

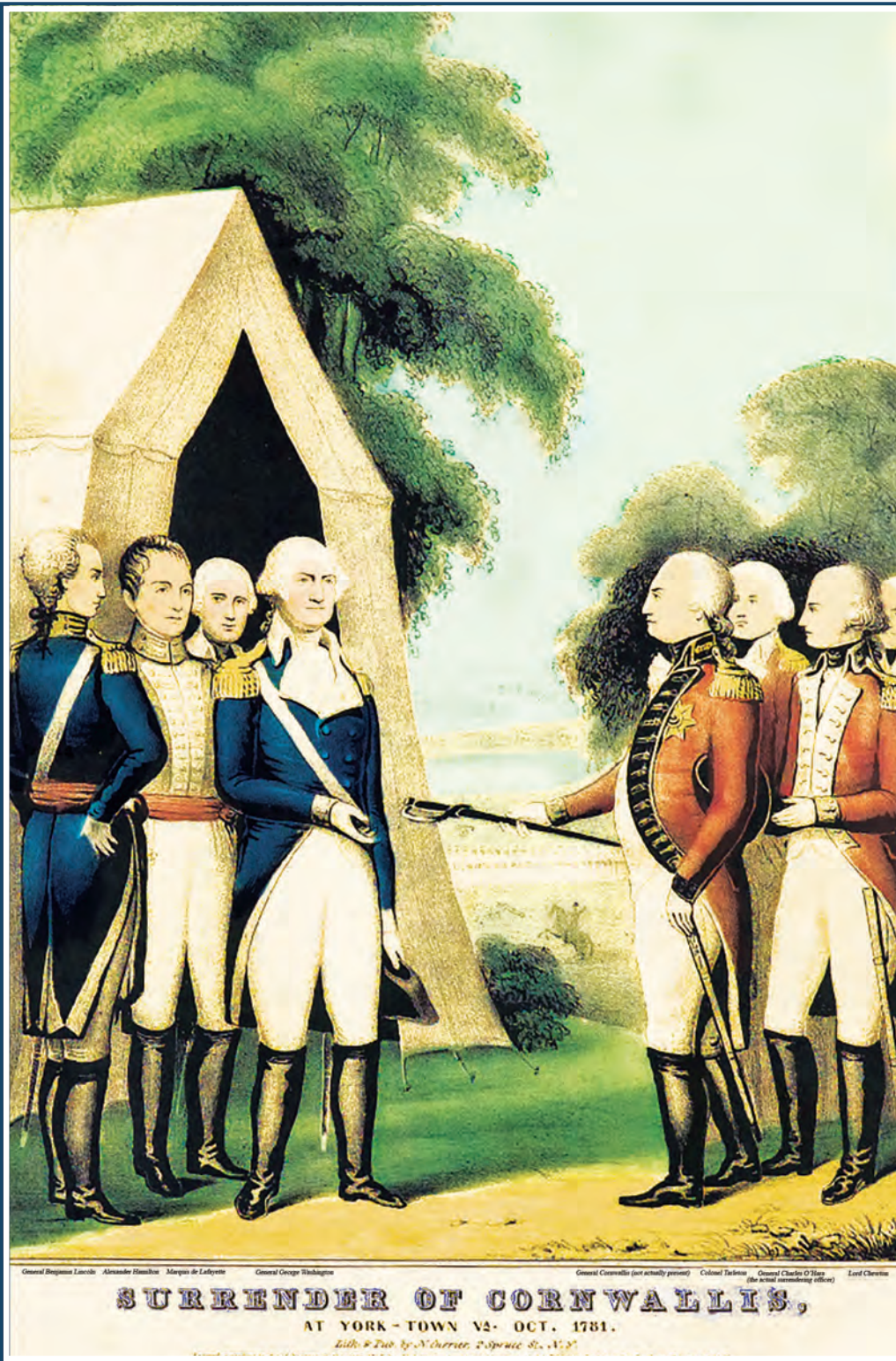


The Cross of Languedoc

A Publication of the National Huguenot Society

SPRING 2026

“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: Courtesy wikimediacommons.com, edited by Janice Murphy Lorenz. Our readers may recall that for a time, Nathaniel Currier was a partner of Huguenot descendant James Merritt Ives.

PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE

To Congress, Post-Election
14 October 2025

Greetings, fellow Huguenots,

This Officer is honored beyond belief to have been elected to serve as your *President General* of the National Huguenot Society. Some very big shoes are waiting to be filled by me. My predecessors have accomplished so very much for the National Huguenot Society and have left a strong legacy to be upheld. Many thanks to all of the Honorary Presidents General for your excellent service, and your continued support of our beloved society.

This Officer, of course, plans to continue the numerous successful projects of the society, such as our Scholarships and Youth Award Programs, and the Scholarly Works Awards.

Our wonderful and outstanding national publication, "*The Cross of Languedoc*," is an integral part and the *shining star* of, not only our society's image, but also for the dissemination of information to our membership. Many thanks to our most capable and talented Editor, Honorary President General Janice Lorenz, J.D., for her talent, dedication, and hard work.

President General Potts has made huge strides with our society's insignia situation, for which we are all very grateful. Our society is in excellent condition in that area.

Now is a great time to preserve our society's important records by digitizing all of our approved applications. [Outgoing] President General Potts has started the ball rolling toward this end. This Officer plans to pick up the mantle and move forward immediately to ensure that this very important undertaking is completed in a timely manner and for a reasonable cost.

To that end, a beautiful brooch pin will be available to be received for your donation of \$50 to this important project, which will benefit the society for many years to come.



This brooch pin will be yours if you support the President General's Project.

The Donation Form is provided in this Cross issue.

The design of the new Huguenot brooch pin is crowned with a stylized form of the *Fleur de lis*, whose petals symbolize the Holy Trinity. In the center is a Lily and Pearl,

both symbols of purity, representing our Huguenot ancestors, the choicest Lilies of France, fragrant with purity and devotion to God. Below the Lily is the descending Dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit. The draped chain, with symbolic diamond gemstones, represents the strength and enduring faith of our ancestors who joined together to escape France. The teardrop Pearl represents the tears of our ancestors, and their ability to overcome hardship and find wisdom through their experiences.

I sincerely hope and pray that you will want to support this important *Records Digitization Project*.

[Editor's Note: The Donation Form for this gorgeous President General's Jeweled Brooch Pin appears elsewhere in this issue of The Cross of Languedoc.]

In addition, a new Huguenot silk scarf is being designed for your pleasure and to provide additional support to the President General's Digitization Project.



Always a very important goal is increasing **Membership - Membership - Membership!** Remember the Ship! If we could adopt the motto: "*Each one reach one*," our beloved society would experience amazing growth. Remember, nothing happens until a member invites a friend and actually *brings* that friend to a meeting!

The **Holy Scriptures** chosen for this administration are:

Psalm 34: 7-9

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and he delivers them

Psalm 91: 2

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and fortress: my God; in whom I trust

Matthew 6: 28-29

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6: 33

But seek first his Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be yours as well.

Ephesians 6: 10-1

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

In closing, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to our members who have been elected to *National Office* and have pledged to serve the society loyally for the next two years. Please help and support them by reporting to them and sending them pertinent information for their office.

I would also like to thank the State Presidents and State Officers for their devoted leadership and service for our society.

Together, we can keep moving forward in faith and preserve the legacy of our beloved National Huguenot Society!

*Thank you,
Mary Robin Redfearn Towns*

NOT ONE, BUT TWO ASTONISHING IRONIES OF HISTORY

By Janice Murphy Lorenz

This year is the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence by our nation's Founding Fathers on July 4, 1776. The courageous act of signing that momentous document was the beginning of what turned out to be a several-year process of war and negotiations to design and establish the independence of the United States of America. Freedom was not finally secured until the decisive military victory in 1781 at Yorktown, Virginia, led by General George Washington, a Huguenot descendant of ancestor Nicholas Martiau. Peace was memorialized a few years later by the Treaty of Paris. Huguenots were Founding Fathers and leaders in the entire process, from beginning to end. In this issue of *The Cross*, we'll consider the final major battle fought by the Continental Army led by Huguenot descendant George Washington of Virginia. In the Fall *Cross of Languedoc* we will celebrate Huguenot stories from the beginning and middle of the Revolutionary War. Our *2025 Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors, 6th Edition*, flags and indexes in a Huguenot Patriots Index all of the Revolutionary War Huguenot ancestor veterans connected to our members.

Lord Cornwallis' surrender on behalf of the British to George Washington, the leader of the Americans along with our French allies at Yorktown in October of 1781 marked the end of the major battles in the Revolutionary War, and the beginning of the final chapter in the establishment of permanent American independence. It constituted the last crowning military victory for General George Washington, a victory which brought a sense of security to Americans and confidence that America's independence was ensured. Next would come the negotiations to design an enduring structure that would enable America to lead the world as an example of a democratic republic. That was the big picture of what the Yorktown victory signified; but there is also an even grander big picture to be considered: Yorktown constituted a convergence of coincidences involving George Washington, his Huguenot ancestor Martiau and other relatives, and a link to the Declaration of Independence.

It seems to be an accepted opinion of historians that Yorktown, Virginia, became the site of the final decisive conflict of the Revolutionary War entirely the due to the decisions and maneuverings of the British navy and Lord Cornwallis. All students of history know that their purpose was to gain control over a deep port on the eastern coast of America was to choose an optimal location with access by land and by sea for a final confrontation of the Revolutionary War. Yorktown, Virginia and its environs certainly fit the bill, and Cornwallis thought he would win the war there. But is it a valid premise to conclude that it was Cornwallis and Cornwallis only who chose Yorktown? What if you were to be told that Yorktown, where that final confrontation occurred, was once the property of George Washington's

Huguenot ancestor, Nicholas Martiau? (More about Nicholas Martiau's land elsewhere.) Considering that George Washington led the entire Continental Army, would you still believe its selection to be a coincidence, given that:

- General George Washington grew up only a few miles north of Yorktown;
- He had a Huguenot tutor who would have valued Huguenots and Huguenot descent and taught those values to pupil George Washington; could he also have known who Washington's Huguenot immigrant ancestor was and taught Washington a bit of family history?
- George Washington was a surveyor and very experienced military engineer who traveled throughout Virginia and was familiar with every inch of the Commonwealth, and he might have already been familiar with his ancestor's former property and recognized its military value to the Americans. Moreover, there can be no doubt Washington recognized what Cornwallis was planning as the British began to move northward;
- Washington reportedly believed the Americans and their French Allies would win any battle that might occur at Yorktown. Considering these factors, wouldn't it make sense for Washington to have nudged Cornwallis to be sure Cornwallis and the British navy went exactly there?
- And did not that *very* thing actually occur? And did not the Americans' superior performance lead with the full cooperation of the French troops, to take advantage of every inch of land gained and very quickly secure the victory? Perhaps the swiftness of the battle was due to George Washington's familiarity with that property and his advance preparation?

However, our Huguenot friend Peter Adams, a financier and history buff who is extremely knowledgeable about Huguenots, indicated that his research showed that there is no academic support for the notion that Washington may have encouraged his ancestor's property at Yorktown for the final confrontation of the Revolutionary War, or that Washington even *knew* about the ancestral connection or cared about his family's genealogy. If that is true, then it was just an amazing coincidence for the crowning military achievement of George Washington's military career, and also for the independence of our nation, to have occurred at Yorktown.

To that amazing coincidence, let's add another one, one pertaining to a major Virginia military player and politician from Yorktown who was present with George Washington and the Virginia militia, of which he was Brigadier General at the 1781 Siege. Governor Thomas Nelson, who was a Founding Father of our nation by having signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, was in office at the time of the Siege as the

Governor of Virginia. His dream of independence for America inspired him to devote a substantial portion of his financial nest egg to assist the American cause.

It so happens that Governor Nelson was George Washington's cousin, through their common ancestor, Nicholas Martiau. The National Park Service and the Huguenot Society of Virginia documentation acknowledge Nicholas Martiau as an ancestor of George Washington and of Thomas Nelson, Jr., through Martiau's daughter Elizabeth's marriage to George Reade. Governor Nelson's uncle, Secretary Thomas Nelson, was also a cousin of George Washington. In a compelling story of personal self-sacrifice, Governor Nelson contributed to the victory at Yorktown at the expense of his own home. More about both of these Huguenot descendants elsewhere in this *Cross*. Other Huguenots who contributed to the victory of America and its French Allies during the Siege of Yorktown were Col. John Laurens (1754-1782), and Alexander Hamilton, both aides-de-camp to George Washington at Yorktown.

For what purpose God—or Providence, for those who prefer a more general deity—intervened to create these coincidences, we will never know. Nevertheless, the Huguenot common denominator in these historic events should render the Yorktown victory extra special to all Huguenot descendants in America, because that common denominator suggests that a divine hand played a part in these historic events and that perhaps the Huguenot coincidences were woven into the victory at Yorktown by a divine, Providential hand. So now we see that a strong and significant Huguenot thread links the original Huguenot immigrant property owner, Martiau, via genetics, as well as his former Yorktown property, to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 by his descendant, Virginia Governor General Thomas Nelson, Jr. Then that generational Huguenot thread continues by linking onwards to Martiau's other prominent descendant, George Washington, who led this, the final major military battle that signaled America's freedom and liberty to the world, Martiau's former property takes on a multi-faceted character and the endurance of our republic demonstrates just how strong the Huguenot thread has proven to be.

It is indisputable that God or Providence blessed Nicholas Martiau's name, George Washington, Thomas Nelson, Jr., the Declaration of Independence, Yorktown, Virginia, the Continental Army, the French Allies, and many more Colonial Huguenot descendants. For God or Providence to have created such a beautiful Huguenot tapestry of victory, one woven through the ages and in different ways, the cause of an independent America must have been pleasing to Him.

Sources:

1. National Park Service publications
2. Virginia Huguenot Society
3. *The 2025 Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors, 6th Edition*
4. See numerous additional sources we referred to which have been compiled by Peter Adams, and appear elsewhere in this issue and seem to definitively answer the questions raised in the above Feature. Your Editor's "surrender" to the evidence also appears there.



NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY
LIBERTY FAITH

MINUTES NHS BOARD OF GENERAL OFFICERS MEETING

2 October 2025

Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville, JTB/Deerwood Park,
Jacksonville, Florida

A Board of General Officers Meeting was called to order by President Jo Lee Potts at 1:13 P.M. on October 2, 2025.

