

THE HUGUENOT HERALD

OCTOBER, 1995

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The constitution of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina requires the Society to meet on two occasions every year to commemorate important dates in Huguenot history.

We meet in April to recall the promulgation of the Edict of Nantes, an act which inaugurates the golden age of Huguenot history, bringing prosperity to multitudes of people who had never enjoyed such a privilege.

We meet in October, however, to remember the Revocation of that edict in October, 1685, which destroyed the religious, political and economic liberties upon which that prosperity was founded, and precipitated the flights from France which helped so much to make attractive the new world in which we, the Huguenot descendants, now live.

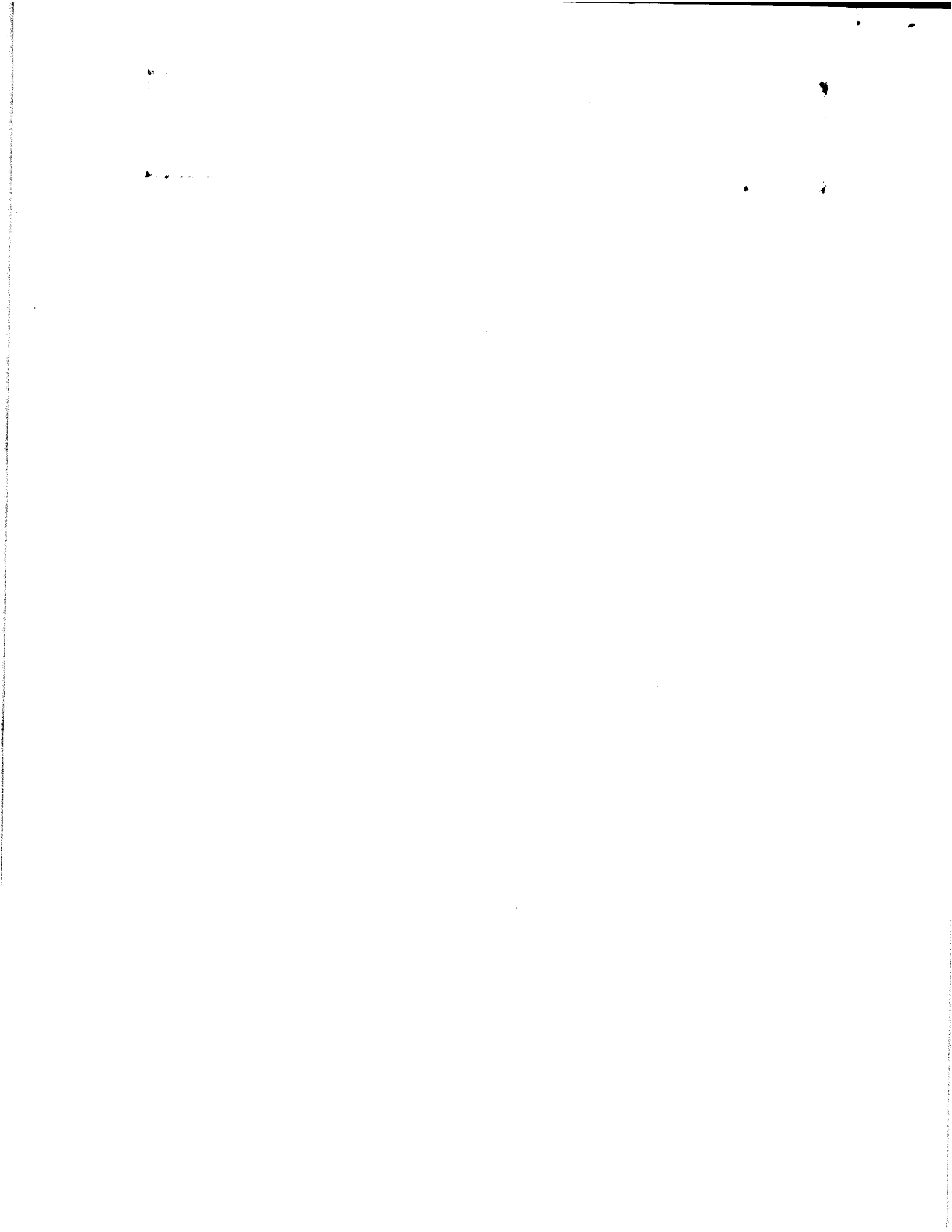
The April meeting is traditionally the more significant social occasion because it is also our annual meeting. The gathering in October is historically more significant. If there had been no Revocation, many of us would be living in France. If there had been no Revocation, France might have been a very different place than it is today, so that we might have been happy there. However, here we are, and we need to recall the happenings and events that brought us to this point. I hope to see a great many of you in the French church in Charleston on October 15th.

While on the subject of meetings, we are planning significant changes in the program of our annual spring meeting in April, 1996. We are trying to make it more attractive and interesting, especially to those who travel a long distance. Barbara Claypoole, Executive Director, will explain all of the changes to you in her report. Also, we will be electing a new president to the Board as I will be stepping down from that position. We would value your input and any suggestions.

