“May God keep us steadfast as He kept them steadfast, and in joy or in sorrow, may we know, as they knew, that underneath are the Everlasting Arms”.
COVER FEATURE:

Work of Huguenot Descendants Who Were Famous English Silversmiths On Exhibit at The National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, DC

By Janice Murphy Lorenz

One of the fortunate things about holding our Congress meetings in Washington, DC is the opportunity for you to take advantage of wonderful museums during your visit. The National Museum for Women in the Arts is one of those within easy taxi distance from the Washington Marriott Hotel, where our 2012 will be held, and merits a field trip to see its silver exhibit because several of the featured artists, including Elizabeth Godfrey, who crafted the George II sauce boat shown on the cover of this Cross, are of Huguenot descent. Other artists of Huguenot descent whose exquisite work is featured in the exhibit are Louisa Courtauld and Anne Tanqueray.

Not much is known about the lives of the female Huguenot silversmiths, but we were able to find out some basics about Elizabeth Godfrey. Elizabeth was the daughter of silversmith Simon Pantin (although today most texts refer to the surname as “Pentin”), who lived and worked in Rouen before emigrating to London, England to follow his religion. Simon Pantin was a preeminent silversmith whose work may be found today in private collections and museums. One of his much-admired works was a tureen made circa 1728 for the Empress Catherine of Russia. Elizabeth was born in London and must have learned the trade at her father’s knee. She first married Abraham Buteux, a “batchelor” silversmith, in the Parish of St. Martins in the “feilds,” where they both were members, on 11 February 1720, according to the Register of St. Paul’s at page 58. Working with her husband, Elizabeth Buteux was an active silversmith in her own right from about 1720 onward. After Buteux died in about 1731, Elizabeth married Benjamin Godfrey, a prominent silversmith who is believed to have been in her employ. She ran their business until he died in about 1741. After that, she remained an active independent silversmith until about 1758.

Another artist featured in the silver exhibit, Louisa Courtauld (1729-1807), is also confirmed to be a Huguenot descendant. We do not know her maiden name, but she was the daughter of a silk weaver from France, and was born in London. She married Samuel Courtauld, a Huguenot goldsmith who was the son of Augustin Courtauld, a metalsmith of Huguenot descent. Louisa and Samuel Courtauld operated a successful business together and brought at least their oldest son, Samuel Courtauld II, into their business. It should come as no surprise that in the relatively small London world of silversmiths, Louisa’s father-in-law, Augustin Courtauld, had studied for years under Simon Pantin, Elizabeth Pentin Buteux Godfrey’s father. One imagines that the two women must have been acquainted with one another.

The silver exhibit at the National Museum for Women in the Arts features a number of female artists with French names, and we are still digging to determine whether any of the others aside of Anne Tanqueray might be of Huguenot descent. We hope to provide you with a list of them before you take a tour of the museum when you visit town for Congress. Meanwhile, to read about the Huguenots’ contribution to English silversmithing, see Christopher Hartop, “Art and industry in 18th-century London: English Silver 1680-1760, from the Alan and Simone Hartman Collection,” published in the “Proceedings of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain & Ireland,” Vol. XXVII No.1, 1998.

Friday, 13 April 2012

10:00 a.m. Optional: Convene at beautiful The National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 New York Ave, NW, Washington, DC 2005-3970, for a guided tour of artwork by female artists from around the world, including work by some artists of Huguenot descent. $12, payable at the door. Transportation will not be provided, but taxis should be readily available both at the hotel and at the Museum. You may also dine at the Museum’s cafe.

2:00 p.m. General Council Meeting: Washington Marriott Hotel (all national officers, Honorary Presidents General, State President, Committee Chairmen and members are encouraged to attend this creative forum)

3:30 p.m. Board of General Officers: Washington Marriott Hotel (Elected national officers, Honorary Presidents General, and Committee Chairmen may also attend)

6:30 p.m. Cocktails and Banquet: Washington Marriott Hotel (Cash bar followed by seated dinner; Black Tie Optional)

Saturday, 14 April 2012: Washington Marriott Hotel

8:30 a.m. Registration: at table outside of meeting room, location to be announced

9:30 a.m. Congress Convenes: meeting room location to be announced (all members and guests are invited)

12:00 p.m Luncheon with program (Society members and guests invited): location within the hotel to be announced

REGISTRATION FEE, BANQUET, AND LUNCHEON COSTS: Registration fee, $10.00 for members only (guests register but do not pay a fee); Friday night banquet, $60, Saturday luncheon, $40. Total for all events is $110/member. Total for meals only is $100. Please make checks payable to: The National Huguenot Society, Inc. and mail by 25 March 2012 to:

Rex Gradeless, Treasurer General
3397 South Cheekwood Lane
Bloomington IN 47401
INTreasurer@gmail.com

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Room reservations should be made directly with the Washington Marriott Hotel at 1-800-228-9290 as soon as possible, before the cut-off date of Thursday, 8 March 2012 in order to obtain the group room rate of $199.00 (not including tax), per night. This group rate is for Thursday, April 12th through Monday, April 16th, but the number of rooms blocked at the $199 group rate is limited, so please reserve early.

DELEGATES: The President of each State Member Society should: (1) ensure that the number of state delegates permitted by NHS bylaws is designated to attend Congress; (2) complete the Credentials Form (to be provided) with the names of Delegates and Alternates representing their Society; and (3) email or mail the completed Credentials Form before 25 March 2012 to the Credentials Committee Chairman, Sheila Richards (President, GA Society), whose name and address will be printed on the form.
Greetings, dear Huguenots, it is an honor to represent our beloved Society as its new President General. We have so many wonderful things going on, including more new members and a steadily increasing interest in our website. Every single new member is a joy! Our new book of approved ancestors should be ready for publication this spring, and we know it will serve as a valuable resource to everyone who is involved in genealogy. Our semi-annual meeting in Louisville was a huge success, thanks to First Vice President General and KY President, Fay Charpentier-Ford, her husband Jerry Ford, and our Chaplain General, Paul “Sonny” Smith. A more elegant dinner and luncheon cannot be imagined. We met some of our KY members and visited with friends from around the country. Fleur-de-lis scarves for the ladies, and sample bottles of KY Bourbon, anyone? The goodie bags were beyond beyond. Not to mention the gorgeous crystal gavel that was presented to the President General by the KY Society. Airport security took an unfortunate interest in it for a while, but the gavel and I were permitted to return together to Washington, DC. Many kudos and thanks to the KY Society for the weekend’s events, which they delivered on their own with no financial contribution from National. This is the model for our future semi-annual events that National will be following—the hosting society will strive to host the event with a minimum of financial contribution from National.

My approach to this position has been to focus upon the strategic issues that I believe should be addressed as we continue to grow, and the first order of business going forward is to ask our members to get themselves designated as state delegates and attend Congress 2012 on behalf of their state society, because almost every important change that might be considered requires either a Bylaws change or Congress’s approval, or both. Without a quorum of state society delegates attending Congress, we risk the possibility that any changes that might be agreed to by those who do attend might not stick. One of the most important agenda items for the 2012 Congress is the formation of a Nominating Committee to select a slate of national officers to run for office at the Congress in 2013.

Our Finance and Bylaws Committees have met and generated some valuable new ideas about how best to deal with our increasing expenditures. This includes a proposed Bylaws change to clarify that all committees are authorized to meet “electronically.” The Finance Committee experimented with this concept by using an internet service which allowed us to speak by conference call and to display documents on the participants’ computer screens at the same time. It worked beautifully, and so the Finance Committee encouraged the Bylaws Committee to propose a Bylaws change—which I am hoping will eventually be extended to Board meetings—that committee meetings may be conducted electronically so long as certain safeguards are met. This Bylaws revision proposal will be voted upon at the upcoming Congress on April 14th.

An unofficial Survey was sent to our state presidents to obtain feedback about some of the issues that are being considered by the Finance and Bylaws Committees. Although not all states had responded by the time The Cross needed to be delivered to the printer, it is clear that the merits of holding future Congresses in Washington, DC will be one of the topics on the table for discussion. As one state president put it, National needs to consider bringing national business to the states.

