

# Catharina Maré

*Did the Maré progenitor at the Cape, **Ignace**, have both a sister and a daughter named **Catharina**?*

## **Background**

**Ignace Maré** arrived at the Cape sometime before the Opgaafrol of 1705, when he was enumerated in the Cape district with two sons and one daughter.

One son was subsequently identified as **Ignace/Ignatius** and the daughter as **Catharina**. The second son has not been identified and may have died prior to reaching majority.

It has been argued<sup>1</sup> that rather than coming from Calabria in Italy, he came from Cambresis in northern France. However, Cambresis does not appear in the record in relation to him, whereas the record of his marriage to **Susanne Janse van Vuuren** (var.) is quite clear:

7 Febr: [1706] **Ignatius Marée** van Calabria wed:r met **Susanna van Veuren** van Cabo jongd:

## **Did Ignace Maré have both a sister and a daughter named Catharina?**

Some researchers have suggested that the **Maré** progenitor had both a sister and a daughter, I believe this is at least in part due to the baptism in 1739 of Catharina Magdalena<sup>2</sup> daughter of **Gerrit Jansze van Feure** and **Catharina Marees**.

In the opgaaf of 1705, the year prior to his marriage to **Suzanne Janse van Vuuren** he is enumerated in the Cape district (K) thusly:

0263 MARE IGNATIUS 1 21 K (1 adult male, 2 sons, 1 daughter)

It is important to emphasise that the 1705 opgaaf shows two **\*sons\*** not two daughters – as is frequently stated by other researchers. This is reinforced by subsequent enumerations.

No adult female is listed with Ignace in the 1705 opgaaf – **where was the sister?**

In other words, one adult male (himself), no adult female (i.e. no wife), two sons, one daughter. The children are not named; however, at this time I have no reason to believe **Catharina Maree** (var.) married to **Johannes Janse van Vuuren** was not the daughter enumerated in 1705. She only married in 1713.

Similar questions arise about the following opgaaf- and monsterrollen.

In 1709, Ignace is recorded thusly:

0193 MARAIS IGNATIUS 1131 1 1 27 2 16 1 1 1 D – (himself, a wife, three sons, one daughter)

He had married in 1706, and had a son in 1708.

In this opgaaf, women were recorded, **there was no Catharina (var.) Mare (var.) in that opgaaf.**

In 1712, the year before Catharina married Johannes Janse van Vuuren – the family is recorded thusly in the opgaaf:

---

<sup>1</sup> Bleibaum, H.G.: *Wenk in verband met die Mare-navorsing*. Familia, 21(2), 1984, pp. 52-54.

<sup>2</sup> **Catharina Magdalena**

Baptised: 1739,

do. ( 23 do. ( Augs. ) )

Father: Gerrit **Jansze van Feure**

Mother: Catharina **Marees**

Witnesses: Pieter del Port en Maria Marees

**Source:** Nederduits Gereformeerde Gemeente (NGK), Drakenstein, Baptism register, 1694-1745, page 149.

**Repository:** NG Kerkargief, Noordwal-Wes, Stellenbosch, G3 3/1. **Transcribed by** Corney Keller, from photocopies of Cape Archives VC 644

662 MAREE IGNATIUS 1122 1 5 27 2 30 2 2 D

- (himself, wife, two sons, two daughters – Anna Elisabeth was baptised in 1711, Susanna was not born until 1713 ). In this opgaaf, women were recorded, **there was no Catharina (var.) Mare (var.) in this opgaaf.**

In the 1712 **monsterrol** – Ignace is recorded thusly:  
Ignatius Martens [Mare] & Susaan Jansz van Vooren

In the 1713 **montsterrol** – Ignatius the son is recorded separately as an adult for the first time, viz.  
Ignatius Marai [Mare] de Jonge ; Ignatius Marai [Mare]

This is important – it speaks to the age of Ignatius junior, that of his father ; and, importantly to that of his sister, and his aunt if there was one. Majority for men was 25 years old, which suggests a birth year for Ignatius of around 1688. However, it could simply also mean he was farming independently on a portion of his father's farm, or had his own. Even so, it implies he must have been born at least in the early 1690s and his sister would have been in the same age cohort, meaning she would have been of marriageable age in 1713. Observe the spelling of the name.

In the **opgaaf** of 1719, taken in April 1720, the following :

Marais, Ignatius ; Van Vooren, Susannah : 1 (adult male), 1 (adult female) ; 3 (sons), 3 (daughters). I believe the sons were: Ignatius (ca 1690- perhaps he had returned to the paternal home), Johannes (1708), and Lucas (1716). The daughters would be : ... Anna Elisabeth (1711), Susanna (1713) and Francina (1718) – where was his daughter Catharina? The family was recorded at entry number 0549.

In my view, the very next entry, i.e. number 0550, is where Ignatius's daughter Catharina is recorded:  
Van Vooren, Jan; Marais, Catharina: 1 (adult male), 1 (adult female), 1 (son - Gerrit), 1 (daughter – Anna Elisabeth).

Nowhere else in this **opgaafrol** is there a record of another woman named Catharina (var.) Marais (var.).

If the woman who married Johannes Janse van Vuuren (**not** Gerrit) in 1713 was the sister of Ignace, you need to consider how old she was when she accompanied her brother to the Cape, to still be of child bearing age in 1732 (fertility in women of the period did not run very late). Also, why would an apparently eligible woman who had arrived at the Cape prior to 1705, not marry until 1713? Women did not stay single at the Cape for very long, even widows remarried quite quickly.

Given that Catharina Maré's brother was an adult in 1713, and that she would be of a similar age cohort, why would the daughter of Ignace Maree wait until 1739 to marry and have her first child when she most likely would be in her late 30s/early 40s?

As you will see from the above, the names Mare, Maree, Marais, Marai, etc. were used interchangeably. This is important. The Catharine Maree who was the mother of Catharina Magdalena, could as easily have been Marais or something similar.

### **Conclusion**

I am not ruling out a sister to Ignace ... but I have yet to see any evidence she existed.