Nancy Schulz gave an invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, the Huguenot Salute to the American Flag, and Salute to the Huguenot Flag followed.

Jo Lee Potts, President General, welcomed all in attendance. She then called roll. Those officers in attendance included:

- President General Jo Lee Potts
- First Vice President General Robin Towns
- Second Vice President General Nancy Schultz
- Recording Secretary General Elizabeth Sewell
- Corresponding Secretary General Marjorie Wilson
- Organizing Secretary General Brenda Dorsett
- Treasurer General Cathy Paunov
- Registrar General Kathy Totten
- Parliamentarian General Shirley Vanderbeck
- Honorary President General Janet Walker

Others in attendance included Judi Adams, Brett Brown, Lyn Marvil, Heather Mates, and Stuart Whitehead.

A quorum of six was established.

She then noted that the minutes from the 9 April 2025 meeting of the General Board were approved as distributed and published in *The Cross of Languedoc* magazine. No corrections were offered. She noted that the minutes are approved as presented.

The following officers were appointed to approve the minutes of this meeting. They include Brenda Dorsett, Janet Walker, and Marjorie Wilson.

A motion was then made by Honorary President General Walker and seconded to accept the updated Board Meeting Agenda. After being seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Next all officers noted they would give their reports at the 90th Congress on 4 October 2025 with the exception of Registrar General Kathy Totten.

Cathy Paunov, Treasurer General, next presented the budget. Discussion was heard regarding the flow-through of funds back to national from disbanded chapters. Discussion was also heard regarding the status of Life Members of disbanded chapters. It was noted that Life Members are a designation by a state society and that National has no Life Members; therefore, members lose their Life Member status when their member state society folds.

A motion was made by Treasurer General Paunov to approve the budget as prepared by the Finance Committee and present it to the membership at Congress. The budget as presented passed unanimously.

Registrar General Totten, after noting that she has filed her report, noted that the Society needs a Change of Information form for use by members for personal updates. It was suggested that this form be placed on the website. After general agreement, she stated that she would design this form and get the webmaster to place it on the society website. Totten then discussed the completed status of the *2025 Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors, 6th Edition*. Forty-five books have been printed and are available at a discounted price at this meeting for \$110.

Next all Standing Committee Chairmen stated they would present their report at Congress on Saturday.

Potts then discussed the training session on the Documented Information System and the confusion regarding how to log in. Discussion followed.

There was no old business to discuss.

Under new business, President General Potts discussed the closure of chapters in Delaware, Wisconsin, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia. After extensive discussion, First Vice President Towns made a motion to close the Delaware Society. After being seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Registrar General Totten then made a motion to close the District of Columbia Society. After being seconded, the motion passed unanimously. After further discussion, Registrar General Totten made a motion that former life members of the District of Columbia Society who receive *The Cross of Languedoc* magazine at no cost should be removed from the current mailing list effective immediately. After being seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Lastly, Registrar General Totten made a motion to close the New Mexico Society. After being seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

President General Potts then announced that the old contract with NSDAR regarding the DAR/Huguenot Collection had been located at NSDAR. She noted that NSDAR will take care of installing a new chandelier and LED fixtures to provide additional lighting. Also noted was that NSDAR will be responsible for being the gatekeeper of accessions/ deaccessions in the collection. The contract between NSDAR and NHS will be completed during the next administration.

The next item for discussion was the growing number of Members at Large. Discussion centered around whether Members at Large should form their own electronic state society.

Parliamentarian Vanderbeck will seek information and present it to the Board in the future.

Next family members of the Jaqueline Wells Dickey Scholarship were contacted about opening up the scholarship to non-Huguenot Society members. They have agreed to do so.

President General Potts then discussed a dues waiver for Barbara McManus. After discussion, Treasurer General Paunov made a motion to waive the dues. After being seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Potts then presented the 2025 SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis, Long-term Strategic Plan she developed and discussed it. Under this topic, the present and or future location of the NHS home office was discussed. Also included in the analysis was the digitization of records currently housed in our office. She produced a contract by ARC to provide document scanning. The DuBois chapter in Florida has also agreed to fund \$1000 for this project. Additionally, a grant application to the John Inman and Rose Elyea Bell Charitable Foundation will be made to underwrite the cost of this work. After discussion generally led by Totten and Potts, it was decided that the Society would seek a grant for \$15,610. It was then noted that these income/expenditure lines should be reflected in the budget.

The next item discussed was who had the authority to move monies between accounts between meetings. This item is addressed in our Bylaws.

Whether or not NHS needs a dues increase was then discussed as part of our SWOT analysis. Discussion followed that perhaps *The Cross of Languedoc* magazine could have some cost savings if some of the color pages and empty pages were eliminated and the mailing list updated.

President General Potts then brought to the Board's attention present inventory in the NHS store and what items would be sold there in the future. It was also stated that there is not much insignia owned by the Society at this time.

Next was discussion brought up by Potts a Standing Rule change regarding the dispensation of state society assets after its dissolution. After discussion, a motion was made by Totten that the following recommendation be made:

The National Huguenot Society's Bylaws provide that, upon dissolution of a state society, all of its assets transfer to the National Huguenot Society. The Society's policy is to hold these funds in reserve and remit only the original amount of money received from the state if the state society is re-established within five years of its dissolution.

After being seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

It was then noted that Huguenot Society of Wisconsin funds and property have become available for disposition as of June 5, 2025. A motion was made by Registrar General Totten that in absence of specific directions and restrictions regarding the Wisconsin funds, the restricted funds be moved to the General Operating Funds account according to the bylaws. After being seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Brenda Dorsett reported that North Carolina would like to host next year's Congress in Raleigh, North Carolina October 7th– 9th. Her announcement was well received by participants at the meeting.

Finally, a motion was made by Elizabeth Sewell and seconded that a \$1000 donation be made to the Friends of Timucuan National Park. The motion passed unanimously.

Two announcements were made. The first was that the next General Council and Board of General Officers Meeting will be held at the Army/Navy Club in Washington DC on April 15, 2025. The second was that Recording Secretary General Sewell will endeavor to start a state society in Louisiana.

Nancy Schultz closed the meeting with a prayer. President General Potts then adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm.

Elizabeth Sewell, Recording Secretary General



MINUTES

NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY 90TH CONGRESS MEETING 4 October 2025

Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville, JTB/Deerwood Park, Jacksonville, Florida

The 90th Congress of the National Huguenot Society was called to order by President Jo Lee Potts at 9:38 A.M. on October 4, 2025.

Dr. Cheryl Hunt-Clements, Georgia State President, gave an invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, the Huguenot Salute to the American Flag, Salute to the Huguenot Flag, and the ritual followed.

Corresponding Secretary, Marjorie Wilson, gave a credentials report. There were:

- 9 National Officers
- 3 State President
- 1 Honorary Presidents General
- 11 Delegates

There were 21 voting delegates, and a quorum was established to conduct the business of the society. Additionally, there were three guests. Ten state societies were represented. The credentials report was filed.

Robin Towns, 1st Vice President General next offered the Standing Rules, as printed in the Congress Program, of the

Society to be used to conduct the business of the meeting. Amendments were presented. A motion was made by Brett Brown to adopt the Standing Rules as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The President General welcomed all. She thanked Nancy Brennan, Kathy Totten, and Janice Lorenz for their efforts in the publication of the *2025 Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors, 6th Edition*, and presented them a Certificate of Appreciation. She also thanked Judi Adams, State President of Florida for her efforts for the 90th Congress and also presented her a Certificate of Appreciation.

The President General presented the agenda as printed in the 90th Congress Program as printed. Amendments were presented. A motion was made by Christopher Stokes to adopt the 90th Congress Program as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The minutes from the 89th Congress, previously approved by committee and printed in *The Cross of Languedoc*, were discussed. Hearing no corrections or objections to the minutes, the minutes were filed.

Three people were appointed to approve this meeting's minutes. They are Brenda Dorsett, Christopher Stokes, and Marjorie Wilson.

Reports of General Officers were read by each officer.

- President General – Jo Lee Potts
- Treasurer General – Cathy Paunov. The society's financial reports were distributed and discussed. After careful and discerning questions and discussion, all financial reports and tools were approved unanimously by the Congress.
- Registrar General - Kathy Totten
- 1st Vice President General – Robin Towns
- 2nd Vice President General – Nancy Schultz
- Corresponding Secretary General – Marjorie Wilson
- Organizing Secretary General – Brenda Dorsett

These reports are appended to the original minutes of this meeting.

Reports of the Standing Committees were read by each committee chairman.

- Bylaws – Shirley Vanderbeck, PRP
- Document Information Portal – Jo Lee Potts.
- Insignia – Jo Lee Potts.
- Programs and Credentials – Robin Towns. No Report.

These reports are appended to the original minutes of this meeting.

The next order of business were the reports by the state societies. The following state societies' reports were read:

- Alabama – Elizabeth Sewell
- California – Shirley Vanderbeck, PRP
- D.C. – After careful and discerning questions and discussion, the motion by the Board of General Officers was approved unanimously by the Congress to disband this chapter.

- Delaware – After careful and discerning questions and discussion, the motion by the Board of General Officers was approved unanimously by the Congress to disband this chapter.
- Florida – Judi Adams
- Georgia – Dr. Cheryl Hunt-Clements
- Kentucky – President General Potts noted that Kentucky has not sent in their collateral property, funds, or files. Therefore, they are in default. The Society needs to send default letters in the next administration.
- New Mexico - After careful and discerning questions and discussion, the motion by the Board of General Officers was approved unanimously by the Congress to disband this chapter.
- Maine – Letters from the Society need to be sent to those members in Maine who had previously been contacted about the erroneous closure of the Maine chapter in the next administration.
- North Carolina – Brenda Dorsett
- Oklahoma – Gayle Demeyer
- Tennessee – Lyn Marvil
- Virginia – Stuart Alan Whitehead

These reports are appended to the original minutes of this meeting.

Kathy Totten, Registrar General, asked state societies to accept any members willing to transfer to them from disbanded chapters. Additionally, there will be no costs to those members willing to transfer from disbanded chapters.

The following state society's report was filed:

- Texas

This report is appended to the original minutes of this meeting.

The next order of business was the report of the Nominating Committee by chairperson, Janet Walker. Members on the committee were Joyce Patton, Joel Strauch, Cathy Paunov, and Gayle Demeyer. She offered the following slate on behalf of her committee.

President General – Robin Towns
 1st Vice President General – Nancy Schultz
 2nd Vice President General – Joyce Patton
 3rd Vice President General – Brenda Dorsett
 Genealogist General – Nancy Brennan
 Chaplain General – Joel Strauch, CFA
 Corresponding Secretary General – Gayle Demeyer
 Organizing Secretary General – Marjorie Wilson
 Recording Secretary General – Judith Adams
 Historian General – Lyn Marvil
 Counselor General – Dr. Christopher Stokes

Nominations from the floor were solicited for each officer and none were offered or suggested. A motion was made by Marjorie Wilson to accept the slate as a whole by acclamation. After being seconded, the motion was unanimously accepted.

The new officers were then sworn in and installed by Janet Walker, Honorary Past President General, and then sashed.

A motion was then made by Cathy Paunov to nominate Jo Lee Potts as an Honorary President General. After a second, the motion was unanimously approved by the delegates.

The new President General, Robin Towns, then addressed the Congress and presented her goals and plans for her administration. She offered a pin which she is selling to raise money for the Society's digitization project, highlighted her membership theme of Each One, Reach One, and espoused five Bible verses which will help guide her administration.

Discussion was heard regarding the price of advertising in *The Cross of Languedoc* magazine. It was suggested that Janice Lorenz will determine the cost of advertising in our national magazine.

Elizabeth Sewell then read the proposed Standing Rule that will be voted on at the next meeting which will be April 15, 2026.

The Society's Bylaws provide that, upon dissolution of a state society, all of its assets transfer to the National Huguenot Society. The Society's policy is to hold these funds in reserve and remit only the original amount of money received from the state if the state society is re-established within five years of its dissolution.

Brenda Dorsett then invited the Congress to Raleigh, North Carolina for the 91st Congress. The meeting will be October 7 – 9 at the Tempo/Homewood Suites 2 Hotels on Davie Street.

An announcement was made that the next meeting of the Board of General Officers would be Wednesday, April 15th at the Army/Navy Club in Washington, DC at noon.

Georgia State President, Cheryl Hunt-Clements then guided a memorial service for those recently departed members. Some of the deceased were eulogized by members in attendance. She then offered a benediction and blessing for the luncheon, which followed the meeting.

President General Robin Towns adjourned the meeting at 1:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Elizabeth Sewell, Recording Secretary General





NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY
LIBERTY FAITH

The National Huguenot Society

PRESIDENT GENERAL'S PROJECT

The Digitization of our Membership Applications and
Important Records for the future benefit of our society and members.

*Please show your support for the President General's Project
with your generous donation of \$50 or more*

**As an appreciation gift for your generosity,
you will receive this beautiful, jeweled brooch
pin to show your support of NHS.**

The design of the new Huguenot brooch pin is crowned with a stylized form of the *Fleur de lis*, whose petals symbolize the Holy Trinity. In the center is a Lily and Pearl, symbols of purity, representing our Huguenot ancestors, the choicest Lilies of France, fragrant with purity and devotion to God. Below the Lily is the descending Dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit. The draped chain, with symbolic diamond gemstones, represents the strength and enduring faith of our ancestors who joined together to escape France. The teardrop Pearl represents the tears of our ancestors, and their ability to overcome hardship and find wisdom through their experiences.

I sincerely hope and pray that you will want to support this very important
Records Digitization Project.

Robin Towns, President General



PRESIDENT GENERAL'S PROJECT DONATION FORM

Your name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Please make your check out to: National Huguenot Society
For your Donation: \$50.00 (or more) + \$ 9.00 Shipping

Mail the ORDER FORM and your CHECK to:

Robin R. Towns
1261 TangleBrook Drive
Athens, GA 30606-5773

Pulpits and Foundations:

HOW HUGUENOT CLERGY HELPED SHAPE COLONIAL AMERICA

By: Peter Morgan Adams

brought more than memories of persecution. They brought clergy trained in a tradition forged by exile—ministers who understood the dangers of religious absolutism and the necessity of disciplined, self-governing communities. Though never numerous, Huguenot clergymen exercised an influence disproportionate to their numbers, helping to shape colonial institutions, religious tolerance, and civic culture in what would become the United States.

