

# The Huguenot Herald

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from

Daniel Ravenel

As I write this message, we have just completed the Holiday Season and everybody is on a diet. I hope you had a great Christmas and our Staff and Board wish you a very happy 2001!

Last year will be hard to beat. It began with a wonderful new Executive Director, Renée Marshall, who has been well received by you. During the year, she began her own personal new membership drive by giving birth to her first child, a son. Despite the large distraction, Mrs. Marshall has worked very hard and kept to the purpose of our Society. We have great results from her first year. In March, Cheves Leland joined the staff as Archivist and Librarian, and has done a wonderful job helping applicants through the membership process and answering research inquiries. As a result of her coming and the hard work of our Genealogical Staff and Registrar Dot Huff, the backlog of membership applications and pending research has largely been eliminated.

We believe that operations, and therefore the service to our membership, have been enhanced this past year in several ways. We now have almost full time professionals from 8:30 to 2:30 five days a week. I invite your comments on how we might make things better for you

With the steady hand of Publications Editor Susan Hemminger, and under the leadership of Chairman Lucia Heins, the publications of the Society were prompt and I believe informative.

As you know, we have been in the process of establishing an elementary education traveling show we call "Huguenot in a Box." Much thought has gone into this new program, and our hope is that with Miss Leland's direction, we will be ready to present the program this fall.

A committee chaired by Rick Corrigan and composed of the Genealogical Staff and other volunteers is working hard to make the membership process more "user friendly." It is time to begin membership recruitment in a big way. Sadly, as our membership ages, we lose about fifty Huguenots a year. However, because of the raising of the Society's genealogical standards for membership in the early 1990s, we are only gaining a few more members than we lose each year. This cannot go on. We have to assist in every way those eligible candidates who want to join without reducing the genealogical quality that separates this organization from virtually any other its size. The Staff, Board Resources, and Genealogists are pledged to bring about an improved process this year.

Jane Ball has graciously accepted the chairmanship of a committee to look into how we might increase Huguenot studies around the country. One proposal is to establish a scholarship/award for scholarly research and writing on the graduate level. This would result in a competition with the author of the best paper given a monetary award and the prestige of publishing the paper in *Transactions*.

Discussion began in 2000 and will intensify in 2001 about the process of building an endowment for the future of our Society. Those monies currently are at about \$285,000 but need to be greatly enhanced to insure that the success we are now having can be perpetuated. Our financial situation is great and the time is right to look at our endowment. But all of this depends on you, Dear Member. Indeed it is because of your interest, effort, and generosity that all things are possible. We have so much of which to be proud and many great examples gone before to lead us. It is our responsibility to take their examples and share our history with all.

Remember our Annual Meeting as announced elsewhere in this newsletter is Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. I'll see you there!