Another major issue for consideration concerns dues collection from and the administration of the affairs of our Members at Large (MALs), which is our biggest membership group and yet has no elected leader or voting power, and of those of our state societies which are, shall we say, “in transition.” We consider a state society to be “in transition” where there is no nominal state president, where there is no reachable state contact person, or where there are other irregularities. One problem arising from inadequate state leadership is that dues are either not collected at all, or members seem reluctant to renew their membership; and National Bylaws require those who fail to pay their dues for a certain period of time to be dropped. Three short-term actions have been implemented to address them: (1) the names and addresses of MALs in a particular state are being sent to the president of the nearest state society to that in which the MAL resides, the state president is asked to include those MALs in their communications and meeting invitations; (2) our Treasurer General, Rex Gradeless, will administer the dues billings for those groups and track payments closely; and (3) our warm and energetic First Vice President General, Fay Charpentier-Ford, will contact as many of our members from those groups as possible to obtain more information about what they need and to identify members who would be willing to assist by leading.
Finally, the President General is currently conducting a demographic analysis of our membership and will share the results at Congress. Yet another reason to attend--I daresay that this type of analysis has never before been conducted, and it should provide much useful information to our state societies and to the NHS Board. What we do know is this: every single one of us delights in welcoming a new member into the fold, and we all love our Society. Our hearts are all in the right place, and for that we are a fortunate group, indeed. These issues and more will be on the table for discussion at Congress, so please plan to attend! We would love to see you there.

Janice Murphy Lorenz, President General

NOTICE OF 2012 SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING LOCATION

The NHS 2012 Semi-Annual General Council Meeting will be hosted by the Georgia Society on Friday, October 26, 2012 and will be followed by a GA state society meeting and a luncheon for all on Saturday, October 27, 2012. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express, Atlanta-Buckhead, 505 Pharr Road, Atlanta, GA 30305. Telephone 404-262-7880. National is planning to hold committee meetings and a General Council meeting at the Holiday Inn Express on Friday. Friday evening, a dinner hosted by the Georgia Society will be held at a superb southern mansion-style restaurant near the hotel, and on Saturday, the GA Society will hold its meeting followed by a luncheon for all at yet another tasty location. Stay tuned for more details to be posted on our website and through your state president or national contact.

FRANCE CULTURAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

There are at least two different resources in France which offer opportunities to tour France and enjoy the country’s numerous cultural offerings.

One resource is Reformation Tours. It is planning a tour to be guided by Dwyn Mounger, Ph.D. As described in a lovely brochure, this particular tour consists of a 12-day trip from April 23-May 4, 2012, starting in Geneva and winding through France across some of the most notable towns and regions of Huguenot interest, ending in Paris. Contact Information: Dwyn Mouenger, Ph.D. (history), Reformation Tours, LLC • P. O. Box 854, Belleville, IL 62222 • 1-800 303-5534 • www.ReformationTours.com.

An important international resource we have recently developed is with Pierre Gerault, Director of Slice-Of-France, a French tour agency whose website is listed below. He has offered to assist individuals or groups of NHS members in planning any cultural tour of France of your desire. For example, he can help to build a trip combining Huguenot history with the discovery of French culture. For that, naturally, he could include the Desert in Mialet in the Cevennes, but he might also suggest the potential for Huguenot interest in the route of the Huguenots’ Exode towards Geneva, and an intriguing potential for Huguenot interest in complementing a historical tour of France with visits to local producers in order to experience delicious tasting sessions involving wine, honey, chestnuts, or olive oil, to name only a few. Mr. Gerault will create your trip for you or your group, if you would contact him using the contact information here: Pierre Gerault, Slice of France, Le Roure du Prat, 07150 ORGNAC L’AVEN, FRANCE Tel./Phone: +33 (0)475 889 258; Port./Mob.: +33 (0)677 164 363; Fax : +33 (0)972 236 263; Skype: slice-of-france; E-mail: pierre.gerault@slice-of-france.com; E-mail: info@slice-of-france.com; E-mail: booking@slice-of-france.com. Website: www.slice-of-france.com.

Who could resist either of these opportunities? Both of these contacts are valuable ones for The National Huguenot Society because our mission includes honoring our Huguenot ancestors and their culture. Not only does travel to France increase our cultural awareness and help us to forge a strong bond of admiration for our departed Huguenot ancestors, travel to France also provides us with a glimpse of what it might be like for French Protestants today—perhaps related to our own Huguenot ancestors—who remained in France. As you know, Huguenots who remained in France despite persecution are an important yet frequently overlooked component of our membership base.

Bon Voyage!
MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY, INC.
SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
October 7, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by President General Janice Lorenz. The Invocation was led by Chaplain General Paul W. Smith. The Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Kentucky State President Fay Charpentier-Ford. The Huguenot Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Washington DC President Skip Keats. President General Lorenz welcomed members and guests. All present introduced themselves and named their representative offices, state societies or chapter affiliations.

President General named Fay Charpentier-Ford and Honorary President General Barbara MacManus to a Committee to read and correct the Minutes. Chaplain General Paul W. Smith moved the Minutes of the Semi-Annual General Council held in Tempe, Arizona in 2010 be accepted as published.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President General Janice Lorenz reported to the group her hopes and plans for the year. She hoped the Bylaws could be amended to include electronic communication for committee work. She hoped to shorten National Congress in April and requested input from members to decrease costs and increase interest and efficiency. She noted with regret the resignation of Corresponding Secretary General Jan Cordell of AZ. Catherine Mackey, President of the Ohio Society was named to take her place. A motion to recommend the appointment to the Board of General Officers was made by Alice Sweeney. The motion passed.

First Vice President General Fay Charpentier-Ford reported 27 attendees were officially registered including seven State Presidents and eight current and past National Officers representing 11 states. She felt early and regular communication with membership was helpful. She further announced all costs of the Louisville General Council Semi-annual meeting would be covered and no bills presented to the National Society. A sheet of “Tips for State Society Growth” was distributed and is attached to the Minutes. Also filed with the Minutes is the Kentucky State President’s Midyear Report and the First Vice President’s Report.

Chaplain General Rev. Paul Smith noted the importance of personalized notification to families when member deaths occur. He has acquired appropriate forms.


Registrar General Nancy Brennan reported the latest National membership to be nearly 2300. She noted the addition of name searching and sorting on the National website for updates or closed lines. Members whose lines are closed due to lack of proofs will not be eliminated from membership. Any further members seeking admittance on a closed line would have to come in with satisfactory proof. She circulated a sheet seeking the number who might order the new CD or book showing the latest Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors to be published on demand. From January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, the Registrar General has approved 65 new memberships. 18 state societies have new members. The states of FL, GA and VA are tied for the most new members with 7 each. A workshop will be held Saturday morning October 8 at 9:00 a.m. detailing the registration requirements, the updated website and dissemination of certificates. Requests through the website have increased over the prior year. A European Huguenot Heritage tour is available in April for those interested. A report is attached.

Honorary President General Barbara MacManus shared a draft copy of a Handbook for State Officers. She requested feedback of corrections and additions timely so that the final draft can be presented for approval at the 2012 Congress. A copy is attached with the Minutes.

Historian General Todd Frary filed an email report indicating the identification of 130 book titles relating to our Huguenot
ancestors. He hopes to include recent reviews in “The Cross.” He urged publication of a second volume of “Huguenot Historic Sites” when enough material had been collected. The email report is attached.

Genealogist General Alice Sweeny explained her job. The closing of lines occurs only if the proof was missing. Further proof would reopen the closed lines.

Allen Moore, Registrar and Treasurer of the Huguenot Society of Indiana mailed a report on Indiana activities. This report, as well as other reports received by mail, are attached to the Minutes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Finance Chairman Roger Smith reported for the Finance Committee with major recommendations to include the following considerations, noting some may require Bylaws changes:

- An increase in the current fee schedule of Membership fee to $20.00 from $10.00; Application fee to $50.00 from $30.00; and Supplemental fee to $50.00 from $25.00;
- No change in the current investment policy;
- Reduction of ever-increasing costs of Congress, through shifting to a lower cost location, altering the time of year for Congress, or possibly shifting to mid-year meetings;
- Changes made in current structure of conferences and conventions and all be made self supporting in the future;

*The Cross of Languedoc* continue to be published in its present structure since it is the face of the organization;

Study of the possible institution of a foundation to possibly increase income; Increase in membership through varietal use of social media;

A line item be budgeted for $2000.00 to assist with data entry at headquarters.

The report is attached.

Awards Chairman Lee Nelson, Arizona State President, reported her committee is currently reviewing two books with recommendation to follow at National Congress.