The forced migration following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685) sent dozens of French Reformed ministers into exile. In the colonies, these men often found themselves navigating new religious landscapes—Anglican, Congregationalist, Dutch Reformed—while still serving refugee congregations. Their success in doing so left a lasting mark on colonial society.¹

One of the most important centers of early Huguenot clerical life was Boston, where a French Protestant church was organized soon after the Revocation. Its most prominent minister, Andrew Le Mercier (1692–1760), served the congregation from 1716 to 1741. Educated at the Academy of Geneva, Le Mercier embodied the learned Reformed ministry and worked to preserve French Protestant worship while cooperating with New England authorities. His published history of the Church of Geneva reflected a belief that religious liberty and political stability were mutually reinforcing—an idea that resonated deeply in colonial America.²

In Virginia, Huguenot clergy played a decisive role in transforming a refugee settlement into a stable colonial community. At Manakin Town, founded in 1700, ministers such as Claude Philippe de Richebourg provided pastoral leadership during a critical period of transition. Though the Huguenots were gradually incorporated into the Church of England, de Richebourg helped ensure that French Reformed discipline, education, and moral expectations shaped the settlement's early years. This blending of traditions helped produce a uniquely moderate religious culture in central Virginia—one that later influenced the colony's approach to dissent and toleration.³

Another influential figure was Rev. Jacques Fontaine (1658–1728), a French Reformed minister whose life bridged persecution in France and settlement in colonial America. Fontaine served Huguenot communities in both New York and Virginia and later recorded his experiences in a widely read memoir. His writings preserved the memory of religious oppression while emphasizing loyalty, moral discipline, and civic responsibility in the New World. Fontaine's descendants became

deeply embedded in Virginia's political and intellectual elite, extending the influence of Huguenot clerical values well beyond the pulpit.⁴

Perhaps the most striking example of Huguenot clerical impact is found in Élie (Elias) Neau (1662–1722) of New York. After enduring imprisonment on the French galleys for his faith, Neau devoted his colonial ministry to the religious instruction of enslaved Africans. Working under the auspices of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, he established one of the earliest sustained Christian missions to enslaved people in British North America. Neau's work helped normalize the idea that religious instruction transcended race and status—an early, if limited, challenge to colonial assumptions about hierarchy and exclusion.⁵

Together, these men illustrate how Huguenot clergy contributed to the foundations of American society. They promoted disciplined congregations without coercion, loyalty without uniformity, and faith without state domination. In doing so, they helped prepare the colonies—socially and spiritually—for a future in which religious liberty would become a defining American principle.

For Huguenot descendants, their legacy is not only genealogical. It is institutional, ethical, and deeply woven into the early fabric of American life.

Footnotes

1. Charles W. Baird, *History of the Huguenot Emigration to America*, 2 vols. (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1885), 1:1–25.
2. Andrew Le Mercier, *The Church History of Geneva, in Five Books* (Boston, 1732); see also Baird, *Huguenot Emigration*, 2:168–180.
3. Robert Alonzo Brock, ed., *Documents, Chiefly Unpublished, Relating to the Huguenot Emigration to Virginia and to the Settlement at Manakin-Town* (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1886), 72–89; “Claude Philippe de Richebourg,” *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (Richmond: Library of Virginia).
4. Jacques Fontaine, *Memoirs of a Huguenot Family*, trans. Ann Maury (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1853), esp. 1–20; Baird, *Huguenot Emigration*, 2:230–245.
5. Owen Stanwood, *The Global Refuge: Huguenots in an Age of Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 191–210; Elias Neau, *Histoire des souffrances du sieur Élie Neau* (Amsterdam, 1707).



CALL TO APRIL MEETING of **The National Huguenot Society**

Wednesday, 15 April 2026, – 12:30 PM

The ARMY & NAVY CLUB - WASHINGTON ROOM
On Farragut Square, 901 17th ST., NW, Washington, DC 20006

- 12:00 PM (*Room Set up.*)
- 12:30 PM Registration & Social
- 12:45 PM Seated Luncheon: All members and their guests are welcome - **\$43.00 per person**
- 1:00 PM PROGRAM: Julia Palmer Hesler, Speaker
“Breaking Brick Walls in Colonial Research with New Tools - Not Wrecking Balls”
- 1:30 PM General Council Meeting (*General Officers, State Society Presidents; Committee Chairs*)
- 2:15 PM Board of General Officers (*Elected National Officers, as defined by NHS Bylaws*)
- 3:00 PM Benediction and Adjournment

Seated Luncheon Menu:

Cobb Salad with Grilled Chicken, Rolls, Coffee & Tea, Homemade Peach Cobbler with Maple Bourbon Ice Cream.

Dress Code: *Gentlemen are required to wear a suit or jacket, and necktie.
Ladies’ attire should be of comparable degree of formality.*

PARKING: *Parking fee is \$30, paid at the Front Desk upon entry.*



REGISTRATION

NAME(S): _____

NAME(S): _____

STATE(S) _____

NUMBER ATTENDING @ \$ 43.00 per person: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____ CHECK NUMBER: _____

**Please RSVP by 25 March 2026
\$43.00 per person**

Mail Registration and check to:

Catherine Paunov, Treasurer General

5134 29th Avenue N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710-2706



**2025-2027 NEWLY-ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS,
& THE PRESIDENT GENERAL’S ASSIGNMENT OF COMMITTEES & CHAIRS**

NATIONAL OFFICERS

President General Robin R. Towns
 1st Vice President General Nancy Schultz
 2nd Vice President General Joyce Patton
 3rd Vice President General Brenda Dorsett
 Chaplain General Joel Strauch
 Treasurer General Cathy Paunov
 Registrar General Kathy Totten
 Genealogist General Nancy Brennan
 Recording Secretary General Judith Adams
 Corresponding Secretary General Gayle Demeyer
 Organizing Secretary General Marjorie Wilson
 Historian General Lyn Marvel
 Counselor General Christopher Stokes, J.D., Ph.D
 Parliamentarian Shirley Vanderbeck, RPR.
 Honorary President General Jo Lee Potts

COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

Award for Scholarly Works.....
 Mary Margaret Buck, *Chair*; Janice Lorenz, Peter Adams,
 Peggy Stottman
 Bylaws.....
 Shirley Vanderbeck, *Chair*;
 Jo Lee Potts, Janet Walker, Dr. Christopher Stokes
 Credentials
 Joyce Patton, *Chair*; Brenda Dorsett, Marjorie Wilson

Documented Information.....
 Sumner Hunnewell, *Chair*;
 Jo Lee Potts, Judith Adams, Lyn Marvil
 Digitization Project.....
 Kathy Totten, *Chair*; Jo Lee Potts, Nancy Brennan
 Finance.....
 Cathy Paunov, *Chair*; Joel Strauch, Joyce Patton
 Review
 Nancy Schultz, *Chair*
 Genealogy.....
 Nancy Brennan, *Chair*; Kathy Totten, Brenda Dorsett
 Insignia.....
 Jo Lee Potts, *Chair*;
 Peter Adams, Sumner Hunnewell, Joyce Patton, Janet Walker
 Programs & Arrangements.....
 Nancy Schultz, *Chair*
 Publications-*The Cross of Languedoc*.....
 Janice Lorenz, *Chair*
 Publicity.....
 Janice Lorenz, *Chair*;
 Gayle Demeyer, Joyce Patton, Cathy Paunov
 Scholarships.....
 Dr. Cheryl Hunt Clements, *Chair*;
 Jerry Chennault, Janet Walker, Shari Worrell
 Book Clubs & Archives Review.....
 Jo Lee Potts, *Chair*
 Webmaster.....
 Sumner Hunnewell, *Chair*
 Youth Contest.....
 Shari Worrell, *Chair*

OFFICER REPORTS

Outgoing President General's Congress Report

4 October 2025

I am grateful and thankful for the opportunity to serve as President General. I am grateful and thankful for the most wonderful group of General Officers a President General could have to serve with her in such a prestigious organization.

How are we doing?



1. Manage the Transition Through the Bylaw Changes

- a. Transition has gone well.
- b. A growth plan for 2025 is in place, but the advertising did not get implemented as planned.
- c. Simplifying the Bylaws continued, and the revision of the NHS Standing Rules will continue. A new section will be added on Finance which gives good direction to future generations.

2. Maintain Rituals and Traditions

As reported each meeting:

- a. No Ritual Changes
- b. No influx of other religions
- c. No changes in our talking points

Rituals remain an integral part of our meetings, alongside discussions of the Protestant and Catholic wars. These serve as valuable outreach opportunities. The 3rd Vice President General and the Registrar General will provide detailed updates on our membership and MAL status.

3. Improved Communications.

This is a weakness. We do not communicate well internally or externally.

- a. The reformatted newsletter was not reissued.
- b. I did host a State President's Training Program in September of 2025 with 10 Presidents in attendance.
- c. We were unable to host the Member-At-Large Meeting.

4. National Huguenot Documented Information Portal

The National Huguenot Documented Information Portal is now operational. However, I have not had time to work out the bugs with Microsoft. I have committed to Robin Towns to continue this project until it is completed.

5. Transition of Insignia Operations

This project is fully completed.

6. Huguenot Park Partnership – Fort Caroline

This project is on hold. The National Park Service announced in July 2025 that it will be moving parts of the Huguenot information and displays due to climate change. A donation was made To the Friends of Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preservation Society. This is to help with the relocation of the Huguenot displays. October 3, 2025
Timucuan Parks Foundation - (904) 374-1107 | info@timucuanparks.org; PO Box 351203, Jacksonville, FL 32235; 9953 Heckscher Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32226

7. Refurbishing the Huguenot section of the DAR library

The contract with the NSDAR Library was located.

The Library is going to do the required /required refurbishment work at no cost to the NHS. There has been no timetable established for this work; however, there is a time limit for completion of a new contract. The new contract should be in place by October 28th. This will allow the Genealogist General to monitor the collection and have outdated books replaced, and to have additional new books added to the collection.

8. Huguenot Representation:

I had the privilege of representing the Society at several events.

- The Florida State Huguenot Meeting in April
- The Georgia State Huguenot Meeting in August
- The Texas State Huguenot Meeting in September
- The September Jean Calvin Huguenot Chapter Meetings in Sarasota, Florida

9. Records Digitization and the John Inman and Rose Elyea Bell Charitable Foundation Grant Proposal

It was approved by the Board of General Officers at the annual board meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2025, to apply for a grant from the John Inman and Rose Elyea Bell Charitable Foundation. Based in Atlanta, GA, the foundation offers one-time grants for genealogical and historical research projects. As discussed in prior Board meetings, our files at headquarters in San Antonio are aging. We were entrusted by our forebearers and legacies to maintain our records in good condition. Some of our records date to 1933. These older records, the paper is failing. We have gone through an exhaustive process of determining if we should scan the records internally or outsource the process professionally. It has been determined that having a professional organization, known to manage legal and historical records, is the prudent action. With that, Kathy Totten and I have been given clearance to file the necessary grant paperwork with the foundation before the end of October to cover the expected expenses. We will be asking for \$15,875. Any overages will be covered by the Society through our Endowment Fund. Any extra funds will be used for long-term maintenance of the scanned files. If approved, status updates will be provided on a quarterly basis to the Board of General Officers.

January 2026 Update to the Outgoing President General's Report

1. Records Digitization and the John Inman and Rose Elyea Bell Charitable Foundation Grant Proposal

The grant was fully approved by the John Inman and Rose Elyea Bell Charitable Foundation at their November 2025 meeting. The check was received by the National Huguenot Society in December 2025. As of January 2026, the splitting and boxing of the oldest records has started. We are awaiting the contract finalization between NHS and ARC of San Antonio, TX.

*Grateful, thankful, and with full humility, your servant,
Jo Lee Brooks Potts – National Huguenot Society
President General 2023 - 2025*

Second Vice President General Report to Congress 2025

This Second Vice President General has attended the 88th Congress of The National Huguenot Society in Huntsville, Alabama and the 89th in San Antonio, Texas. She has assisted the President General with duties when asked. She has attended the semi-annual meetings held at the Army & Navy Club in Washington, D.C., attending to the business of the National Huguenot society as prescribed within the scope of her duties as Second Vice President General.

This officer is pleased to be in attendance at this, the 90th Congress, with adherence to the ritual premise of the goals and objectives of the National Huguenot Society as outlined in the Bylaws.

*It is an honor to serve the National Huguenot Society.
Nancy A. R. Schultz*

Registrar General

Fall Report for the Period 1 Jan. 2025 to 1 Oct. 2025

Since 1 January, 59 New Member Applications have been approved, 3 of which, are Junior members.

21 Members have transferred, 5 members have been reinstated, 9 supplementals have been approved and 3 Youth Registrations have been added.

14 Members have been reported deceased.

The current Member Count stands at 1,391.

3 New Ancestors have been approved and 2 have been revised. This is the start for a future update for the new 2025 Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors.

I respond to 15-20 Queries every month and refer prospective members to the State Societies for assistance. Genealogist General Nancy Brennan is assisting several that have new ancestors or new lines to be proven.

Deposited Dues, Fees, and Store Sales, totaled: \$2,439.00.

21 store items have been sold, packaged and mailed. This has been a slower year without sales of the 2012, 2016 and 2020 Register and Updates.

In addition to 3 copies of the 2016 Update, we sold 4 Huguenot Scarves, 4 Blue and Gold Men's Ties, 3 Past State President Pins, 2 St Bart's Pins and 5 other items.

The 2025 Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors has been published and is available for sale on Amazon and thru the NHS Website. This edition consolidates the 2012 RQHA, the 2016 and 2020 Updates, and the additional ancestors and revised lineages completed between 2020 and 2024. The current list of known DAR ancestors in Huguenot lineages have been flagged throughout, names and locations are indexed, and additional maps have been included. We thank Honorary President General Janice Lorenz and Genealogist General Nancy Brennan for the many hours spent to complete this volume.

Katherine Totten, Registrar General

Chaplain General

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED HUGUENOT BRETHERN

Called Home to God since Publication Fall
2025 Cross of Languedoc

Arizona

Jean Marie Vredenburg Belzer
Linda Ann Ebinger Cooper
Geraldine McNerney

Delaware

Elias Naudain Simons III

District of Columbia

Lloyce Ann West

Florida

Evelyn Springer Smith

Georgia

Grace Carpenter Walter

Mississippi

Howard Owen Leach

North Carolina

Ruth Morrison Rawls Muller
Dallas Coons Rightmyer
Suzanne Van Houten Sauter

Oklahoma

Carole Rickets Martin

Pennsylvania

Margaret L. Michenzi
Bobbi Wagner

Texas

Joan Fitzwater Jackson
Aubrey Linn Wilson
Carole Drake Belcher

Virginia

Alice Marguerite Birdseye

TREASURER GENERAL

Final Financial Report for 2025 and Approved Budget for 2026

Supplemental TG Financial Report Regarding Disbanded Member Societies

The two states that disbanded in 2025 are as follows, with the funds transferred to NHS.

