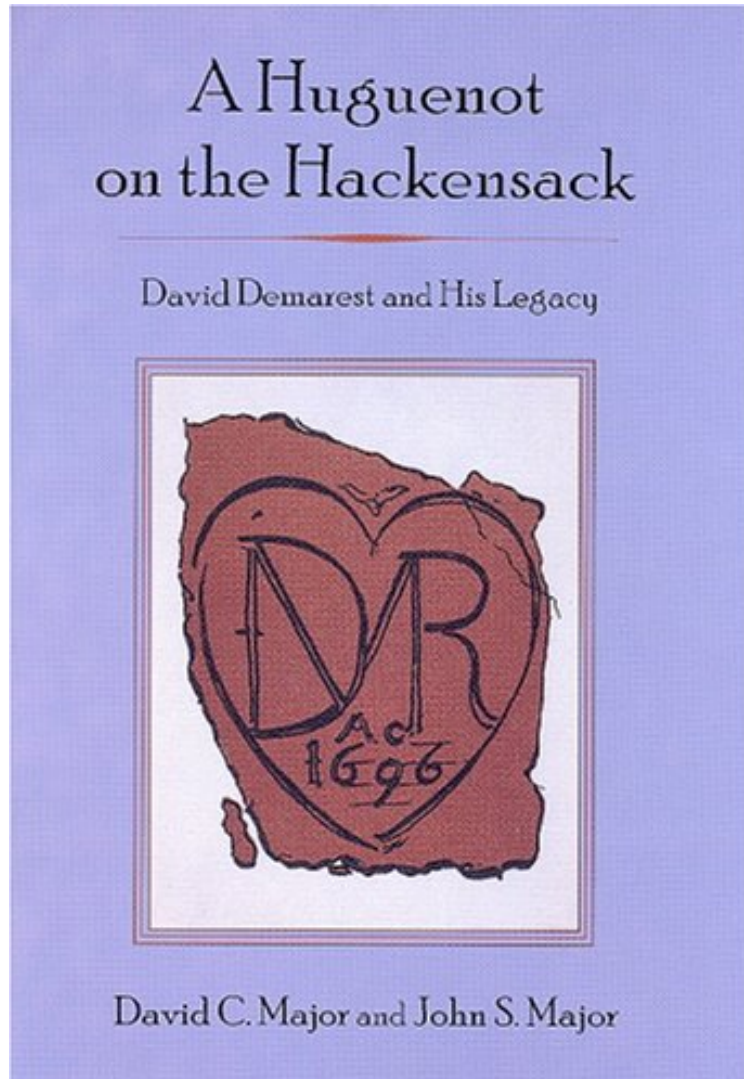


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## A Huguenot on the Hackensack: David Demarest and His Legacy

*David C. Major, John S. Major*

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**David C. Major, John S. Major : A Huguenot on the Hackensack: David Demarest and His Legacy** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Huguenot on the Hackensack: David Demarest and His Legacy:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Biography of David Demarest (1620-1695) By William LaBach This book is an excellent scholarly study of the life and legacy of David Demarest (1620-1695) and his wife, Marie Sohler, who emigrated from Mannheim, Germany to New Amsterdam (now New York City) in 1663. He was a native of the Picardy region of France and a Huguenot (French Protestant). He first moved to Middleburg in the Netherlands by 1643 where he married and then to Mannheim. Upon arriving in the New World he settled first on Staten Island and

then moved to New Harlem. His final move was to Bergen County, New Jersey where he bought land from the Indians and accumulated about 5,000 acres. The authors explain the Dutch culture in New York and New Jersey and how the Demarest family became a part of it although French. This book should be of great interest to the many thousands of Demarest descendants across the United States and to those interested in the history of New Harlem and northern New Jersey.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful for U.S. Colonial history and Demarest family researchers. By Judy Ann Turner Well-researched, well-written, this book did not disappoint in its investigation of David Des Maretz, the Huguenot founder of the Demarest family in America. Illustrations were very useful. My only criticisms concern the sections on David Des Maretz' extraordinary qualities and the sections on Demarest descendants. The authors appear too eager in downplaying Des Maretz' exceptional, bold, visionary character and actions as a pioneer and religious emigrant. More explanation of the historical context of Des Maretz' era would clarify issues such as his decision to emigrate to New Amsterdam, and perhaps illuminate other issues as well, such as his being a possible slave-holder. The sections on Des Maretz' descendants seems abbreviated in explanations about their leaving the Hackensack and difficulties they encountered and largely overcame. Overall, however, this is a successful, useful, highly readable book which I encourage all of Des Maretz' descendants (I am one) to purchase and read.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good history and good genealogy. By Larry Seits If you are a descendant of David Demarest (1620-1693) in its variant spellings (Demaree, De Marets, etc.), and you are legion, I highly recommend this well-written book. If you descend from early Huguenots in New Netherland or New Jersey, I recommend this book as an excellent source of background knowledge of that time and place. Among the book's more useful features are its numerous maps and illustrations. In its glossary, I learned that the Dutch records' "schout" meant sheriff or public prosecutor. The Dutch records' "Schepen" meant a magistrate. And that a "voorleser" was Dutch for a literate man who could read the lessons in church services. I suspect this man read only the Old Testament texts at the sanctuary's lectern. Major and Major have given us good history and good genealogy. Also I have found these three sources useful in genealogy research of Huguenots in this time and place: 1) "The Register of New Netherland 1626-1674" by E. B. O'Callaghan [Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2002], reprint of 1865 original. 2) Family Tree Maker's CD #11 "New Netherland Vital Records, 1600s" [Requires a computer and the Family Archive Viewer, a free internet download]. 3) Family Tree Maker's CD 182 "Family History: New Jersey Genealogies #1, 1600s-1800s" [Requires a computer and the Family Archive Viewer].

"A Huguenot on the Hackensack" explores the life and legacy of David Demarest, a seventeenth-century French Protestant who, in middle age, emigrated to New Amsterdam and became one of the earliest settlers of the Hackensack Valley. There he founded a prosperous family that for nearly three centuries retained local influence and high status before being eclipsed by post-World War II economic and demographic changes. Transcending the narrow genealogical antiquarianism and filial pietism of traditional family history, the authors carefully set Demarest and his descendants in the context of their times. The astute patriarch is seen as a man who balanced risk and opportunity to achieve a prosperity that would have been impossible in his native Europe. Some early descendants moved to booming areas in Pennsylvania, upstate New York, Kentucky, and beyond, while others stayed close to home and dealt with the rigors of the American Revolution and the dilemmas of religious controversy in New Jersey. Members of later generations adapted to new conditions as rural Bergen County slowly was transformed by railroads and suburban housing. This book illuminates the role of kinship and culture in the Jersey Dutch heartland from colonial times to the modern era. David C. Major is Senior Research Scientist at the Columbia University Earth Institute's Center for Research on Climate Systems. John S. Major is an independent scholar.

About the Author David C. Major, PhD, and John S. Major, PhD, are brothers. They are descended from David Demarest, the early French Huguenot settler in the middle Hackensack Valley who is the subject of this book. The Majors are authors and editors of many books in their professional fields: natural resources and the environment for David, and East Asian history for John.