

## THE HUGUENOT HERALD

Volume 30 | Report to the Membership

# MINUTES OF THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

## OCTOBER 16, 2020

The 135th Annual Meeting of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina was virtually called to order by President John E. Huguley, Jr., at 5:30 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2020. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Society postponed the traditional spring Annual Meeting. When conditions in the fall still did not allow for in-person gatherings, the decision was made to hold a virtual Annual Meeting. Mr. Huguley reported 150 members registered for the broadcast.

The Reverend Philip Bryant, Pastor of the French Protestant (Huguenot) Church of Charleston, offered the Invocation, as well as prayers for the members who had died since the 2019 meeting. A motion to approve the Minutes of last year's meeting was seconded and passed unanimously.

Vice President Russell Guerard, Chair of the Membership Committee, presented the names of sixty-eight new members.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer and First Vice President Hagood Morrison assured the membership that the Society's finances were in very sound condition at the end of the year. Having basically no liabilities, our total assets were a little over \$3,000,000. Within that figure is about \$2,400,000 in liquid, restricted and unrestricted funds. The 2019 Income Statement reflected almost exactly what we had budgeted. A statement of Revenue & Expenses is published here in. Next year we are budgeting for increased income and expenses due to stepping up our activities but are still planning on having another sound year.

Constitutional Revisions - Vice President Jack Williams pointed out previously published planned revisions to the Constitution. He noted that the duties of the Treasurer were revised in that any unbudgeted expenditure in excess of \$2,000 will require the authorization of only one member of the Executive Committee. Formerly, in Section 5, Article III, we posted the names of new members in *Transactions*. That will no longer be done if these revisions are approved. Section 7, Article VI allowed some question as to who succeeded the President. It was changed to clarify that the First Vice President would succeed the President. Article V authorizes an additional General Membership meeting (formerly 2 per year), if the Board so desires. Section 2 of the previous By-Laws lacked specificity for voting at Annual Meetings. That was changed, now requiring fifteen members. Following one question from the membership: "Why are we no longer publishing the names of new members in *Transactions*?", Mr. Huguley answered that *Transactions* usually runs two years behind in terms of reporting Society business and that we felt the timing was inconsistent with the intent to honor our members. They will be published in the multi-yearly editions of our newsletter. A motion to approve the revisions to the Constitution was passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee Report - Past President Charlton deSaussure, Jr. stated he was pleased to present for ratification by the membership the following Officers, Vice Presidents, and Chaplain. They were appointed to their respective positions by the Board of Directors on May 14, 2020 as permitted by the Constitution under the extraordinary circumstances occasioned by the pandemic. For Officers: John E. Huguley, Jr., President; James Hagood Sams Morrison, First Vice President; Helga Wrenn Billings, Secretary; Charles Bell Upshaw III, Treasurer; and The Reverend David Woody, Chaplain. Vice Presidents: Russell B. Guerard, Charleston; Jacob S. Barker, Goose Creek; Randell C. Stoney, Jr., Orange Quarter; Margaret Wilcox Garrett, French Santee; John B. Williams, St. John's, Berkeley; Daniel Ravenel, Purrysburg; and John T. Hilton, New Bordeaux. Past President deSaussure moved that the slate of nominees be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report - Mr. Huguley stated that the Society had a very active period since the last Annual Meeting. Fundraising was steady and productive with ever more members working with us to direct their philanthropy toward specific projects with transformational impact for us. If you are interested in targeted philanthropy, please let us know so that we can have a no-obligation discussion with you about this opportunity. An exciting program currently underway is our Internship Program funded by the Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust and developed collaboratively with the College of Charleston School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs. The exceptional level of talent we employ through this program continues to make these part-time, paid internships productive for both us and the undergraduate. Currently, our newly graduated intern, Melissa McLaughlin has agreed to continue working with us a little longer before she embarks on a gap year in France. She has been reaching out to current and former members to update their contact information thereby renewing the interest of many of our members with whom she has spoken, in some cases triggering renewed commitments from them. Our thanks to Melissa for her efforts on our behalf.