Indiana	\$798.10
New Mexico	<u>\$1,235.00</u>
	\$2,033.10

Other state societies may have indicated that they have disbanded (Kentucky, for example), but unless and until they have transferred their funds to NHS, they are considered active but in arrears as to dues owed.

Catherine Paunov, Esq., Treasurer General

Treasurer General Final Financial Report for 2025 and Approved Budget for 2026				
NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY				
Catherine Paunov, Treasurer General				
OPERATING INCOME		Budget 2025	Income Actual 2025	Budget 2026
Dues	Current State Society Dues	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 28,105.00	\$ 26,000.00
	2026 State Society Dues Received in 2025		\$ 3,150.00	
	2025 MAL Dues received in 2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 500.93	\$ 400.00
	2026 MAL Dues received in 2025	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,199.76	
	MAL Dues received in 2026			\$ 2,000.00
Fees	Application Fees Income	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,833.00	\$ 4,000.00
Sales	Book Sales	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,039.34	\$ 3,500.00
	Store Sales	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 749.52	\$ 500.00
	Lightning Source/Amazon	\$ 300.00	\$ 431.34	\$ 2,000.00
	Insignia	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,211.89	\$ 1,500.00
Donations	Donation income	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,708.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Digitalization Project Donations inc. pins	\$ -	\$ 1,718.00	\$ 3,000.00
	John Inman and Rose Elyea Bell			
	Charitable Foundation for Digitalization Project		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Louis DeBois for digitalization project		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Events	Mid-year Meeting	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Congress Income	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Investment Income transferred	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	Reclaimed Property*			
	Transfer In from disbanded state societies	\$ 800.00	\$ 2,033.10	\$ 3,000.00
	TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 60,300	\$ 79,179.88	\$ 58,400.00



OPERATING EXPENSES		Budget 2025	Expenses Actual 2025	Budget 2026
Overhead	Office Rent	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,391.20	\$ 9,500.00
	Office Supplies	\$ 500.00		
	Liability Insurance	\$ 600.00	\$ 590.36	\$ 700.00
	D&O Insurance	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,539.00	\$ 1,700.00
	Website	\$ 300.00	\$ 270.00	\$ 300.00
	Tax Accountant	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,780.00	\$ 2,300.00
Awards	Youth Contest	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
	Scholarly Works Award	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Dickey Scholarship Award	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	Lois Lefler Walker Assist Scholarship	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Huguenot Student Resource Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Insignia and internal awards	Insignia, Internal Awards, Ribbon, Sashes	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 2,919.07	\$ 3,200.00
	Sales Tax remitted	\$ 75.00	\$ -	
Publications	Cross Printing	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 12,333.85	\$ 16,000.00
	Cross Postage	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,602.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Amazon and Lightning Source Fees	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,774.50	\$ 2,000.00
	Lineage Society Advertising	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00
	Special Publications	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 135.43	\$ 500.00
	ARC digitalization Project			\$ 16,610.00
Store	Store Inventory	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
	Mailing, Copying, etc.	\$ 575.00	\$ 912.73	\$ 800.00
Events	Mid-year Meeting Expense	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,530.72	\$ 1,700.00
	Congress Expense	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
	Speaker fees	\$ 400.00		\$ 500.00
	Donation Expense	\$ 435.00	\$ 580.58	\$ 500.00
Travel Allowance	President	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Registrar	\$ 500.00	\$ 28.39	\$ 500.00
	Transfer Out			
	TOTAL OPER EXPENSES	\$ 69,785.00	\$ 50,637.83	\$ 75,560.00
	NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ (9,485.00)	\$ 28,542.05	\$ (17,160.00)
Checking Account Balances				
		12/31/24	12/31/25	
	Wells Fargo	\$ 6,515.03	\$ 6,172.42	
	JPMorgan Chase	\$ 23,112.96	\$ 44,302.45	
	Cash on Hand	\$ 29,627.99	\$ 50,474.87	
Investment Accounts (Vanguard)				
		12/31/24	12/31/25	Gain/Loss
	Dickey and Walker Scholarship Funds (70)	\$ 342,125.70	\$ 372,855.25	\$ 30,729.55
	General Operating Funds, including funds from disbanded state societies (23)	\$ 274,278.40	\$ 306,517.36	\$ 32,238.96
	General Scholarship funds, including the Dr. Farrar Scholarly Works Award, Lewis Fund, Endowment Fund (62)	\$ 38,869.12	\$ 42,228.18	\$ 3,359.06
				\$ -
	TOTAL	\$ 655,273.22	\$ 721,600.79	\$ 66,327.57

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

NHS Finance Committee Report for the Year, Ending December 31, 2025

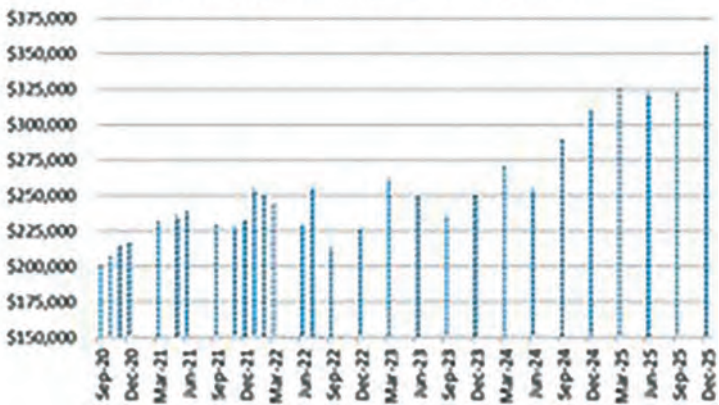
While the financial markets rebounded from April lows, the rally began to lose stamina in the last two months of the year. The financials of the Society have benefited from the market strength and continue to improve. Below is a summary of key financial developments through the year. The Finance Committee is dedicated to collaborating with the Treasurer General to prepare financial reports each quarter, highlighting year-to-date results. We are pleased to outline major developments for the quarter.

Since the end of last year, the Society’s overall resources have increased by 9.9% to \$769,717. This includes a 10.0% increase in our Scholarship reserve to \$371,356, a 7.0% increase in our General Purpose endowed reserves to \$42,205, and a 8.7% increase in our unencumbered reserves to \$353,435.

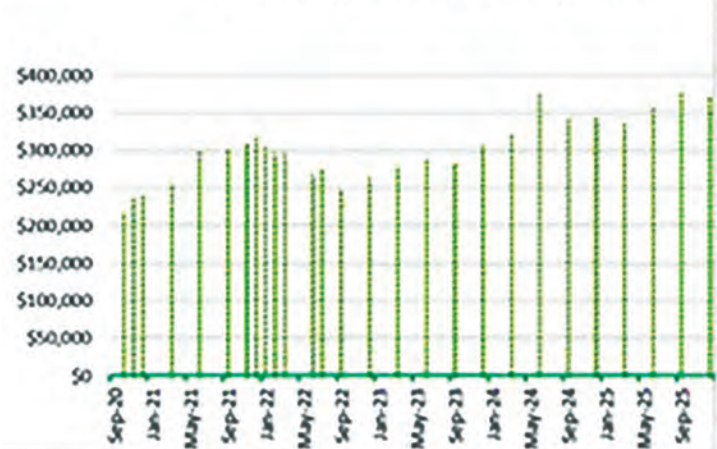
Assets		12/31/2025		Total	Reserves ²	
	Restricted ³	Unrestricted				
For Scholarships:						
Dickey Fund	\$ 267,135.30		\$ 267,135.30	Scholarship Reserve	\$	371,356.65
LLW Scholarship Assist Fund ⁴		\$ 54,239.25	\$ 54,239.25			
Huguenot Student Resource Fund		49,982.10	49,982.10			
For General Purposes						
Endowment Fund		\$ 15,735.96	\$ 15,735.96	General Purposes Reserve	\$	42,205.38
Dr. Farrar Scholarly Work	6,445.58		6,445.58			
Lewis Fund	20,023.84	-	20,023.84			
Operating funds						
Investment fund		\$ 290,668.68	\$ 290,668.68	Other Reserves		
Liquidity fund ¹		65,487.03	65,487.03	Dissolved State Society	\$	2,720.52
Total assets			\$ 769,717.74	Long-term Reserves		<u>353,435.19</u>
					\$	<u>769,717.74</u>

¹Vanguard liquidity of \$15,012.16 and Wells Fargo & Chase Balances
²Fund balances
³Designated as Permanently Restricted
⁴Lois Leffler Walker Scholarship Assist Fund from Huguenot Society of Connecticut, initially for college text books.
 Restricted funds are defined by the legal granting documents, whether from a foundation or individual donor.

NHS Long-term Reserve Development



Scholarship Reserves Development



The operating results of the Society reflect the continued sound treasury management of our Treasurer General and are detailed in a separate submission by the Treasurer General. Financial activities have expanded for ongoing programs, including the Lois Leffler Walker Scholarship Assist fund. The Scholarship Fund, which received gifts from our members, has expanded the use of the General Scholarship Fund to reflect the protocols of the Lois Leffler Walker Scholarship Assist Fund, making several awards of \$500 each. Accordingly, we have renamed the General Scholarship Fund the Huguenot Student Resource Fund.

The Society continues to maintain strong reserves to support its long-term operations and mission. While the equity market performed poorly in the first quarter, it rebounded over the last three quarters of the year, as the prospects for Artificial Intelligence led the rally in the equity markets, however, investors are asking whether the massive capital expenditures in AI, will lead to profits that justify the high valuations in the technology sector. Additionally, the broader economy and financial markets continue to face an unusual level of uncertainty and recognized high valuations. Primary concerns continue to include:

- The possibility of a slowing economy in 2026
- The likely easing of monetary policy by the Federal Reserve, in the face of calls to move more quickly
- The continued geopolitical conflicts, and
- The final disposition of US and reciprocal tariffs,
- We anticipate that the investment environment will continue to reflect these economic challenges in the next twelve months. The rising risk of an economic slowdown coupled with elevated inflation presents a dilemma for both the Federal Reserve and investors.
- Our investments are within the limits of our investment policy, with an “at policy” allocation to equities of 40%. We are slightly underweight in fixed income, where our policy allocation is 50%, leaving short term above our policy target.

Asset Allocation	Percentage	Policy Allocation
Short term	12.0%	10%
Fixed Income	48.2%	50%
Equities	39.8%	40%

We plan to increase our fixed income allocations above target levels as interest rates are expected to decline further. Currently, 8% of our fixed income holdings are protected against unexpected inflation increases. Given continued uncertainty in global markets, we are holding our equity allocation steady.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel E. Strauch, CFA®
Finance Committee, Chair

NOMINATING

Nominating Committee Slate was presented at Congress 2025 prior to voting and the candidates were elected by acclamation.

OFFICE	NOMINEE
President General	Robin Towns (GA)
First Vice President General	Nancy Schultz (IL)
Second Vice President General	Joyce Patton (GA)
Third Vice President General	Brenda Dorsett (NC)
Chaplain General	Joel Strauch (VA)
Treasurer General	Catherine Paunov (FL)
Registrar General	Katherine Totten (TX)
Genealogist General	Nancy Brennan (TX)
Corresponding Secretary General	Gayle Demeyer (OK)
Organizing Secretary General	Marjorie Wilson (GA)
Recording Secretary General	Judith Adams (FL)
Historian General	Lynn Marvil (TN)
Counselor General	Dr. Christopher Stokes (GA)

ANNUAL YOUTH CONTEST

Youth Contest is designed to invigorate our state societies, raise Huguenot awareness among our youth, and strengthen family ties between members and their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews by sponsoring a contest for students. We aim to encourage eligible young relatives and friends of members to register as youth, or to join as an NHS member. The winning submissions will be announced and published in *The Cross of Languedoc*.

For details about the NHS Annual Youth Contest, see the NHS Website:
<https://nationalhuguenotsociety.org/annual-youth-contest/>

It is easy at times to be grateful for the people and



America's 250th

A Celebration of the Significance of the Victory at Yorktown

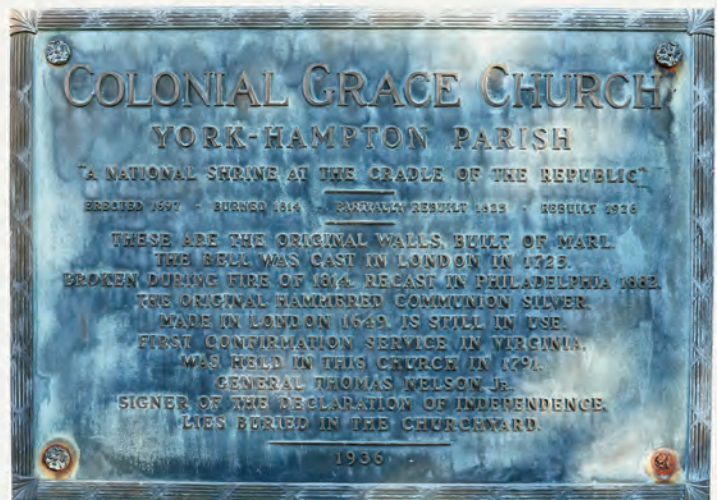


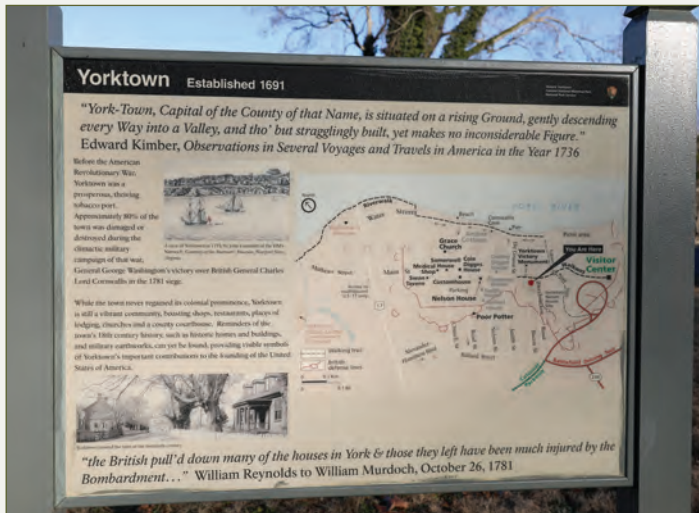
Yorktown Grace Episcopal Church at Christmas-time 2025. This is the site of Huguenot immigrant Nicholas Martiau's footstone. The church dates from the colonial era but has burned down and been rebuilt more than once.
Photo courtesy Janice Murphy Lorenz.

