

The Huguenot Herald

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Special 1999

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Daniel Ravenel

A Tribute to Barbara Claypoole

On December 17, 1999, an era in the history of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina will come to an end. During the past ten years, I have seen the Society undergo the greatest changes in its illustrious history. When Barbara P. Claypoole accepted employment as a typist only six weeks before Hurricane Hugo in 1989, it was divine intervention in its purist form. After years of devotion, Martha Burns, a wonderful lady, had died, and long-time Genealogist Alice Gaillard Burkette was alone. We were soon to have a catastrophe of unimaginable force at our door. In Barbara Claypoole, the Society found a caring, competent, and energetic worker. The storm hit, and sadly Mrs. Burkett's health failed, but Barbara saved the Society and its records and became Executive Director.

Without much time to gather information, but with the hard work and help of then President Tom Lawton, Barbara began the recovery. A temporary home on Queen Street was found to replace the devastated Chalmers Street office. Files were salvaged, members were contacted, and a rebirth began from the sheer strength of this lady's will. It is safe to say that as a leader she was sorely tested. But then we knew she would make it. She's a Pringle!

A few years later, Arthur Wilcox, as President, brought about the realization of the dream of a permanent library and office at 138 Logan Street. New emphasis was placed on updating the records and ensuring accuracy. All this change for a "genealogical society" was no easy thing to manage. Mrs. Claypoole was referee, coach, and team player all rolled into one, and as with everything, her heart was in it. With Henry Laffitte as President in 1996, the Society and the College of Charleston jointly held a three-day conference with scholars from all over the world focusing on the Huguenot diaspora. Barbara was a wonderful hostess and coordinator.

Today our Society is recognized around the world for its professionalism and legitimacy. The Board, Past Presidents, and Volunteers can all take pride in the wonderful success we have had, but in reality we all know that it was Barbara Claypoole's daily effort that made it possible.

It is with great relief that we are assured she will not be very far away, just three blocks down Beaufain Street. She will be sleeping late and enjoying her retirement. Her husband Stanley will not have to worry about moving tables for the Society at annual meetings. Her children will see her much more often, but she will be missed and fondly remembered by the membership. God has blessed us with Barbara, now we wish her the very best!

Society's Next Executive Director Appointed

The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the appointment of Renée LaHue Marshall as the Society's next Executive Director. For the past eight years, Mrs. Marshall has been employed by Historic Charleston Foundation, most recently as Collections Manager/Registrar. In 1991, she graduated from

Furman University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, with an emphasis on western European history. She recently completed a Master of Arts in American History through the joint program of the University of Charleston and The Citadel, specializing in Colonial and Antebellum South Carolina. She reads French and is a member of this society and the Huguenot Church, where she and her husband Bill were married in 1997. While Mrs. Marshall is very bright, having received a National Merit Scholarship and numerous academic honors, her greatest attribute may be her pleasant personality and cordiality. She brings to us a proven administrative ability, a love of all things Huguenot, and a great educational background. We are thrilled to have her and hope the membership will get to know her quickly.

