

According to the records of the Old Dutch Reformed Church of this city, Mayor Paul Richard was born in New York and baptized on April 11th, 1697.

He was the son of Stephen Richard and Maria Verbrugge, a name which has been corrupted into Van Brugh, and was of Huguenot ancestry through both father and mother; he being the grandson of another Paul Richard, born in Rochelle, France, December 3rd, 1639, who first emigrated to Amsterdam, and from thence, in the year 1662, to the Amsterdam of the New World. The Richard family for many years were prominent in Huguenot affairs in the Provinces of Anjou, Poitou and Saintonge, France, and an ancestor of the Mayor, Pierre Richard de Lisle, in the year 1558, was one of the principal organizers of the temple of Rochelle. Blandine Richard, a sister of Paul Richard, the Refugee, married Elie Bouhereau, a Huguenot minister of Rochelle, from whom a noted Irish family, named Borough, afterwards descended. If it had not been for the care and forethought of Dr. Elie Bouhereau, a son of Blandine Richard, all the records of the Protestants of Rochelle would probably have been destroyed. At his expatriation, shortly after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, he fled to Ireland, and carried them with him. A short time before his death, he directed that, at such time in the future, as all men in his native country should be permitted to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, these records should be returned to Rochelle.

They were returned to that city by his grandson and have found a final resting place in its library. These records consist of the transactions of the Consistory of Rochelle and the baptismal, marriage and death registers of the churches of Rochelle and of the adjoining towns, and cover a period of about one hundred and twenty-seven years, and are invaluable as sources of historical and genealogical information to the descendants of the Huguenots.

Mayor Richard could trace his ancestry directly back to a Pierre Richard, Sieur de Brameryt, who, on July 10th, 1438, rendered feudal homage to the Prior of the Abbey of Saint Savi-nien, for his estate of Brameryt, and, as early as the year 1282, an Estienne (Stephen) Richard was living in the Parish of Dompierre on the Loire, who had two sons, Estienne and Elie, names which have been handed down in the Richard family, or its collateral branches, ever since that time.