126th Anniversary Meeting  
Saturday, April 9, 2011, 4 p.m.  
The Charleston Museum

The One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Anniversary Meeting of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011. We are pleased to announce that the speaker will be Dr. Tessa Murdoch who will lecture on *The French Hospital: Its Huguenot History and Collections*.

A Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians, Dr. Tessa Murdoch is Deputy Keeper of the Department of Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England. She also serves on the external faculty of the Master’s Program in the Decorative Arts at the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum in New York. A frequent lecturer and prolific author, Dr. Murdoch was the curator of the well-known exhibition *The Quiet Conquest: The Huguenots 1685-1985* that marked the tercentenary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. She and Mr. Randolph Vigne recently co-authored *The French Hospital: Its Huguenot History and Collections* which was reviewed in *Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina* #114.

In 1708, Jacques de Gastigny left a founding bequest to establish a hospital for the Huguenot community with “appointments more pleasing to their French tastes and habits and served by their own kinfolk.” Known as La Providence, the French Hospital was founded in 1718 by Royal Charter from George I. The hospital is still in existence and provides sheltered housing for elderly people of proven Huguenot descent. Tessa Murdoch’s lecture on the history of this fascinating institution promises to be of great interest.

We hope to see you there.

Annual French Service  
French Protestant (Huguenot) Church

The Annual French Service of the French Protestant (Huguenot) Church of Charleston will be held on Sunday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. A collation will follow.
INHERITING AN EXPANDED HERITAGE

We have inherited a great heritage from our Huguenot ancestors who struggled for their rights in 16th & 17th century France. That heritage was further enriched by the brave few who fled oppression in France and came to the American colonies by the early 18th century. They crossed a dangerous ocean and arrived as small bands of settlers in a new land.

But the heritage we received doesn’t stop there. These refugees not only established their new homes in colonies such as South Carolina, New York, Virginia and Massachusetts, but they invested their time and skills in new products, lands and businesses. They retained their French language and old traditions, but they also learned English used in business, public life and, of course, when they married husbands and wives who spoke English. They sought the right to vote and became significant participants and leaders in the politics of their new country. The Huguenot immigrants of the late 17th century became full-fledged American colonists during the 18th century and were part of the rapid development of this country.

In the same period, while the Huguenot immigrants were adapting their culture to their new home, the American colonies themselves underwent a dramatic expansion. Cities and ports became bustling commercial centers. Farmers were increasingly participating in international trade. Patterns of commerce became more complex as trade grew and became more specialized. A growing and unusually diverse population raised issues of representation and effective governance. The American colonies were not only evolving toward becoming self-governing political bodies, but they were encountering issues which would not be settled for another hundred years or more.

Many Huguenot settlers who were involved in the emergence of this new country believed that a basically new type of nation was evolving in America by the time of the Revolution. This is reflected in the motto on the reverse of the Great Seal of the United States, “Novus Ordo Seclorum”, or “a new order of the ages.”

It is the purpose of this Society to commemorate both the original vision of the first Huguenot settlers and their expanded vision as this country evolved. They played an important part in shaping this “new order of the ages.”

Robert M. Prioleau
NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members into the Society:

Thomas Boone Aiken .......................... Florence, SC  
Jacques Fontaine & Anne Elizabeth Boursiquot
Mary Randolph Cutler Baarcke ............. Charleston, SC  
Henri deSaussure & Madeleine Brabart
Elsie Lynda Guerry Beam ..................... Savannah, GA  
Pierre Guerri & Jeanne Broussard
Carol Carré Perrin Cobb ...................... Greenville, SC  
Joachim Gaillard & Ester Paperel
Penelope Smith Tison CoppedgeWadmalaw Island, SC  
Pierre Robert & Jeanne Brayer
Caroline Bayard Cutler ...................... Charleston, SC  
Henri deSaussure & Madeleine Brabart
Mary Randolph deSaussure Cutler ......... Charleston, SC  
Henri deSaussure & Madeleine Brabart
Richard Mortimer Cutler III .............. Charleston, SC  
Henri deSaussure & Madeleine Brabart
John Steve Felsberg ......................... Columbia, SC  
Antoine Bonneau & Catherine de Bloys
Rebecca Eloise Smith Gaddy ............. Latta, SC  
Daniel Horry & Elizabeth Garnier
Henry Morrison Glover ..................... Onalaska, WI  
François Solomon L’Égaré & Anne Lançois
Nicholas Woodfin Glover ................... Charleston, SC  
François Solomon L’Égaré & Anne Lançois
Richard D. Kenny ......................... Decatur, GA  
Isaac Lesseane
Elizabeth Wood McCoy ..................... Columbia, SC  
David Pierre Humbert
Patricia Smith Moore ...................... Charleston, SC  
Thomas Guerin
Christopher Tyson Nettles ............... Charleston, SC  
Isaac Lesseane
Jessie Louise Oliver Osten ............ York, ME  
Alexander Coquefaire
Eliza Legare Pender Foster .......... Greenville, SC  
Isaac Barrineau
Virginia Inglesby Tison Pope .......... Atlanta, GA  
Pierre Robert & Jeanne Brayer
Sarah Elizabeth Porcher ................. Milton, FL  
Antoine Bonneau & Catherine de Bloys
Bowe Moorman Pritchard ............ Charleston, SC  
Isaac Lesseane
Celeste Venebale Pritchard .......... Charleston, SC  
Isaac Lesseane
Edward Kriegsmann Pritchard IV ...... Charleston, SC  
Pierre Bacot & Jacqueline Mercier