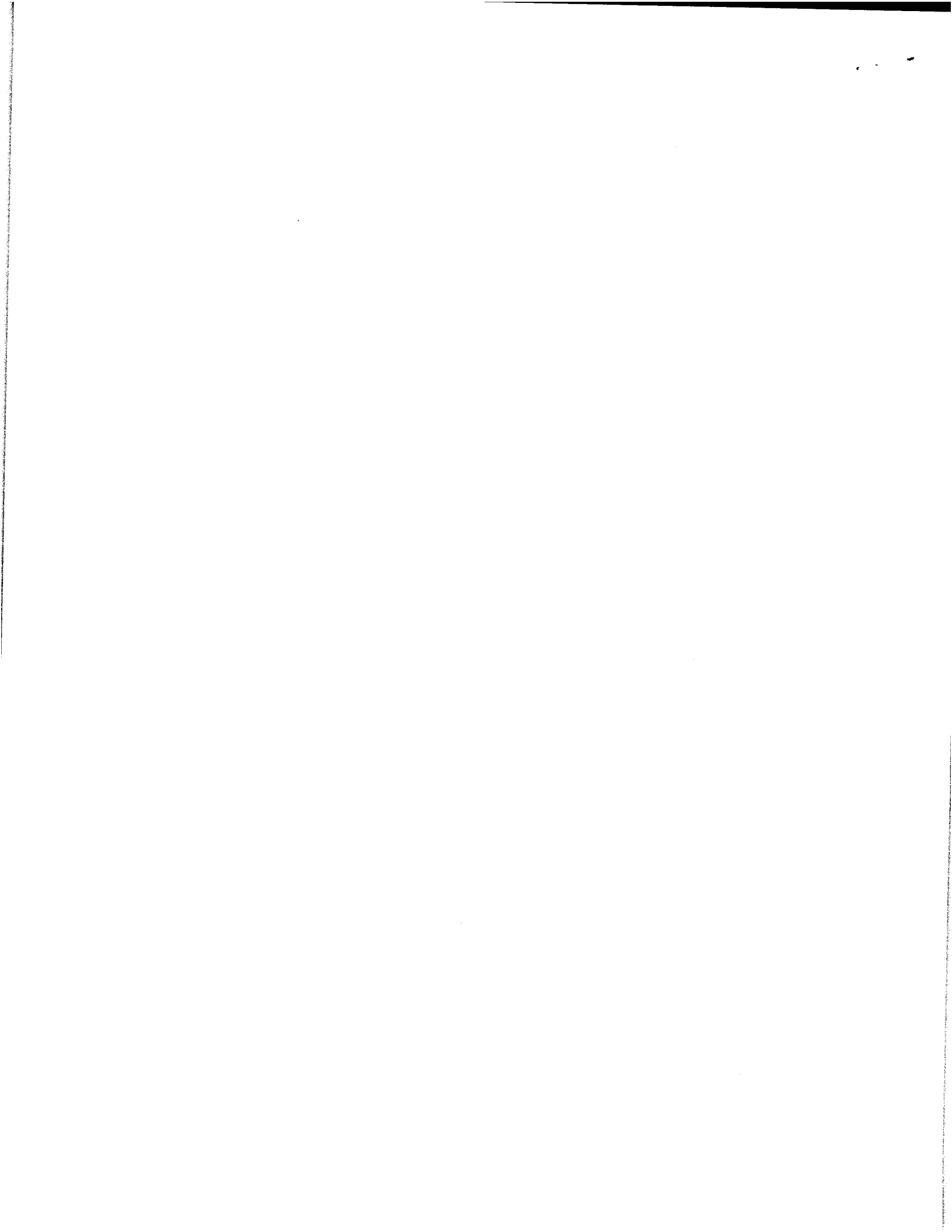
## THE TREASURER'S MESSAGE

from

David Maybank, Jr.

To the Membership of the Huguenot Society:

The preliminary year-end figures for the 2000 Fiscal Year have been compiled and I am pleased to report that the finances of the Society remain in a strong position. The year-end results indicate a solid, positive financial condition. At the end of the year, a second \$10,000 payment was made to the Bank of South Carolina therefore



reducing our bank debt for the 1997 office renovations to \$31,000. The good results are in direct proportion to the generous giving by the membership of the Huguenot Society. In 2000 the annual giving exceeded the total dues collected by more than \$10,000 and I cannot overstate the need or the importance of this annual giving to continue into the future. Final results will be available within a few weeks and will be included as part of the 2000 *Transactions* which you will be receiving.

### AUTUMN SERVICE

The French Huguenot Church was packed for the annual fall meeting of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina commemorating the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. A religious service, our speaker was The Reverend Dr. Robert E. Cuttino, cousin of the Society's Chaplain, The Reverend Thomas E. Cuttino. The Cuttinos's ancestors, the Cothonneaus, were forced to immigrate from the Ile de Ré off the coast of France in 1687 during the great persecutions following King Louis XIV's Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. Dr. Cuttino lives in Beaufort, South Carolina, with his wife Molly. He retired there after forty years as a pastor in churches throughout South Carolina. He is a graduate of Wofford College and Yale University and is the recipient of two honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees. He is a Huguenot and a frequent speaker for civic and church organizations. Presently Dr. Cuttino is acting pastor of North Island Baptist Convention and a founding Trustee of Charleston Southern University.

Dr. Cuttino's sermon centered around Genesis 50:20, "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive." He reminded us of the story of Joseph, beloved son of Jacob and Rachel, whose brothers did great evil to him, but the Lord used it for the good of the entire tribe of Israel. Joseph rose, through many obstacles and setbacks, to be Pharaoh's right-hand man in Egypt and preserved the lives of many during the great famine. Responding not with a vengeful heart but with a loving, Christ-like one, Joseph saved his brothers and his father from death. When Jacob died, the brothers, remembering the great evil they had committed against Joseph, feared that he would finally wreak vengeance upon them, but he said, "You meant it for evil, but God used it for good."

The Huguenots, like Joseph, ended up with a great life in America and around the world. What seemed a terrible thing turned into many blessings. "You meant it for evil, but God used it for good." During World War II, many Huguenots went back to France to help free the country that had cast them out, to liberate them from German occupation. In every country where the great seventeenth century diaspora placed them, Huguenots, with their deep religious beliefs and disciplined work ethic, have played major roles in the formation and advancement of their adopted lands.

