

The Huguenot Herald

Volume 9, Number 2

Telephone: (843) 723-3235

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Summer, 1999

FAX: (843) 853-8476

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from

Daniel Ravenel

On April 10, 1999, the Society's Annual Meeting was held at The Charleston Museum auditorium. It was a good turnout with approximately 175 members from all over the country in attendance. A well-received talk on early Huguenots in Carolina was delivered by Bertrand van Ruymbeke, and the reception, as usual, was a grand affair with delicious food, Huguenot Punch, and lots of smiling faces! The following day the Huguenot Church commemorated The Promulgation of The Edict of Nantes with the annual French service and collation. The weekend was royal blue and gold everywhere and everyone was pleased.

During the Society's Annual Meeting, we retired a grand gentleman as president, Henry Laffitte, from Allendale, South Carolina. Henry was a diligent leader, and during his final remarks as President, his humor delighted the membership. I was given the proverbial hard act and now follow him as your President. This responsibility is not taken lightly and I look forward to serving you for the next three years.

In the opinion of many, this organization is at a crossroads. Our very fine Executive Director, Barbara Claypoole, true to her long-standing plan, re-announced her retirement from this very large responsibility. The Society has been literally blessed to have had her at the wheel for the last ten years. As has been said many times before, she brought us from Hugo-drenched boxes to 138 Logan Street. Success has been her hallmark and she has applied it to every area of this organization. We will be talking more about Barbara in the future. She has promised to finish this year as Director and to be our help in the future.

Her departure causes us to do some long neglected long range thinking and planning. We must ask ourselves what we want the Huguenot Society of South Carolina to be in the next century. How will our mission be carried out; indeed, where will be the emphasis of our operation? How should we be staffed and what will be our sources of funding? Should we be larger? How large? What additional events or publications are we to undertake?

To begin this planning, Vice President Gordon Garrett, prominent Charleston attorney, has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee. This committee is composed of a blue ribbon group of the very best talent that could be brought together for this purpose. Members of this committee are: Past Presidents Arthur Wilcox and Henry Laffitte; Vice Presidents Mary Pike from Atlanta and Lucia Heins from Charleston; and newly elected Vice President Boykin Rose from Camden and Charleston. Treasurer David Maybank, Jr., and Past Treasurer Edward Bennett have both accepted this committee. As non-members of the Society, College of Charleston Foundation Director Karen Abrams and former Director of the Preservation Society of Charleston John Meffert will serve as ex-officio consultants. With this group, the hope is we can develop a plan by the end of 1999 that will be our guide book for the next era.

Other committees that have been formed are: Membership-Vice President Rick Corrigan, Chair; Lectures and Publications-Vice President Lucia Heins, Chair; Transactions and Newsletter-long time volunteer Mary Horlbeck, Chair; Library and Resources-another long time volunteer Libby Guérard Wright, Chair; Finance-David Maybank, Jr., Chair; Hospitality-Vice President Adelaide Waller; and Nominations-Past President Henry Laffitte. In addition, Henry Laffitte has agreed to chair a Public Relations Committee, and Rick Corrigan will head our Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

We have a lot to do and great people to do it. Each committee is open to the membership and my hope is that you may find one or more of these an area of interest and want to help us. Please give us a call at the office if you would like to be on a panel.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our invaluable volunteers who already do so much for us. Genealogical research would be non-existent if Frances Gay and Anne and John Spear did not come faithfully every week and help Melissa. Jane Craver, Lenora Kessler, Mary Horlbeck, and Mabel Pace have been ready at the request of Lucia Heins to help with preparing the mailings that are so important a part of the communication between staff and membership. Bess Oliveros supplies us with documented research and with name tags for every Annual Meeting. Finally, Anna Blythe and Bill McIntosh are invaluable when it comes to our Annual Meetings. They supply the flowers and Huguenot Punch respectively.

From time to time, I will use this publication to keep you informed on our progress. Obviously, much is in the doing with the long range plans and with finding a new Director our first order of business. Please write and give me your thoughts.

AUTUMN MEETING

Plans are being finalized for the Meeting of the Society on October 17, 1999. The meeting will be at the Huguenot Church at the usual service time of 10:30 a.m. The congregation is invited to attend a collation at 44 Queen Street right after the service. The guest speaker at this service will be Dr. Erskine Clark, Professor of Religion at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. The fall newsletter will provide more information.

IN THE FUTURE

Fall Candlelight Tours

Again this fall, the Preservation Society of Charleston will host its Candlelight Tours of Homes and Gardens. The Tours begin on September 23rd and go to October 30th. To find out more about these wonderful opportunities, telephone the Preservation Society office at 843-722-4630 or write to them at P. O. Box 521, Charleston, S. C. 29402.

An International Conference

Another correction and another reminder: The Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland will present a conference on 5-7 April 2000 as a commemoration of the 450th anniversary of King Edward VI, charter of 1550. This charter granted "strangers" the right to hold Reformed services in England. The conference will be held at Austin Friars church in London. This church was given to the Dutch and French for their worship services. The French soon moved to St. Anthony's Church at Threadneedle Street. The Dutch still worship at Austin Friars.

The title FROM STRANGERS TO CITIZENS was chosen because many groups other than French and Dutch found refuge in London. During the post-Reformation period and after, Flemish, Germans, Italians, Jews, Walloons, Moravians, and Waldensians also found a safe haven. Some of these people used the area as a springboard for moving on to distant places across the seas. All of these groups will be discussed at the conference.