Bylaws Committee Chairman Rev. Paul Smith reported for the committee that proposed wording is in process to include the use of electronic communication for committee work; replacing the term “Initiation fee” with “application fee;” the addition of the clarifying term “social privileges” for Associate Members; and the determination to find out the possibility of membership for out of country Huguenot descendants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Barbara MacManus moved that all reports be given to Recording Secretary General Linda Smith for inclusion in the Minutes. Motion passed.

Georgia President Sheila Richards announced that the next Semi-Annual General Council Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia October 25-26, 2012. Arrangements are pending with the French Consulate and Trade Commission for a special function, with details to be announced and published.

NEW BUSINESS

Alice Sweeney moved the General Council’s support of the action taken without a quorum present at Congress 2011 be recommended to the Board. The motion passed.
ANNOUNCEMENTS . . . . . .

Dinner will be held at the Pendennis Club at 6:30 this evening. A Registrar’s Workshop is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning, October 8, 2011 in this hotel meeting room.

A lunch with a speaker will be held at the Pendennis Club at 11:30 Saturday, October 8, 2011 in tandem along with members of the Kentucky Huguenot Society; Kentucky Branch of Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims; and the Kentucky Branch of the Huguenot Society of the Founders of the Manakin Colony of Virginia.

After the Benediction, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.
Linda L. Smith, Recording Secretary General

REPORTS FROM GENERAL OFFICERS

Report of the First Vice President General

The First Vice President General’s role is to do whatever is appropriate to support the President General and advance the work of our Society.

Since our election as general officers in April, 2011, a variety of activities occupied our time: assessing the future direction of our national society, identifying additional leaders, regularly communicating as liaison with the chairperson of the 2012 midyear meeting in Atlanta, writing articles for The Cross of Languedoc, and giving active focus on Kentucky planning/hosting of 2011 National Huguenot Society’s midyear meeting.

October in Kentucky is extremely busy for conferences, meetings, and out-of-state visitors. Therefore, I attempted to speak to the approximately 30 state presidents to invite them to the midyear meeting and advise them to reserve their hotel rooms early. This resulted in one of the better responses for national meetings. Room occupancy doubled. At least 11 states are represented, including seven state presidents, several state members/delegates, eight national officers, and a two-person visitation team from the 2012 midyear committee, one of whom will be installed in two weeks as Georgia Huguenot President. Those phone calls and some emails demonstrated that we could do a better job at communicating with one another.

Although there are several dates that might be used as the beginning point for the National Huguenot Society, a date 75 years ago was chosen, making this the 75th anniversary or the Diamond Jubilee. That achievement was celebrated at the 2011 annual meeting in the District of Columbia and the theme is carried to this midyear meeting in Kentucky.

Kentucky is delighted to receive all the new Huguenot friends and guests about to become friends. We also are delighted to report that the 2011 midyear meeting costs are completely covered by the Kentucky Huguenot Society through smart planning, personal contributions in goods and funds, and volunteered time, sometimes both. (We understand this may be a first for the Society.) You will meet many of the people who made this possible -- past and present officers, donors and volunteers -- at the black tie soiree on Friday evening at the Pendennis Club in Louisville, Kentucky.

The midyear meeting of the Council and Board will help set future directions for the National Huguenot Society. Thank you for responding to the call. You have my gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Fay Charpentier-Ford

Registrar General

Sixty five (65) new members by application have been approved through September 30 for calendar year 2011.

Eighteen (18) state societies gained new members. Georgia, Florida and Virginia tied for the most new members with seven (7) each approved applications. Kentucky is second with six (6) California follows with five (5).

There were 8 transfers and 4 reinstatements through September 30, 2011.

This officer receives and answers requests for information from the website to the registrar’s email. Through September 30, 2011, there have been over 120 requests for information about membership in the Society. This is a big increase over the entire year of 2010.

Names and addresses of all new members have been added to the mailing list. Deletions of deceased, resigned or dropped members have been made.

Nancy Brennan
STATE SOCIETY REPORTS

Alabama

The Alabama Society elected a new slate of officers in September of 2011. The new president is Steve Saxon of Birmingham, who does not have a computer. Former president Barbara Garner will accept email on his behalf. The First Vice President is Ruby Hassell of Prattville, our Chaplain is Dorothea Thompson of Birmingham; our Recording Secretary Betty Campbell of Marion, Treasurer Alethia Cole-Tyson of Leeds, and our Registrar is Laura Ramsay of Birmingham.

Submitted by Barbara Garner for Steve Saxon, President

Arkansas

The 2011 Huguenot Society of Arkansas Scholarship Winner was Hannah Nicole Persing, from Shiloh Christian School in Springdale, Arkansas. She is the niece of Warren Small, member of the Arkansas Huguenot Society. Hannah will be attending Oachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, this fall. Her major is to be determined.

Congratulations, Hannah!

The Arkansas Society’s 2010 Scholarship Winner was Zachary Michael Lane from Rogers High School in Rogers, Arkansas. he is the grandson of Betty Harp, member of the Arkansas Huguenot Society. He is attending the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas, majoring in biology, and will pursue his master’s degree in marine biology.

Congratulations, Zachary!

Submitted by Carol King Hartman, Arkansas Society Scholarship Chairman, 2010

Arizona

Arizona was well-represented at the Midyear Meeting in Louisville, KY, Oct 7-8, 2011 with member Mary Little, State President Lee T. Nelson, and Lee’s husband Jack in attendance. We shared great company, superb meals - all the while learning much about each other’s states Huguenot projects and business. Our Kentucky hosts went above and beyond in showing all of us a very special time. Our Arizona group has already begun to incorporate one of the ideas brought up at the general meeting - that of having just a social get-together where no business is discussed - a way for members and guests alike to share stories in a more relaxed atmosphere, of their lineage, their hobbies, passions, etc. We plan to invite some smaller hereditary societies in our area to join us as well. We are looking to meet at the Pioneer Living History Museum in the Phoenix area for a tour and luncheon. Much knowledge was also gained by hearing the recommendations of the National Finance Committee, and our State is in agreement with these suggestions. At present, our membership is growing, with some applications pending at National, and there are many inquiries coming in to our new Registrar, Georgiana Swanson. Our twice annual meetings at Dillon’s Restaurant in Phoenix are well-attended and there is much enthusiasm and exchanging of ideas by all. We have donated a member’s well-documented Huguenot family lineage book to the West Valley Genealogical Library in Youngtown, Arizona and plan further events that will enhance our society’s recognition and image in the community. Arizona Huguenots are working hard to make a difference!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lee Thomasson Nelson, President

Florida

In Florida, our State Officers are elected at the Annual Meeting held in odd years for a two-year period. Following are the current Florida State Officers for 2011-2013:

President - Linda L. Antram Smith, Jean Calvin Chapter
Vice President – Dr. Edward J. Neugaard, Adm. Gaspard de Coligny Chapter
Recording Secretary – Roger F. Smith, Jean Calvin Chapter
Corresponding Secretary - Judith J. Adams, Fort Caroline Chapter
Treasurer - David J. Bahn, Fort Caroline Chapter
Acting Registrar – Barbara Browning Schulz, Jean Calvin Chapter
Chaplain - Atwood A. Brewton, Fort Caroline Chapter
Historian/Librarian – Kenneth E. Carter, Ernst d’Erlach Chapter

Charles Baker, from the Ernst d’Erlach Chapter, was first elected as State Registrar but was later forced to resign in the summer due to health concerns. His long experience and expertise with the post was a loss to the State Society. However, experienced genealogist Barbara Browning Schulz, from the Jean Calvin Chapter, agreed to take the position as Acting Registrar until confirmation by the membership at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, on February 18, 2012.
The 2011 Annual Meeting was held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Past President of Admiral Gaspard De Coligny Chapter, Linda Moody Neal, installed the officers. Dr. Christine Probes, a Professor at USF and a Calvin Scholar, spoke about Calvin and his writings, about astrology and the universe.

Monica Darling Douglas was appointed as Scholarship Chairman; Linda Moody Neal as Parliamentarian; Rev. Dr. Hunter Camp II as Membership Chairman; and James Bailey deRosset as Newsletter Editor. Mary Nelson Morgan continued as our Counselor. Mary’s legal help was invaluable to the Florida Society with the proposed revision of the State Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

Florida State Scholarship Chairman Monica Darling Douglas indicated one Allen Parker Scholarship in the amount of $650.00 had been awarded in 2010. The recipient was Mary Kate Harvey sponsored by the Admiral Gaspard de Coligny Chapter. Chairman Douglas noted there is now enough in scholarship funds to award two scholarships next year for $650.00 each. The deadline for new filings is March 30th. The application blank can be found on the FL State website.

