

The Huguenot Herald

Volume 10, Number 2

Summer, 2001

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from
Daniel Ravenel

The Annual Meeting was a unique and colorful event. Our speaker, Nick Malherbe from South Africa, was very expressive and entertaining. In his authentic seventeenth century Huguenot attire, Nick did a grand job of making his country's history fun.

The presentation of *L'Esprit Huguenot Award* to W. Lucas Gaillard was the highlight of the weekend. He remains the best example of a gentleman that our Society has and his emotional acceptance touched us all.

The Society is continuing to do well. Our service to researchers and members is at an all time high. A number of genealogical lines have been researched, documented, and opened for the use of the members to gain admission to the Society; and more are being done. A real expression of appreciation needs to be given to the members and families of members who are helping fill the files of these lines. Our stringent requirements for documentation have made their efforts entirely necessary for future members and critical to achieve our mission of growth. Thanks to Rick Corrigan and his committee and especially to our fine staff of researchers and genealogists.

The Board of Directors has passed an austere budget and we are operating in the black. Our debt is down to \$31,000, and we hope to reduce it further this year. The main feature of this year's plan is a slightly larger Annual Fund goal (\$70,000). The need is for painting and minor carpentry to the library and efforts to protect our records by recording them on computer CD.

Two projects that I hope will come to a successful beginning are the graduate scholarship and the so-called "Huguenot in a Box." The first is an attempt to stimulate real research in Huguenot History by a graduate student. This is to support original study and proper presentation of our history for publication. As I have said before, if we don't write our history, we leave it to others to corrupt for their own purposes. We must try to tell our own story on every level.

On the grade school level, we hope Huguenot in a Box will do the same thing. Interesting school children in their heritage by showing them ours will have universal appeal.

Finally, I want to tell you about our most recent road trip to Purrysburgh near Hardeeville, S. C. Renée Marshall, Executive Director, Tom Cuttino, our Chaplain, Tom Lawton, Past President from a few years ago, and I were invited to attend a ceremony at the site of the 1731 settlement on the banks of the Savannah River by Immediate Past President Henry Laffitte and the Purrysburgh Preservation Committee.

It was a beautiful day as we participated in a family reunion of sorts. The Purry family from Switzerland had a dozen or so members in attendance; and many of the American descendants of the settlers came from all over the country as well. It was an outdoor event with a band, fine food, and lots of information about the life made by these courageous and resourceful Huguenots from Switzerland.

This is the second of the so-called later settlements where the Society has erected a Cross. Last year I was honored to be included in a similar event at New Bordeaux. This year I felt as I did at New Bordeaux: a sense of kinship and joy for these many people from all walks of life who are the descendants of religious refugees in South Carolina. It is impressive to see and hear the depth of their understanding of their history and their love of it. We all should have this sense of family!

Well, as the Summer progresses, we are planning the Fall Service for October and a trip next year to the Huguenot Settlement in South Africa. We learned from Nick Malherbe at the Meeting on April 21st that farms and home sites remain to be seen there. I'm looking forward to our trip!

Thanks again for allowing me to be your president. It is a great honor which I never forget.

AUTUMN SERVICE

As summer begins, plans are already underway for the 2001 Autumn Service at the Huguenot Church. The guest preacher this year will be The Reverend William Riley Covin. Mr. Covin was born in Greenwood, South Carolina, the son of John Oscar and Ellen Crumly Covin. He is descended from Lazare and Marie Anne Leroy

Bouchillon Couvain of New Bordeaux. He and his wife Judy Campbell of Sylva, North Carolina, are the parents of two grown boys, Bill and Philip.

Mr. Covin is a graduate of Belton High School in Belton, South Carolina, King College in Bristol, Tennessee, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. In addition, he was awarded a D. Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

From 1959 through 1998 Mr. Covin was Pastor of several Presbyterian Churches throughout the South. He has also been involved with many community services and is currently a Volunteer Chaplain with HRMC, a Volunteer Chaplain with HRMC Hospice, a Member of the Board of Directors of the Good Samaritan Clinic and for the year 2001 is the Chairman of the Board of the Good Samaritan Clinic. His hobbies include backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, gardening, and traveling.

The Autumn Service is scheduled for October 21, 2001, at 10:30 a.m. This Service will mark the 316th Anniversary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The Huguenot Society and the Huguenot Church will provide the usual wonderful collation, including Huguenot Punch, at 44 Queen Street right after the service.

HUGUENOT HISTORY

A College History Course

As was hoped, Dr. Bertrand van Ruymbeke will teach his course "History of the Huguenots in Early Modern France and Colonial South Carolina, c1520-c1760" this fall at The College of Charleston. The course includes topics such as the origins of the French Reformation, the growth and decline of the Huguenot movement in Valois and Bourbon France, characteristics of the Huguenot religious life, the Huguenot diaspora, the Huguenot emigration and settlement in proprietary South Carolina, and Huguenot communities in 18th century South Carolina.

History 310 (for American history students) or History 330 (for European history students) starts August 21, 2001. The class will be held in Maybank Hall, Room 304, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:00 until 5:15.