Plaque of Colonial Grace Church at the Cradle of the Republic. *Photo courtesy Janice Murphy Lorenz.*



Footstone of Huguenot immigrant Nicholas Martiau. Somehow the Cross of Languedoc emblem was turned upside down on December 24, 2025. *Photo courtesy Janice Murphy Lorenz.*





National Park Service poster sign depicting a map of the town which identifies Governor Nelson's and Secretary Nelson's houses. Photo courtesy Janice Murphy Lorenz.



Painting of the Bataille de Yorktown by Auguste Couder, currently at Versailles. Courtesy wikimediacommons.com.



National Park Service Diagram of the east coast of America and the movements of the military forces of each side. Courtesy National Park Service via wikimediacommons.com.



Painting by Trumball (an artist of Huguenot descent) of the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis. Courtesy wikimediacommons.com.

Yorktown Victory Monument, showing the end of the Treaty of Alliance side. That treaty was between the Americans and the French Alliance and was signed on 6 February 1778. Its goal was to "maintain effectually the liberty and sovereignty and independence absolute and unlimited of the United States. It formalized the pact of alliance made between King Louis XVI of France and the United States. France's military support proved to be vital to the victory at Yorktown in 1781.

PUBLICATIONS

National Huguenot Society is pleased to announce the publication of the 2025 Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors, Sixth Edition. It came out in mid-October, just in time to offer 45 copies for sale at our Congress meeting in October in Jacksonville, FL. We are selling it on Amazon and other online retailers vendors, and also on our NHS Website, www.nationalhuguenotsociety.com. NHS Website sales are handled through our San Antonio Office. The reference book is 884 pages, weighs almost 6 pounds, and contains more than 600 primary ancestors and their descendants for the first few generations. Indexes include a Primary Ancestors Index, an Index of Ancestors, Descendants & Their Circle, a Huguenot Patriots Index, and a Place Names Index. Co-author genealogists, Nancy Brennan and Kathy Totten, were incredibly helpful in pulling this publication together with the Editor, and deep thanks are owed to the entire NHS Board and Membership, all of whom have been phenomenally supportive in every aspect of the publication of this reference book.

Within days of the book posting on Amazon for sale in October, it was ranking in the top 100 books in each of the categories we were registered under on Amazon. Specifically, we were #78 in Genealogy (Books), we were #74 in Historical France Biographies, and #100 in Emigrants & Immigrants Biographies. Amazon has not shown us our ranking among Genealogical Reference Books, which is the primary category we had asked to be registered under. Although our sales have slipped a bit since then, it is tremendously important to our future sales that we have achieved 5 out of 5 “5-star” reviews, and we have warranted three positive written 5-star reviews, all posted on Amazon for everyone to see.

We are pleased to advise that the 2025 sales report showed that we sold 95 RQHA books in 2025 via Amazon and other online retailers alone, bringing in more than \$1500 to the NHS coffers. This number does not include the sales that NHS made via our website and at various live meetings attended by our Registrar General Totten and our Genealogist General Brennan, both of whom were the lead authors and compilers of this monumental publication.

We hope you will spread the word about our new Ancestor Register. Please consider buying a copy of the 2025 Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors for researching your Supplementals. Please also help us to identify new qualified Huguenot ancestors. And perhaps you might consider buying a second RQHA book to donate to your genealogy library.

Meanwhile, your Editor will continue to strive to keep *The Cross of Languedoc* informative and appealing to our current and prospective members. We welcome your input and submissions: Please submit your articles to me by email at Editor@nationalhuguenotsociety.com. Please create your articles (no

more than 1-2 pages long) in Microsoft Word using Times New Roman font, with any images separately attached by email (not embedded). If you must use PDF rather than Microsoft Word, please do not embed your images into the PDF. Please keep your submissions as short as possible, because going forward, we are going to try to hold down the number of pages of each Cross in order to control our costs, and we prefer not to have cut out portions of any submissions. I will be talking with co-Board members about revising the deadline schedule for submitting reports and proposed items for publication in *The Cross*, from May 15th and December 15th to slightly later dates. This would result in *The Cross* coming out about a month after it usually lands in mailboxes, but would relieve much of the pressure on those who strive to timely report and on this editor to pull it all together for publication during Christmas and Memorial Day weekend.

Don't forget that anyone, even non-members, can purchase a one-year subscription for *The Cross of Languedoc*, which is published twice a year. The cost is \$25 and arrangements should be made through our Registrar General at Registrar_General@nationalhuguenotsociety.org.

In addition, we are now also offering to publish the advertisements of other hereditary societies and organizations in our *The Cross of Languedoc* magazine, to take advantage of cross-overs in ancestors and membership between NHS and other groups. More details appear elsewhere in this issue of *The Cross*, but here is our pricing Rate Card, which is a chart containing our advertising rates and procedures.

In Huguenot Faith From the Heart,
Janice Lorenz, Chair, Editor, Honorary President General

PUBLICITY

The Publicity Committee will be discussing the strategic purchase of ads to promote our book sales and to promote membership in NHS and the purchase of *The Cross of Languedoc* Subscriptions. We've already started—upon the initial publication of the 2025 Ancestor Register last October, we purchased an “iPAGE LISTING” from Ingram LightningSource, one of the largest book distributors in the world. Its iPage Listing platform is where thousands of bookstores and libraries go to order desired books directly from Ingram. We are hoping the iPAGE LISTING will be noticed by libraries and bookstores to help expand our reach to a wider, worldwide market of buyers who are interested in genealogy and Huguenots. We will consider other ad-placing concepts, as well as a strategy for attracting other groups to purchase ads to run in *The Cross*.

In Huguenot Faith From the Heart
Janice Lorenz, Chair, Honorary President General & Editor

THE YORKTOWN VICTORY MONUMENT

By Janice Murphy Lorenz

When the Continental Congress received the news of the victory at Yorktown, they immediately convened at the Dutch Lutheran Church in Philadelphia to formally offer thanks to God. They then passed resolutions of thanks to the main players who had secured the great triumph. On October 29, 1781, essentially 10 days after the victory was concluded, they resolved to have

‘erected at York, in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and His Most Christian Majesty, and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis.’ But this ... resolution could not be carried out, for want of means, and it was postponed to a more convenient season, ...

which did not occur until 1880, when Congress appropriated funds for that purpose. Below is a photograph of the emblems of the Alliance.



The emblems of alliance on the Yorktown Victory Monument. Photo courtesy Janice Murphy Lorenz.

Source: Yorktown: A Compendious Account... Jacob Harris Patton, A.M. New York: Fords, Howard, & Hulbert (1882) at 46.



YOUTH

The First Place Winner of the 2025 Youth Contest is Daniel McCormick, a high school senior from Vestavia Hills, Alabama. His essay was “The Legacy of Fort Caroline.” The Second Place Winner is Jacob Wang, also a high school senior, from Buford, Georgia, for his essay “Three Migratory Ruckers: A Huguenot Family Legacy.” Both essays are a bit too long for publication in *The Cross*, but please be assured they were both excellent.

COLLEGE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY NHS

Thanks to several generous bequests, the National Huguenot Society (NHS) currently offers two merit scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies. The Jacqueline Wells Dickey Scholarship is available to NHS members *only*; the Lois Lefler Walker Scholarship Assist Fund Award is available to members as well as children/grandchildren of NHS members. See the NHS’s website at nationalhuguenotsociety.org for the details. Additional information is available from the co-chairmen of the committee, who can be reached by email at scholarship@nationalhuguenotsociety.org.

MEMBER STATE REPORTS

Alabama

The Huguenot Society of Alabama has been truly blessed to add three new members this year. We also have several prospective members working on applications. Our Spring meeting was held on Thursday, March 28, 2025, at Birmingham Country Club. It was our honor to welcome our National President, Jo Lee Potts. Mrs. Potts brought news from the National Society and outlined her projects for her administration. We were also honored to recognize Daniel McCormack, grandson of our new member, Karen Shallenburg, Daniel wrote a wonderful essay entitled "Migration of the Huguenots". Martha Ann Whitt, Chairman of the NHS Youth Contest Committee, presented Daniel a certificate and check from our society.

Our Fall meeting was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at Birmingham Country Club. Our guest was Suzanne R. Farrar. Mrs. Farrar was recognized as an Honorary Member. She and her late husband, Gresham, established the NHS Gresham Farrar Scholarship.

New officers installed for the upcoming two years include President Scott Mortoano, Treasurer Ann Curry, and Registrar is Evelyn Nightingale.

Alice B. Jones, President

Florida



The Huguenot Society of Florida at its April 2025 meeting.

Greetings from The Huguenot Society of Florida. We have four active state chapters with a total of 120 members at the beginning of 2025. We have gained six members, one being a reinstatement and five new members.

Florida is honored to be the host for National's 90th Congress this year and to be home of Jo Lee Potts and Cathy Paunov, National Huguenot Society's 2023 – 2025 President General and Treasurer General, respectively.

HSF held its 72nd Annual Meeting on April 25 – 26, 2025 in Orlando, Florida at Double Tree Orlando Downtown with seven members attending in person and three members attending through Zoom.

Financially, the Huguenot Society of Florida is sound and in good condition in all accounts. Our members continue to generously contribute to both chapter and state scholarships.

Paul Christian DuBois-Weber was our 2025 scholarship recipient.

*In Huguenot Faith,
Judi Adams, President*

Mississippi

The Huguenot Society of Mississippi met twice in 2025. The Spring Meeting was held in May in Hernando, Mississippi with a book review of the 2024 winner of the NHS Scholarly Works, THE WAR OF THE CAMISARDS, by Stephen M. Davis.

The HSM Fall Meeting was held on Zoom. Chaplain Randall Chandler led a memorial service in memory of Howard Owen Leach. He was a longtime member and former president of the Huguenot Society of Mississippi.

We welcomed two new members during 2025, Kent Kirkham and Diane Coleman-Horne. There are some prospective members.

Mary Margaret Buck, President

Missouri

Greetings from the Huguenot Society of Missouri!

Our membership now stands at 39, with several reinstatements in process.

We meet twice a year, in May and October. We last met on October 25th, 2025 at the home of Dr. Mila Cunningham, in Columbia, Missouri. There were 7 members present, including our Registrar, Sumner Hunnewell, who shared news from the National Society, as well as news of 1 new member and 1 prospective member.

The program was given by President E. Blair Pickard, and was about the Huguenot migration to Prussia, after the Edict of Potsdam in 1685. Prussia needed skilled workers after the Thirty-Years war, and saw an opportunity to attract French Huguenots who were being persecuted by Louis XIV. The result was that at least 20,000 Huguenots settled in Prussia, and became valuable contributors to that country's economy.

Over the summer we made a sizable donation to the Lois Leffler Walker Scholarship Fund, and we have recently completed an audit of our financial affairs.

We will install new Officers at our next meeting, and we plan to meet again on May 23rd, 2026, at Dr. Mila Cunningham's home in Columbia, Missouri.

E. Blair Pickard, President

North Carolina



A photo of the NC Society at a 2025 meeting, which should have been published in the Fall 2025 Cross, but the Cross Editor overlooked it.

The Huguenot Society of North Carolina continues to promote the National Huguenot Society, reaching out to family and friends. Our registrar, Brenda Dorsett, stays busy working with prospective members. She has several applications to be submitted in early to mid-October. This effort has increased our membership from 125 members on January 1, 2025 to 136 members on July 27, 2025. Through our Junior program, which began in late 2023, we have added 12 members. Our membership is at an all-time high. We met on March 22, 2025 and had a good turnout of members, prospective members and guests. We will meet in 2026 on March 21.

Noah Goins was awarded the 2025 HSNC \$1,000 scholarship. He is the son of member Pam Goins. An excellent student at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, Noah plans to submit his application to join NHS.

With the help of the National Parliamentarian, Shirley Vanderbeck, we were successful in amending our State Bylaws to align with those of National.

HSNC recognizes and thanks Brenda Dorsett, the NHS Organizing Secretary General, for her service to NHS.

We were saddened by the passing of Suzanne Sauter in March 2025. Suzanne joined NHS in 1980 and was a past HSNC president (1985-1987). Elna West (almost 27 years) and Carla Odom (almost 28 years) passed this year.

Milestone membership certificates were mailed in 2025 to Elizabeth Griffin (30), Ann Cayton (25), Marie Thiele (25) and Ruth-Anne Bolz (10) with plans to also recognize, Carol Cason (30), Susan Boykin (10) and Sarah Martin (10).

We are very pleased that Mary and Sarah Long have continued to co-chair the committee for National scholarships.

New officers were installed at our March 2025 meeting as follows: Karen Powers, president; Lucy Montaquila, vice president; Libby Chenault, chaplain; Brenda Dorsett, registrar; Elaine Baldasare, treasurer; Anne Wilce, secretary and Ann Mueller, historian.

It is a pleasure to serve as State President of The Huguenot Society of North Carolina.

***In Huguenot Faith,
Karen Powers, HSNC President (2025-2027)***

Tennessee

Carolyn Marvil attended the October 2025 National Congress as a Delegate for Tennessee, serving as past president two terms. Tennessee meets two times per year and has approximately 40 members. In the Spring 2025, we installed new officers for a two-year term. Our State President, Jan McGill, sends her best wishes for a successful Congress and is sorry she could not attend this year.

We have one person from the (disbanding) DC Society that has reached out to us and is interested in joining our Tennessee Society. Our State President He will need to submit the transfer papers that were provided to him to our State President, Jan McGill.

Tennessee has updated its Bylaws to reflect changes the past two years and will send to the National Bylaws Committee (Shirley Vanderbeck and Janice Lorenz) for review.