President Linda Smith agreed to take charge of the website for the Huguenot Society of Florida at: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flhuguen/

The proposed Florida Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were revised to follow more closely the National Society Bylaws revised in 2010. The documents were provided to membership ahead of time as required. Dr. Edward Neugaard and committee of Barbara Schulz and Roger F. Smith met many hours to refine the language needed. A quorum being present, the proposed Florida Bylaws and Articles were approved by membership.

Newsletter Editor James Baily deRosset produced both the Spring and Fall 2011 edition of the “The Florida Huguenot.” Each colorful edition features a Huguenot descendant of note plus news of the Chapters. All newsletters can be read and/or downloaded from the State website at: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flhuguen/

A private Facebook site for Florida Huguenots has been established to help further communication among members. Anyone who is on Facebook may request to join by contacting President Linda Smith at: LLSdarien@mac.com

The Henry of Navarre Chapter requested permission to disband due to lack of members willing to take office. The State granted permission and their membership roll was absorbed into the Jean Calvin Chapter. President Virginia Bailey presented the records and flags of the Navarre Chapter to the State President. Before disbandment the Chapter requested the State use their beautiful flag as the State flag until which time the Henry of Navarre Chapter might form again. Since the Huguenot Society of Florida was planning to purchase a new flag, it was moved and gratefully accepted to take the Navarre gift flag and to sell the old State Society Flag to the Admiral Gaspard de Coligny Chapter. A flag of the United States of America was donated to the State Society by Virginia and Hil Bailey. The pole, base, bag and eagle were donated by Linda and Roger Smith.

The remaining Chapters and Presidents in Florida are: Admiral Gaspard de Coligny Chapter—Dr. Edward J. Neugaard, President; Fort Caroline Chapter—David J. Bahn, President; Ernst d’Erlach Chapter—Kenneth E. Carter, President; Fleur de Lis Chapter—James Bailey deRosset, President; Jean Calvin Chapter—Reynolds P. Cushing, President; Louis DuBois Chapter—Theodore M. Duay III, President

Blue tote bags with Fleur de Lis logos continued to be sold by the State Society with profits from the tote bag sales deposited in the Allen Parker State Scholarship fund.

Florida State Society Chaplain Atwood Brewton reported the loss of 8 members through death in 2010. Chaplain Brewton led a memorial service for the deceased members.

Corresponding State Secretary Judi J. Adams announced new white roster covers were available for all new members. Past State Treasurer Brett D. Brown provided an insert designed in French script that was placed into each cover. The new notebooks are larger than our prior blue roster covers and will easily hold the complete State Roster and Bylaws.

Corresponding Secretary Adams also distributed “The Florida Huguenot” newsletters via email or snail mail and provided notice of the pending Bylaws proposals to each member. An updated Florida Roster will be among the Secretary’s projects during the summer.
will be made available to all State dues paying members in the fall.

A Financial Review Committee chaired by Roger F. Smith reported and congratulated Past Treasurer Brett D. Brown on his organization and detailed reports. All Florida Certificates and Licenses had been filed to date and Budget presented to the Executive Board.

Membership Chairman Rev. Dr. Hunter Camp II designed some bumper stickers denoting the National Huguenot Society for publicity purposes.

Huguenot Mereau Medals were available for sale and were popular among members to wear and give as gifts. The Mereaux depicted Christ as a shepherd, with a staff in His left hand, holding a trumpet in His right hand. Two fig trees, one on either side of Christ, with a cross and banner are also shown. A flock of sheep, symbolizing His followers, is shown at His feet. The back side shows an open bible, which is opened at St. Luke chapter 12, verse 32, saying in French: “Have no fear little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Above the Bible is a symbolic shining sun and six stars. The Mereaux were replicas of tokens the early Huguenots used in France showing they were qualified to receive the sacrament.

Charles Baker presented the Membership Plaque to the Fort Caroline Chapter having the largest membership increase of new members in 2010. Over the years, names have filled the plaque requiring an extension. The needed plaque extension was donated to the Society by Past State President Robby Burt and wife Trudy. The next Membership Plaque will be presented for the largest 2011 membership increase at the February 18, 2012 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

Honorary President General Sylvia McAuliffe reported the Bailey Ridge Gardens project holding the Huguenot marker depicting the location of the first Huguenot North American marriage was still safe. Municipal action to build high rises in the area was delayed.

The Registrar’s report to National at the end of 2010 totaled 186 members. During 2011, the State Society has gained and lost membership with a final number yet to be determined.

The 75th Annual Huguenot Congress held April 8-9, 2011 at the Washington Marriott. State Societies represented were: KY, FL, DC, AZ, OK, TN, TX, VA and PA. 57 new members were added from 12 states in 2010. The most new members came from Florida with 11.
impressive and gratifying experience is that many people stepped forward, responding with donations, deeds and extra enthusiasm. There are several milestones established for this midyear meeting, including the fact that Kentucky will not need financial support from the national budget. We’re rather proud of that fact.

Our Kentucky Society just completed its next member directory for 2011-2013. Comparing the member information against the previous 2009-2011 directory, it shows 15 members approved, two re-applications with a different ancestor, one new applicant ready to mail, and three other applicants very close to final review. After deaths, transfers and drops, Kentucky has a net increase of 13 members. With all the reasons given for losing members in some societies, this achievement speaks well for our membership base, the newer members who have accepted offices and committee duties, plus the general cohesiveness of participants. We continue to function on the three-part rationale: (1) it has to benefit the group, (2) it has to benefit the individual, and (3) it has to be fun.

Two years ago October 15, 2009, The Reverend, Doctor Dixon Barr unexpectedly passed away. He held two national Huguenot offices, including President General. He served as a role model for many of us. In fact, many of us are members because of his insistence. We continue to miss him.

Recently, we presented the seven updated volumes of Magna Charta and Plantagenet materials to the SAR National Genealogical Library, located in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. The KY Branch of Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims and Dutch Colonial Society, all friends and admirers, joined us in making the materials available in Dixon’s name.

If asked what has contributed to the momentum in the Kentucky Huguenot Society, these things could be listed:

- Regularly submit information and photos to our national magazine. Members want to be recognized.

- Create a state newsletter. Members want to be recognized. They enjoy learning what everyone is doing.

- Implement service awards. Members want to be recognized. We began Mereau Awards to honor service and leadership.

- Involve newer members with meaningful roles in the society. Members want to be recognized and enjoy the contagious nature of good service.

Occasionally, when a big task such as hosting a major meeting is completed, there is the possibility for a let-down. We’ll stay alert to that and be prepared if symptoms arise. Meanwhile, come to Kentucky. You’re just in time for colorful, autumn leaves, crisp evenings, sunny skies reflecting off an abundant Ohio River and tastiest water in America. Please have a safe trip.... you’ll find us at the “Gateway to the South.” The thoroughbred horses are running.... whiskey is aging in the oaken barrels, the essential ingredient in mint juleps.... and some rather nice people await your visit.

Fay Charpentier-Ford, President

Texas

The Huguenot Society of Texas held its Fifty-eighth Annual State Assembly Saturday 5th February 2011 in San Antonio, Texas at the DoubleTree Hotel. The Languedoc chapter was host, with La Rochelle members also attending. Presiding was Texas President Jack Vance Cowan. Kenneth Margerison, Professor of French History at Texas State University spoke on the Re-establishment of Civil Rights To The Protestants In France in the 1780’s and What Happened To Those Huguenots Who Stayed.

The new slate of officers for The Huguenot Society of Texas was elected. They are: Texas State President Jack Vance Cowan, Texas Vice President Aubrey Wilson, Texas Recording Secretary Joyce Elvey, Texas Treasurer Barbara Mac Manus, Texas Chaplain Janis Myer O’Connor, and Texas Registrar Rosemary Sanders.

Michelle Elvey was the recipient of the National Huguenot scholarship. Her beloved grandmother, Betty Dalbec, was a member of Languedoc. She deceased shortly before this was announced. How proud she would have been of Michelle Elvey.

Outgoing President General Barbara MacManus reported on the National Congress, the 75th Diamond Jubilee. She stated that the banquet was exceptional and the entertainment superb.