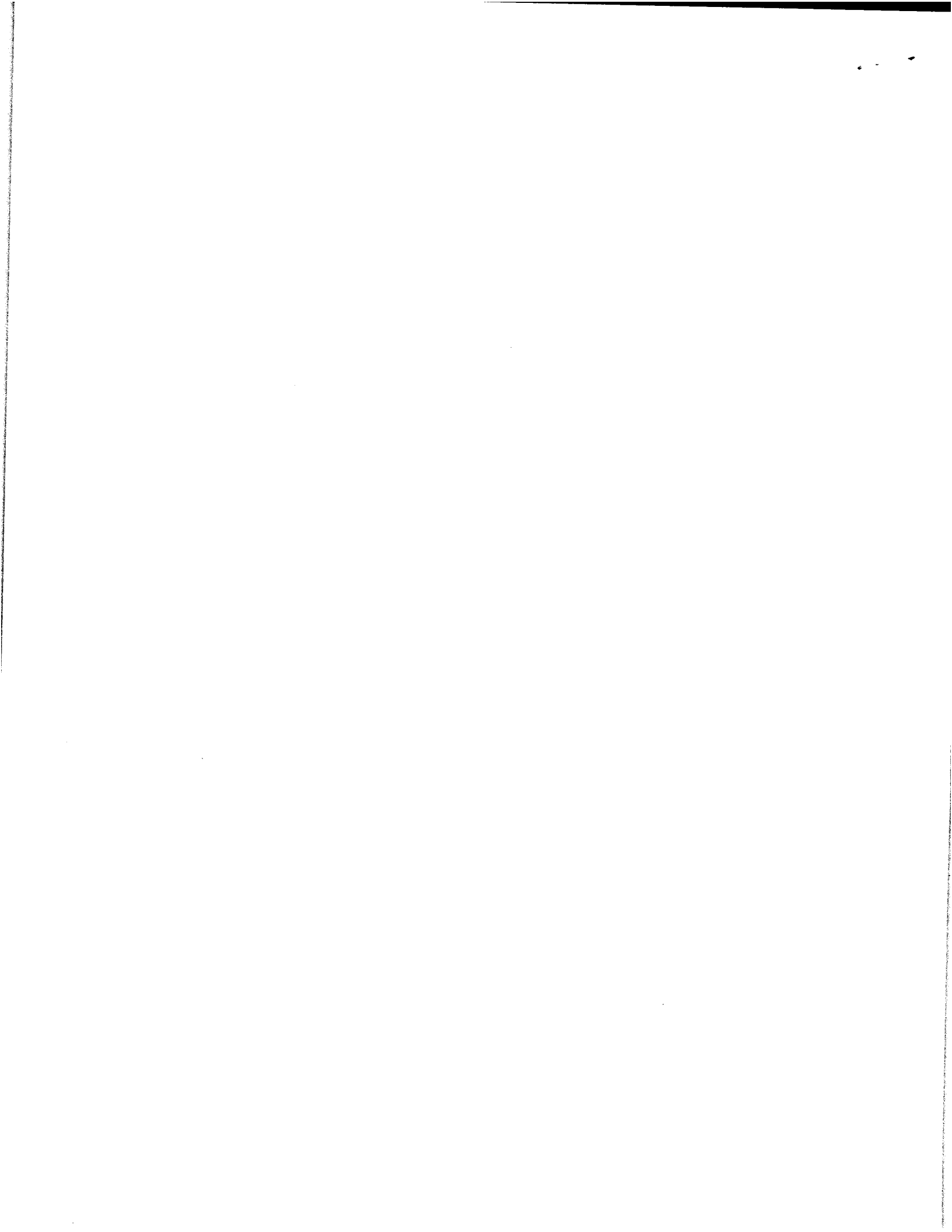
In closing, Dr. Cuttino quoted William Cowper, "God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take: the clouds you so much dread are big with mercy and shall break with blessings on your head." We all would do well to remember, the many storms of our own personal lives, that as in the lives of Joseph, the Huguenots, the Pilgrims, and all immigrant exiles, God has a way of turning trials into triumph, storms into blessings..."And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about his present result, to preserve many people alive."

Our gratitude and thanks to the Reverend Cuttino for enabling us to be inspired and encouraged by this stirring sermon.

### ANNUAL MEETING and ANNUAL FRENCH SERVICE

The Charleston Museum is once again the site for the Annual Meeting of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina. Please save 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2001, for the meeting and the next day, Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. for the Annual French Service at the Huguenot Church. Collations will, as usual, follow each event. For those who will come from out of town, now is the time to make arrangements for places to stay. Spring is a very busy time in Charleston so it is better to make reservations as early as possible.