Carolyn “Lyn” Beyer Marvil, TN Society Delegate to Congress

Texas

Following being the host of the 2024 NHS 89th Congress held in San Antonio in October, members were “fired up” and ready for growing our membership ranks in 2025. At the beginning of the year, the state had 108 members with 64 in the Languedoc Chapter and 44 in the La Rochelle Chapter. As of August 18, 2025, 8 new members and 2 reinstated members have been added. We are so proud to have Kathy Totten, a member of our Languedoc Chapter, serving as NHS Registrar General, and want to keep her busy processing those applications for membership.

Since many of our members are gracefully aging and some of our leaders are becoming a bit battle-weary, we are aiming to encourage an infusion of new members, especially members who are willing to assume leadership roles, in our chapters and at the state level. We have some new faces among our officers recently and are eager to see this continue.

We were honored to have Jo Lee Potts, President General, as our guest speaker at the Texas State Assembly in August. Her “state of the Society” remarks were most appreciated, and she shared many interesting facts about Huguenot Texans and their notable contributions to the state’s citizens, as well as this country’s citizens and beyond. Perhaps, this is what resulted in getting our members fired up about adding members. Thank you, Madam President!

Grateful to be a Huguenot,

Sue Chenault, Presiden

The National Huguenot Society (NHS)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND SUPPLEMENTALS!

June to Dec 2025

MAL	HENRY C MULZAC	MALZAC, JEAN	NEW ANCESTOR
MAL	JODI KAYE PRATHER STEVENS	MAURY, MATTHEW	
MAL	TARA ANNE GEHRING GALLAGHER	ANGUENET, PIERRE	
MAL	P WARREN BROWN	BROWN, PAUL WARREN	
		BERRIEN, CORNELIUS	
		JANSEN	
MAL	RICHARD JAMES LAMP	BONDURANT, JEAN	
CA	LUCINDA LEIGH COOPER FERGUSON	VAUTRIN, MARIA SUSANNA	NEW ANCESTOR
CA	BARBARA LYNN ETTER JOHNS	NAUDAIN, ELIAS	
NC	KATHY NAUDAIN O'CONNOR BATTEN	LANIER, NICHOLAS	
NC	BRUCE FONVILLE KING III	LANIER, NICHOLAS	
NC	MARY CLARK KING WILLIAMS	BRASHEAR II, ROBERT	
NC	CHERYL DEAN PEELE EVANS	LANIER, NICHOLAS	
NC	LINDA LOUISE LANIER RICE	LANIER, NICHOLAS	
NC	LANA RICE DEWS	LANIER, NICHOLAS	
NC	ELIZABETH JANE RICE CRENSHAW	LANIER, NICHOLAS	
NC	GREYLIN THOMAS RICE	LANIER, NICHOLAS	
FL	ELIZABETH GAILLARD LOCKWOOD ZE	GAILLARD, JEAN/JEHAN	
FL	MEGAN KARLENE POOLE	ROOTE/ROUTE, THOMAS	
FL	DAVID STUART WISENER	SICARD, AMBROISE	
TX	MARY ANN BROWN	HENNO/ENO, JEAN/JOHN	
TX	AMANDA WEBB BROWN	DU VAL, DANIEL	
TX	CHARLEEN ANNE MULLENWEG	PIATT, RENE	
TX	ANNMARIE WOODLEY ESPARZA	DU PUIS, NICOLAS	
TX	ELIZABETH JEANETTE DYESS	BOISSEAU, JAMES	
NE	KAREN Y STANDLEY	VASSALL, JEAN	
AL	LEEANN LITTIMORE CHILDERS	DE BARRETTE, BARBARA	
KS	PHYLLIS MARIE BLACKWELL SCHANB	DUBOIS, CHRETIEN	
KS	SARAH ANNE McFADDEN PATTEE	CADET, FRANCOIS	
KS	BARBARA SWEPSTON BUSHNELL	CHASTAIN, PIERRE	
MO	PAULA SUE CLUM RUMMEL	GUENON, JEAN	
GA	DAWN SPARKS SHIELDS	LA PIERRE, JEAN DE	
GA	FRANCIS DAWN BULLARD HAMILL	LANIER, NICHOLAS	
GA	SHIELDS, STEVEN EDWARD	LA PIERRE, JEAN DE	
GA	SHIELDS, SCOTT WILLIAM	LA PIERRE, JEAN DE	
GA	CYNTHIA KAY DAVIS SKELTON	MORAGNE, PIERRE	
GA	LEANNA ELYSE SKELTON	MORAGNE, PIERRE	
GA	CHARITY SUE WANG	DU VAL, MAREEN	
GA	SUSAN JEANETTE DRAKE ALLEN	CABANSS, HENRI	
GA	ANITA PIETROBONO BIANCONI	VASSALL, JEAN/JOHN	
AR	CHARLOTTE ROSE WILLIAMS JEFFERS	MARCHAND, HENRI	

REINSTATEMENTS

PA	KATHERINE C BOTH		PA
MAL	TURNER, LAURIE COVERT	BROUCARD, BURGON	MAL
NC	CYNTHIA KLING HOLMES	DuBOIS, CHRETIEN	NC
TX	POGUE, RONALD DENNIS	BRASSEUR, ROBERT	TX
VA	J EDWARD LARY	BOUTON, THEODORE	VA

JUNIORS

NC	EMMA ROSE STRICKLAND	D'AUGE/DOZIER, LEONARD
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YOUTH REGISTRATIONS

GA	Hodges, Sloan Victoria
	Hodges, Emarie Christine
	Hodges, Landry Brian

SUPPLEMENTALS

DC	JEREMY ROBERT SMITH	BARTHOLOMEW DUPUY
	JEREMY ROBERT SMITH	JEAN LEVILLIAN II
	JEREMY ROBERT SMITH	ANTOINE TRABUE
AR	JEREMY ROBERT SMITH	MOYSE VERUEIL
CA	BRENDA DAVIS BARHAM	MATTHIEU BLANCHAN
	CAROLE JOAN BREILH VERCELLINO	JOHANN HENRICH ZELLER

TRANSFERS

FL	LORI ANN STOLZIFUS	RANC, JEAN	From GA
WA	TERI DOBSZINSKY LINDLEY	RUCKER, PETER	From VA
MAL	NANCY E LARSEN	DUBOIS, LOUIS	From IN
MAL	SARAH LOUISE LAVORGNA	MARLET, GIDEON	From IN
VA	KATHERINE LAMAR WILLIAMSON ARTH	AGEE, MATHIEU	From DC
VA	JENNIFER LEIGH SMITH	GILLETT, WILLIAM	From DC
VA	SUZANNE FICHTER	DUBOIS, JACQUES	From DC
VA	REV. RICHARD FICHTER, JR	DUBOIS, JACQUES	From DC
VA	GEORGIANNA BLAIR FISHER	JANVIER, THOMAS	From DC
VA	MARION ARD WHITEHURST	DILLER, CASPER ELIAS	From DC
VA	CYLVIA LYNN MARKLEY TOY	LA GROVE, NICHOLAS	From DC
MAL	VIRGINIA KAY MASSARA	LE SUEUR, FRANCOIS	From NM
MAL	MEREDIT M JUNGST	MAHEU, JACQUES	From NM
MAL	MITZI MARKER ZERI	MAHEU, JACQUES	From NM
MAL	DAVID ADAIR CROSSEN JR	GAILLARD, NICHOLAS	From DE
MAL	LAURA WICK LASSEN DEBRUIN	PEIRET/PEYRET, PIERRE	From DE
MAL	JAMES TYLER LASSEN	PEIRET/PEYRET, PIERRE	From DE
VA	ELIZABETH MORRIS SIMONS GLEASON	NAUDAIN, ELIE	From DE
MAL	MARILYN PRATT HOLMQUIST	CHAMOIS, PIERRE	From DC
TN	Jeremy Robert Smith	SOBLET, ABRAHAM	From DC
MAL	DAVID JOHN STRINGFELLOW	RAPALIE, JORIS JANSZEN	From DC
MAL	VALERIE DODENHOFF LAWSON	DEVANTIER, PIERRE	From ME

[Outgoing]

**President General / Honorary President
General's Message to Congress 2025**

LEFT BEHIND

things we have. But do we ever stop and think for a moment about the people and things we don't have and the impact they have on our lives? Such is my story regarding Jacob and William Remy, my ninth great-grandfather and his brother. Respectfully, only part of their mother.

Jacob and William's exploits are fairly well documented. They came from the highly respected Remy family, which was believed to have had ties to Saint Remy, the First Bishop of Rheims, who anointed and crowned Clovis, the First King of France, in 496 AD. As a result, the Remy family branches always had/found favor in the courts of France.

Needless to say, more than one feather was ruffled when, in or about 1580, my branch of the Remy family announced that they were leaving "The Church" and joining the Huguenot movement. This was strategic, multi-generational, and the Remy family paid the price. Jacob's grandfather, Jacques, was beheaded in about 1585. His great-uncle was the same, 1587/8. His father was the same in or about 1635. Jacob's oldest brother was beaten and left dead. So his mother sold everything the family owned and gave the money to Jacob, William, and their wives. The quartet first went to an uncle in Germany and then to England, and then became indentured servants to make their way to America. Question, what about their Mom? The great stories about the heroic actions of Jacob and William, where is Mom? The lady who lost her husband and her son. By choice, sold everything she had for the safety of her two remaining sons and remained in a hostile environment. We don't even know her name. The unsung heroine of our story, who decided to give her all for our family and for me. The nameless, unforgotten. She was the strength, driver, and direction. The real reason I am here. The woman of unwavering faith.

How many unknowns are in your family? I have no idea about mine. Did you ever take a breath and think about the people who stayed? The loved ones who encouraged the ones leaving, who sold everything they owned, and told the ones leaving that everything would be alright? The ones who truly gave it all?

As you give thanks and name everyone you know, tuck in an extra word of thanks for the unknown, they have as big if not a bigger roll in our past, present, and future.

Jo Lee Brooks Potts, Honorary President General

When French Protestant refugees began arriving in British North America in the late seventeenth century, they

HUGUENOT DESCENDANT COL. JOHN LAURENS'S VIEW OF THE CAPITULATION TERMS

By Janice Murphy Lorenz

On 19 October 1781 the surrender process was observed at Yorktown. The terms of the surrender agreement had been negotiated at Moore House in Yorktown, and it was time to move forward to formally conclude the terms before General Clinton or other British support could arrive to throw the great American victory into disarray.:

In Charleston, General Sir Henry Clinton was the commander-in-chief in North America; his second in command was Charles, Lord Cornwallis, the very same man as at Yorktown; Vice Admiral Mariot Arbuthnot of the British Navy; and Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton were there. Instead of observing accepted military protocol, General Clinton launched a series of vicious insults at General Lincoln and his troops, beginning with refusing to allow them to unfurl their flags, followed by the insult of requiring them to play an American tune, rather than a British or German one, and ending in the taking of more than 5000 Americans prisoners. There can be no doubt that General Benjamin Lincoln and the entire Continental Army must have felt insulted and angry as a result.

Customarily, surrender protocol honors of war for men-at-arms permitted the defeated troops to march out with their own flags flying while playing a victory tune from the *enemy's nation*, as was considered a tribute to the victor. At Yorktown, that tune might have been "Yankee Doodle." But because of what had happened at Charleston, General Washington decided at Yorktown to return the favor. He demanded as a capitulation term that the defeated British troops at Yorktown march out with colors cased and their drums beating a British or German march, rather than an American or French tune.

Accordingly, at the appropriate time, the army of General Lord Cornwallis marched out as prisoners of war, grounded their arms, and then marched back. Accounts agree in describing the display and ceremony on the occasion as quite imposing. The British appeared in new uniforms, distributed among them a few days before, and it only required the flying of their colors—their standards—to give their march the effect of a holiday parade. But this they were not to be permitted; rather, their colors were cased (furled), and they were prohibited from playing either a French or an American tune in honor of the victors, as was customary in military surrenders; rather, they were only permitted by General Washington to play a British or German march.

Then, General Lord Cornwallis, perhaps quite ill, as he claimed, or, perhaps so crushed and demoralized that he behaved dishonorably, failed to show up at all to personally hand over his sword to General George Washington. This constituted a major breach of military etiquette. But Washington was prepared. He instantly refused to accept the sword offered by Cornwallis' substitute, Brigadier General Charles O'Hara, instead instructing

the substitute to hand Cornwallis' sword over to none other than General Benjamin Lincoln, who accepted it. This brilliant and healing public act must have completed the circle of closure between the Americans and the British, and must have seemed a spectacular restoration of pride for General Lincoln.

Behind the scenes, prior to the capitulation ceremony, the issue of General Washington's retaliatory proposal had been discussed at a meeting of the Commissioners, of which Huguenot descendant Col. John Laurens was one. The British commissioners were not pleased.

"This is a harsh article," said British Major Ross to American Col. John Laurens.

"Which article?" answered the latter.

"The troops shall march out, *with colors cased, and drums beating a British or a German march.*"

"Yes, sir," returned Laurens, with a touch of *sang-froid*, "it is a harsh article."

"Then," said Ross, "if that is your opinion, why is it here?"

Whereupon Laurens, who had been made prisoner at Charleston along with Lincoln's army, proceeded to remind Ross that the Americans on that occasion had made a brave defense, but were ungallantly refused any honors of surrender other than to march out with colors cased and drums *not* beating a British or German March [which were humiliating insults].

"But," rejoined Ross, "my Lord Cornwallis did not command at Charleston."

"There, sir," said Laurens, "you extort another observation: it is not the *individual* that is here considered; it is the *nation*. This remains an article, or I cease to be a commissioner."

Nothing more was to be said; the article stood, and the enemy marched out with colors cased, while the tune they chose to follow was an old British march with the quite appropriate title of "The World Turned Upside Down."

Sources: Johnston, Henry P. *The Yorktown Campaign and The Surrender of Cornwallis 1781*. New York: Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square (1881) at 139-140, 157, citing Garden's *Anecdotes of the Revolution* and Drake's *Memoir of General Knox. Anecdotes of the American Revolution*, compiled by Alexander V. Blake. New York: Alexander V. Blake (1845). Patton, Jacob Harris, A.M. *Yorktown: A Compendious Account...* New York: Fords, Howard, & Hulbert (1882) at 32-33.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cross of Languedoc

NOW ACCEPTING PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS


The National Huguenot Society has an international audience of 1300+ Huguenot members and interested libraries and institutions. Our magazine, *The Cross of Languedoc*, is a 26-40 page color, glossy magazine posted online on our website to be enjoyed by the general public, genealogy researchers, and prospective members. A benefit of membership with us is a hard copy delivered by mail to our members holding an eligible membership, and to everyone who has purchased subscriptions.