Jack Vance Cowan, President
Virginia

The Huguenot Society of Virginia meets each year for a board meeting, then the regular meeting and a luncheon followed by our program. In 2011, we had Mrs. Anita Harrower speak in colonial dress, and then our October meeting was our 50th Birthday of the organization of our Society. One of our newest members, Mrs. Pat Newbern, brought the fall pumpkins and leaves and gave every member present a gift of her wonderful crocked dish cloth, and we had gold coins with the fleur-de-lis and Huguenot cross on the sides. One of our own members, Ronnie Durie told with heartfelt words what it meant to him to find that he also has French ancestors on his mother’s side which he has just discovered. While the board meets members look over the books from our library and can check them out until the next meeting. They also enjoy the time to meet members from all over the state and get to know them. We are so proud of our flags.

We have repaid the National Society $3,000 for their help in getting our books, flags, and money back from the splinter group. We are working hard to get money to give a scholarship very soon. We are working hard to get over one hundred members. Our hard working registrar obtained twelve new members, reinstated one, and has helped a number of others. We are proud of her work.

We lost five members through death this last year. They were Mrs. Dorothy Littlepage Allen, Mr. John Paul Hanbury (a new member), Mrs. Helen Leighton, Mrs. Margaret Young, and Mrs. Marguerite Reant. A beautiful memorial service was held for these members in October by Mrs. Alice Birdseye.

We were represented at the National Conference by Mrs. Rachael Wills and Mrs. Alice Sweeney, who also attended the Mid-Year Conference in Louisville. Thanks to all the members and helpers of the Kentucky Society who made that a memorable occasion.

The Virginia Society maintains a website and put pictures on it from our meetings-- thanks to Mr. Duane Wills--so that those who cannot attend can keep up with the Society. We are trying to save money by emailing the Call to meetings, and for those who do not have email, we send theirs by snail mail. We hope to have a newsletter go out between our meetings and thus keep in touch with the membership better.

We are proud of all that we have been able to accomplish in the last few years and feel that our Society is doing well.

Wisconsin

The Huguenot Society of Wisconsin gathered, thanks to the organization skills of Carol Chew, for brunch, business discussion, and program at the historic Port Hotel, Port Washington, Wisconsin. Members and friends enjoyed a delicious Champagne brunch served in the elegant surroundings of the restored hotel. We met in the spacious Jury Room across from the Ozaukee County Court House.

Afterwards, President Alice Byrnes led the conversation that centered on possibility of holding a spring meeting with other state lineage societies to help revitalize our organization and let others know about us.

We also discussed other ways of increasing our membership and shoring up a regular meeting schedule. Treasurer Carol Chew noted that we are in a healthy financial position. Other members gave informal reports on absent members and the group signed get-well cards for several members who are ill.

At the conclusion of our business meeting, the guest speaker was The Rev. Travis Talmadge Du Priest, Jr., Ph.D., Honorary President General of The National Huguenot Society. Dr. Du Priest spoke on “Tracking a Huguenot Patriot,” in which one of his co lateral ancestors, Peter Le Grand III, served as a case study, and in which he highlighted the importance of putting genealogical clues together and of establishing historic markers. The talk was augmented with slides from Southside Virginia, Williamsburg, and Lexington, Kentucky.

A lively discussion followed the talk, during which a variety of comments were made about the need for establishing historic markers for German, Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, other Huguenot immigrants known to the group as well. Many of these refugees were absorbed into the cultures they entered and rather quickly disappeared as an identifiable group.

The next meeting is slated for Saturday, March 31, 2012, with more details later.
Memories of Midyear Meeting October 2012

KY Huguenot Society members Denise Hall and Holman Wilson

KY Vice President Richard Deavers and Guest Michele Candy

Field Trip to Margaret’s Consignment, hosted by Margaret Browning, owner. Front row L-R: Sandy Ringer, Margaret Browning, Lee T. Nelson; 2d row: Fay Charpentier-Ford, Julie Hardaway, Nancy Brennan, Patti Hutt, Jimmie Spratlin, Mary Little, Noella Oberlin

L-R: Genealogist General Alice Sweeney (VA Pres.), MS President Mary Margaret Buck, First Vice President General Fay Charpentier-Ford (KY Pres.)

Fay Charpentier-Ford (KY host), Mary Little (AZ), and Registrar General Nancy Brennan (TX)

Guest Jerry Ford, President General Janice Lorenz, Guest Patrick Lorenz, Guest Susan Smith, Bill Swinford (KY), and Honorary President General Nadine Hardin-Miller (AR)
Second Vice President General Aubrey Wilson (TX), Finance Committee Chairman Roger Smith (FL), Recording Secretary General Linda Smith (FL)

Kentucky’s Recent Members receive their rosette at the luncheon. L-R: Holman Wilson, Jimmie Spratlin, Anne Moore, Leslie Miller, Patti Hutt, Richard Deavers, and Denise Hall. Not pictured: Joe Jones, who received his rosette the previous evening.

President General Janice Lorenz receives a crystal gavel from her KY host, First Vice President General Fay Charpentier-Ford, at the banquet at the Pendennis Club.

Past KY President Mary David Myles and Ed Myles (KY)

Fay Charpentier-Ford, our KY Midyear Host, and her husband, Jerry Ford.

Jackson Nelson (guest), Taffy Noel (special guest), and Lee T. Nelson (AZ President)
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS, SUPPLEMENTALS AND REINSTATEMENTS FOR 2011

Arizona

Linda Ann Ebinger-Cooper
Ancestor: Nicholas delaPlane/Plaine
Devan Michelle Potter
Ancestor: Nicholas delaPlane/Plaine
Aspen Bayley Cooper
Ancestor: Nicholas delaPlane/Plaine

Arkansas

Alma Nell Soward Brown
Ancestor: Mareen Duval

California

Christopher Colt Cauffman
Ancestor: Vincent Rongnion/Runyan
Gloria B. Kent Supplemental #1
Ancestor: Joost DeBaun/DeBane/DeBeaune
Gloria B. Kent Supplemental #2
Ancestor: Francois LeSueur
Gloria B. Kent Supplemental #3
Ancestor: Phillippe duTrieux
Gloria B. Kent Supplemental #4
Ancestor: Giles Jansen de Mandeville
Gloria B. Kent Supplemental #5
Ancestor: Joris Jansen Rapalje
Gloria B. Kent Supplemental #6
Ancestor: Peter Monfort/Montfoort
Gloria B. Kent Supplemental #7
Ancestor: Jacques desPlancque/Planq
David Lawrence Grinnell Supplemental #1
Ancestor: Jan deLannoy
David Lawrence Grinnell Supplemental #2
Ancestor: Thomas Billiou
Jan Lynn Brooks Quigley
Ancestor: Hester Mahieu
Ward Clemence White
Ancestor: Thomas Roote

Connecticut

Frederick George Herbert
Ancestor: Jacques/Jacob Rémy

Florida

Mary Madeline Squibb May
Ancestor: Jean Guenon/Genung
Katherine Anne Bahn Seay
Ancestor: Jean Vassall
Josephine Elizabeth Bahn
Ancestor: Jean Vassall
Ronald Edward Benson, Jr.
Ancestor: Hugo Freer/Frere
Roger Eugene Quackenbush
Ancestor: Hester Mahieu
Charles Pendleton Garrison
Ancestor: Lewis Latane
Kimberly Ann Wilson
Ancestor: Louis DeBois

Georgia

Mary Ann McCullen Foster
Ancestor: Samuel Bourdin
Rebecca Jane Malone West
Ancestor: Jerome (Jeremiah) Dumas
Gloria Tina Gowdy Peavy
Ancestor: John Root/Routtes/Roote
Elizabeth Garlington Christy
Ancestor: Thomas Root/Roote/Routtes
Susan Hudmon Simmons Ragains-Barksdale
Ancestor: Leonard Dozier
Katherine Paige Pebbworth
Ancestor: Thomas Root/Roote/Routtes
Janet Ann Butler Walker
Ancestor: Jerome Dumas
Natalie Brewton Barfield
Ancestor: Jacques de la Fontaine
Virginia Morgan Edenfield
Ancestor: Jean Brevard
Elizabeth Dianne Bean Barfield
Ancestor: Michael DeLoach
Lena Rebecca Chapman Bean
Ancestor: Michael DeLoach
E. Lynn Brackey
Ancestor: Nicholas Lanier
**Indiana**