Arthur M. Wilcox

OFFICE NEWS OFFICE NEWS OFFICE NEWS

Bonjour, mes amis! I hope everyone had a great summer. I had an interesting one. I woke up every morning wondering what named hurricane I would hear about that day. When several began to get too close for comfort, I would come to the office and run through the library like a wild woman playing "what if" scenerios through my brain and start praying. Ah! Mon Dieu! The power of prayer! I had this routine down pat by August when Marilyn was churning across the Atlantic, but it did make me realize that the Society needed to create a solid (and more professional!) plan of attack just in case prayer didn't come through. So, hopefully, by the time



hurricane season rolls around again next June, I will not only be able to pray in French but we will have a newly created disaster preparedness plan. Bon!

Our April meeting has already been decided. It will be held Saturday, April 27, 1996, at the Charleston Museum on Meeting Street. Our speaker will be Dr. Jacques P. Bossiere, from Southbury, Connecticut. He is the former minister of the Huguenot church of Saint Esprit in New York City. A collation will be held in the courtyard of the museum and it will be catered by Mr. Walter Prause. Dr. Bossiere will also be the guest minister at the annual French service held on Sunday, April 28, 1996 at the French Huguenot Church. This service begins at 10:30 a.m. and there will be a collation afterwards at 44 Queen Street. We hope many members and their guests will attend. We will be having a memorial service for the Huguenots who settled in the colony of St. Augustine in Florida. We are also trying to arrange a walking tour for Saturday morning. As of right now, we are thinking along the lines of different Huguenot houses with a brief history given of each owner. Hopefully, we could end up at the Huguenot Church with a special guided tour. I will let you know details soon, but I would appreciate any input you may have and opinions on what you would like. I also believe First Families of South Carolina will be having their luncheon and annual meeting that day, so we will just eat and party all weekend!! Please try and come.

Our annual Huguenot trip is tentatively set for August 1996, and we are going to Nova Scotia!!! We are hoping to have a professor along who will educate us on Arcadian, Cajun and Huguenot history. We are planning a trip of seven to ten days and Prince Edward Island will also be included.

The recipients of the James and Charlotte Gignilliat Scholarship from the S.C. Historical Society are as follows: Mr. George Wright Meyer, III, of Chapel Hill, N.C., will be attending UNC at Chapel Hill; Miss Amaranthia Lowndes Elliott of Winston-Salem, N.C., college unknown; Mr. Jesse Stanley Claypoole, IV, of Charleston, S.C., will be attending Duke, School of Engineering; Miss Mary Tarbell Brandenburg, of Charleston, S.C., will be attending Guilford College. Mr. Claypoole and Miss Brandenburg were awarded scholarships the previous term. Congratulations to all!

Scott McClain and his wife, Lisa, had a little Huguenot daughter, Skylar Adeline, on July 24, 1995!

In case you are wondering where your 1995 *Transactions* is, well... We haven't seemed to be able to birth it yet! We are still trying to get members' names correct, ancestor names spelled as accurately as possible, etc, for the ten year membership list. Everytime we make a major alteration, we have to research it so if questioned, we will be able to cite data for the changes. Consequently, Melissa has done a bang-up job. I tip my hat to her not only for her professionalism, but also her patience. The *Transactions* should be coming out around November.

Finally, and I always hate to end on a down beat, but I must tell everyone that Susan Godfrey Klavohn has resigned effective September 1, 1995. Mon Dieu! I am going to miss her. She and I started this job when we didn't even know what the job was! It was



1990 and there was nothing but chaos here. We didn't even have offices! Then Susan came into my life and with all the discord and disharmony around, her quiet demeanor and professional manner had a calming influence on me. Her sense of humor never failed to make me laugh - like the time we found out that we were breaking every postal rule known to man. I ranted and raved for what seemed like hours saying I had inherited this job and nobody told me the rules, etc. She shrugged her shoulders, smiled sweetly, and said, "Hey, what are they going to do? Throw two old Huguenots like us in jail?!" I took one long look at her and both of us burst out laughing. We cried through her divorce, and she held my hand and comforted me when I wanted to kill my teenage son. She was a good friend, and I will miss her terribly.

On a positive note, we have two new registrars, Emily Gadsden and Dot Huff. They will work one day each week and split the third day. We are still working out details. Susan tried to show them everything before she left, and they love to research! We are so fortunate to have them, and I hope you come to visit and meet them!

DON'T FORGET!!! We will be closed December 16-January

2. If anyone needs Christmas presents please let me know before I leave on the 16th. I will be checking the office periodically, but this year part of my Christmas present is a trip to New York City with my children for three days the week before Christmas, so I won't be able to send those last minute gifts like I have in the past! I have spoiled ya'll!

THANK YOU for sending your dues in promptly this year. I think we will finish the year again with a surplus. Your generosity has also allowed us to reduce our mortgage down to \$14,500!! If anyone would love to help us start the New Year with no mortgage, PLEASE step forward. When the mortgage is paid off, we are going to put a designated amount in an account to help with upkeep and repairs of the building. Then we are going to start phase two of our physical plant - whatever that is. The Board has much to consider in the year 1996! Our bounty is limitless and we have much to be thankful for. Au revoir mes amis. Jusqu'a- lors..

Barbara