Many times there are common ancestors who provide the qualification needed to join more than one group. Wouldn't your hereditary society like to tap into our Huguenot membership for common interests and ancestors? The National Huguenot Society would like to encourage other lineage societies to place their ads in *The Cross of Languedoc*.

If needed, we can do the typesetting for your ad. Please email us with the pertinent information about the size ad you wish to purchase, whether black & white or color, using or indicating your preferred typeface, and supplying any necessary images such as your logo.

The Rate Card of The National Huguenot Society is below. It is brand new and, as such, it is subject to possible tweaking as we go forward. Please check our website for up to date Ad Pricing Rates (nationalhuguenotsociety.org). Contact Editor@nationalhuguenotsociety.org to submit your ad information.

We will work with ad buyers to ensure satisfaction as we develop this new capability for our beloved *The Cross of Languedoc*.



NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY
LIBERTY FAITH

The Cross of Languedoc
NHS RATE CARD
For Purchase of Print Ads

AD SIZE	FEE
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Quarter Page	\$100
Deadlines for Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec 15 of prior year for the Spring Issue (Feb/March delivery) May 15 of current year for the Fall Issue (Aug/Sep delivery)
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2. An invoice will be generated and sent to you;	the invoice will contain payment instructions
3. Once payment is received, barring unforeseen circumstances, your ad will appear in the next issue of <i>The Cross of Languedoc</i>	

* The National Huguenot Society reserves the right to decline to accept or print any ad that does not comport with its branding and decency standards.



Best Sellers Rank: #859,680 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)
 #347 in Historical France Biographies
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 #669 in Genealogy (Books)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE *The Cross of Languedoc* MAGAZINE AVAILABLE

PLEASE BE ADVISED that subscriptions are now available for libraries, institutions, non-members, and any others who would enjoy reading our lovely *Cross of Languedoc* magazine and learning about Huguenots, their history, their beliefs, and their impact upon the founding of America. Our members have been known to gift subscriptions to their friends or other loved ones whom they know to be interested in Huguenots. It's time to hop on board!

There is no time like the present, at the start of a glorious new year, for you to consider buying or renewing a subscription. The fee is \$25/year for receipt by mail of the two *Cross of Languedoc* magazines we publish each year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Interested parties, please contact our NHS Registrar General by email at Registrar_General@nationalhuguenotsociety.org for more information and/or to order your subscription.

THE IMMIGRANT NICHOLAS MARTIAU, GEORGE WASHINGTON'S HUGUENOT ANCESTOR, AND HIS PROMINENT DESCENDANTS

By Peter Morgan Adams

Near the end of the American Revolution, the decisive surrender of the British Lord Charles Cornwallis to the combined American and French forces at Yorktown, Virginia, on October 19, 1781, occurred in the heart of the town that had been laid out on land originally owned by the early Huguenot settler, Nicholas Martiau. In the 1630s, he patented extensive acreage along the York River, and established his plantation there. Over the ensuing decades, portions of this tract were passed through his family to his descendants, such as Benjamin Reade, son of Elizabeth Martiau and George Reade. This Reade family went on to connect to figures such as Colonel George Washington and Governor Nelson and Secretary Nelson, and the Warner family of Virginia.

In 1691, fifty acres of that original Martiau patent were purchased from Read for the establishment of the port and town of Yorktown under an act of the Virginia General Assembly. As a result, the battlefield and village where Cornwallis ultimately surrendered were situated on terrain that had once formed part of Martiau's plantation, a legacy that connects this watershed moment in American independence to an early Huguenot colonial ancestor, who has been placed as an early colonial progenitor in George Washington's ancestry.

Sources:

Various National Park Service publications, including "Yorktown" historical handbook; Nicolas Martiau Wikipedia entry, and Huguenot Society of South Carolina article on Martiau and his descendants.



ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COINCIDENCES MENTIONED IN THE FEATURE ARTICLE

In response to the editor's questions to Peter Morgan Adams about the potential that George Washington knew he was Nicholas Martiau's descendant and that the Yorktown area where Cornwallis and the Americans and Allies were converging was Martiau's former property, Peter did some research and compiled the following information.

In summary, the sources fall into two categories:

- **Primary/Contemporary** (Washington's papers, 1792 letter): Show no awareness and explicit disinterest in deep genealogy.
- **Later Genealogical/Historical** (20th century onward): Solidly document the Martiau-Washington link and land overlap but offer no documentary proof (letters, journals, etc.) that Washington realized or cared about it. His surveying background would have made land patents familiar in concept, but the 1781 campaign left no room or record of such inquiry.

Primary Sources (Washington's Own Words and Papers)

- **George Washington to Sir Isaac Heard, May 2, 1792** (full letter available via Founders Online, National Archives): Washington explicitly states, "This is a subject to which I confess I have paid very little attention" regarding genealogy/family history. He provides a basic sketch of his immediate family tree but expresses disinterest in deeper research. This is the clearest direct evidence of his limited engagement with ancestry beyond practical or immediate family matters.
- **The Papers of George Washington** (Revolutionary War Series and other volumes, University of Virginia/Founders Online): Extensive searches of wartime correspondence, diaries, and orders from the Yorktown period (e.g., September–October 1781 entries) show no references to Martiau, ancestral land, or genealogy. Focus remains on military tactics, French allies, terrain, and logistics.
- **Washington's 1752 family tree sketch** (enclosed with the 1792 Heard letter): A simple diagram of immediate relatives and half-siblings; no mention of distant ancestors like Martiau (via the Ball/Reade line).

Key Secondary and Genealogical/Historical Books

- **Nicolas Martiau, the Adventurous Huguenot, the Military Engineer, and the Earliest American Ancestor of George Washington** by John Baer Stoudt (Norristown, PA: The Norristown Press, 1932): The foundational modern work establishing the genealogical link (Martiau as Washington's great-great-great-grandfather via daughter, Elizabeth Martiau, who m. Col. George Reade). It highlights the poetic irony of the Yorktown surrender site but provides no evidence Washington knew of it. Full text excerpts (via Internet Archive) emphasize Martiau's land patents including Yorktown area but no Washington awareness.

- **The Writings of George Washington** (various editions, e.g., Worthington Chauncey Ford's multi-volume set): Includes the 1792 Heard correspondence and confirms Washington's ambivalence toward pedigree research.

Institutional and Official Historical Sources

- **Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens Digital Encyclopedia** (article on "Ancestry" and "Washington Family"): Cites the 1792 Heard letter and notes Washington's limited interest, focusing on North American lineage rather than distant European/Huguenot branches.
- **National Park Service (NPS) Historical Handbook: Yorktown** and related Colonial National Historical Park materials: Acknowledge Martiau as the "earliest-known American ancestor of George Washington" through land grants and descendant marriages. A granite marker honors Martiau, but no mention of Washington knowing the connection.
- **Founders Online / National Archives** (multiple entries): Comprehensive digitized Washington papers; no hits for "Martiau," "ancestor" in Yorktown context, or related genealogy during 1781.

Other Supporting Sources (Local Histories, Societies, and Online References)

- **Huguenot Society of South Carolina and National Huguenot Society** publications (e.g., *The Cross of Languedoc*, 2011): Celebrate the Huguenot descent but treat the Yorktown irony as historical coincidence without claiming Washington's knowledge.
- **Wikipedia entry on Nicolas Martiau** and related genealogical sites (e.g. FamousKin.com Kentucky Kindred Genealogy, RootsWeb Martiau archives): Compile the land/surrender connection from Stoudt and earlier records; often note "many believe Washington didn't even know" (e.g., VisitYorktown Facebook post).
- **Local Yorktown history accounts** (e.g., Facebook/VisitYorktown, mermaidcamp blog, AfricaResource/Rasta Livewire): Repeat the ancestral land narrative but speculate on divine intervention/coincidence, with no primary evidence of awareness.
- **New York Times article (1932)** and other period pieces: Highlight Stoudt's research during Washington's bicentennial era, calling it a "poetic coincidence" but not attributing knowledge to Washington himself.

The Editor's Surrender on the Yorktown Issue: And so, Peter's information above certainly seems to debunk, for the time being, the notion set forth in the Feature that George Washington had any foreknowledge of the significance of Yorktown to his family history or his personal legacy. As we say in the law, "Well, there goes another great theory shot down by the facts!"

WHAT PERSONALITY TRAITS AND TENDENCIES MIGHT NICHOLAS MARTIAU HAVE PASSED ALONG TO HIS HUGUENOT DESCENDANTS?

By Janice Murphy Lorenz

There are a couple of interesting common features of Nicholas Martiau and his Huguenot descendants from Yorktown. The first is that Martiau had an military engineering background and reported to the Virginia Company with recommendations for the fortification of Jamestown. George Washington also had a military engineering background, and was also a surveyor.

Secondly, Martiau may have had strong feelings that the colonists were entitled to govern themselves and enjoy a sense of liberty and individual freedom. He believed in independence so strongly that in reaction to some political decision by Governor Harvey he disliked, he organized a resistance to the Governor in 1635, hoping to depose him. He was reportedly arrested for his zeal, having held meetings at his Yorktown home to protest against what they viewed as despotic rule and taking of their property. This mirrors the feelings of his descendants, George Washington and the Nelsons, who were willing to stand up and fight for American independence. George Washington, in particular, highly valued personal liberty and freedom, and he conducted his life in such a way that his commitment to those values was unmistakable.

Martiau demonstrated his love of freedom by freeing two of his slaves via his Last Will & Testament dated 1656/7, and provided them with land. Similarly, George Washington also emancipated various of his slaves via his Last Will & Testament. The one to be granted immediate release was his faithful valet, William Lee, in appreciation of his services during the Revolutionary War. Lee was released immediately upon Washington's death. Washington's other slaves were to be freed upon his wife Martha's death, but for personal safety reasons she freed them in 1801 while she was still living. Washington wanted all of his slaves to be educated, clothed and fed. Orphans were to also to be taught a useful trade. In contrast, the slaves owned directly by Martha from her prior marriage were passed along to her grandchildren rather than being freed, because Washington had no personal jurisdiction over them.

Sources: Stoudt, John Baer, *Nichols Martiau, The Adventurous Huguenot*. The Norristown Press: Norristown, PA (1932); National Park Service; Google AI.

THE HUGUENOT DESCENDANTS SECRETARY THOMAS “SCOTCH TOM” NELSON (1677-1745) & HIS NEPHEW, GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON, & WHAT HAPPENED AT YORKTOWN

Huguenot Nicholas Martiau's descendant, Secretary Thomas Nelson (1677-1745), nicknamed “Scotch Tom,” served as the Secretary for the Colony of Virginia for more than 30 years, and was the uncle of Governor/General Thomas Nelson. In 1710 he married Margaret Read, a daughter of Elizabeth Martiau (Nicholas Martiau's daughter) and her husband, George Reade, and he lived in the large brick home in Yorktown that is the subject of this tale. Scotch Tom had a son named Thomas Nelson, who returned to Yorktown after having studied law in England. By the time of the Siege of Yorktown in 1781, this younger Thomas had become a bit frail and elderly. His home was a large brick one in Yorktown, nice enough to have been commandeered by General Lord Cornwallis as his first headquarters. Interestingly, Secretary Nelson stayed in his home, despite its having been overtaken by the British. Eventually, on October 10th, his nephew, Governor Nelson, asked General George Washington for a ceasefire in order to escort Secretary Nelson from his house across the battlefield to the relative safety of the Americans and French allies' encampments. General Washington succeeded in obtaining British consent to a brief ceasefire, so that Secretary Nelson was able to safely depart his home. As for the home itself, it was said that “the walls and roof are pierced in innumerable places, and at one corner a large piece of the wall is torn away. Fifteen years after the war the mansion still stood unrepaired, ‘pierced in every direction with cannon-shot and bombshells.’” Secretary Nelson's house was gone by 1881. Its former location can be seen on the map of Yorktown in the centerfold spread of this issue.

Source: Johnston, Henry P. *The Yorktown Campaign and The Surrender of Cornwallis 1781*. New York: Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square (1881) at 139 n1.



THE STORY OF GENERAL/GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON'S PATRIOTISM AT YORKTOWN

As soon as General Lord Cornwallis was forced by bombardments to abandon Secretary Nelson's home as British headquarters, he established new British headquarters in the home of General/Governor Nelson's home.

Governor General Thomas Nelson was the second son of "President" William Nelson, one of Scotch

Tom's sons. William was a very prominent businessman and politician serving on the Governor's Council as an advisor to the Governor, a judge, and a General Assemblyman. When he became the President of the Governor's Council, he earned the title "President" William Nelson. His eldest son was Governor General Thomas Nelson, Jr., who was the Governor of Virginia following Thomas Jefferson, and was a Founding Father of America as a member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. During the Revolutionary War, Governor Nelson became a Brigadier General in command of the Virginia militia. He was a wealthy man by the time of the Revolutionary War, and by the time of the 1781 Siege of Yorktown, all of these accolades were old news.

As two new batteries opened, General Marquis de Lafayette, who was the general officer of the day, invited Governor Nelson to be present at the opening of the fire from the guns of the Second Artillery. This invitation was considered a compliment, but it was also very practical, because Governor General Nelson was a local who was expected to have accurate knowledge of the best military opportunities that might be achieved on that day in his home town.

Historian Blake tells us:

"To what particular spot," [Lafayette] asked Nelson, "would your Excellency direct that we should point the cannon?"

"There," replied Nelson, "to that house. It is mine, and, now that the Secretary's is nearly knocked to pieces, is the best one in the town. There you will be almost certain to find Lord Cornwallis and the British headquarters. Fire upon it, my dear marquis, and never spare a particle of my property so long as it affords a comfort or a shelter to the enemies of my country." He went on to reassure the troops, "Don't spare the house,



my friends, because it is mine; the English know that as well as you do, and accordingly have taken up their quarters in it. They shall not escape, however, under my protection; so fire at it directly, and let us see if you can hit it."

Two pieces were then pointed at the dwelling.

The very first shot went through it, and killed two of a large company of officers who were indulging in the pleasures of the table. Suffice it to say, that it was not a great while before the hostile tenants were dislodged from their hiding-place, by the means of the patriotism of Nelson.

According to historian Johnston:

Nelson's patriotism was conspicuous all through this campaign. How earnestly and actively he was engaged in urging the public officers throughout the State to forward everything they could collect in the shape of provisions for the allied army appears from his letters published in 1874 by the Virginia Historical Society.

