the Zurich Churches, and it would appear they were married in another Swiss Town or district. They had six children -

HANS CONRAD Born 22.3.1727

ANNA CLEOPHEA Born 14.9.1729

HANS JACOB Born 9.4.1732

ELIZABETH Born 16.4.1735

MARTHA Born 16.4.1735

HANS CASPAR Born 2.7.1741

The first three children were baptised in St. Peter's Church and the last three in the Predigerkirche. Both these Churches are still in Zurich. (See Photographs annexed).

In the baptismal registers of St. Peter's Church the names of the parents of the children are given as ANDREAS GUY and ANNA MARGARETHA LIQUIERE (S), whereas in the earlier town records the Christian name of ANDREAS GUY is given as ANDRE CASPAR GUY and the name of his wife is given as JEANNE. A probable explanation is that in the town records they were regarded as French Refugees whereas in the German Protestant Church their names were Germanised.

The names of the persons who acted as godparents at the christening of the children of Andre Caspar Guy and Jeanne Liquiere are interesting.

The godparents of Hans Conrad were HANS CONRAD ESCHER and Miss REGULA ESCHER.

It will be noted that this boy was named after his godparent and here we get the origin of the family name JOHAN COENRAAD which has continued to remain a family name to this day.

The godparents of ANNA CLEOPHEA were JOHANN HEINRICH HESS (Magistrate) and Miss ANNA CLEOPHEA ESCHER.

The godparents of the first twin ELIZABETH were HEINRICH ESCHER and MISS ELIZABETH ESCHER.

The godparents of the second twin MARTHA were HANS CONRAD ESCHER and MRS. MARTHA ESCHER.

The godparents of HANS CASPAR were Councillor HANS CASPAR BODMER and MRS. ANNA BARBARA PESTALOZZI.

From this it is clear that by this time the family had risen considerably in status. The Eschers, after whom several children were named, were very prominent people in Zurich. HANS COENRAAD ESCHER was the grandson of the famous Burgermaster HEINRICH ESCHER, and also the Mayor of Zurich at one time. Hans Jacob Guy died in infancy.

By 1733 the old lodgings at Predigerkitchhof had become too small for the increased family and Andreas Casper Guy left the town of Zurich and settled in the small village of UNTERSTRASSE adjoining Zurich and which in 1893 was incorporated in the City of Zurich. There he was naturalised and accepted as a citizen of the village. In the accounts of the old BAILIURCH "IV WACHTEN" of the village of Unterstrasse there is the following statement -

" Einnahmen 80 H
Schirmgeld von
Andreas Guy aus Frankreich
Welcher sich an der
Untertrasse einge kauft."

The translation which is more or less -

During the course of the years 1733 - 1734 Andreas Guy of French origin has paid 80 L' (Swiss Pounds)

for protection after having acquired the citizenship of Unterstrasse.

Now that the family had moved to the village of Unterstrasse, no further references of the Guys appeared in the records of Zurich.

On the other hand apart from the above, there is no record of the family in any other records of the village of Unterstrasse. Apparently most of the records were lost. Moreover now that he was a Swiss National there was no necessity to keep a special record of his activities unless for some very special reason.

Although Mr. Schultheiss scrutinised the burial records of the various churches in Zurich and Unterstrasse he was unable to find any further reference to the family.

This is unfortunate as one would have liked to know when and where Andre Caspar Guy and his wife died and what happened to their three daughters after their two surviving brothers emigrated to the Cape.

Hans Coenrad left for the Cape in 1751, and he was followed by his younger brother Hans Caspar in 1764. After these two sons had left for the Cape and after Andre Caspar Guy had died it seems as if the Guy family had ceased to exist in Switzerland. This is confirmed by the fact that when Hans Conrad Guy later John Coenraad Gie together with his South African wife E.J. Ley drew up their joint will at the Cape on 10th May, 1759, J.C. Gie states that both his parents had already died.

Moreover there is an entry made in the old family bible by Johan Coenraad Gie which reads as follows -

" 1765. The 6th January my third son was born and named after my late father Andreas Casparus."



An old view of the HIRSCHENGRABEN with the
PREDIGERKIRCHE (Preachers' Church).

In 1704 Andre Guy and his wife lived next to
the church. Later three of the children of his
son Andre Caspar Guy were baptised in this
church.



The PREDIGERKIRCHE in Zurich. In 1704 Andre Guy and his wife Catherina Almerasse lived near this church. Later three of the children of their son Andre Caspar Guy were baptised in this church. Still later the choir of the church was used to house the archives of Zurich and the building is now known as the STAATSARCHIV.



ST. PETERS - KIRCHE ZÜRICH

The church in which the children of the Swiss Cantons

kept one of the original French villages were located

The STAATSARCHIV of the Canton of Zurich, in the
PREDIGERCHOR. (The choir of the PREDIGERKIRCHE)



ST. PETERS - KIRCHE ZURICH

The church in which the children of the Andre Caspar Guy, son of the original French refugee were baptised. Among these was Hans Conrad (Johan Coenraad) the first settler at the Cape.