Nick Malherbe, a member of the Huguenot Society of South Africa, will speak at the Annual Meeting. His topic will deal with the Huguenots in South Africa as well as a comparison of their experiences with those Huguenots who settled in South Carolina. Mr. Malherbe is both a Cultural Historian and an expert in Genealogy and Heraldry. He was educated at Western Province Prep School and Stellenbosch University where he was awarded a B.A. in Economics. He was then awarded an M.B.A. from the School of Business, UCT. Mr. Malherbe was Chairman of the Huguenot Tercentenary celebrations in South Africa in 1988, and has often appeared on radio and television to discuss early Cape Town history, genealogy, and heraldry. His talk is certain to be of great interest to the membership.



Pastor Pierre Boismordand will be the guest minister at the annual French Service. He is associated with the French Protestant Church in Washington, D. C. Since this service is in French, the church is usually crowded, so it is advisable to arrive a little early.

### QUAKER BURIAL SITE

Bill McIntosh, a member of the Huguenot Society as well as a gentleman of Quaker descent, has asked that this letter be included in this issue of The Herald. He writes, "Are there any other Huguenots with early Charleston Quaker ancestors? Charleston County reinterred the remains of at least 41 Quakers in 1974 from their King Street burial ground to the little park by the Courthouse on Meeting Street. It was promised the site would be marked, but this was never done. The County has now agreed to rectify this, but it would be helpful to have others add a word to this cause. I have a list of those buried on Meeting Street. Quaker descent could come through such names as McColl, Guy, Basden, Rawlins, Wistar, Lathan, Bayly, etc. Please call me at 723-4531. Sincerely, Bill McIntosh." Bill would very much like to talk with any one who has any information and could be of any help in this matter.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

The deadline for the James and Charlotte Gignilliat Scholarship is February 15, 2001. Please contact the South Carolina Historical Society, 100 Meeting Street, Charleston, S. C. 29401, for information. For information about the Marie L. Rose Scholarship, contact the Financial Aid Office of the college the student attends. Finally, for information about the essay for the Manakintown Scholarship, please write Audrey C. Karlovich, P. O. Box 160, Kingston, Georgia 30145-0160. The deadline for this scholarship is April 1, 2001.

### HUGUENOT HISTORY

Although nothing is definite, it is quite possible that Dr. Bertrand van Ruymbeke will teach his Huguenot History course at the College of Charleston in the fall of 2001. If all goes as planned, the class will be held in the late afternoon or early evening so that more people from the community can participate. The final decision will be made early this summer and will be announced in the Summer 2001 newsletter.

### OFFICE NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

This has truly been an incredible year. First of all, thank you for giving me the privilege of working with the Huguenot Society of South Carolina. The past year has been a pleasure. The Staff of the Society and I take great satisfaction from knowing that our efforts are helping to preserve the memory of our Huguenot ancestors. It is easy to work hard for something that we all believe in so strongly!

We were thrilled to have Archivist and Librarian Cheves Leland join our office staff in March. Having increased staff hours is really helping us keep on top of things. Cheves estimates that in the last year we answered over two hundred research requests, many related to applications for membership. We also had approximately two hundred members and visitors come to do research in the library, and many more visitors stop by to learn more about the Society and what we do. We had fifty-eight new members join last year, and documented five supplemental lines for current members. Editor Susan Hemminger is producing yet another wonderful volume of *Transactions* that you will receive in the spring. The upcoming edition will include articles on the Huguenot influence on architecture, Huguenot silversmiths, Huguenot consciousness in the 20th century, and the St. Julien family. Registrar Dot Huff continues to do an excellent job corresponding with applicants, keeping our records up to date, and putting lineages from our files into our computer system.

We owe our thanks to volunteer genealogist Frances Looper Gay, and volunteer researchers John and Anne Spear for all their hard work. We are also thrilled to have retired former Director Barbara Claypoole return as a volunteer. She is working with Lucia Heins and Rick Corrigan from our board who have volunteered their time to help our Archivist with several projects involving our membership files. When they finish, we will have a great deal more information at our fingertips, which should speed up our research response time considerably. We also would like to thank former Archivist and Librarian Melissa Ballentine, who continues to help us review applications for membership.

On a personal note, my husband Bill and I send our thanks for all your prayers and good wishes on the birth of our son. William Law Marshall, whom we call "Bill Law," arrived on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and was Christened in the Huguenot Church in November. We have already signed him up for a Junior Membership! Please take the time to sign up your children and grandchildren for membership in the Society. This is a wonderful gift for them, and ensures that our Society will continue to flourish for the next generation of Huguenot descendants.

Thank you for your support! - *Renée LaHue Marshall*