Additional information on this conference, *From Strangers to Citizens: Integration of Immigrant Communities in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies, 1550-1750*, is available at The Huguenot Society of South Carolina office. Or, contact The Huguenot Library in London by phone or FAX at (0)171 937 1402. The Library in London can also be contacted by e-mail at c.littleton@history.bbk.ac.uk. The Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland will send a leaflet to us with their magazine in October

Weg der Hugenotten nach Deutschland und Danmark (The Way of the Huguenots to Germany and Denmark) A Huguenot Heritage Tour

Get ready for our exciting new Huguenot Heritage tour to GERMANY and DENMARK set for the fall of 2000. The French Huguenots were invited to Germany by Frederick I and fortunately for us settled in some of the most picturesque areas of Germany. The itinerary is now being planned in detail, but will definitely include BERLIN and COPENHAGEN. You will also see the charming smaller towns where the Huguenots lived, Huguenot churches and museums, and we hope to be able to worship with Huguenots in Germany or Denmark. Barbara Claypoole is contacting Huguenot organizations in Germany and Denmark and trying to arrange meetings with some of them. Start planning now!

Bill McIntosh of McIntosh Travel is planning and fine-tuning this unusual and interesting tour of one of the areas of Huguenot migration. Details will be made available as soon as possible.

AN APOLOGY

A couple of years ago, Dr. Charlton deSaussure presented his work *Lowcountry Carolina Genealogies Including the Following Families: deSaussure, Huger, Horry, Laurens, Bishop Smith, Ford, Mitchel King, Boone* to the library of The Huguenot Society. For some unexplained reason, no mention was made in *Transactions* of the gift of this fine volume. The Society apologizes to Dr. deSaussure for this oversight.

A VARIETY OF BOOKS

The Making of McCormick County by B. J. Edmonds

Huguenot Society member B. J. Edmonds has written an enlightening and comprehensive book about McCormick County. It tells the story of the area from the mid-eighteenth century on. Among the topics is a section of fifty-six pages on the French Huguenot colony of New Bordeaux "including Huguenot Hymnody and Psalmody, ship lists and bounty lists". The book is hardback and contains one hundred illustrations, bibliography, notes, and a thirty-page index.

The Making of McCormick County will be available after July 1, 1999, at the cost of \$35.00 plus \$5.00 tax, postage, and handling. Orders should be placed to Cedar Hill Unltd., Route 1, Box 2, McCormick, S. C. 29835.

Huguenot Garden
A Children's Story of Faith
by
Douglas Jones

This children's story centers around the daily and adventurous activities in the lives of young twin sisters Renée and Albret Martineau. The story chronicles the life of this seventeenth century French Protestant family as they go about their daily lives and are persecuted for their religious beliefs. *Huguenot Garden* is a good story to read to younger children (five and up) but older elementary age children would enjoy reading it themselves.

Think Christmas! This winner of a 1995 C. S. Lewis Noteworthy Children's Book Honor would make a stupendous stocking stuffer!

Copies of this book are available at The Huguenot Society office and can be obtained by mail or in person. The cost of this paperback edition is \$10.00 plus \$1.50 shipping.

St. Bartholomew's Eve:
A Tale of the Huguenot Wars
by
G. A. Henty

Another children's story, *St. Bartholomew's Eve* is not yet available at the Huguenot Society but should be soon. The hero of this book for children in grades four through six is an English boy who has French connections. He becomes involved on the Protestant side of the Huguenot wars and makes a name for himself in battle. More information on this volume will be reported in a future newsletter.

COMMUNICATIONS

Internet Access

The Society's web page is not up yet, but keep trying www.huguenotsociety.org. It will be there some day soon. In the meantime, remember to use huguenot@cchat.com or the individual addresses: director@cchat.com (Barbara); archivist@cchat.com (Melissa); registrar@cchat.com (Dot); and, transeditor@cchat.com (Susan).

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Membership

The membership of The Huguenot Society is its mainstay. Without the support of the members, The Society would soon collapse. One way members can offer support is to encourage eligible individuals to apply for membership. Quite often one only has to look in the direction of children and grandchildren to find qualified applicants. Perhaps some encouraging words to descendants who have not yet applied might prod them to do so. To be eligible for membership, an applicant has to prove descent from a qualified ancestor but does not have to be from Charleston or South Carolina.

Life Memberships

Several years ago the Board of the Huguenot Society voted to discontinue offering Life Memberships in the Society. No changes will be made with those who already hold Life Memberships, there just will not be any more members added to this category. As in the past, Life Members do not pay dues, but may if it is desired.

Transactions 103

Finally, after an infinite number of delays, problems, and set-backs, *Transactions 103* has gone to the printer for the last time. Once State Printing has printed and collated the pages, the journals have to be sent out for the binding to be Smythe sewn. The final step will be the mailing process. It is hoped that *Transactions* will be on the way before too much longer!

Something Worth Thinking About

It's the action, not the fruit of the action that's important. You have to do the right thing...You may never know what results come from your action. If you do nothing, there will be no result. *An idea from Gandhi gleaned from the Internet.*

Huguenot Society of South Carolina
138 Logan Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29401-1941

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHARLESTON, SC
PERMIT NO. 1140