Garry Maurice Eckard

Ancestor: Abraham LeMaître/LeMaster

**Kentucky**

Winstead Thomas Buckner

Ancestor: Nicholas Martiau

Joseph Ramon Jones II

Ancestor: Louis DuBois

David Arthur Jones

Ancestor: Louis DuBois

Alison Margaret Jones

Ancestor: Louis DuBois

Christy Lee Cheuvront Crigler

Ancestor: Joseph Louis Cheuvront

Leslie Ann Rogers Miller

Ancestor: Louis DuBois

Raymond George Hughes

Ancestor: Henri Marchand

**Members at Large**

Betty Lou Crowell Crowder Supp. #1

Ancestor: Jean Brevard

Beverly June Ellison Nelson

Ancestor: Jean Monfort

Elizabeth Suzanne Crowder McIntyre

Ancestor: Jean Brevard

Thomas Douglas Crowder

Ancestor: Jean Brevard

Mississippi

Olivia Ann Bates Chandler

Ancestor: Mathieu Agee

Randall Hall Chandler

Ancestor: Benoit Brasseur/Brashear

**Missouri**

Delaney Clevenger Branton

Ancestor: Gabriel Maupin

Kyle Clevenger Branton

Ancestor: Gabriel Maupin

Elizabeth Weisenborn Fleming

Ancestor: Gabriel Maupin

**North Carolina**

Judith Caroline Rembert

Ancestor: André Rembert

**Pennsylvania**

Emily McVey Bitting

Ancestor: Louis Bevier

Emily McVey Bitting #1 Supplemental

Ancestor: Antoine Ozias

Emily McVey Bitting #2 Supplemental

Ancestor: Pierre Maneval

**Texas**

Karen Marie Murrell

Ancestor: Peirre David

Thomas Ingle Jackson

Ancestor: Peirre David

**Virginia**

Joseph Daniel Barham

Ancestor: Robert Brasseur/Brashear

Patricia Anne Porter Newbern

Ancestor: Abraham Soblet/Sublette

Patricia Elizabeth Allen Carroll

Ancestor: Marc duSauchoy/Disosway

Denise Lee Maupin Watson

Ancestor: Gabriel Maupin

Deborah Renee Harvey

Ancestor: Charles Perrault/Perrow

Virginia Felts Brown

Ancestor: Robert Brasseur/Brashear
Tercentennial Huguenot Half-Dollar

By Carol King Hartman

The Huguenot coin necklace shown in this picture was worn by Arkansas member Carol King Hartman at the midyear meeting in Louisville, KY. The coin was originally purchased by her father, Jacob L. King from Hot Springs, Arkansas. He bought it for Carol’s mother, Aleene Burns King, who was a member of the Huguenot Society of Arkansas.

On the obverse motif of this Huguenot half-dollar are the portraits of Admiral Gaspard de Coligny (1519-1572) and William the Silent (1533-1584). Both men were associated with Protestantism and the Calvinist Church and also known as champions of the Huguenots. On the reverse motif of this coin is a depiction of the ship, Nieuw Nederland, that the Huguenots and Walloons sailed on from Holland to start a new settlement in America. The date 1624 appears on one side of the ship and 1924 appears on the other side commemorating the 300th anniversary of the founding of this new American Colony, New York! (Note: neither Admiral Coligny nor William the Silent had any direct connection to the establishment of the New Netherlands (New York) by the Huguenots and Walloons in 1624.)

The coin was designed and engraved at the Philadelphia Mint by George T. Morgan, with the approval of James Earle Fraser. There were 142,080 coins issued in 1924 to the Huguenot-Walloon New Netherland Commission who sued the Fifth National Bank of New York as the main distributor. The coins were sold during the 300th Anniversary Celebration in New York City for $1.00. By 1929, undistributed coins were sold by mail for $1.50 plus two cents postage. The profits were used to cover the cost of the tercentenary celebration and also for the dedication of the National Huguenot Memorial Church at Huguenot Park, Staten Island on May 18, 1924.

It is believed that 87,000 were sold for $1.00 each to the public and a few bulk sales to select groups. About 55,000 coins were sent back to the Treasury Department and put into circulation.

Today, circulated Huguenot Half-Dollars are worth $50.00 and more depending on their present condition. Uncirculated Huguenot Half-Dollars are valued at around $1,000.00!
**Huguenot Success Stories —**

**New Member Fred Herbert of CT Honored in Local Newspaper As A Dedicated Huguenot**

An article by James Craven appeared in the Norwich, CT newspaper, The Bulletin, about one of our new members, Fred Herbert, who honored his newly-discovered Huguenot ancestor by commissioning a replica of John Everett Millais' painting, *The Huguenot*, to be painted. As most Huguenots are aware, the gorgeous and moving Millais painting depicts a Huguenot man and his lovely Catholic love parting just before the Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre. In the painting, the young man insists upon removing the white armband worn by all Catholics and which would have protected him from the mass slaughter of Huguenots that was instigated by Queen Mother Catherine de Medici and her son, King Charles IX, in 1572. That wholesale murder spree swept from Paris across France and lasted for weeks, taking the lives of tens of thousands of Huguenot men, women and children. One of the reasons this beautiful painting remains so poignant to us today is that we can easily relate to the attractive couple and imagine the mixture of bittersweet grief and pride with which the Huguenot man chooses to stand up for his religious convictions and take the almost-certain consequence of death, while his Catholic love remains true to her own religion, no doubt suffering tremendous anguish to see him go.

In the course of researching his ancestry, Mr. Herbert learned the most interesting information about his Huguenot ancestor, Jacques Remy, who was of royal descent. It seems that Jacques Remy and his wife fled from France to Germany, then sailed to America. His wife did not survive, but Jacques Remy did, landing in Virginia as an indentured servant. Ultimately, his bonds were released and he rose to prominence in Virginia, as told in the newspaper article referenced here along with more fascinating details. To read more, see: Painting honors Preston man’s Huguenot ancestor - Norwich, CT - The Bulletin [http://www.norwichbulletin.com/archive/x132944755/Painting-honors-Preston-mans-Huguenot-ancestor#ixzz1ZKy4n5cW](http://www.norwichbulletin.com/archive/x132944755/Painting-honors-Preston-mans-Huguenot-ancestor#ixzz1ZKy4n5cW)

**Dedication of Anglican Prayer Books Collection, University of Kentucky Special Collections**

The Abbitt-DuPriest Collection of Anglican Prayer Books at the University of Kentucky was dedicated at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 6 December in the Great Hall, Margaret I. King Building.

The collection of prayer books, dating back to 1592, is a gift to the Special Collections Department from U.K. alumnus Dr. Travis T. DuPriest, former director of the Dekoven Retreat and Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

DuPriest inherited the collection, to which he has added over the years, from his uncle, the Rev. Raymond Edgerton Abbitt, an Episcopal priest who served in the Philippines, St. Thomas and St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, and in the Diocese of Dallas.

Starting in the 1930s, Abbitt originally hoped to acquire at least one prayer book from the reign of each English monarch. An exhibition selected from over 100 examples is in the lobby of the U.K. Libraries’ Special Collections Department in the King Building.

Contact Information:

Rev. Dr. Travis T. DuPriest: TDuPriest@dekovencenter.org;
Jim Birchfield, Curator of Books, Special Collections, University of Kentucky, j.birchfield@uky.edu, (859) 257-8408.

**Washington DC Society Receives Beautiful Plaque from Member John Sissons in Memory of His Parents**

Second-generation Huguenot Society of Washington DC member John Sissons presents his parents’ Huguenot Plaque to Huguenot Society of Washington DC President Wilfred Keats, on Veterans’ Day 2011, the anniversary of the Sissons’ wedding date
A massive emigration of Huguenots followed Louis XIV’s revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. Issued by Henry IV in 1598, the edict had provided French Calvinists with specific rights of worship and general toleration of their religious beliefs within Catholic France. The revocation abolished these rights with the expectation that most Huguenots would simply convert to Catholicism. Instead, some two hundred thousand Huguenots left France shortly after the issuance of the edict of revocation, and another one hundred thousand followed them over the next seventy-five years. However, about two-thirds of the Huguenot population, roughly six hundred thousand, remained in France—presumably bound by property, occupation, and family ties. Some of those who remained converted, at least nominally, to Catholicism to avoid persecution or social stigma, but others remained completely committed to the preservation and continued practice of their faith. Led by the young Antoine Court, they began after 1715 to organize underground churches, the Eglises du Désert. Court was determined that these Churches of the Desert were to be properly served by trained clergy, and he established a seminary for that purpose in Lausanne, Switzerland. After receiving their training, these clergy returned to France to conduct worship services and to officiate at the baptisms, marriages, and burials of members of Huguenot congregations. However, the provisions of the edict of revocation and subsequent royal legislation prohibited public worship for Protestants.