Branding and Communications Committee - Formed in Spring 2019 to develop a new and comprehensive strategic message framework, the Committee is chaired by Past President Ford Menefee. Working through hurricane and pandemic, the Committee delivered a final resolution, adopted by the Board on June 15, 2020. Its framework provides deeper meaning and broader scope for increasing the relevance and impact of the Huguenot story, including a refreshed statement of who we are and what we hope to achieve by sharing the Huguenot experience of faith, courage, achievement, and resilience. All strategic and organizational plans, both current and future, will be measured within this framework for applicability and for effectiveness. Hurricane Dorian - In September 2019, Hurricane Dorian

resulting in significant damage to our offices at 138 Logan Street. Board member and Vice President John Hilton stepped up to Chair the House Committee and represented our interests in the renovation and insurance claim process. The effort was not without trials including the displacement of the entire staff and a slowdown during the pandemic. Consequently, the work took twelve full months to complete. However, we now have a new roof plus improvements in access and flex floor space on our third floor for office and archival storage. Our insurance covered the hurricane damage, although we had to pay a \$40,000 deductible. Executive Director Search - In February we formed and I chaired a national search committee to identify a new Executive Director for the Society. Former Executive Director Renée Marshall worked with us to insure a seamless transition. For some time now, Renee has been wanting to move over to the position of Senior Researcher. Cheves Leland, who has held the Senior Research position for many years, had also expressed the desire to begin to reduce her hours, preceding her full retirement at some future time. This collaboration paved the way for us to begin our search. Resolution - With Renée's move from Executive Director to Senior Researcher, I would like to offer this Resolution in gratitude for her long and faithful work with the Society to this point. The Resolution codifies how warmly we feel about Renée and how much we appreciate her contributions. Written and approved by the Board on August 27, 2020, the Resolution reads as follows: "Whereas the Board of Directors of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina, in accordance with the By-Laws of the Society and by unanimous consent, wishing to recognize Society member and Executive Director Renée LaHue Marshall, and whereas Renée has earned merit through exceptional service, including serving as Executive Director from 2000 to 2002, as a volunteer member of this Board from 2002 to 2010, then again as Executive Director from 2011 to 2020, and now going forward as Senior Researcher; and whereas Renee has been instrumental in overseeing two lengthy periods of building renovations at the Society's headquarters at 138 Logan Street, one of which included recovery from extensive hurricane damage; and whereas Renée has skillfully and graciously served multiple iterations of this Board of Directors, overseeing the development and dispatch of websites, newsletters, the journal *Transactions* and multiple other methods of member communications; and whereas Renée has produced and coordinated many Annual Meetings of the Society, consistently cultivated financial support through grant writing, annual appeals, and the estate gifts to the Society; and whereas, Renée has overseen application and admission of thousands of Society members, recruited technical and volunteer expertise, including, among others, her husband, member Bill Marshall, who advised pro bono during both periods of renovations to 138 Logan Street and who designed critical alterations to the stairway, which finally has made the third floor functional as office and archival space; and whereas, Renée implemented a robust, ongoing internship program in collaboration with the Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust and the College of Charleston School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs and oversaw the restructuring of the Society's financial documents, including proper representation of all Endowment accounts and the Society's Balance Sheet; now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina gratefully acknowledges the many contributions made by Renée LaHue Marshall, through her example of volunteerism and leadership.

New Executive Director - On July 6th, our new Executive Director Chris Barrett reported to work. He and his wife, Molly, have relocated from Knoxville to join us. I look forward to you getting to know Chris. He will be implementing a new emphasis on electronic communications and data management as a way to maximize outreach and increase the efficient flow of Society business information to our members and will foster connectivity with other Huguenot organizations around the world. Updates to our website are already underway, funded by a restricted gift from a member. Digitizing Archival Records - We will begin this work in 2021, funded by a grant for which we have applied. As increasing numbers of people embrace our common Huguenot history, the Society's ability to share resources, expertise, and the stories of our ancestors, will have increased value and demand. Our sustainability, relevance, and impact in South Carolina and beyond will grow accordingly. 2021 Annual Meeting Dates - Assuming we can safely meet in person again, our target dates are April 22, and 23. *[Please note that due to the ongoing pandemic, the meeting has been postponed to November 1.]* We have reserved two days because we are planning something a little larger than customary. It will be held jointly with the Department of History at the College of Charleston and we will meet on their campus. Not only are we bringing Dr. Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, author of the book, *From New Babylon to Eden: The Huguenots and Their Migration to Colonial South Carolina*, all the way from France, but our speaker at this meeting, Dr. Owen Stanwood, will again join us again. Dr. Stanwood will moderate a discussion with Dr. Ruymbeke. I believe that hosting these two imminent Huguenot academics on the same stage will be a real coup for the Society, generating a lot of interest. Final Remarks - I want to thank the staff of the Huguenot Society, Renée Marshall, Cheves Leland and Katie Hyman for their unfailing good humor, perseverance through flood, hurricane, pandemic, reconstruction, and remote technology challenges, while delivering our Society's resources and services seemingly without pause or loss of quality of service, always exceeding our expectations. Please join me in thanking them whenever you have the opportunity.

