



THE NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY

A CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER FROM THE
PATRIOTIC, RELIGIOUS, HISTORICAL, AND
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

GREETINGS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS
COUSINS.

For my December piece, I am going to share a family story.

I have listed the only article I have found below to support the story. Caveat, most stories from Dad's side of the family prove true. This one eludes me. Now it is up for your consideration.

Did our Huguenot ancestors celebrate Christmas? Dad said yes. I descend from the Remy Family, and this is what was said.

Christmas, or the Christ Mass was started by the Catholic Church in the mid-300 A.D. period as the church's way to confront the pagan winter celebrations. When St. Remy baptized Clovis I in 508 A.D. Clovis became Catholic. In 509 A.D. Clovis I united the Frank Tribes under what we know as France. One of Clovis' first acts of leadership was to make Christmas a national holiday.

Christmas was celebrated in France on the 12 days between December 25th and January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. The biggest and best part of the celebration was food.



A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Merry Christmas!

When the Huguenot's came to the colonies, they found themselves at odds with the Quakers and the Puritans. The Quakers and the Puritans refused to celebrate Christmas. They felt it was a Catholic holiday. Since they had been "persecuted" by the Catholics, they wanted nothing to do with the holiday(s).

The Huguenot's on the other hand had a different perspective on the holiday. The celebrations were religious based and more reserved than in France. Our ancestors felt it was a national time of celebration and thanksgiving not something forced by the church. They had been "persecuted" far deeper than the Puritans or the Quakers, but this was a time of love and happiness. It was a time of feasting, (We all know the French excel with food.)

My grandmother had seven Huguenot lines and was a good cook. Pumpkin gingerbread cookies are one of my favorites. Cranberry orange cake can be delivered my way anytime. As my family celebrates our old and our new traditions, we hope you and your family are enjoying yours.

I hope you enjoy my Christmas story and the old and new traditions you share with your families and friends continuing to be grateful and thankful for what our ancestors have done for us.

Merry Christmas,

Jo Lee Potts – President General

president_general@nationalhuguenotsociety.org

Re: Christmas in Colonial and Revolutionary America- 2023

by Jack Campbell



MEET YOUR NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY OFFICERS

Mary Robin Redfearn Towns is honored to have been elected to serve as the First Vice President General of the National Huguenot Society for 2023-2025. She has previously served as Secretary General 2020-2023, on the Insignia Committee, 2023 National Congress Chair, and President of the Huguenot Society of Georgia.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Towns grew up and was educated in Druid Hills schools. Enjoying the best of both worlds as a child, she spent summers in south Georgia on her sixth generation family's farm, originally in Berrien, now Cook County, settled by her third great-grandparents, Richard and Charity Golden Hutchinson. Towns attended Emory University on joint enrollment, as her high school was located on the Emory campus. She attended the University of Georgia, graduating with Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance, Cum Laude.

Following graduation, she pursued stints in banking and advertising. She enjoyed a career in Interior Design in Athens and Columbus, Georgia.

She was married to her beloved late husband, Robert Forrest Towns of Athens, Georgia. They were the parents of four children, many grandchildren, and even one great grandchild.

Towns has served an active role in church, community, school, historic preservation, and volunteer service, serving on Boards of the Junior League, Girls Clubs, St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, American Cancer Society Auxiliary, and additional charitable organizations.

Towns' love of research and genealogy has led her to membership in numerous hereditary societies, where she has served in leadership and genealogical roles at the chapter, state, and national levels for thirty-five years.

In addition to currently serving as presiding officer of Sons and Daughters of Colonial and Antebellum Bench and Bar, and Descendants of Fossers, she currently serves as National Councillor for the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, and First Vice President General of the Guild of Colonial Artisans and Tradesmen 1607-1783.

2023-2025 BOARD OF GENERAL OFFICERS

Jo Lee Potts -
President General
Robin Towns -
1st VP General
Nancy Schultz -
2nd VP General
Joyce Ball Patton -
3rdVP General
Rev. Joel E. Strauch -
Chaplain General
Elizabeth Sewell -
Recording Secretary General
Marjorie Wilson -
Corresponding Secretary
General
Karen Pogoloff -
Organizing Secretary General
Catherine Paunov -
Treasure General
Katherine Totten -
Registrar General
Sumner Hunnewell -
Historian General
Nancy Brennan -
Genealogist General
Lynne Ostfeld, Esq -
Counselor General

Honorary Presidents General

Neoma O'Kelley O'Brien
Barbara Chenault
MacManus
Janice Murphy Lorenz
Jeannine Sheldon Kallal
Sandra Hendrick Staley
Janet Butler Walker

love,
peace,
and joy



Registrar General Info

Attention State Registrars: Applications must reach Registrar General, Katherine Totten, no later than Dec 17, 2023 to be approved this year. The Registrar General will be out of town between Dec 21 and Dec 31.

Registrar_General@nationalhuguenotsociety.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Spring Mid-Year Meeting

April 10, 2024, 12:30 PM EST
Army and Navy Club, Washington, D.C.

89th Annual NHS Congress
Hold October 3, 4, 5, 2024
San Antonio, TX

Stay tuned for more details

WEBSITE INFORMATION

Dues link for Members at Large
[Online Dues Payments for Members-at-Large - The National Huguenot Society](#)

Store Link for purchasing merchandise and books

<https://nationalhuguenotsociety.org/store/>



Unscramble HUGUENOT

HUGUENOT unscrambles and makes 93 words!

1 - 7 letter word: toughen

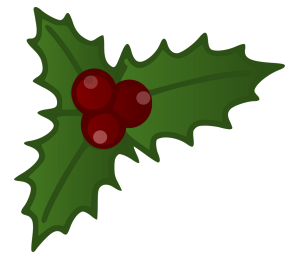
5 - 6 letter words: enough, hognut, nought, outgun, tongue


5 - 5 letter words: ought, thegn, thong, togue, tough

21 - 4 letter words: gent, genu, gone, goth, gout, hent, hone, huge, hung, hunt, note, tegu, then, thon, thou, thug, tone, tong, tune, tung, unto

46 - 3 letter words: ego, eon, eth, gen, geo, get, gnu, got, gun, gut, hen, neg, net, nog, nut, one, out, teg, ten, the, toe, tog, tun, ugh, utu

15 - 2 letter words: eh, et, go, he, ho, ne, no, nu, oh, on, te, to, ug, uh, un





Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

— *Robert Louis Stevenson*

*Merry
Christmas!*