Despite Court’s success in maintaining Huguenot religious belief, problems continued for the Huguenot population in France. One serious problem was the possibility of suffering arrest for violating the prohibitions against worship, a crime that could result in the seizure of one’s property, condemnation to row in the Mediterranean galleys of the French fleet, and even death. Another problem was establishing the legitimacy of Huguenot births and marriages. Among the Catholic population, the legitimacy of one’s birth and marriage was confirmed by the participation of the priest in the administration of the holy sacraments. No such avenue was open to Huguenots, who refused to participate in the Eucharist and were thus denied the right of marriage by a Catholic priest. As a result, Huguenot marriages had no standing in law, and the children of such marriages were illegitimate and could not inherit their parents’ property. In effect, Huguenots had no civil status in France. In the eyes of the state, they literally did not exist.

The situation of the Huguenots in France after 1685 was a product of royal policy, the Catholic Church’s desire to maintain its religious monopoly, and the general religious intolerance of the Catholic majority. The eighteenth-century Enlightenment challenged this policy and the religious intolerance associated with it. Developed by a group of writers known collectively as philosophes, Enlightenment thought was generally skeptical of, and even hostile to, traditional religious belief. Finding little truth in any religion, the philosophes condemned all religious persecution and advocated general religious toleration. Among the philosophes, Voltaire was the most determined and effective advocate of religious toleration in France. As early as 1733 in his Philosophical Letters, Voltaire had praised the English for their religious toleration in a manner that implicitly argued that France should follow the English example. But his famous campaign to establish religious toleration in France, particularly for the Huguenots, was a product of his reaction to the case of Jean Calas.

Calas was a cloth merchant in Toulouse and a Huguenot. On October 13, 1761, Jean’s son, Marc-Antoine, was found hanging by the neck in his father’s shop. The authorities, refusing to accept that the death was a suicide, insisted that Jean had killed Marc-Antoine to prevent the youth from converting to Catholicism. The charges stemmed more from the long-standing prejudices held by the local authorities against the Huguenot minority residing in Toulouse than from any evidence that Marc-Antoine had indeed wanted to convert to Catholicism or that his father had killed him to prevent such an act. The case was turned over to the Parlement of Toulouse, the highest court in the province of Languedoc, which ordered the torture of Calas in an effort to extract a confession. Calas refused to confess to the crime even after torture. Nonetheless, the parlement convicted him and ordered that he be broken on the wheel and put to death.

Upon learning of the case, Voltaire soon became convinced that the judgment represented a miscarriage of justice that had resulted from religious intolerance. He then began a campaign to have the verdict overturned by the king’s council. In 1763, Voltaire published his Treatise on Toleration which condemned the verdict against Calas, attacked religious fanaticism in general, and called for civic rights for Huguenots including the rights of legitimate births, marriage, and burial. In addition,
he undertook a massive letter-writing campaign that targeted important individuals in society as well as the royal ministry in an effort to have the case brought before the king’s council. Ultimately this campaign was successful, and the council overturned the verdict against Calas, who was now declared to be innocent, and awarded financial compensation to his widow and family. Thus, Voltaire had managed to reverse a miscarriage of justice while shaping French public opinion in favor of establishing religious toleration in France.7

The Calas affair ended the persecution of Huguenots and initiated efforts to regularize the status of Protestants in France during the reign of Louis XVI. The key individuals in the movement to restore civic rights to Huguenots were the enlightened royal minister Guillaume-Chrétien de Lamoignon de Malesherbes, the reform-minded nobleman and veteran of the American Revolution the marquis de La Fayette, and the Huguenot clergyman from the city of Nîmes Jean-Paul Rabaut Saint-Etienne. The Huguenots hoped to reestablish their right of public worship and to restore their civic rights of marriage, birth, inheritance, and burial. However, Malesherbes, who had considerable influence within the ministry, was eager to find a formula for reform that would attract support within the king’s council. For this reason he offered proposals that would establish civic rights for Huguenots while ignoring the issue of public worship, which was certain to generate opposition. Lafayette’s experience in the American Revolution had stimulated his interest in a variety of reform movements in France, one of which was restoring rights to the Huguenots. In the mid-1780s he traveled to the south of France to make contact with Huguenot leaders. Here he met Rabaut Saint-Etienne, the articulate son of the leading Huguenot pastor of the day, Paul Rabaut. Believing that Rabaut would impress important individuals in Paris and help smooth the way for reform, Lafayette convinced the young pastor to return to Paris with him. Here, the two made the rounds of Parisian society to build support for the reform.8

Simultaneously, a widely publicized affair regarding the inheritance of the marquise d’Anglure bolstered the argument for restoring civic rights to Huguenots. The marquise’s father was a Huguenot who had married a Catholic in a Protestant ceremony. Because the marriage had no legal standing, the marquise, who was raised as a Catholic, had been ruled ineligible by the Parlement of Bordeaux to sue for her rightful inheritance. The obvious injustice in the case generated considerable sympathy within Parisian society for the marquise and support for her appeal to the king’s council asking that the court’s decision be overturned. When the council decided the case in the marquise’s favor in the summer of 1787, the supporters of Huguenot rights believed that the time to push for a general reform had arrived. Thus by 1787, the work of Malesherbes, Lafayette, and Rabaut—in conjunction with the case of the marquise d’Anglure—had convinced the public and the royal council of the necessity of reforming the status of Huguenots in France. The pressure for reform was further enhanced by the prospect of a large influx of Dutch Calvinists, allies of the French government who had lost their struggle against the stadtholder William V of the Netherlands and now sought refuge in France.9

The actual Edict of Toleration, drafted in 1787, was the product of negotiation between Rabaut Saint-Etienne, who hoped to shape a decree in a manner most favorable to Huguenots, and Malesherbes, who understood the complexities of politics within the royal council and the Parlement of Paris, the sovereign court that had to register the legislation. Naturally, the final legislation was a compromise that took into account certain demands of the magistrates of the parlement.10 The actual language of the edict established that only the Catholic religion would have “the rights and honors of public worship” while the non-Catholics would “obtain from the law only what natural justice does not permit us to deny them, namely the authentication of their births, marriages, and deaths.”11 However, the edict also confirmed the Huguenots’ rights to possess property and to engage in commerce, crafts, and professions. If no priest was willing to cooperate, local magistrates could register marriages, births, and deaths. However, Protestant clergy were to play no role in the certification of marriages, births, or deaths. Despite the considerable gains for Huguenots, Rabaut Saint Etienne remained critical of the limitations on public worship and the restrictions on the activities of the Protestant clergy.12

The Edict of Toleration brought considerable relief to the Huguenot population of France, but it had failed to meet all of the goals of Huguenot leaders like Rabaut Saint-Etienne. However, the edict had been crafted in the unsettled political atmosphere preceding the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789. Within two years of the edict’s promulgation, the revolutionaries had drafted the “Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen,” one of the greatest statements of fundamental human rights ever put into effect by a government. After its general opening statement that “Men are born and remain free and equal in rights,” article ten declared that “No one should be disturbed for his opinions, even in religion, provided that their
manifestation does not trouble public order as established by law.”

Thus, the “Declaration of Rights” established the basis for the subsequent revolutionary legislation that provided freedom of worship and full rights of citizenship for Huguenots in France. In the final analysis, the Catholic monarchy of the Bourbon kings of France was unable to create a society with complete religious toleration. Only a revolution that moved France toward the creation of a secular state could provide the religious toleration demanded by French Huguenots and Enlightened philosophes like Voltaire.

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1 For the text of the revocation edict see Paul Beik, Louis XIV and Absolutism: A Brief Study with Documents (Boston, 2000), 193-5.
3 Adams, The Huguenots and French Opinion, 7-9, 39-43.
4 Voltaire, Lettres philosophiques which can be read online in English translation: Letters on the English or Lettres Philosophiques http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1778voltaire-lettres.html.
11 The language of the edict can be found in Lynn Hunt, The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History (Boston, 1996), 41-3.
12 For Rabaut’s objections see Hunt, The French Revolution and Human Rights, 44-8.

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**CALLING ALL POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS!**

Membership in the NHS provides an opportunity to meet and socialize with people who share an interest in history and in honoring our ancestors of Huguenot heritage. You may be surprised to discover ancient connections as you begin to attend meetings, become involved, and get to know our organization. In one state society alone there are two instances of members who discovered that they are related via a common ancestor ten generations or so back. You will enjoy enhancing your knowledge of Huguenot history, Huguenot notables, and familiarizing yourself with your own Huguenot heritage.