Speaker, Dr. Owen Stanwood - As announced and posted, Dr. Stanwood's lecture was pre-recorded in Boston and was available to be watched prior to this meeting on our website where it will remain available to view and review for years to come. However, to supplement the pre-recorded lecture, we are pleased to bring you Dr. Stanwood to answer some questions that have been submitted by you in advance and, if we have time, some questions from you today, via the question and answer function. I will be your moderator. As a brief introduction, Dr. Stanwood is an Associate Professor of History at Boston College. He specializes in Colonial North America and the Atlantic World, and he is the author of two books, *The Empire Reformed: English America in the Age of Glorious Revolution* and of special interest to this body, *The Global Refuge: Huguenots in an Age of Empire*. He holds fellowships in several libraries and research centers including the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Study, the John Carter Brown Library, the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, and the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library. His topic today, the global refuge, how the Huguenots (almost) conquered the world. There followed a lively question and answer period that went far to further enlighten us on the global impact of the Huguenot diaspora. Thanking Dr. Stanwood for filming his lecture and his fulsome answers to our questions, Mr. Huguley assured him we all are hoping to meeting him in person soon.

Adjournment - The Reverend Philip Bryant closed the meeting with prayer at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helga Wrenn Billings, Secretary

---

# IN MEMORIAM 2019

---

JEFFERSON BLAKELY BATES II

JEFFERSON BRODY BATES

LILLIE LOUISE LASSITER BROWN

MARY FRANCES HERIOT COKER

JANE HONOUR MCDONALD CRAVER

EARL FAIN IV

VERDIER PINCKNEY FRITZ

WENDELL THOMAS GUERRY

FRANCIS STUART HANCKEL, JR.

MARY ELIZABETH KING HATCHER

HENRY BENJAMIN HOGG III

DAVID FULMER HOTTENSTEIN II

DOROTHY MERCER HUFF

MARY FRANCES CANNON HUMPHREYS

LENORA SPELL KESSLER

RICHARDS CHESTERFIELD LEWIS, JR.

ANN CALLENDER DAVIDSON MARION

MARGARET JEANENE MAYSON

IDA JO GRIGG MCKENNEY

MABEL BROGDON PACE

LELAND MADISON PARK

CHARLES NELSON PLOWDEN, JR.

MORRELLE MILLER ROUSE

JAMES JEREMIAH SLADE

ANNE ROOF SWANSON

ELIZABETH FOSTER TAMMENGA

BACOT ALLSTON WAYNE, JR.

RALPH ELLIOTT WRENN

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES 2019

### INCOME

Contributions	\$109,983
Membership Dues	\$52,115
Fees	\$9,263
Investment Income	\$93,800
Gain/Loss from sale of securities	(-\$50,256)
Net Rental Activity	\$18,285
Net Merchandise Activity	\$2,714
TOTAL	\$235,904

### EXPENSES

Annual Meeting	\$16,877
Investment Advisor Fees	\$12,086
Computer	\$2,131
Advertising & Promotion	\$3,500
Depreciation (non-cash)	\$17,575
Insurance	\$19,918
Library	\$576
Misc.	\$3,280
Payroll	\$93,125
Printing & Reproduction	\$6,387
Office Supplies	\$3,992
Postage	\$3,815
Professional Fees	\$3,503
Repairs & Maintenance	\$7,625
Scholarship	\$1,000
Transactions	\$170
Utilities	\$7,155
Website	\$1,359
TOTAL	\$204,074
NET	\$31,830

## BALANCE SHEET 12/31/2019

### ASSETS

Cash	\$65,517
Investments	\$2,567,127
Fixed Assets (after depreciation)	\$348,312
Other (inventory)	\$23,410
Total Assets	\$3,004,366

### LIABILITIES

Total Liabilities	\$1,600
Equity	\$3,002,766
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$3,004,366

## INVESTMENT RESULTS AS OF 12/31/2019

	Beginning Value 12/31/2018	Ending Value 12/31/2019
General Endowment	\$534,785	\$596,283
Upshaw Fund	\$1,585,968	\$1,760,831
Darby Fund	\$55,994	\$62,755
Gifts & Receipts	\$0	\$0
Watts Library Fund	\$4,438	\$5,065
Strang Lecture Fund	\$127,077	\$142,193
Total Value	\$2,308,262	\$2,567,127