Although serving but a brief term, he proved himself a "War Governor," ... but he failed in the midst of private claims brought against him ... to receive the same hearty and grateful appreciation upon his retirement.

Governor Nelson had reportedly spent much of his fortune donating funding for the War, and was consequently unable to afford even to repair the damage done—at his self-sacrificing instigation, mind you—to his own home during the Siege. Governor Nelson is to be admired for his courage and commitment to the cause of independence shown by his encouraging the troops to bombard his own for the greater good of the cause, with Lord Cornwallis inside, rather than looking firsts after his own personal interests. Afterwards, despite his best efforts, he was unable to restore his fortune and return to his previous financial wealth. He died, destitute, in 1789 at age 50.

Sources: Custis. *Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington* at 336. Johnston, Henry P. *The Yorktown Campaign and The Surrender of Cornwallis 1781*. New York: Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square (1881) at 139-140. *Anecdotes of the American Revolution*, compiled by Alexander V. Blake. New York: Alexander V. Blake (1845) at 209.

GEORGE WASHINGTON ENSURED THAT THE HONORABLE MEN-AT-ARMS PROTOCOL WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWED

By Janice Murphy Lorenz

Although General George Washington imposed harsh surrender terms on the British in retaliation for an earlier insult to the Americans at Charleston, once the Yorktown surrender process was officially completed by the capitulation ceremony, it was General George Washington who set the tone to ensure that the Americans along with their French Allies would treat the British with the utmost respect and courtesy in comportment with the practice of military etiquette called the “honorable men-at-arms” tradition. Observance of this “honorable men-at-arms” tradition served to emphasize that the war was between professional armies, not between persons or groups involved in a personal feud. The consequent smoothing of the way for orderly and cordial negotiations of the many loose ends needing to be wrapped up between America and France with the British at the end of the war.

Accordingly, a few days after the surrender, General George Washington and his French counterpart, the Comte de Rochambeau, offered a grand post-surrender banquet to which they invited all of their high-ranking British prisoners, except for Colonel Banastre Tarleton, to dine. General Lord Cornwallis, in another technical breach of etiquette (in addition to his failing to appear at the capitulation ceremony), declined to attend, possibly still ill, and sent his second-in-command, General Charles O’Hara, instead. Several such dinners were to follow. British Col. Tarleton was not invited to those hosted by France because they considered him to be cruel and dishonorable in battle. General Lord Cornwallis did attend at least one of these post-surrender dinners. At one, perhaps Cornwallis completely redeemed any esteem he may have lost at Yorktown when he proposed a toast to General Washington, saying:

“When the illustrious part that your Excellency has borne in this long and arduous contest becomes matter of history, fame will gather your brightest laurels rather from the banks of the Delaware than from those of the Chesapeake.”

This was a nod to the fact that Washington’s crossing of the Delaware River at Trenton was considered around the world to have been an extraordinary military triumph.

Sources: Atkinson, Rick. *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777* (2019); the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association; Hughes, Rupert. *George Washington The Savior of the States 1777-1781*. William Morrow & Company: New York (1930).

THE WORLD’S REACTION TO THE VICTORY AT YORKTOWN

The surrender of the British at Yorktown was considered a “glorious event” by George Washington and by his Continental Army, who gathered the next day for a worship service of thanks. George Washington encouraged all troops not on duty to “universally attend, with that seriousness of deportment and gratitude of heart, which the recognition of such reiterated and astonishing interpositions of Providence demands of us.”

The surrender of Yorktown produced, as may well be supposed, the greatest excitement throughout the continent. It was justly considered as decisive of the issue of the struggle. The successive steps in the transaction, beginning with the first movement of the combined armies from the vicinity of New York, and extending to the complete investment of the British camp at Yorktown, were taken with such rapidity, the combinations were so skillfully arranged, the result so speedily secured, that the imaginations of men were dazzled, and the hearts of the friends of the American cause were filled with rapturous admiration and gratitude.

Dr. Franklin thus wrote to Washington from Paris, on receiving the intelligence: ‘All the world agree, that no expedition was ever better planned or better executed. It has made a great addition to the military reputation you had already acquired, and heightens the glory that surrounds your name, and that must accompany it to our latest posterity.’

Baker, William S. *Itinerary of General Washington From June 15, 1775 to December 23, 1783*. J. B. Lippincott Company: Philadelphia (1892), at 246.



LIFE ON PO-BIDDY ROAD - JOHN TRUSSELL, HUGUENOT SOCIETY OF GEORGIA

Life on Po-Biddy Road in Talbot County, Georgia was never easy. But the country folks that lived there had carved a living from the soil since pioneer times and always kept a sense of humor about their station in life. They also had a firm belief that God was looking out for them and blessed them every day, regardless of their hardships. In reality, most were dirt poor farmers, and all their work and money was poured into the next crop, and they prayed for rain to make the corn grow, and it did rain, eventually. The lord would provide!

Fortunately, they didn't consider themselves poor because they really had a roof over their heads, clothes on their back and food on the table. For recreation, they played games and went fishing and hunting, and the fish and game ended up on the dinner table. Rabbit and dumplings- hum! Their social life was going to church and a Sunday afternoon covered dish lunch spread under the big oaks next to the church and sharing stories and gossip.

Romance often just involved a young man "making eyes" at a neighbor's daughter. If she returned his attention, often it wasn't long before the church bell was ringing and the couple 'would go to housekeeping'. After some years, every family in the area was related, somehow, to every other family. Vacations often involved spending the night with an aunt in the next county and having a swim in the Flint River that would double as fun and a bath. Life was pretty good for 1855.

In lean times, and there were many poor crops over the years, the yard chickens were the last line of defense against starvation when the wild game was hunted out of the surrounding woodlands. Rebecca Kendrick Trussell would chase down one of the few remaining yard chickens and fry it up in hog lard.

Later at the dinner table, Rebecca and her husband Daniel (my grandparents a few generations back) would sit down to a plate of fried chicken, turnip greens, fried okra and potatoes and cornbread with their 8 children. Rebecca made sure the kids got



John Trussell, R, with Brandon Trussell and Jack Trussell, recently honored their ancestor, Dickerson Lumpkin, with a SAR Grave-Marking Ceremony. Many Revolutionary War soldiers had Huguenot ancestor roots. Photo courtesy John Trussell.

most of the groceries and often she would only eat one small piece of chicken to make sure the kids got enough to eat. To say she "cleaned her plate" would be an understatement because nothing digestible was left and there would only be a small pile of cracked chicken bones remaining on the plate. Rebecca had not only eaten her piece of chicken, but then she cracked open the bones to suck the bone marrow out of them. On one such occasion, Daniel looked over to her pile of bones and said, "My goodness, Rebecca, that's a poor biddy!" and they all laughed!

This little tale would sometimes be discussed at the country store where all the men often gathered to trade stories and solve all the world's problems. When it came time to officially name the dirt road on a county map, some local residents suggested "Po Biddy Road" and it has remained so to this day!

The Po-Biddy store was only about one mile from the log cabin where Daniel and Rebecca Trussell lived. Nothing remains of the log cabin that disappeared many years ago, but their tough spirit was passed down to their children and subsequent generations. Their children would become the main settlers of Centerville, Georgia, in Talbot County, that boasted a general store and Post Office, church, local school academy and cotton gin.

Henry Trussell ran the store and Post office, while Robert, Chris and Oliver Trussell, my grandfather, ran the cotton gin and farmed. Everything was humming along fine until the Civil War broke out and they were forced to answer the call to duty. They were reluctant warriors, wishing to fight no one, but they served with honor, only to return to overgrown farm fields and a devastated economy at home. They lived life the best they could, but comforts were few. They eventually joined their ancestors in Heaven, and they all rest peacefully in the Centerville cemetery, and nothing remains of the old community.

Many years into the future and not far away in Wilcox County, in the early 1960's, lived Eddie Tennessee Smith and Leila McDuffie Smith (my grandparents) and their children. Eddie was a part time police officer, sharecropper and sometimes gambler that played cards late into the night, so often he was missing around the house. Never once did I hear grandma complain about her station in life and she loved her family dearly.

Once, early in her marriage, after an argument, she tried to return to her childhood home, but her father said, "Leila, you are married now and you gotta work it out". So, she returned to her husband and, 11 children later, her fate was long-ago sealed to be a hard-working mother who gave everything she had to her children. There was not a time in her young life that she was not pregnant or nursing a baby and baby formula was not to be found in the house.

They lived in a large two-story wood frame home that was sturdy but lacked modern comforts. They "barely" had electricity, meaning lighting was a single light bulb, dangling from the ceiling and a small refrigerator. The heat was a fireplace, and a gas heater was reserved for very cold nights. Summer cooling was a fan placed in the window. They had a water well and pump but no inside restroom. For this young boy who was solidly middleclass, going to visit my mother's family was only about 60 miles in distance, but it

sometimes seemed like I was going back 100 years in time.

Putting food on the table was always a challenge for grandma and she would be sure to pass the plate around to make sure the family and all the grandkids had plenty to eat. She would go to the small town of Pineview and meet the seafood truck from the coast when it arrived with a fresh shipment of mullet that sold for the bargain price of 19 cents per pound. Fried mullet still has a special place in my heart!

But chicken, which eventually ended up on the plate more frequently than mullet, would come straight from the front yard to the frying pan. Grandma would walk out in the yard and toss out a few kernels of corn and the chickens would quickly rush up to grab a few. But grandma would reach down and grab a chicken by the legs while it was distracted, and its fate was sealed! But once the chicken was caught, it was a tough job to dispatch it, pluck all the feathers and clean it. Grandma was tough and she did what was required to put food on the table for her children. Today's shopper that goes to the grocery store and picks up a nice, prepared pack of fresh chicken has no idea the amount of work that our ancestors had to do to put food on the table.

Once the chicken was fried up and on the dinner plate, grandma would make sure all the kids had plenty to eat. As usual, she would take only one piece and there would be nothing left but a small pile of cracked chicken bones. She not only ate everything, but she had also sucked the bone marrow out of the bones. Once, Mozell Smith, her daughter and later my mother, would say,



The Po-Biddy is proudly displayed over the entrance to the Po-Biddy Store in Talbot county, on Po-Biddy Road. Photo courtesy John Trussell.]

“mother, there isn’t nothing left of that piece of chicken but a few cracked bones, so that’s a real Po- Biddy”, after which everyone would chuckle!

Later in life, we often took Grandma Smith on vacation with us to Fernandina Beach, Florida, where she would stand in the surf for many hours with a fishing pole in her hand. She even caught a few fish, but mostly I think she was fishing without bait, as it really wasn’t the fish she was after. After a lifetime of hard work and sacrifice, wondering where the food for the table and money for bills was coming from, was behind her now. Finally, now in the last years of her life, looking out into the surf and blue skies was therapeutic and brought her peace and tranquility. We tried not to bother Grandma when she was “Fishing”.

Looking a little further back in time, there is another relative that was clearly in an economically challenged status, but he had quickly worked himself up the ladder of success. Dickerson Lumpkin, Sr, had a rough start in the USA because he came into the country as an indentured servant, bound to a cabinet-maker for 7 years to pay for his ship passage in the mid 1700’s. He came into this country with only the shirt on his back, pants and a pocket knife, according to ships records. Dickerson Lumpkin Sr. worked hard and soon he was donating beef to the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and his son, Dickerson Lumpkin Jr, joined the local army militia, and both are recognized as SAR/ DAR Patriots. Dickerson Lumpkin Jr., was awarded a land grant in Jones County for his war service, but he soon sold that land and moved to Talbot County when it opened up to settlement.

Dickerson had been working in the fields, plowing behind a mule all day when he finally quit at sundown and came to the log cabin to eat whatever his wife Charlotte (my gg grandparents) could put together for the family. As they sat down to a meal of fried chicken, black eyed peas and cornbread, Dickerson gave a prayer to the Lord for their good fortune to have food on the table.

Betsy was afraid the children wouldn’t have enough to eat, so she only took a small piece of chicken and soon reduced it to a pile of small bones. Dickerson was amused that his darling wife could make a piece of chicken almost entirely disappear off the plate and said out loud, “now Charlotte, that’s a Po-Biddy, there isn’t nothing left of it” and the whole family started laughing. Dickerson was concerned that Charlotte wasn’t getting enough to eat and encouraged her to eat the last piece of chicken, but she fibbed and said she was full and split the last piece between the kids. Always sacrificing and always giving to her family was just her way of showing love.

Dickerson could only make an x for his name and Betsy could barely read and write herself, but knew some verses from the Bible, and the family would gather around the fireplace at night before bedtime, under candlelight, to read and share family and bible stories. A strong family and belief in Jesus gave the kids hope ,and hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things!

Dickerson and his wife would eventually pass away, which is the fate we all share, but they were faithful and knew they were heaven-bound. They were laid to rest in the family plot in Talbot County. Today most of the graves are unmarked piles of rocks. I was able to determine Dickerson Lumpkins’ exact grave because his will in the courthouse stated that he had a wooden shelter built over his grave with abundant nails that eventually fell onto the ground when the wood rotted away. Using a metal detector, I was able to determine his grave site.

Recently the SAR and DAR sponsored a Grave-Marking Ceremony that was attended by many relatives and guests. I rejoiced in knowing that Dickerson and Betsy were now documented, recognized and appreciated frothier service and sacrifices.

In this story, I’m reflecting on all the relatives in my past that sacrificed and made it possible for me to be here today as I’m truly standing on their shoulders. Like others, I also had some notable family members in the past, but this story isn’t about them.

This is about the men behind the mule plows and the mothers who gave everything they had for the welfare of the children to give them a better future. Like the song by Randy Travis, “Three wooden Crosses’ when he sings, “Guess it’s not what you take when you leave this world behind you, but what you leave behind you when you go”. Check out the video on YouTube.

This story is dedicated to my dear wife Billie, who didn’t need to crack chicken bones due to the hard work of her parents and grandparents to provide a good living for her, but worked just as hard to work and sacrifice for her family and children. My grandmother Leila Smith knew very little about her family history in the distant past, but she was the “Rock” that her family depended upon. Her family line provided the connections to Huguenot Nicholas Lanier, which will enrich the lives of her descendants for future generations.



PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD



Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

***Put on the full armor of God,
that you may be able to stand
against the wiles of the Devil.***

Ephesians 6: 10-11



THE CROSS OF LANGUEDOC

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