A REPORT ON THE HUGUENOT COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

from Helga Preston Wrenn Billings, Secretary

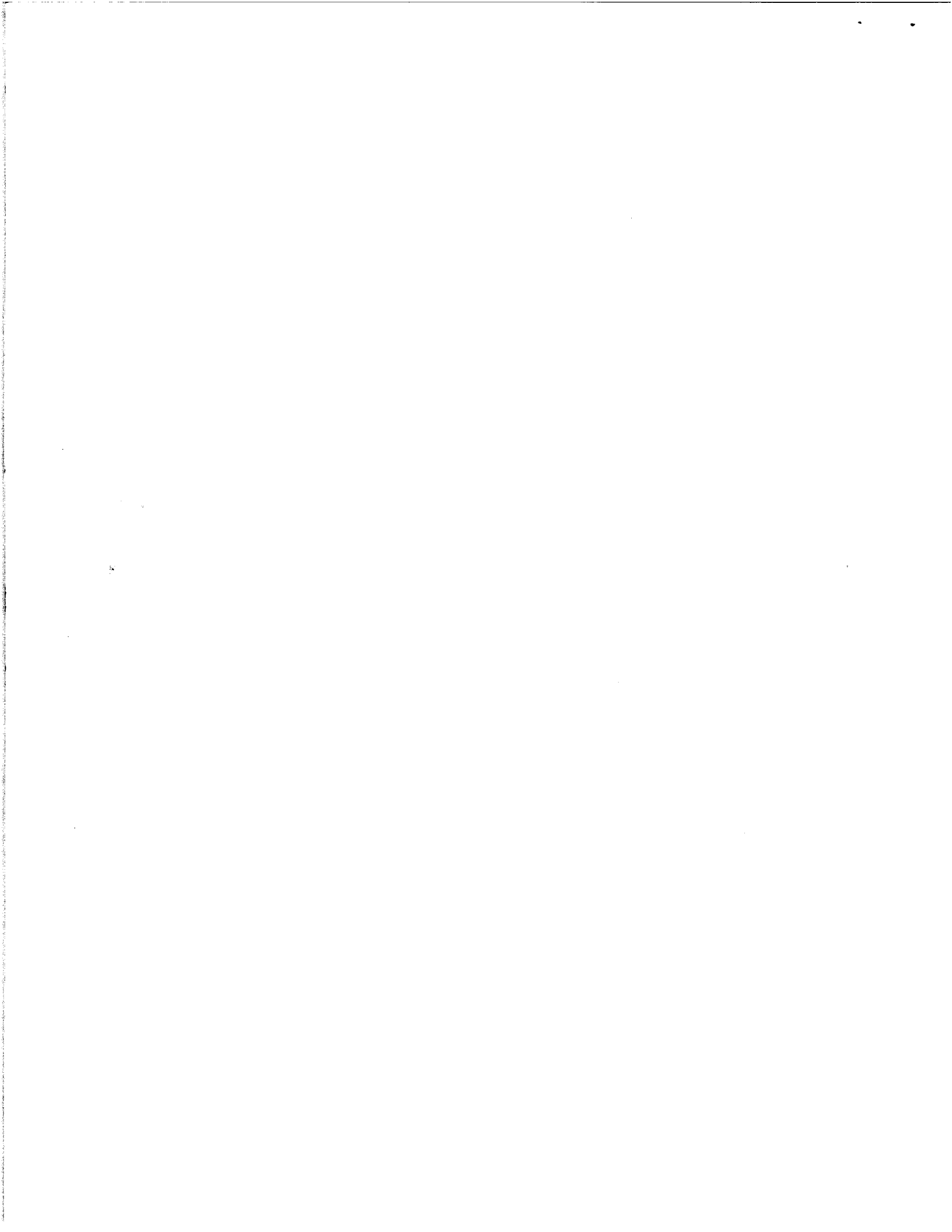
Images of the October 17th Huguenot Church service commemorating the 314th anniversary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes include: "Irene," a class I hurricane with winds gusting to 85 mph, running up the South Carolina coast looking for a place to make landfall; rain and bluster buffeting the "Holy City"; a small but hardy and enthusiastic congregation; Philip Bryant's warm welcome to Huguenot Society members; Tom Cuttino's stirring Invocation and Invitation to Worship; David Woolsey's heart-swelling music of our opening Psaume 68, sung in French; Dan Ravenel's introduction of the Huguenot Society's new Executive Director, Mrs. Renée Marshall, her qualifications making her tailor-made for our needs; and then, the "pièce de resistance", Dan's thorough detailing of the many gifts and accomplishments of our guest speaker, The Reverend Doctor T. Erskine Clarke, Professor of American Religious History at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Dr. Clarke is a Presbyterian minister and respected author of many books, including *Wrestlin' Jacob: A Portrait of Religion in the Old South* and *Our Southern Zion: Calvinism in the South Carolina Low Country, 1690-1990*. Dr. Clarke is married to a local Huguenot girl; Nancy Legaré Warren. No wonder he seemed just like one of "us". Thanks to Mary and Sandy Pike for sharing this good friend of theirs with us.

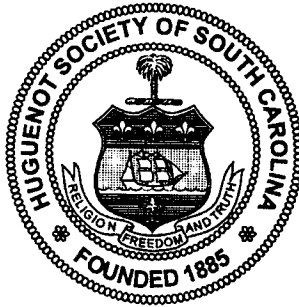
Dr. Clarke's sermon was titled, "A Mirror of God's Goodness." Pointing up the Huguenot love of Psalms of praise, he related the connection between Psalm 103 and the Huguenots. Our soldiers often sang this Psalm as they rode into battle: "Praise the Lord, O my soul...the Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed...Praise the Lord, O my soul." Dr. Clarke assured us that we have always received God's goodness and the history of the Huguenots is, indeed, a mirror of that goodness. He urged us to continue to live fruitful lives and continue to reflect "Praise the Lord, O my soul."

Following the moving message, we adjourned, leaning into the wind and spitting rain, but rejoicing, to 44 Queen for a delightful and warming cup of Bill McIntosh's Huguenot Punch recipe. Many thanks to Adelaide Waller and Lucia Heins of the Huguenot Executive Board as well as to Joan Middleton, Molly Hartzog and Betty Ann Bryant of the Huguenot Church for the bounteous and tasty buffet for our delectation. Anna Blythe's flower arrangements were a balm to the spirit and a pleasure to the eye. Thank you, ladies, for a lovely Huguenot fellowship and love feast. Our Huguenot Sunday was a true blessing to us all... "Praise the Lord, O my soul."

SAVE THE DATE

The 115th Anniversary Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2000 at The Charleston Museum with a collation to follow. The Annual French Service at the Huguenot Church will be held on Sunday. Look for more information in the next issue of the *Huguenot Herald*.





ANNOUNCING THE ANNUAL FUND

Dear Fellow Member,

For many years, your Board of Directors has known that the kind generosity of our membership has been literally the key to the success of the Society. Our endowment, about \$250,000, has not been touched over the years as the Society has bought and restored our beautiful library and offices at 138 Logan Street. Each year, we have asked that you assist our Building Fund and you have generously answered. Most recently, these donations have allowed us to complete the modernization of the computer system, remodel the second and third floors for additional reference material space, and restore the carriage house as residential rental to help support the Society.

In anticipation of budget growth, and with the realization that we are growing in purpose and service, your Board unanimously approved a plan to fund the expanded services and staffing with an Annual Fund. This is done in lieu of a dues increase.

In this first year, we hope to raise \$30,000 in member contributions.

Since I became your President, I have had a large number of you write, call, or come up to me to ask how you can help. Well, this is your opportunity to make a difference in our future. We cannot continue our growth and professional development without your support. If we want to see the society become all that it can, it is important that you help with this drive. Your contribution is tax deductible and will be gratefully received by a hard working group of volunteers and staff.

The attached envelope is for your convenience. Thank you for your continued confidence and support, and best wishes for the coming Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ravenel
President







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