Students who take the course for undergraduate credit or who audit the course must register as students at The College of Charleston. The usual College of Charleston fees apply.

Senior Citizens can attend the course for a fee of \$25.00. After attending the first class, Seniors can register on a walk-in basis on August 22, the day after the course begins. Seniors must present a Driver's License at the time of registration.

The Crottet Papers

As reported in a previous newsletter, Hilda Kenner from Charleston is working on the collection of sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth century Huguenot documents in the Crottet collection. The collection belongs to the Charleston Library Society. A much-appreciated grant from the Huguenot Society of America has enabled her to expand her projected catalog of the documents to include a fuller discussion of the historical background.

In the 1850s, after publishing a well-regarded history of Protestantism in Saintonge, Aunis, and Angoumois, Crottet reportedly sought contacts with Huguenot descendants in New York and Charleston in the hopes that he would learn the subsequent history of Huguenots from the region who emigrated to America. His efforts reflect the renewal of interest in French Protestant history that occurred in both France and America in the mid-nineteenth century. An article containing the baptismal and marriage records from the Crottet papers will appear in a future issue of *Transactions*.

In connection with her work, Hilda would appreciate hearing from anyone who has family papers or correspondence concerning contacts between American Huguenot descendants and the French historian Alexandre Crottet. Please address correspondence to Hilda Kenner, 46 Pitt Street, Charleston, S. C. 29401, or e-mail her at hmkenner@worldnet.att.net.

INTERNATIONAL HUGUENOT CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2002 IN SOUTH AFRICA

Come join the Huguenot Society of South Carolina on a tour to South Africa for the Conference and to see the beautiful sights of that country. Our tour will focus on the Cape Area. The Conference will be held at Stellenbosch, a quaint old town in itself that is located 45 minutes from Cape Town. Meet Huguenots from all over the world!

It will be spring at the Cape when native flora such as proteas will be in full bloom. The huge Southern Right whales from Antarctica will be calving along the shallow rick cliffs and beaches which permits close up viewing. You

will see the antique gabled Huguenot architecture and learn about Huguenot furniture, copper, and silver. Huguenots have been in South Africa since the 1600s and still contribute much to their country. As a result, there are many historical buildings dating back three and a half centuries. The famous Huguenot Wine estates will be a highlight of your visit.

And don't forget the animals! All the animals you want to see are within an easy drive from Cape Town.

If you wish to see more of South Africa or Africa, optional post tour trips will be available. For example, you might want to take the fabled Blue Train to Johannesburg and then visit Kruger Park.

Let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Call McIntosh Travel at 843-723-4531 or the Huguenot Society at 843-723-3235 for more information.

NEWLY PUBLISHED

Huguenot Historic Sites and Burials

The National Huguenot Society has sent information on the publication *Huguenot Historic Sites and Burials*. Members have contributed information on original Huguenot immigrants to America including known birth and burial dates and the location of the cemeteries. The locations of known historic sites are included in Section Two. The contents of this publication promise to be a valuable addition to Huguenot research.

To order this publication please send a check for \$22.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling to Arthur Louis Finnell, 3917 Heritage Hills Drive, #104, Minneapolis, MN 55437-2633.

Traditions of the Swamp Fox

In 1938 William Willis Boddie, now deceased, wrote a life of Francis Marion that has never before been published. The Williamsburgh Historical Society was given the manuscript in 1996. After some discussion the manuscript was published for the benefit of the Williamsburgh County Museum and the William Willis Boddie Research Center in the Archives of the Museum.

In his introduction, Steven D. Smith, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, discusses Francis Marion's tradition, the publication of the book, and Mr. Boddie's life. Mr. Smith is quick to point out that *Traditions of the Swamp Fox* is not a scholarly work but is a contribution to the folklore and legend that surrounds the Little Huguenot. Mr. Smith's remarks are as intriguing as Mr. Boddie's work.

Although some inaccuracies can be found in this volume, it is a fun book to read. The combination of fact and fantasy mixes with the reality that Francis Marion was indeed a Revolutionary War hero who managed to give the British a rough time.

This book is available by mail from The Williamsburgh Historical Society, P. O. Box 1263, Kingstree, S. C. 29556; or from The Reprint company, Publishers, P. O. Box 5401, Spartanburg, S. C. 29304. *Traditions...* can also be found in local bookstores, the cost is \$35.00 plus \$4.50 for postage and handling. South Carolina residents must add \$1.75 for sales tax.

TRANSACTIONS 105

and

"The Huguenot Crosses of South Carolina"

The 2001 volume of *Transactions*, No. 105 is in the process of being printed. It is the hope of the staff that the copies will be in the mail by the end of June. But, things change so ...

In the envelope along with *Transactions*, will be found a very special booklet entitled "The Huguenot Crosses of South Carolina." The booklet has maps to the six Cross Sites as well as a vignette of each Site. Mary and Sandy Pike updated the maps and compiled the information contained in the vignettes. They contributed the expenditures necessary for its publication to the Society. "The Huguenot Crosses...." is a charming little volume that is both informative and interesting!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

For information on the many rewarding volunteer opportunities at the Huguenot Society, please call Renée or Cheves at 843-723-3235.

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