Membership requirements are as stated in the National (NHS) Bylaws, as follows:

Any person shall be eligible as a Regular Member who is:

- of Christian Protestant faith, above the age of sixteen years, adheres to the Huguenot principles of Faith and Liberty, and is lineally descended in the male or female line from a Huguenot without regard to ethnic origin or adherence to any particular sect of Protestantism, who

- subsequent to 10 December 1520, and who, prior to the promulgation of the Edict of Toleration, 28 November 1787, emigrated to North America or some other country,

- or, a Huguenot who, in spite of religious persecution, remained in France. France is defined as any territory lying within the Kingdom of France on the date of the promulgation of the Edict of Toleration, 28 November 1787.
**TIPS FROM STATE SOCIETIES SERIES**

By Fay Charpentier-Ford, Kentucky Society President

Communication is the key. Friendliness – sincerity.

Pro-activeness in recruitment: if someone is referred to you by a member, contact that person before the sun sets; follow-up; if you don’t get a reply; make it easy for him/her to reach you with questions about applications, gathering proofs, etc. Keep a notebook near your phone and/or computer so you may periodically check it and offer to help guide them through the application process. Show interest.

When available, staff a table at genealogical workshops or fairs so interested potential members can ask questions. Remember to be friendly and approachable – don’t just hand out brochures. Have a sign-up sheet for the serious folks wanting more information. Tell them to expect a contact on the phone of by email with additional information.

Take care of existing members. Check on them. Find out whom to contact if they become hospitalized. Send cards, i.e. get well, birthday, etc. Let them know they are important and a part of the extended family. (They could be losing their friends over the years, children live in other states.) Their society membership might be a lifeline in many cases. If driving or attending meetings becomes a problem, try to find ways to alleviate the problem. Car-pool. Remember, everyone wants to feel special, especially as we grow older. It’s nice to be remembered by your friends.

Use newsletters to keep them informed about the society activities. Explore ways to include them, such as an article about them or their ancestor, or a nice memory.

Encourage members to include their other family members. For example, an adult child or grandchild need only connect with proof to the approved member’s application, making it easy, simple and fast to expand overall membership.

Have interesting speakers, good food, pleasant people, attractive surroundings, and friendly members greeting the new or potential guest/attendees. Make it look like your society meetings are a great place to see you extended family, usually twice a year (with us, it is spring and fall).

Friendships blossom, ideas for improvement abound, speakers are suggested. Allow time to laugh; hug if you sense the need. Suddenly your state society is growing again.

Keep your national magazine editor informed for print in *The Cross of Languedoc*. 

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WI Society meeting, 2011.  
Photograph by Daniel Chew.  

AZ Society meeting on 22 October 2011
Call for Submissions to the NHS Annual Scholarly Work Award Competition

An important part of the National Huguenot Society’s mission is to recognize the best work of scholarship about any aspect of Huguenot history in a paper, article, dissertation, movie, video production, or book, first produced during the calendar year (January 1st through December 31st) which precedes the announcement of the award winner. The deadline for submitting a scholarly work for consideration is February 1st. Entries are considered by our Committee on Awards, which makes a recommendation to the NHS Board at its April meeting. The NHS Board selects a winning scholarly work, and the winning scholarly work is announced at the April Congress meeting. Entries are usually retained after judging and kept in the library of the National Huguenot Society in San Antonio, Texas. They will, however, be returned upon request of the submitter.

In keeping with this tradition, the 2011 award-winning scholarly work will be announced at the Annual Congress of the Society in April of 2012. We welcome the winning author to join us at our Congress, to be honored as the announcement is made.

Please contact the Chairman of the Awards Committee for further information and instructions on where to mail submissions:

Mrs. Lee T. Nelson
P.O. Box 1412
Chino Valley, AZ 86323-1412
928-636-2489
redhatlee@northlink.com

Call for Contestants in the Annual Scholarship Award Contest

A generous bequest from a member of The National Huguenot Society has made it possible for the National Huguenot Society to award a $5000 scholarship each year to a qualified college or postgraduate student who is a member of the NHS. The scholarship is not based upon financial need. The deadline for application is February 1st of the year in which the award is to be made. A winner is selected by the Board of General Officers of NHS at its April meeting, and the winner is announced at the April Congress meeting. The scholarship award is paid directly to the winner’s educational institution. This one-time award is limited to $5000 per student, and is not renewable.

A candidate must meet all of the following criteria in order to be considered for this award:

1. Be a regular member of The National Huguenot Society, having met all requirements for that membership.

2. Be a currently-enrolled student at an accredited college or graduate school who has completed at least two years of college with a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale;

3. Have satisfactorily completed at least two semesters of history which include, at least in part, a history of religion.

4. The completed Scholarship Application form and its required attachments must be emailed or mailed on or before February 1st to the chairman of the Scholarship Committee, whose name and address appear at the bottom of the Scholarship Application form. The application form may be obtained on the NHS website, huguenot.netnation.com. It must be timely completed and submitted along with the attachments specified in the instructions, and mailed as a package to the individual identified at the bottom of the form.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee:

Mrs. Neoma O’Brien
812 Braeburn Drive
Ft. Washington, MD 20744
301-292-9372
noob13@verizon.net
Call for Contestants in the Annual Youth Contest

This youth contest is designed to encourage our eligible young relatives and friends to register as youth or as an NHS member, pursuant to NHS Bylaws. We had two winners in 2010, and look forward to a strong showing in 2012.

Program Timeline

January 1: Opening date for Candidate Submissions;
January 3: Prior Year’s Winners Announced by email to winning candidates and to General Council;
January 15: target date for emailing the General Council the current year’s Youth Contest rules/deadlines;
Annual Congress: Announce prior year’s winners;
November 1: Closing date for Candidate Submissions

Program Requirements:

1. Candidates must be students in elementary or high school and must be eligible for and either registered with National as a Youth or have applied for membership. Entries will be judged on originality, creativity, and thoughtful handling of the topic.

--Candidates under age 16 must pay the applicable fee and have a relative submit an Application for Youth Registration for the Candidate, or enroll the Candidate as a Junior Member of the National Huguenot Society. Youth Registration forms available on the NHS webpage: http://huguenot.netnation.com/forms/NHS_Youth_Registration_Form.pdf.

--Candidates who are 16 years old or older are required to submit an application for membership if they have not already done so. Application forms are available at: http://huguenot.netnation.com/forms/NHS_Appl.pdf

2. Email submissions to natlhugsoc@att.net between January 1st and 12:00 a.m. November 1st.

3. Contest Topics and Prizes:

Level 1--Grades 2-4: Each student will submit an art piece to illustrate contributions of Huguenots or Huguenot descendants to America. Each submission should have an accompanying title or short statement to explain the relationship of the artwork to the theme. Artwork should be scanned into a computer or digitally photographed so that it can be emailed. Please submit in PDF or JPEG format. Prizes: 1st Place=$100; 2d Place=$50; 3d Place=$25.

Level 2—Grades 5-8: Each student will either: (1) submit an essay on “What it means to me to be a descendant of a Huguenot.” Information about their specific ancestor may be cited. Visual images may also be included; (2) Or, students will read and submit a review one of the books listed below. Essays should be at least 300 words in length. Please submit in PDF format. Prizes: 1st Place=$200; 2d Place=$100; 3d Place=$50.

Level 3—Grades 9-12: Each student will submit an essay on “What I’ve learned about the migration of Huguenots to other lands.” Visual images may be included. These might include maps or other types of illustrations. Essay should be at least 500 words in length. Please submit in PDF format. Prizes: 1st Place=$500; 2d Place=$250; 3d Place=100.

Books about Huguenots for Young Readers:

2. Huguenot Garden, Douglas Jones.
3. Escape Across the Wide Sea, Katherine Kirkpatrick.
5. Francis Marion & The Legend of the Swamp Fox, Kate Salley Palmer.
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How To Obtain Copies of The Cross

Copies of The Cross may be obtained by contacting the NHS office in San Antonio by telephone (210-366-9995) or by email (natlhugsoc@att.net). Individual members may obtain one copy for free. State Member Societies may obtain up to 3 copies free; for requests of 4-8 copies, there is a charge of $5.00 for postage and packaging. For those other than State Members Societies, the cost is $3.00 per copy, which includes postage.