Peter Lesseane Pritchard ............... Charleston, SC  
Isaac Lesseane
Susan H.S. Ragains-Barksdale ........ Sylvania, GA  
Leonard Dozier
Addie C.M.S. Rutledge ....................... Rock Hill, SC  
Jacques Fontaine & Anne Elizabeth Boursiquot
William Lucas Simons ....................... Nashville, TN  
Benjamin Simons & Marie Ester DuPré
John Hayes Smith ...................... Surfside, SC  
Daniel Horry & Elizabeth Garnier
Howard Frierson Vincent .................. Lynchburg, SC  
John Perritt, Sr.
Jeannine Grace Williams ............... Orlando, FL  
Pierre Bacot & Jacqueline Mercier
Mary Caroline Collins Williams .... Matthews, NC  
Daniel Jaudon

Executive Director Karen B. King Announces her Retirement

After seven years of dedicated service, Karen Benghauser King, the Executive Director of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina, announced her retirement at the end of 2010. Karen came to us in 2004 with experience in managing collections and museum operations and soon added skills that Executive Directors need, such as basic structural maintenance, updating computer systems and completing complex government forms! She was always helpful to members and unfailingly gracious to visitors to our office.

The Board of Directors and the staff offer her sincere thanks for her years of faithful service and wish her well in her retirement.

Many thanks...

to Kimberly Bates who has completed cataloguing the wills and Bible records in the files of the Society. Kimber spent three months as a volunteer and a month on staff until a full-time job lured her away. Kimber’s enthusiasm for the history of this area comes through in the article she wrote for the Huguenot Herald (see page 4). Although not herself of Huguenot descent, she has learned well from her husband’s mother and grandmother, Susan Baldwin Bates and Agnes Leland Baldwin and one of her daughters is very proud to have the middle name of Videau.
About a month ago on the dreariest of winter days, my family and I embarked on an excursion through the Francis Marion National Forest. It was my mother-in-law’s birthday and we had planned a surprise picnic at a plantation site of one of the first Huguenot families to settle on the Santee River. This is a special spot for my mother-in-law, Susan Bates, and her research partner Cheves Leland, who have spent years documenting the first Huguenots to come to Carolina and the land that was granted to them. As we drove through endless forest and swampy land, I found myself wondering how it must have been for the Huguenots who traveled a similar route as they sought out their new land. It would have taken days on horseback through these swamps with the fear of an Indian attack or of wild animals. Maybe it was easier to sail down the Santee River, but it was a much greater distance to cover while risking the shoals of the Atlantic coast.

When we did finally reach our destination we were in awe of the beautiful view of the Santee River, making our ride on the muddy bumpy gravel road very worthwhile. It seemed to me that it must have looked as it did to the Huguenots as they arrived in 1687. The river was so peaceful and serene, yet this place felt so isolated and wild. We walked to the higher ground on which a house would have been built and found some bricks that were of a later period and possibly the remnants of an orchard planted a few hundred years ago. Aside from that, there is little evidence today that there was ever any civilization here. I was saddened that we would not be picnicking at this marvelous place on such a cold, damp and dismal day; on the other hand, this weather really emphasized the harsh environment these settlers were met with as they found their new homesite.

In 1686 and 1687 large groups of Huguenot refugees came to Carolina on numerous ships, one of which transported Isaac Le Grand, his wife and child. Isaac Le Grand, a nobleman from Caen, Normandy, France, arrived with a warrant purchased from the Lord Proprietors granting him 100 acres which included the land we stood on. Typically, warrants were granted to settlers once they arrived in Carolina, but many of the Huguenots preferred to purchase their parcel of land from the Lord Proprietors before they arrived, perhaps due to on-going tensions between British and French settlers in Carolina. Although Isaac Le Grand was a nobleman, it appears that he arrived with little wealth. As was stated by John Lawson when he referred to Isaac Le Grand as he journeyed down the Santee River in 1701, “a worthy Norman, who hath been a great Sufferer in his Estate, by the persecution in France, against those of the Protestant Religion.”

The Le Grand family eventually accumulated much land and wealth and married into other French families established along the Santee River. This particular piece of land we visited was sold and the family moved to what may have been a larger and more desirable plantation. For me, this place will no longer be just a pretty place to return to, but a place that belongs to the Le Grand family who labored to build a small cabin, fell the trees and clear the land. So, thank you Susan and Cheves for putting a “face” to this place!
The Society of St. Thomas and St. Denis, 1706, was recently organized to lend material aid and support to the Diocese of South Carolina in the preservation, and maintenance of the Church of St. Thomas and St. Denis, Cainhoy, and its Churchyard. Another purpose is to celebrate the Christian faith of those early French and English parishioners who made Carolina their home, and to hold occasional worship services according to the offices and rites of the Book of Common Prayer of the historic Anglican Church.

In his will written in Carolina on 20 June 1687 César Mozé (Mauzé) left money to be used to build a church for the French Protestants in what was known as Orange Quarter, a settlement on the banks of the “eastern branch of T upon the Cooper River.” By 1696 there were at least 10 households of French Protestants, mostly young married couples, “who gather at the Church of Orange Quarter.” By 1699, it was estimated that there were some 101 French inhabitants, probably about 20 families.

When the Church Act was passed in late 1706, a “parish within a parish” called St. Denis was set up for the French settlers within the Parish of St. Thomas. A new building was built for them about 1708 near Wisboo or Lynches (now French Quarter) Creek and they were allowed to have services in French, provided the Anglican liturgy was followed. In 1768, the separate French parish became part of the English parish and the whole was called the Parish of St. Thomas and St. Denis.

No plat has been found showing the church, but “one acre commonly known by the name of the French Church” was mentioned in the 1774 will of John Mayer. The site of the church of St. Denis was identified by H.A.M. Smith, D.E.H. Smith, Thomas Bacot and F. G Davies on a corner of the public road and in 1916 a granite cross with inscriptions was dedicated to mark the site of the original Church of St. Denis. The dedication address says the cross is “standing on the old brick foundations of the … house of worship of the French Protestants … of Orange Quarter.” There is some question in the records as to whether the church was, as one source said “upon this creek” or closer to the road, since no archaeology has been done on the site.

The present church building known as St. Thomas and St. Denis was built in 1819 on the ruins of an earlier building. The Vestry building is believed to date to 1708 and was mentioned in the 1715 will of Richard Beresford. The Parish of St Thomas and St. Denis is part of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, but does not presently have an active congregation and services are not held regularly.

If you are interested in joining the Society of St. Thomas & St. Denis, or would like to be on their mailing list for future events, please contact Vic Brandt at vbrandt@bellsouth.net or write to The Society of St. Thomas and St. Denis, Post Office Box 416, Charleston, SC 20402.

Society’s New Executive Director Appointed

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Renée LaHue Marshall as the Society’s next Executive Director. Renée previously served as Executive Director of the Society from 2000 to 2002 and served on the Society’s Board of Directors from 2004 to 2010. Renée graduated with history degrees from Furman University in 1991 and from the joint M.A. program with the University of Charleston and The Citadel in 1999. Her graduate work specialized in colonial and antebellum South Carolina history and she is an experienced genealogist and historian. She and her family are members of the French Protestant (Huguenot) Church of Charleston, where she recently finished a term as Elder and still serves as Financial Secretary. She is married to Bill Marshall and they have two children, Bill Law (10) and Sarah (8).

Note to Members:

The Society has updated our Membership Program and we can now more easily manipulate the member information. Beginning with this issue of the Huguenot Herald, each household will receive one copy of the Herald and one copy of Transactions. This is being done to reduce printing and mailing costs, but if you prefer to receive individual copies, please let us know and we will return your name to the mailing list.
Wise Ways to Give to the HSSC Endowment

We hope many of you will consider making gifts to the Huguenot Society Endowment which is so important to the fulfillment of our mission. The endowment has more than doubled over the past six years and is carefully invested for long-term appreciation with the help of our financial advisor.

Gifts to a qualified 501(c)(3) organization such as the Huguenot Society of SC can be deducted from the taxable income of the donor. This can include current gifts of cash, or property such as bonds, equities and other investments. A wise way to give is to donate appreciated stocks which have been held for a year or more, because the donor can deduct the fair market value of the stocks at the time of the gift, but avoids paying a long-term capital gains tax on the appreciation. It is important that the donor does not sell the securities, but transfers them directly to the Society.

Deferred gifts can be made by including a provision in a will to grant a specific sum, or a percentage of a residual estate, to the Huguenot Society of SC. Bequests are deducted from the amount of the estate subject to Federal and State taxes.

A donor can establish a Charitable Remainder Trust funded by appreciated assets which may not be earning current income for the donor. The donor’s estate is reduced by the initial amount of the trust, and the Trustee can sell assets and reinvest the proceeds to produce income for the donor during his/her life.

The donor specifies the beneficiaries of the trust and the donor receives a current deduction based on the projected future cash value of the trust when it is distributed.

We will be pleased to discuss these and other ways to give with any member, and would like to add anyone who has included the Huguenot Society in their estate plans in the 1685 Society as our way of saying thank you.