A Short History of the Gaudineers

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Gaudineers Arrive in Manhattan

This is not a comprehensive history of the Gaudineer family, but rather a snapshot of a few members set in the background of their families. A longer history will follow. Apparently the Gaudineers were French Huguenots (French protestants) who left France after the persecution of protestants.

*My grandmother, Minnie Gaudineer⁰, a very strong and determined woman, was devoted to her family and frequently hosted family events in her South Orange home for her siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles. I lived for my four years high school years with Minnie’s eldest daughter, Beryl Gaudineer Whaley¹ a truly brilliant woman, and a teacher and scholar of history. From this experience and from Beryl’s letters I learned the Gaudineer family history in detail. Since then my wife Pegeen who works in genealogy and my cousin Warren Scott Gaudineer² have supplied additional records on which this account is based.
They came to America, probably via Holland, and first settled in Manhattan island which was then Dutch territory. They gradually moved northward along the Hudson River toward what is now Albany, and then moved back southward along the Hudson. The story begins with Frederick Gaudineer and his wife Elizabeth (Betsy) Lent who settled as farmers in Peekskill New York along the Hudson. Before we begin it is useful to have some notation to help identify family members.

1.2 Numbering of Generations.

It is desirable to have a numbering of generations which is unbounded both ascending and descending, like the numbering of centuries in history divided into descending centuries with positive numbers marked A.D. and the ascending centuries marked B.C. which behave like negative numbers. I have arbitrarily chosen the generation of my grandmother, Minnie Gaudineer Whaley\textsuperscript{0} as generation 0. Her descendants include my mother, Margaret Whaley Soare\textsuperscript{1}, and her siblings, then me, Robert Irving Soare\textsuperscript{2}, my son Gregory Warren Soare\textsuperscript{3} and so on. Minnie’s ancestors include her father, Frederick Peter Gaudineer\textsuperscript{−1}, her grandfather, Elisha Gaudineer\textsuperscript{−2}, her greatgrandfather, Frederick Gaudineer\textsuperscript{−3}. These generation numbers make it much easier to identify a given individual, his relationship to others in the family, and the number of generations separating two given family members. For example, the difference between Gregory\textsuperscript{3} and Frederick\textsuperscript{−3} is 3 - (-3) = 6 generations, the younger person’s generation number minus the older person’s number just like centuries in the A.D./B.C. notation.

2 Settling Along the Hudson in New York

By the early 1800’s Frederick Gaudineer\textsuperscript{−3} and Elizabeth (Betsy) Lent\textsuperscript{−3} settled in Peekskill, New York. Frederick has his farm on Saint Ann’s Creek south of Peekskill, where Camp Smith, NY, National Guard stands, named after later Governor “AL” Smith. Betsy Lent lived there or nearby until about 1875 when she went to live with her son, Elisha Gaudineer, at Bloomingburg, Sullivan County, New York, where she remained until her death, March 2, 1884.

Their oldest son, Delavan Gaudineer\textsuperscript{−2}, moved to Illinois, but their second son, Elisha Gaudineer\textsuperscript{−2}, a tanner, settled in Cold Spring, New York, across
the Hudson River from West Point, with his wife, Sarah Jane Warren\textsuperscript{2}. Elisha was a gentle, kind man, the most beloved in his town, but he was too kind hearted to be good at horse trading. When there was horse trading to be done, Sarah Warren sent him in the house and did the negotiating herself.

Sarah Warren bounced her relative, Gouverneur Kemble Warren on her knee when he was a child. He later became a major general in the Union army during the Civil War. During the start of the Civil War he was a first lieutenant and mathematics instructor at West Point, across the Hudson River from his hometown, Cold Spring. At the battle of Gettysburg on July 2, 1863 his quick and decisive action in securing the Union left flank at the hill known as Little Round Top, is credited with saving the union army flank from being rolled up by the Confederate army. A bronze statue of him stands on Little Round Top now.

Sarah Warren had four children. In an age of farmers and tanners, Sarah was determined that all of her children should have excellent educations and occupations. She was the first in a series of strong, independent women, devoted to their children, and guiding them toward educations and fulfilling career, a tradition which has been carried on far beyond her generation. Sarah’s oldest child, Frederick Peter Gaudineer\textsuperscript{1}, became an engineer, building bridges in New York City; William John Gaudineer\textsuperscript{1} became a physician practicing in New York City; Charles Warren Gaudineer\textsuperscript{1} and interior decorator in New Jersey, and the youngest, Ida May Gaudineer, ran a vacation resort known as Seven Acres north of New York City.

### 3 Moving to the City

Frederick Peter Gaudineer\textsuperscript{1} became a bridge engineer and moved away from Cold Spring eventually to Brooklyn. While inspecting a bridge on his fortieth birthday there was an explosion and he was severely injured. He spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair.