



# The Cross of Languedoc

A Publication of the National Huguenot Society

**FALL 2009**

“May God keep us steadfast as He kept them steadfast, and in joy or in sorrow, may we know, as they knew, that underneath are the Everlasting Arms”.



*Cover Feature: Henry Laurens, Revolutionary War statesman, South Carolina leader, Delegate to the Second Continental Congress (President, 1778-1779), Diplomat, and Huguenot Descendant*

As our new Third Vice President General Peter Morgan Adams describes in his related article published in this issue of *The Cross*, Henry Laurens was a prominent South Carolina statesman whose parents were actual Huguenots, John and Esther Grasset Laurens. Henry Laurens rose to prominence, first as an international merchant, establishing an import-export business, and later as an American patriot. His experience as a statesman was enriched from living in London for three years supervising his sons' education. He led a varied and interesting life that was reflective of the historical time and place in which he lived. Henry Laurens is best known today for his prominence as both a South Carolina and national leader during the Revolutionary War era. In his younger days, Laurens served in the local militia. He was then elected to the colonial assembly and in 1772, his interests were sufficiently national in scope for him to join the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia. He was named a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1777, and served until 1780. He presided over the Second Continental Congress for a year, beginning in 1778. During his tenure, Laurens led the fledgling government through various challenges and intrigues, exchanging correspondence with some of the most notable statesmen of the era.

His successes did not insulate Laurens from suffering his share of adversity during his lifetime. Yet he demonstrated Huguenot values of perseverance and principles when it came to his family and his country. Only four of his 12 children survived into adulthood. His oldest son, John, who had advocated that slaves be freed in exchange for their serving in the Revolutionary War, was killed in battle. He was himself captured by the British in a voyage from Holland to America while serving as the Continental Congress' ambassador to the Netherlands. He was charged with high treason against Britain and imprisoned in the Tower of London for about 15 months. The politics of Laurens' release were complex, because the British did not want him to succeed in his mission regarding a treaty with Holland, nor did they wish to engender the wrath of Laurens' supporters that was all but certain should they have allowed him to be physically harmed.

Almost worse than being held as a prisoner of war in the Tower of London, Henry Laurens' diplomatic papers were plucked from the sea while still legible, despite having been thrown overboard during Laurens' capture. Among the documents recovered was a draft treaty between the colonies and Holland. The prospect of such a treaty led England to declare war upon the Netherlands. This war was known as the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War. Over time, with the aid of his eldest son and of his business partner Laurens was released from the Tower of London.

Laurens was not yet finished contributing to his country, even though his health never completely recovered from his ordeal in the Tower of London. He returned to America and resumed his service to the Continental Congress. He was sent to Paris along with John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay as a Peace Commissioner to negotiate the preliminaries to the Treaty of Paris. Incredibly, another misfortune at the hands of the British awaited him in America, for when he returned from Paris to his Mepkin, South Carolina home in 1784, he found that the British had burned down his home.

Henry Laurens rebounded from the tragedy of his home being razed just as he did from the other setbacks he encountered. He rebuilt his home and lived there until the end of his days. He is buried there. It is now a Trappist abbey after the purchase and gift of the property by Henry and Claire Boothe Luce.

Laurens leaves behind a county and county seat in South Carolina which are named for him. Fort Laurens, Ohio also bears his name. We are grateful for the contributions of this fine Huguenot descendant.

Cover photo: Portrait of Henry Laurens by Lemuel Francis Abbott, painted while Laurens was in captivity in the Tower of London, 1781, now found at the U.S. Senate. Courtesy: [Salazar.senate.gov/artandhistory](http://Salazar.senate.gov/artandhistory).

Sources for this article include [HenryLaurens.com](http://HenryLaurens.com), [1911encyclopedia.org](http://1911encyclopedia.org), [ColonialHall.com](http://ColonialHall.com), [npg.si.edu](http://npg.si.edu), [Senate.gov](http://Senate.gov), and [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org).

## ***PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE --***



What an honor to be elected for a second term as President General of our beloved National Huguenot Society, Inc. I pray that I shall prove worthy of the trust placed in me by you, my fellow members. The last two years were quite challenging, yet most rewarding. Three of the primary goals we set that were accomplished during that term were: (1.) The "Headquarters Office" was moved from Bloomington, Minnesota, at the request of our former Headquarters and Archives Chairman, Grace Rice, and is now located in San Antonio, Texas; (2.) The Huguenot Society of Mississippi is reactivated and fully functional again; (3.) All of the amendments since 2002, including those adopted at the 2009 Annual Congress, have been merged into the National Bylaws, and a new Handbook will be available soon. There are still many other goals yet to be realized, and God willing, we will accomplish those together this term.

You may recall that the theme of the 2007-2009 administration was "Unity and Team Spirit". That attitude was certainly exhibited by all of the General Officers, Honorary Presidents General, and Committees of the National Society, as well as the Presidents and other officers and members of the State Member Societies. All of you have my heartfelt gratitude for your support and cooperation during those two years. As I said when elected to that term, the National Society does not belong to the few in leadership positions; it belongs to all the members. It takes the efforts of all of us, individually and as a team, for the National Society to function for the benefit of its members.

That continues to be true, and I humbly ask the incoming members of the General Council, as well as all officers and members of the State Societies to pledge continued "Unity and Team Spirit," not only in support of the National Society's activities, but also within your own State Societies and Chapters. Without unity and mutual support, our brave Huguenot ancestors would not have survived. The same can be said of many cultures, countries, and organizations. Patrick Henry (and before him, Aesop) said it, "United we stand . . . ."

This term, we are also going to focus on another aspect of survival; growth. We will continue striving to reunite former members, reactivate dormant State Societies, develop new State Societies, and assist active State Societies with recruiting new members. In addition, this term, we are primarily going to zero in on the young! A new committee has been appointed to develop ideas for youth activities; youth basically meaning three groups: the very young (elementary and middle school age), teens (through high school), and young adults (to age 25 or so). The committee consists of Jan Cordell (janestellecordell1@cox.net), Carol Chew (cchew@wi.rr.com), and Jennifer Fomby (hfomby@gmail.com). The committee would welcome any ideas you might have for getting young people involved through various activities at the local, state and national level.

The Presidents of all State Societies are reminded to send a list of their State Societies' officers, with contact information, to the Corresponding Secretary General, the Registrar General, the Treasurer General, the President General, and the Headquarters Office. Please send the list even if new officers have not recently been elected or will not be any time soon. Remember, we have new National officers and new office volunteers, and they may not have that information. The National officers need to communicate with their counterparts from time to time, so it is important that they have postal addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. And, don't forget to send a new list immediately after new officers are elected.

I look forward to working closely with each and every one of you, and welcome your suggestions, recommendations, and constructive criticism. This is going to be another fantastic two years with many new exciting things happening, so do plan on getting involved.

In Huguenot faith and devotion,  
Barbara C. MacManus  
President General

## **NATIONAL HUGUENOT SOCIETY, INC. GIVEN AT 73rd CONGRESS**

11 APRIL 2009 - WASHINGTON, DC

### ***PRESIDENT GENERAL'S REPORT***

The President General presided over the Mid-Year meeting of the General Council on 24 October 2008 in Chattanooga, hosted by the Huguenot Society of Tennessee. The General Council meeting was held the day prior to the day of the Board of General Officers meeting. That format was very well received, because it afforded the General Council the opportunity to forward several recommendations for consideration by the Board at its meeting the next day. The Open Forum prior to the business session of the General Council produced an active exchange of ideas among representatives of the various State Member Societies represented. The attendees were a vivacious and energetic group.

The Board of General Officers Mid-Year meeting in Chattanooga the following day, 25 October 2009, was also presided over by this officer. It was a long, but very productive Board meeting. The perseverance of the members of the Board in seeing it through to completion of the business at hand was much appreciated.

All Board members and attendees of the General Council meeting were invited to the meeting and luncheon of the Huguenot Society of Tennessee prior to the Board of General Officers meeting. This officer had the honor of being the speaker at that luncheon. In addition to delivering an update from the National Society, she also spoke on attempts of the French Huguenots to explore and settle "New France" as described in the book, *Three Voyages*, by Rene Laudonniere, as translated by Charles E. Bennett.

The President General has been working closely with a very enthusiastic member of the Huguenot Society of Mississippi in an effort to reactivate that State Member Society. She was scheduled to travel to Jackson, Mississippi, for a meeting on 27 September 2008; however, that meeting was postponed to 8 November, 2008. Members of the Board of General Officers had previously voiced approval for the President General to appoint identified members of the Huguenot Society of Mississippi as Organizing Officers to conduct the business of that State Member Society until elections could be held at their Spring Assembly the last Saturday of March 2009. It is a pleasure to report that the Huguenot Society of Mississippi is fully reactivated and up and running, thanks

to the perseverance of Penny Lotterhos, the newly officially elected President, and her fellow Board Members.

This officer, as an ex-officio member of the committee, has been in frequent communication with the Chairman of the Committee on Bylaws while that Committee has been diligently researching past records and publications to ferret out all amendments adopted since the publication of the 2002 Bylaws and Handbook. The Bylaws Committee was given the task of updating the Bylaws by incorporating all such amendments in preparation for a new publication of Bylaws and Handbook. That task has been completed and a draft copy is to be presented at this meeting. If it is approved, any bylaws amendments passed at this meeting will be incorporated into that document and a new 2009 issue of the Bylaws and Handbook will be printed and distributed in accordance with motions adopted by previous meetings of Congress.

The President General communicated with each of the State Member Societies with some frequency over the past two years regarding the need for relocating the "Headquarters Office" from Bloomington, Minnesota. There were several suggestions and a couple of firm proposals, one of which would have been a temporary arrangement. The firm proposal put forth by the Languedoc Chapter of the Huguenot Society of Texas, which included the offer of volunteers to staff the office, was accepted. After considerable delay due to bad weather in Minnesota and the Christmas holidays, the office contents were delivered to the new "Headquarters Office" in San Antonio, Texas on January 2, 2009. The office is still not too well organized yet, and there are still a few kinks to work out with scheduling volunteers, but phone calls, letters, and e-mails will get answered.

This officer remains in frequent communication with the Huguenot Society of Virginia and the lawyer representing the interests that State Member Society and the National Huguenot Society, Inc., in trying to work out a settlement between the group that dissociated from National and its State Member Society. For a while, it appeared that reconciliation was likely; however, negotiations have broken down to some extent. The President General continues to be hopeful of a breakthrough and will continue working to resolve that situation.

The President General has continued to use the established voucher system to approve all bills and invoices for payment by the Treasurer General, and to review the financial statements as provided by the Treasurer General. She has made herself available to work with all committees to assist in any way

necessary to help them fulfill their assignments. She has placed high priority on communication, cooperation, unity and teamwork. She has provided updates and corrections to the 2007-2009 Directory of The General Council as changes have become known, and has endeavored to keep the State Member Societies informed of what is going on at National. She has also endeavored to keep the members of the Board of General Officers and Standing Committee Chairmen informed as well.

The time has flown by so quickly, it is hard to believe that this term of office has come to an end. Well, they say, "Time flies when you're having fun." Much has been accomplished in these two years, yet there is much to be done. During this term of office, the President General has been blessed with an outstanding team of General Officers, Committee Chairs, State Society Presidents, and Members. When this officer assumed the position of President General, it was with a theme of unity and team spirit. That is the manner in which everyone has responded. It is with much humility and gratitude that the contributions of each team member are acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted, with devotion to The National Huguenot Society, Inc., and the memory, principles, and virtues of our Huguenot ancestors.

Barbara C. MacManus  
President General

## MID-YEAR MEETING

Clinton, Mississippi  
October 30-31, 2009

Please attend the fall semi-annual gathering! All General Officers, State Presidents, Committee Chairs, Members, and Guests are urged to attend the General Council meeting on Friday, 30 October 2009, and the Huguenot Society of Mississippi luncheon and program on Saturday, 31 October 2009. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet and network with your contemporaries from across the country. At the General Council Work Session, you will be able to share ideas and learn from each other ways to build attendance at State meetings and to keep your State Society strong. It is also your opportunity to learn more about the workings of the National Society and to voice your opinions and offer suggestions for improvement at the National level. Please be there!

Barbara C. MacManus  
President General

## INTERESTED, BUT NOT A MEMBER YET?

We encourage interested people to explore the possibility of becoming a member per the qualifications set forth on our website. See any ancestor names you recognize on our Welcome to New Members list? If your surname matches that of one of the ancestors listed for our new members herein, or one of those listed on our website, it might be worth exploring whether you might be descended from a common Huguenot ancestor. It is possible that you could develop the necessary documentary proof of your lineage connection to one of our known Huguenots sufficient to support our membership criteria, provided you are also able to meet the other requirements for membership. We always want to expand our circle of Huguenot descendants and welcome new members!

## FROM A MEMBER

This came from Muriel Oehme, a very active member of the Huguenot Society of Washington, DC. Muriel is our State Registrar and Corresponding Secretary. She prepares the State Directory for printing and serves as our Membership Chairman.

Muriel sent this recent e-mail to members of the Society:

Dear Fellow Huguenots,

Most of you may be really ahead of me on this book, but anything that keeps me awake past ten at night has to be good. For my Mother's Day gift my younger daughter sent me the book "In the Shadow of the Sun King". It came in the mail about two in the afternoon. I simply couldn't put it down. I didn't eat supper and didn't finish the book until two in the morning. It is truly worthwhile reading for us who are Huguenots! I do not know if it is in local libraries, but it is available in paperback at Amazon.com.

Just wanted to share something I thought special.

Muriel

Thank you, Muriel, for being the truly sharing person that you are and such a great Huguenot!

## Minutes National Huguenot Society, Inc.

73rd Annual Congress Washington, DC

11 April 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by the President General, Barbara C. MacManus.

The President General appointed the reading committee of Jan Cordell, Aubrey Peacock and Shirley de la Barre to review the minutes.

Pledge to US flag was led by Jennifer Fomby, delegate from Texas

Invocation was given by Peter Adams.

The objectives of the society were read by Recording Secretary General, Nancy W. Brennan.

The Credentials Committee report was given by Linda A. Smith, Chairman. General Officers present, eight (8); Honorary Presidents General present, one (1); Presidents of State Societies, five (5); Delegates, seventeen (17); State Societies represented, thirteen (13); voting strength 31. Alternate Delegates, none (0); non-delegate members, two (2); guests, thirteen (13). Total registration, forty-six (46).

Motion was made to accept credentials report. Motion adopted

Quorum was declared.

The printed program was presented with correction of the name of the Chaplain pro tem to be The Rev. Paul W. Smith.

Motion made to approve printed program with corrections of the 73rd Annual Congress. Motion adopted.

The standing rules printed in the program were presented by the Credentials Chairman. Motion was made to accept standing rules printed in the program. Motion adopted.

The President General appointed Nadine Hardin-Miller as time keeper.

The President General read her report which is attached.

The Treasurer General, Robert R. Van Gulick presented his report which included the Activity Report , the Year-end Report and the Statement of Financial Condition which are attached.

The history of the Advent Recovery Fund was explained by the President General. The funds are unrestricted and are separate only for tracking purposes.

The Recording Secretary General read the Audit Report from Audit Committee Chairman, Sara Branton. Audit Report attached. Motion was made to approve the Audit Committee report. Motion adopted.

The Treasurer General presented the proposed 2009 Annual Budget. Budget is attached. Postage charges were explained. Motion was made to approve budget as presented. Motion adopted.

Jacqueline Wells Dickey Scholarship fund may not allow two recipients in 2009, as was done in 2008, due to the low expected return on the principal.

### Reports of General Officers:

3rd Vice President, Allen Moore, stated that his duties had been limited and that he did attend the Mid Year meeting in Chattanooga, TN. His report continued with the report of the Huguenot Society of Indiana, which is attached.

Registrar General, Jeannine Kallal, presented her report, which is attached. During her six year tenure, 544 new members by application were approved and 86 supplemental papers making a total of 630 papers.

Counselor General , Janice Lorenz, reported that she had prepared legal opinions as requested by the President General and that she had spent a considerable amount of time on the Virginia situation.

### Reports of Honorary Presidents General:

Rev. Travis DuPriest, Jr. – Report filed.

Nadine Hardin-Miller-No report

Report of the General Council: The Recording Secretary General summarized the reports from the Book Awards Committee and the Report of the Historian General. The Scholarship Committee chair, Richard Smith, reported that three students submitted applications - Justin Ferrell of Texas, Stephanie Sowa of Illinois and Simone Antonia Oppen from California. The committee recommended Simone Oppen as the recipient of the scholarship. Reports are attached.

The President General commended First Vice President General, Stephen Gerth for his work as Webmaster for the National Huguenot Society website. She stated that a Certification of Appreciation would be sent to him in recognition of his prompt and efficient contribution to the Society.

Honorary President General Hardin-Miller stressed the effort to get the young people, children and grand children of members, involved in the Society. The President General has appointed a committee to stimulate interest in youth projects. The committee is composed of Jan Cordell, Carol Chew and Jennifer Fomby. Only one junior member has been admitted during the last six years. It is the responsibility of the States to keep track of junior members. The Registrar General does not issue numbers or check ages of juniors as to when they should be elevated to regular membership.

Recommendations of the Board of General Officers : Motions were read by the Recording Secretary General.

#1. Motion that Richard Smith receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Huguenot Society for his great work and commitment to be present at this meeting. Motion approved by Congress.

#2. Motion to recommend that the Huguenot Society of Iowa be allowed to disband. Motion approved by Congress. President General will write a letter to each of the members informing them of the decision of this Congress and invite them to become members at large or to transfer to another State Society. Motion approved by Congress

#3. Motion that we recommend to Congress that the Massachusetts Society disband so that the National Huguenot Society may pursue obtaining its escheated funds. President General explained the history of the Massachusetts Society. She stated that the funds of that Society, about \$900, had been put in escrow about four years ago and remains there. Individual members have been paying their dues directly to the Treasurer General. In order to avoid legal penalties, a new state society would have to be organized. Motion approved by Congress.

Amended Motion: That three General Officers call a meeting of the Massachusetts members to attempt to reconstitute the organization. Motion adopted.

#4. Motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee since Congress 2008. Congress does not have to ratify this motion.

#5. Motion to accept the draft By-Laws and Handbook as prepared and submitted. Motion was made to approve the draft of the Bylaws and Handbook as amended through 2007 which was printed and distributed and attached herewith. All previous amendments were integrated into this document. Motion adopted by Congress.

#6. Motion that the 74th Congress meet on Friday, April 16 and Saturday April 17 in Washington DC in 2010.

Motion was made for the 74th Congress to meet next year April 16 & 17, 2010. Discussion: It is advisable to meet at the same time as other lineage societies meet in Washington to allow members to attend several meetings during one trip. Consult dates for next year's meetings of the various societies and report at the mid-year meeting. Article X, Section A, states that the date be set at the annual congress for the next year. Motion to accept the recommendation was adopted.

Report of the Book Award Committee: *Painter in a Savage Land* by Miles Harvey was the selection of the Committee for the award.

Report of the Nominating committee: Nadine Hardin-Miller, Chairman, read the report. Report is attached. Motion made to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion to accept the committee recommendation and elect by acclamation. Motion adopted.

The Memorial Service was conducted by Rev. Paul W. Smith during the luncheon. The name of Mary Luella Clayton Hardie of Texas was omitted from the Necrology book. The Installation of Officers was also conducted during the luncheon.

Congress reconvened at 1:30 pm:

Credentials committee report reflected a total 46 in attendance. There was no change from the morning report.

New Business:

Bylaws amendments: The Recording Secretary General read each proposed amendment. Full report of proposed By-laws amendments is attached.

Motion to approve Article III, Section C. 1 and Section C. 2 as read - changes regular membership age from 18 to 16 and changes Junior membership to persons less than age 16. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve Article III Section C. 8 as read - youth registration will be persons under the age of 16. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve Article IV, Section D. 3 as read – strike the word “Junior” from dues payable to Treasurer General as Junior members receive no services nor may hold office. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve Article V, Section B, as read - to eliminate conflict with forgoing articles. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve Article V, Section E, as read – new wording for section. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve Article VII, Section D. 1 as read – to remove the Corresponding Secretary General from the Executive Committee and add Recording Secretary General. Question was raised as to the need for the Corresponding Secretary to be a member of executive committee. Motion adopted

Motion to approve Article XI, Section A., 1 and B., 9 – to strike out “Resolutions” from the list of standing committees. Motion adopted

Motion to approve Article XI, B., 10 as read - to expand the duties of the Scholarship Committee to include all scholarship funds. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve Article XII as read – to rename article “Scholarship Funds and Other Special Funds” and specify requirements. Motion adopted.

State reports: The following State reports were filed: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

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## Memories from the 2009 Banquet and Congress

Photographs: Courtesy of Duane Wills and Barbara MacManus



Joel and Catherine Straugh of California, with Pres. General Barbara MacManus



The Braggs, Allen Moore, and the Gradelesses



Placing of the Memorial Wreath at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, by Nadine Hardin Miller, Jan Cordell, Carol Brown, Barbara MacManus, and Allen Moore



Virginia (DC Society) and George Lester, with guest Elizabeth Harrington of France



Andrew Welch, Honor Student, American University, entertained at the 2009 Annual Banquet

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### *2009-2011*

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## TREASURER GENERAL'S YEAR END REPORT

7 APRIL 2009

The undersigned, Treasurer General of The National Huguenot Society, Inc., does hereby submit the following Financial Report for the Period 1 January 2008 through 31 December 2008.

The balance of funds on hand at the start of the 2008 year, including the Jacqueline Wells Dickey Scholarship Restricted Funds of \$309,439.73, the Ray and Anna Lewis Memorial Restricted Funds of \$23,208.91, the Unrestricted Advent Recovery Funds of \$88,300.65 and the Unrestricted Operating Funds of \$72,033.94, totaled \$492,983.23.

There were received (and accrued with regard to certificates of deposit not at maturity) \$44,118.52 for the period 1 January 2008 through 31 December 2008. During the same period, disbursements totaled \$44,107.13, leaving a net increase of \$11.39 in 2008.

The balance of funds on hand as of 31 December 2008, including the Jacqueline Wells Dickey Scholarship Restricted Funds of \$312,625.72, the Ray and Anna Lewis Memorial Restricted Funds of \$24,153.22, the Unrestricted Advent Recovery Funds of \$88,865.82 and the Unrestricted Operating Funds of \$62,983.59, totaled \$492,345.00. The year end figures reflect a reclassification of \$649.62 from Unrestricted Operating Funds to Contingent Liabilities for funds received from the dormant Huguenot Society of Louisiana in a prior year, but not previously segregated.

The attached Financial Report for the Period 1 January 2008 through 31 December 2008 includes printouts of the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Income and Expense. Detail of the carrying value of accounts with various financial institutions is also included along with a comparative analysis of expenses to date versus annual figures from prior years.

Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr.  
Treasurer General

## TREASURER GENERAL'S ACTIVITY REPORT

7 April 2009

During the period since the Treasurer General's last report to the Annual Congress on 4 April 2008 to the present, I have accomplished the following tasks:

- Prepared and filed the IRS Form 990 and other related disclosures, including information about affiliated State Societies.
- Deposited all funds received from the Registrar General, the Headquarters Office, State Member Societies, Members-at-Large and Individuals.
- Disbursed payment of all bills and invoices approved and submitted by the President General in accordance with the established voucher system.
- Reviewed and reconciled all bank statements from the various financial institutions in which funds of the National Huguenot Society, Inc. are maintained.
- Interacted with the President General regarding maturities and renewals of certificates of deposit and provided a listing of the Society's assets/investments to the Finance Committee for review and consideration.
- Posted deposited receipts and disbursed checks to the statement of accounts.
- Prepared the Treasurer Generals' report for submission at the mid year meeting.
- Closed the books for the year 2008 and submitted the records and supporting documentation to the Audit Committee.
- Reported to the Credentials Committee the State Member Societies eligible to be represented at the Annual Congress based on timely payment of annual fees ( dues).
- Kept a roster of registrants for the 73rd Annual Congress and promptly reported updates to the Credentials Committee Chairman and the President General.
- Prepared the 2008 Year End Financial Statements and Reports to be presented at the 73rd Annual Congress on 10 April 2009.

Respectfully submitted  
Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr. Treasurer General

## Registrar General's Report

Jeannine Kallal

Since this officer's last report for the semi-Annual Meeting on 25 October 2008, 53 applications have been approved for new members, including one new junior member; twelve supplemental papers were approved; three Youth Registrations registered and four transfers were completed.

In that same time period, 17 state societies submitted applications; one member-at-large is included in that number. Alabama had 16, including one junior, North Carolina 6, Virginia 4. Congratulations to Ann Gasque, AL State Registrar, to Larry Rozier of North Carolina, and to Alice Birdseye of Virginia.

All papers received have been read. Three papers remain unapproved as the ancestors have not met the requirements of the family being of French origin.

Totals for this administration since 7 April 2007: 202 new members by application, including four junior members; 41 supplemental papers approved; 15 transfers, 1 dual membership, one junior to senior membership, 8 reinstatements and 3 reinstatements with transfer, and 9 Youth Registrations.

Twenty-seven state societies, including member-at-large, sent applications in 2007-2009. The Mississippi Society is back and has 2 new members, one by application and one transfer in. Unhappily, the Maryland society has separated from the National Huguenot Society, but some of its members have transferred elsewhere within NHS.

The annual State Registrar Report Form was sent to all the registrars and 24 of them responded. Some more forms were revised and put on the website. Steve Gerth is amazing—no sooner than a request is made, he responds and the item is online. Virtually every form that the Registrar General needs is online for use by the state registrars. The most recent revision was the Youth Registration Form, which has a fresh new look. With Steve's assistance, the Society is very much in step with 21st century technology. Steve also does the membership certificates for the Society, which are complete for this administration.

The membership mailing list is the biggest challenge. After the mailing of the most recent issue of *The Cross*, the mailing service sent corrections directly to this officer. To date, no additional information has been received from any post offices. The state societies need to be proactive

in assisting the Society with the maintenance of a current membership database.

It has been a privilege to work with the state registrars. They are a hard-working group and they have been cooperative beyond belief. When a paper isn't quite right, little argument is given, they simply go back and get whatever is needed. The society owes them all a debt of gratitude, as does this officer.

There is a constant flow of email, much of it generated by the website, which has become one of the best ways to attract people interested in membership. A prospective member can download the application and fill it in. This officer is contacted and the prospective member's name is sent to the appropriate state registrar or it is handled by the Registrar General if it is a member-at-large application.

Work on the next Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors, which has been slowed by other demands, is now going forward. Without the constant flow of papers, this officer can concentrate on the completion of this much needed resource. All the ancestor files in the possession of the National Society will be read and all pertinent data will be transcribed. Some ancestors have had several entries over the years—an interested party needed to consult all of them. With the new Register, all of this data will be in one source. Additional generations have been found, so the lineage has been extended, thus opening up new avenues for membership, which is exciting. The index will be as complete as possible and relationships to other Huguenot ancestors within the lineage will be noted to facilitate supplemental applications.

All monies received were sent to the Treasurer General.

This is a bittersweet moment. I will stop being "this officer." I leave this job, voluntarily, after 6 years. I will return to the office of the State Registrar of the IL Society. If the figures are correct, during my tenure, 544 new members by application (including 10 juniors) were approved as well as 86 supplemental papers. So, 630 papers—that seems hard to believe, but the lists don't lie! So many people were of help along the way and gave of their time and counsel whenever needed. While I had been a local, state and national registrar for several groups before, every society is different and has its special requirements; the National Huguenot Society is no exception. I purchased a detailed Michelin map of France, jump started by rusty French and hoped that I could convince everyone to do it "my way." I think it worked pretty well. So, adieu et merci beaucoup pour l'occasion d'être au service.

## *Scholarship Award Committee*

Richard Dana Smith, Sr., Chairman

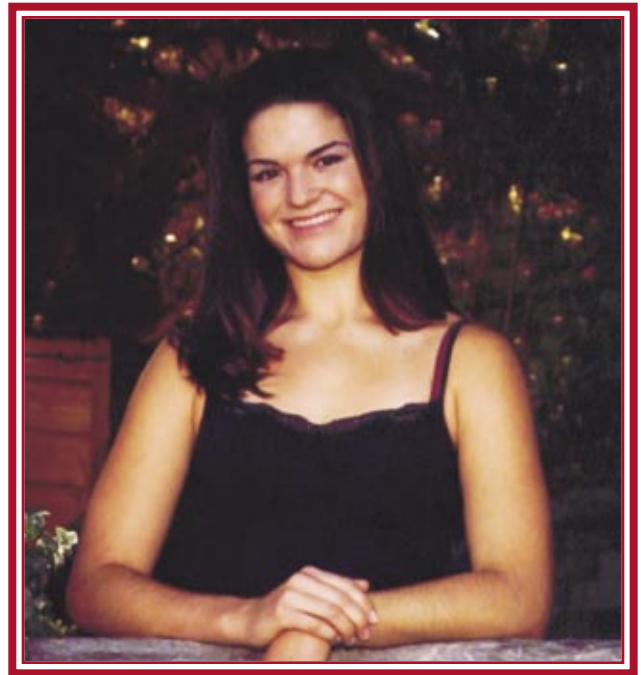
In addition to the Chairman, the Scholarship Award Committee consists of: Mr. Bernard W. Hugas, Mrs. Eleanor B. Niebell, and Mrs. Neoma O. O'Brien, Honorary President General.

The Committee has unanimously selected as the winner of our 2009 Scholarship Award: **Simone Antonia Oppen**, who is in her final year of undergraduate study at the University of California at Berkeley. She has a cumulative grade point average of 3.694 with a double major in Classical Languages and Comparative Literature. Simone is a member of the La Rochelle Chapter, California Huguenot Society.

In part, Simone writes: “To back up what I have learned in History 7B (U.S. History) and Classics 121 (Ancient Religion), I read several books on the subject of the French Civil Wars or Wars of Religion to discover that the Edict of Nantes was responsible for orchestrating, in France, the kind of peaceful cohabitation which I currently benefit from. When this peace was broken in 1685, my (Huguenot) ancestors Pierre and Marguerite Bontecou and their small children fled persecution in France to help create the plurality and freedom of religion that I enjoy in America.”

“Though I am ‘walking’ in May, I plan to learn French (in a 10 week work shop which covers the first year of college-level instruction) and to complete my honors thesis on the Berkeley Campus this summer. I would hope to use this scholarship towards the tuition of French 15 and other expenses so as to be able to focus on the thesis and beginning French instruction. Knowledge of the French language would allow me to more fully research my ancestry and would be essential for pursuit of graduate studies in Classics.”

“I am spending my spring break doing research for an honors thesis on subsidiary choruses in Euripides. Two of Euripides’ plays (the Hippolytus and the fragmentary Phaethon) use another chorus in addition to the main one. In the first half of this semester I directed a production of the Hippolytus in the original Ancient Greek – the first performance in the original language on Berkeley campus in over 60 years.”



Simone spent the spring semester of 2008 studying at the University of Padua (Italy) which she says “led me to begin putting my Huguenot heritage into context”. The University of Padua has a most interesting history. It was founded in 1212 when a large group of students and professors left the University of Bologna in search of more academic freedom. From the 15th to the 18th Century, the university was renowned for its research. This was thanks in part to the protection of the Republic of Venice, which enabled the university to maintain some freedom and independence from the influence of the Roman Catholic Church.

Congratulations, and very best wishes to Simone!



Simone and her mother – Florence, Italy, with Arno River in the background, taken late February 2008.

## Report of The Rev. Travis Talmadge Du Priest, Jr.,

Ph.D., Honorary President General

During 2008 I gave two talks with power point presentations on Peter (Pierre) Le Grand, III the Burgess, first to the combined Huguenot Society of Kentucky and Descendants of Manakin Towne in the Colony of Virginia at Spindletop Hall in Lexington, Ky. and second, to the Huguenot Society of Illinois. The writeup with photographs of the placing of a grave marker in Lexington (Ky.) Cemetery was published in the Spring 2008 issue of The Cross of Languedoc.

In the fall of 2008, I gave an address to the combined Illinois Society of Sons of the Revolution and Founders and Patriots of Illinois along with members of the Huguenot Society of Illinois on *Counterfeiting in Colonial America* with a case study of patriotism based on William DePriest, jnr. of Henry Co., Va. An article is forthcoming in “*Drumbeat*.”

In 2007-2008, I placed manuscripts-in-progress of *Descendants of Robert depresee {DuPriest} of New Kent Co., Va. with Historical Introduction* in the following libraries: The Library of Virginia, The Historical Society of Virginia, The Manakin Huguenot Library, and the Historical Society of Kentucky. I continue to expand the historical introduction on an overview of the Huguenot movement.

I also had articles published on using Episcopal Church records for genealogical research in “*Bluegrass Roots*,” along with another article on the importance of placing grave markers.

I continue to be honored to serve on the Awards Committee of The National Huguenot Society, having just completed reading *Painter in a Strange Land* and a new biography of *Henri IV*, and to represent and give talks on behalf of The National Huguenot Society whenever possible.

## Book Awards Committee

Dallie Howerton

The Book Awards Committee, led by Chairman Dallie Howerton, Kim Kincaid and The Rev. Travis T. DuPriest, could not reach a decision as to which book should receive the 2008 book Award from the National Huguenot Society. Both of the books in top contention are truly worthy of this award. Therefore, we would like to split the award between the two books we have selected:

- *Painter in a Savage Land*, by Miles Harvey (Random House, New York City, NY)

- *Beyond the Border—Huguenot Goldsmiths in Northern Europe and North America*, Edited by Tessa Murdoch (Sussex Academic Press, London, England)

Both books are very well researched and documented. They both address little-known areas of Huguenot history, and both are well written and handsome publications.

The book on “goldsmithing” has the glossy look of a coffee table book, but goes beyond that genre by presenting valuable information about Huguenot craftsmen in a variety of Huguenot colonies.

“Savage Land” is a remarkable piece of scholarship, truly “groundbreaking.” It is a fascinating exploration of the violent times and obscure life of the artist, who first recorded the Indians and the slaughter of French Christians by the Spanish.

I was pleased to find the site of Fort Caroline, the French fort in Florida, has been discovered and is just miles from Jacksonville, where I have often visited with family members. I understand a museum has now been built on the site.



## OFFICIAL CALL

### **The National Huguenot Society, Inc. Semi-Annual General Counsel Meeting and Board of General Officers Meeting**

Hampton Inn  
493 Springridge Road • Clinton, Mississippi 39056  
Phone: 601-925-9393

The Fall Semi-Annual meeting of the General Council and Board of General Officers of The National Huguenot Society, Inc. will be hosted by The Huguenot Society of Mississippi. The National Huguenot Society was invited to hold its mid-year meetings in Clinton, a suburb of Jackson, MS, to coincide with the Fall meeting of the Huguenot Society of Mississippi. The General Council will meet Friday, October 30th, followed by a reception and dinner that evening. We will hold our Board of General Officers meeting Saturday morning and will join the Mississippi Society for its meeting, luncheon and speaker following the Board Meeting.

<b>Friday, 30 October 2009</b>	<b>2:00 PM 6:30 PM</b>	<b>General Council Meeting Reception and Dinner: All are welcome</b>
<b>Saturday, 31 October 2009</b>	<b>8:30 AM 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Board of General Officers Meeting Huguenot Society of Mississippi Meeting and Luncheon</b>

Note: Standing Committee Chairmen are invited to attend the Meeting of the Board of General Officers. All other meetings and meal functions are open, and all members and guests are encouraged to attend those.

The Hampton Inn offers free parking and free breakfast. The hotel is easily accessible, just off I 20 in Clinton, Mississippi. The Jackson-Evers International Airport (JAN) is served by American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, and US Airways. Available rental car agencies are Avis, Hertz, Budget, Enterprise, and National.

Total cost for the meeting, including registration, Friday night dinner, and Saturday luncheon is \$50.00. Cost for those who are only attending meal functions is \$23.00 for dinner and \$17.00 for the luncheon. Can you believe it???

***Please make checks payable to The National Huguenot Society, Inc., and MAIL CHECKS BY 5 October 2009 to:***

**Barbara C. MacManus, President General**  
710 Agave Court  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-2538  
Telephone & Fax: 830-992-3027      E-mail: [barcmac@austin.rr.com](mailto:barcmac@austin.rr.com)

Please make hotel reservations directly with the hotel as soon as possible. Request the National Huguenot Society rate of \$94.00 per room. Room rates are exclusive of tax. Rates will be honored 2 days prior and 2 days following the meetings, based on availability, so make reservations early. The hotel contact for our meetings is Allen Boykins, phone 601-925-9393, e-mail: [Allen.Boykins@hilton.com](mailto:Allen.Boykins@hilton.com). To view the hotel's website, go to [www.HamptonInn.com](http://www.HamptonInn.com) and search for Hampton Inn in Clinton, Mississippi.

**Come and experience the gracious southern small town hospitality and stay long enough to visit the many historic sites in and around Clinton and the capital city of Jackson. We look forward to seeing you there.**

## *State Reports. . . . .*

### **Alabama**

*Barbara Garner*

The Huguenot Society of Alabama held its spring meeting on March 26, 2009, at South Highland Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. It has been our custom to have a Huguenot Service at least every two years in conjunction with the Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia. We had a large crowd in the beautiful Chapel of the Church. The Rev. Dr. Edwin Hurley delivered a message on the 500th birthday of John Calvin. There was beautiful music presented by Jan Hill and Joyce Jennings. A buffet lunch was served after the service and then a brief business meeting was held. This is always a special day for us and we look forward to this time together.

We also held a very special meeting in September. The Organization was 50 years old in 2008 and we celebrated with special decorations and place favors with beautiful table centerpieces of African Violets provided by member Lil White.

After our business meeting, a very interesting program was presented by Dr. Timothy George. He spoke on Luther and Calvin and expanded on their influence in Europe and the Colonies. After the program, a buffet lunch was enjoyed by everyone and champagne toasts were given to the founder of the State Society by Treasurer, Steve Saxon. Then a large cake, beautifully decorated, honoring the Huguenot Society was shown and then cut and served to everyone. Door prizes were given and the meeting was adjourned.

### **Arkansas**

*Mary Lewis*

The Arkansas Huguenot society meets three times a year in the center of the state, Little Rock. Our members come from all four corners of the state. Throughout the year we have had interesting and informative speakers. Our scholarship winner for this year was Lauren Coker, granddaughter of one of our members.

We currently have 55 members. We have 2 new members, and sadly report the death of one of our members, but we have 7 prospective members. We had 3 members to attend the National Congress last April.

This has been a rewarding and enjoyable past two years as president

### **Delaware**

*William M. Brown, Jr.*

The year 2008 was not a growth year for our state Society. Our membership was reduced by three with the reported deaths of two out of state members and one in state resignation; however four potential members are presently working on their papers.

Our October meeting was well attended. Members present elected William M. Brown, Jr., then serving as State president Pro Tem following the death of our state president, to be State President. They also chose the state officers for the 2009-2011 term.

A noteworthy honorary award was presented in November 2008 to Kim R. Burdick, a former Delaware Huguenot Society State President, by the French Consul, Washington, DC. She received the Les Palmes Academiques\* for a lifetime of service for Washington/Rochambeau Revolutionary War Route from Rhode Island to Yorktown, Virginia—now the W3R National History Trail.

### **Florida**

*Robert E. Burt*

Many State Society meetings have been attended by this President, Robert E. Burt, including DAR, SAR, CAR, Mayflower, Genealogy, Huguenot and I have been introduced as President of the Florida Huguenot Society. I saw a way to make those connections work for the Florida Huguenot Society when I inherited a dropped Chapter in the SW part of Florida. With the help of Linda Smith and local folks, a “Genealogical Happening for Huguenots” was scheduled in Naples Florida 2006. With the help of DAR, SAR, Mayflower and Genealogical Societies leadership, we asked them to poll their membership for possible Huguenot connections. More than 40 were suggested, and 18 attended the December meeting. Virginia Bailey was selected as organizing president. The chapter is up and running. Their Huguenot Flag has been returned to them. Their bank account was turned over to our treasurer and the funds plus interest accumulated need to be refunded to the Chapter.

It is my belief that before a chapter or state society is allowed to drop, a Genealogy Happening should be held.

Three winners this past year earned \$750 each in our Florida State Allen Parker Scholarship program. Applications are available on our website, Monica K. Douglas chairman.

A Bylaws committee needs to be established to bring Florida in line with National. Our internal communications have been updated, thanks to Charles Baker and committee.

Our State Society had a news publication in 1987 and it continued for six years. With the help of Brett Brown, Linda Smith, Judith Adams, Peg Grundman, Chapter Presidents and President Burt, "The Florida Huguenot" was published last fall and two more are scheduled in 2009 with the new Editor, J. B. DeRosset.

Our 193 members wish the very best for our National leadership and we are very proud to have in our Florida Society Syliva F. McAuliffe, Honorary President General.

## **Indiana**

*Allen W. Moore*

The Huguenot Society of Indiana meets twice a year at the Meridian Hills Country Club in Indianapolis. Our dinner meetings always have programs of an educational, historical, or religious nature, usually relevant to Huguenots. Our speakers are mostly university faculty members.

During the past year, our April 12, 2008, meeting speaker was Dr. Mark West, Associate Professor of French at Taylor University, whose presentation was "The Expansion of Gospel in Europe and America: Taylor's French Connection."

The fall meeting on October 18, 2008, speaker was Dr. Fred Witzig, Professor of History at Franklin College, whose topic was "The Huguenots of South Carolina." Our spring meeting this year will be held on April 18, 2009.

Currently we have 43 life members and 20 regular members making a total of 63 members, who are scattered across the state as well as those in 9 other states. We also have 5 associate members. Our average attendance at meetings this past year has been 21. The ages of our members range from 21 to 98.

During the past year we have recruited 4 new members, and there have been 4 deaths and no resignations. We are making a special effort to recruit young members. We are very pleased with the enthusiasm of our new members and look forward to their taking active leadership roles in the future.

## **Mississippi**

*Penny C. Lotterhos*

The Mississippi Society of the Huguenots has reorganized. We appreciate the visit and help from President General Barbara MacManus on November 8, 2008.

The Spring meeting was held March 28, 2009 in the home of Penny Lotterhos. The slate of officers was installed. President Penny Lotterhos gave a slide presentation on the Huguenots. Treasurer Lynn Meaddor reports that we have 18 dues paying members. Registrar Mary Margaret Buck reported that we have one new member (Kathy Henning) one transferred member (Pat Roebuck) and three prospective members. We meet twice a year; in the Spring and Fall. The next meeting will be October 31 at Providence Presbyterian Church, Clinton, MS. The guest speaker will be Mr. Pat Freeman (author and minister). He will speak On Huguenot Influence and History. Plans are for a yearbook, newsletter and a website. We may not have quantity but we have quality in our membership.

## **Nebraska**

*Judith Moore*

The semi-annual meeting was held 20 September 2008. Copies of our membership roll were distributed.

The Nebraska Chapter has been working on applications for new members. This year we obtained three new members and a couple more applicants are pending. A committee is appointed to update our Bylaws. Our next meeting is 29 April 2009 at the Knolls in Lincoln, Nebraska, where installation of officers will be held.

## **New Hampshire**

*Marsha Stewart*

The New Hampshire society had its annual meeting at the Boy Scout Museum at Camp Carpenter in Manchester, New Hampshire. We were treated to a self-guided tour of the museum, had our business meeting, and adjourned to "99" for lunch.

Our society this year is sponsoring two scholarships for high school seniors who are enrolled in a Protestant private high school within the state. Applicants must also be members of a Protestant church. Invitations to apply have been sent to 11 private high schools and we are hoping for a good response. This is a first for our society, and although the total sum of the scholarships is small this year, we hope to expand in future years.

We are a small, but dedicated group, proud of our Huguenot heritage and looking forward to furthering the objectives of the Society in the coming year and in the future.

## **Pennsylvania**

*Ronald Horner*

The Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1918, is the oldest constituent member of the National Huguenot Society. At present, the Society meets four times per year, in various configurations.

The executive council meets twice each year, with a general membership meeting held each spring and in the fall as a Reformation Sunday observance.

The spring 2009 meeting, held on April 25 at the historic Jean Bonnet Tavern in Bedford, Pennsylvania, featured a presentation on the history of the tavern and Bonnet's contributions to the region.

The total number of members stands at 244. Our average attendance at meetings is 20. The ages of our members range from 20 to 91.

Our recruiting efforts are ongoing, and have recently yielded results in both junior and regular members. We are currently engaged in the process of having all of our records digitized, in cooperation with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. We are completing the process of establishing our web presence at [pahuguenot.org](http://pahuguenot.org). We will, of course, link that site to the National Society's home page.

## **Rhode Island**

*Col. Bruce C. MacGunnigle*

The Huguenot Society of Rhode Island has five members, three of whom are in their 80's.

## **Texas**

*Aubrey Wilson*

The Huguenot Society of Texas currently has 137 members in two chapters, the Languedoc Chapter in San Antonio, and the La Rochelle Chapter in Dallas. During 2008 we proudly enrolled eleven new members and reinstated three members. We dropped six members for various reasons. And we were saddened by the deaths of two faithful members, Mr. Robert

W. Fish and Mrs. Mary Luella Clayton Hardie. We continue to hope for a return of a sizeable number of separatists but some of its leadership remain recalcitrant.

The La Rochelle Chapter hosted our State meeting in February, 2008, at Maudee's Café in Dallas with State President, Aubrey Wilson, presiding. Barbara MacManus, our National President, favored our attendees with a complete update of national activities. At the May meeting Mrs. Grace DeuPree, founding member and first President, delivered a wonderful program describing her trip to France to visit Huguenot historic towns and sites.

The most significant activity for the Languedoc Chapter was the successful move of National Headquarters into convenient and practical accommodations in San Antonio. Several members were especially active in effecting the move. President Corinne Staacke and Jack Cowan worked diligently over many months to locate and negotiate a suitable and affordable facility. Barbara MacManus, our National President donated office furniture. Jack Cowan transported the furniture and moved it into the new office. Corinne Staacke supervised the unloading and move-in of Huguenot records. Nancy Brennan, Corinne Staacke, Barbara MacManus and husband did the unpacking and arrangement of materials and furniture. And Corinne Staacke donated a new all-in-one machine. Much credit is due this outstanding effort by an all volunteer team. The new office will be staffed with a team of Languedoc volunteers with every effort made to maintain regular office hours during the work week. The new Headquarters telephone number is 210-366-9995.

During 2009, we plan to distribute copies of our excellent "The Cross of Languedoc" publication to some of our separatist friends so that they will have an inkling of what they are missing by being outside the National membership fold.

## **Virginia**

*Rachel L. Wills*

This office continues to be a very busy job with answering the queries that come through our state society website, plus the additions and corrections to our membership being an ever-changing process. Our newest officers on our board are bringing fresh ideas and concerns... a healthy sign of growth and improvement.

A primary focus has been working with our attorney seeking a resolution of the dispute which arose in 2007.

As for the 2008 status of the Huguenot Society of Virginia, a member of The National Huguenot Society, Inc., we met on 1 March 2008 for our annual spring meeting held at the Williamsburg National Golf Club in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Reverend Frank Blair again gave his beautiful prayers and member Barbara Crittenden gave a moving program about the perils her ancestor, Antoine-Charles de Cazenove, encountered in his flight from France, as written in his journal in 1843 at the age of 70 just after the death of his beloved wife. New yearbooks were distributed. The actions of our October 2007 meeting were ratified by a quorum. The Executive Council recommended changes to the State bylaws so as to make them more compatible with the National Society's bylaws, as well as to meet the needs of our State society. Recommendations included change in the number required for a quorum for conducting business of the state society, adoption of proxy votes to be accepted so that members who cannot travel due to physical disabilities and/or distance can still have a voice in matters of great importance to our society. Our new officers were duly elected; the installation ceremony was conducted by The Rev. Ramsey Richardson, Chaplain 2003-2005. We were all sorry to see our State Chaplain 2007-2008, The Rev. Frank Blair, move to New Mexico, but we have given him the name of our New Mexico State President for when he feels ready to make the transfer or to become a dual state member.

In order to meet in locations convenient to our members in the western part of the state, we met in Culpeper, Virginia, for our October meeting and the very nice Service of Remembrance, conducted by The Rev. Norman Dubois Nettleton. Rev. Nettleton also followed up by recruiting the son of one of the four deceased members and locating and contacting The Rev. Dr. William Phipps, author of our program materials inherited from the deceased professor of French at Virginia Tech, Dr. Galen Kline, and given to us by his widow, Paule Kline, before she returned to her native country, France.

Our surviving charter member and past State President, Anne Snidow Frazer, Mrs. William P. Frazer, brought greetings and remembrances of our organizing members and of our first meetings in the early days of formation as a member state society. She was also pleased to learn that we are hoping to continue with the state scholarship program which she initiated.

Alice Sweeney reported on her progress in her search for suitable office and storage space for our National Society

Headquarters. We were looking for space available to fit the requirements on Huguenot Road in Richmond. What better address could there be? However, we were pleased to learn that a final decision had been reached by the national society board members and our search within Virginia is now history.

The Huguenot Society of Virginia, organized 27 October 1961, is now 48 years old. One dear friend, my H.S. French teacher, C.A.R. leader and DAR Chapter Regent, Mrs. Frances Waters, was a main force in the organization of this State Society. She started several new societies at about the same time. She encouraged me to join this society and to continue with the research that my grandmother had begun many years ago. We intend to continue our proud state heritage begun by those dear friends, as we move forward with Huguenot faith and devotion.



### *Wisconsin Society Members Are Honored*

The work of two Wisconsin Society members each deserve recognition for their fine contribution to heritage and education. They each have produced results which have been recognized in recent publications. The lifelong commitment to history and education of Wisconsin member Barbara Brown Lee was featured in an article entitled *The Art of Teaching*, published in "M Magazine" which "showcases the best in people and lifestyle that metro Milwaukee has to offer." Barbara has shown a lifetime commitment to education and history through her accomplishments for the education program at the Milwaukee Art Museum. The article's caption to her photo says it all: "The Milwaukee Art Museum's education program attendance is in the top seven for all art museums in the United States, thanks in large part to the work of Barbara Brown Lee," its chief educator. Wisconsin Society Member Sara Witter Conner wrote a fascinating feature article published in *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Spring 2009, entitled *Trees: Contribution to World War II*. Kudos from the National Huguenot Society to both women for their devotion to bringing issues of historical significance and interest at the forefront of public notice.

## Greetings from the Florida Huguenot Society

Linda L. Smith, Past VP, President 2009-2011

I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Robbie Burt. Robbie served as President of the FL Society for four years and has published books about his ancestors, a goal to which I strive. He and Trudy have traversed the State of Florida attending meetings on behalf of the Huguenot Society of Florida. He has set the bar high for me to follow. To further exemplify his leadership abilities, Robbie has now assumed the Governorship of the Mayflower Society of FL.

Paraphrasing our new United States President Barack Obama, at his inauguration on January 20th, "I am grateful for the trust you have bestowed in me. I am mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors. We have a unity a purpose which should override conflict and discord."

We do have a unity of purpose within the Chapter, State and National Huguenot Societies. Besides honoring our ancestors and increasing our knowledge of our own family histories, we need to help our organization grow. We have seen chapters fade out when no one has stepped up "to the plate" to head a committee or take an officer's role.

This can happen to a State and/or National organization as well as to a Chapter. We are all busy. We all have various abilities but each can do something. We need you and you need to let your light shine. Your chapter is only as strong as the very weakest of links so don't let them down when they ask you to perform a job, head a committee or present a program.

Among my jobs during the past year as FL State VP were to communicate with the potential members for the Henry of Navarre Chapter reorganization and to help those interested and willing to transfer their memberships into the Navarre Chapter. I met with President Robbie Burt in Naples for one of his "Genealogical Happenings" with Worksheets and Application and/or Transfer blanks. I have been in regular contact with Virginia Bailey, organizing President, as the process began to take shape.

In addition, I contacted each Chapter seeking information for "The Florida Huguenot" newsletter Issue #1 and then, recently, Issue #2. This newsletter venture was dormant for many years and was urged reinstated by State President Burt. With the aid of all contributing FL chapters and first editor, Brett Dicken Brown, and present editor, J.B. DeRosset, Issues #1 and #2 were published. It is hoped we will keep the lines of communication open among the FL Chapters with regular twice- yearly issues.

I keep in regular contact with Webmistress Susan Szewczyk who not only does my own Jean Calvin Chapter website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~fljccnsh/>

but she has also maintained our Huguenot Society of FL website at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flhuguen/>

Issues #1 and #2 of "The Florida Huguenot" newsletter can be found on the FL State website as well as the application forms for the State of FL Allen-Parker Scholarship. We have been able to give regular Scholarships and we hope to continue the practice with the help of Monica Darling Douglas, our able Chairman.

Susan has also linked us to the National Huguenot website which can be found at: <http://www.huguenot.netnation.com/general/>

Florida will have a Fall Semi-Annual meeting and will tie it into the "Genealogical Gathering of Hereditary FL State Societies" held each year in Lakeland, FL.

I communicate the best on my computer. I find it is efficient and usually gets a quicker response than leaving a message on an answering machine or with a disinterested spouse. I would like to visit all the FL Chapters and have asked they put me on their mailing lists.

## Florida Society Gains Five New Members in One Fell Swoop



Not only did new Florida member Rhonda Johnson, pictured above with retiring President Robbie E. Burt, recently join the Fleur de Lis Chapter, but she brought along with her four family members: her mother, Teryl Sovacool; her daughters, Denise Sovacool Jemeson, Melanie Davis and Rhonda Johnson, and her granddaughter, Hilary Katherine Jemeson. The National Huguenot Society, Inc. welcomes all of you, and we challenge our other state societies to see if they can top the Florida Society's achievement!



Presentation of books by Pres. General MacManus to the DAR Library's Eric Grundset

## 250th Anniversary of Fauquier County, Virginia

At the invitation of Mr. Bill Peters, a Huguenot friend in Virginia, the Huguenot Society of Virginia, Rachel Wills, State President, participated in Fauquier County's 1 May 2009 parade celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of Fauquier County, Virginia. Fauquier County was named for Francis Fauquier, the grandson of a Huguenot doctor who fled to England after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. Francis Fauquier was born in London in 1703, and was appointed lieutenant governor and commander-in-chief of Virginia in 1758.



Virginia Society President Rachel Wills marches in Fauquier County, Virginia's 250th Anniversary Parade

A souvenir booklet was published by the Fauquier Times-Democrat for the anniversary festivities. Duane Wills took pictures of the event, in which the beloved national and local figure, Willard Scott, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Many of the participants in the parade dressed in period costume, including Mr. Peters and one of his twin sons, a "Gen. Lafayette" with a genuine French accent, and "Robert E. Lee."

### Note from the Editor

Copies of The Cross may be obtained by contacting the new NHS office in San Antonio by telephone or by email (see back cover of this issue). The email address for the NHS is [natlhugsoc@att.net](mailto:natlhugsoc@att.net). Single copies requested by individual members are free, post paid. Up to 3 copies per request by State Member Societies are free; for requests of 4 to 8 copies, there is a charge of \$5.00 postage and packaging. For those other than State Members Societies, the cost is \$3.00 per copy including postage.

## *The Evolution of Swiss Watch Making and the Huguenot Impact*

Charlen A. Randolph  
Coral Gables, Florida  
charall@worldnet.att.net

The first appearance of the watch took place somewhere in Europe at the end of the 15th century. It was not an invention but a reduction in the size of the stationary table clock. At least two techniques were developed, primarily small driving mechanisms whose action cannot be disturbed as the time piece is transported, thus enabling the watch to become portable. Subsequently, watches were made throughout Europe, and although they were carefully crafted luxury items, initially they lacked precision.

France's craftsmen created beautiful watches and the major watch making centers were located in Blois, Lyon, Paris and La Rochelle. A large proportion of the French watchmakers and goldsmiths were Huguenots.

Following the Protestant Reformation and subsequent religious persecution, a large number of Huguenots fled France, many taking refuge in Switzerland and especially in Geneva, later to be known as The City of Calvin, which welcomed them with open arms. They arrived in waves, beginning in the 16th century, with a steady expansion of their population including talented goldsmiths, with the largest group to come following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. These refugees brought with them not only their artistic abilities but their entrepreneurial skills. The Huguenots belonged to the most industrious and economically active class in France, and they revitalized the commercial activity of Geneva which had been in decline. Some of the Geneva and Swiss Huguenot horologists included Francois Somellier, Pierre Laderau, Clement Bergier, Charles Cusin, Jacques Dupuy, Jean Rousseau, Pierre Duhamel, Antoine Rey, Nicolas Bouget, Paul Hubert, Jermie Duchesne, Jacques Sermand, Pierre Vignier and Alexander Meyrenne.

In the 1660's, Jean Calvin forbade the wearing of jewelry (too close to popery), and gifted Huguenot goldsmiths transferred their skills to watch making in order to remain employed. Geneva horology expanded rapidly and flourished. In time, guilds in Geneva shut out many of these gifted watchmaker craftsmen, and a large number of them moved to the nearby Jura Mountains to small villages (primarily Neuchatel, La Choix-de-Fonds, Le Locle, Les Brenets), freeing themselves from the restraints of the Geneva guilds. Talented craftsmen were able to develop ingenious tools and innovations. Many of these watchmakers were also farmers who devoted their idle days during long cold winters to watch making. Entire families were often involved, forming a cottage industry called a "homeshop." A natural division of labor developed in some of the families, an important concept in the later practice of factory production.

In the Jura Mountains it was in the early factory systems, called etablissements, that watch making utilized division of labor, hand tools and later machine-operated tools, all of which increased production. Two well known etablissements were The Courvoisier House and House of Phillippe Dubois and Son. With this, however, the worker changed from being an artisan to a laborer. In Geneva, the craftsman made his timepieces himself, including the parts, the design of its caliber, and the decorating of beautiful cases. Thus the watch represented his ideas and himself. Geneva resisted changes and maintained the craftsman system for as long as possible. Inevitably, the factory system supplanted the craftsman system due to foreign competition and the need for increased production. In addition, Switzerland took note of the United States' supremacy in its production system, aggressive advertising and large plants. Despite resistance, Switzerland reacted and adapted, even accepting the later introduction of electronics.

Swiss marketing skills developed in the second half of the 17th century and a special class of merchant, the etablisseurs, specialized in the sale of horological goods and were recruited from the master craftsman group. The etablisseur not only functioned in the role of seller but supervised the work of horology in the manufacture of watches. Their techniques of marketing included sale at fairs, visits to shopkeepers and large, overseas selling. They settled, as agents, in foreign countries (Turkey, Russia, China, Northern Europe, etc.) which contributed to the Swiss conquest of each market.

Historical and political forces contributed to the Swiss watch making industry, including the large influx of Huguenot watchmakers and goldsmiths who were fleeing persecution. In addition, Jean Calvin forbade the wearing of jewelry, causing Huguenot goldsmiths to turn to watch making as a means of livelihood. This created an exceptionally large number of

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watchmakers, all creative and talented. In the past four hundred years, Swiss watch making has evolved, existing first as a craft and then transforming itself into an industry. It continues to maintain high standards of quality, excellent marketing skills, continuing innovations and has out-competed its rivals, holding dominance in the field. Perhaps the early Huguenot artisans would not be displeased with the outcome.

Sources:

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Photo credits: Office du Livres, S.A., Fribourg, 1985.

Editor's Note: I apologize to the author, Charlen A. Randolph, for our having inadvertently omitted a substantial portion of this article when it was originally published in the Fall 2008 issue of *The Cross*.

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## **Henry Laurens – Huguenot Descendant Who Influenced the Favorable Outcome of the American Revolution**

Peter Morgan Adams, Third VP General, Member PA Society

Henry Laurens was a descendant of Huguenot parents. He was born in 1724 in Charleston, South Carolina. Henry's father was the owner of a wealthy merchant trading firm doing significant business in London and consequently, he was very well connected in London, England. Henry began working for his father early in life. He traveled to London many times representing his family's business there. By 1760 it is reported that Henry Laurens had become the leading merchant in South Carolina.

It is interesting to note that at this time he transitioned from trade to planting. Perhaps the documented contested seizure of one of his vessels - by the English customs officials - caused his "change in heart" from commerce to planting during the 1760s. It seems this significant event in his life changed both his perspective and worldview. Apparently this event caused Henry to change from being a visible supporter of Great Britain to one who advocated the Patriot point of view.

At this time Henry became increasingly involved in politics and participated in many events leading to the American Revolution. Although apparently a conservative by nature, Henry was personally impacted by the Stamp Act and its significant restrictions on the colonies trade with Great Britain. My research indicates that by 1774 Henry became a leader of the Revolutionary activity in South Carolina. In fact, during 1777 he was elected to the Continental Congress and therefore became internationally recognized as being

significantly committed to the Patriot cause.

I am very pleased to reveal that throughout most of 1778, Henry served as the President of the Continental Congress. At the end of 1779 he accepted a significant diplomatic mission to Holland. I am sorry to report that he never arrived in Holland. The British Navy captured his ship and Henry was subsequently imprisoned in England - in the Tower of London. My research indicates that he remained a prisoner for more than one year. It is not surprising that he suffered greatly on account of this imprisonment. Henry was finally released - in exchange for the British General Cornwallis - because an exchange was negotiated on his behalf after the defeat of the British army at Yorktown, the battle that ended the American Revolution.

Subsequently, Henry returned to the United States, to his South Carolina plantation after the war. He was honored by South Carolina on many occasions. It is interesting to note that one of his last public ceremonies with significant recognition came during 1787- when he was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia. Unfortunately, Henry's health had waned by this time and he actually never attended one session in Philadelphia.

Henry Laurens died on December 8, 1792. He lived long enough to see the creation of our American Republic. We should always remember Henry Laurens for the sacrifice he paid so that our great country could be born.

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## *MEMORIAL ROLL CALL OF NECROLOGY*

**ALABAMA**

Anne Douglas Seay Briglia

**ARKANSAS**

Ludella Pittman Ebinger

**CALIFORNIA**

Lee Bishop, Jr.  
Isabel Scott

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

John T. Collier  
Ann Wheat Hunter  
Frank M. Spindler (associate)

**FLORIDA**

Arthur c. Harris, Jr.  
Thomas Carter Deitrick

**ILLINOIS**

Frances Lynette Sherman

**INDIANA**

Vera Reeve  
Helen Short  
Gordon Paul Tierney

**IOWA**

Bethel Talbot Wingert

**LOUISIANA**

John H Boelens

**MAINE**

Charles Eugene deGroff

**MICHIGAN**

Mary Elizabeth Jackson

**MINNESOTA**

Robert Bicknell Mirick

**MISSISSIPPI**

Betty Bass Cleary  
Mary Crawford Dennis

**MISSOURI**

Beverly Thompson Griffith (Mrs. Bob)  
Rebecca Dawson Fox  
Jean Millar Hyde  
Mary Caskle Lindenblad  
June Bruce Stubbs  
Audry Maupin Kirks

**MONTANA**

Carroll V Henderson

**NEBRASKA**

Frances McNenny

**OHIO**

Helen Zivoder

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Ellen Louise Arndt May  
Florence Birch McElroy (honorary)

**TENNESSEE**

Virgil Bartlett  
Henry James Brown  
Peggy Jean Ledbetter

**TEXAS**

Robert Fish  
Mary Luella Clayton Hardie

**VIRGINIA**

Freda Crox Clark  
Peyton s. Moncure

**WASHINGTON**

Janet Ellen Brzoska

**WISCONSIN**

Samuel Greely  
William Roddis  
Dorothy Geraldine Soule Schlosser

**CANADA**

Donald H MacDonald

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