

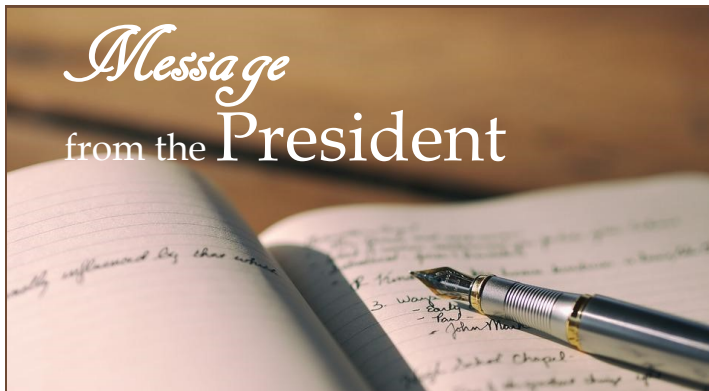


# The Virginia Huguenot Society

An organization of descendants of French Protestants who,  
due to religious persecution, fled France.

[frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org](https://www.frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org)

Spring/Summer 2022 Newsletter



Greetings Fellow Huguenots!

The Virginia Huguenot Society has had a banner year!

The highlight was our Spring Meeting, March 29, at VMI in Lexington where we had the opportunity to see firsthand the result of our years-long project, the restoration and conservation of William Washington's famous painting, "Attack on the Huguenots."

About thirty-five of us gathered at Crozet Hall for a delightful luncheon. Although it was almost April, a short though blizzard-like snow squall raged for about twenty minutes while we dined.

The first order of business was to recognize our Immediate Past President Dr. Gus Lewis for his able leadership. As you may know, after years of practicing medicine, Gus earned a degree in French from VCU. Let's just say that not everyone could do that!

For our program VMI's Col. Keith Gibson told us about the life of artist William Washington

and related the intriguing history of the painting, the whereabouts of which were unknown for generations. We saw slides of before and after the conservation. What a difference! Afterwards there was a guided tour of the VMI Museum, followed by a visit to Preston Library to view the conserved, restored, and newly framed painting. On the frame is a plaque with the title, artist, and acknowledgement of VHS's sponsorship.

We also have several new members; the VHS website <https://www.frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org> has been improved; there are more Huguenot historical resources in our library collection; and more submissions to our newsletter and individual donations from members have increased.

This has been a team effort, and so many have pitched in – without asking – to make VHS an even more outstanding organization. There is certainly a heightened sense of fellowship among us. We're having *fun*. Word is getting around. We are the VHS *community*.

Please share your ideas for projects, outings, and anything else. Encourage friends and family to join us.

In the words of the late Dr. Jackson Darst, "Scratch a Virginian and you'll find a Huguenot."

In Huguenot faith,

Louis

## Project Committee Report

Many thanks are due to everyone one who supported and participated in the recently completed Society project - the conservation of the Washington painting, "Attack on the Huguenots." The work turned out wonderfully and is proudly displayed in its new home in the Preston Library at VMI.

One of the main objectives of our Society is to aid in perpetuating the memory of the spirit and deeds of our Huguenot ancestors and to spread the knowledge of their sacrifices as a light to future generations. To meet this end it has been suggested that we consider a new project. A tract, pamphlet, or booklet that outlines the Huguenot ancestry of our Founding Fathers. We know that George Washington had Huguenot ancestors and Thomas Jefferson also. These are two strong candidates with which to open our genealogical research on this subject.

Ann Darst sent an email to Stephen A. McLeod, Director of Library Programs at George Washington's Mount Vernon asking about Washington's lineage and received the following information:

"George Washington was a direct descendant of French Huguenot Nicholas Martiau, who arrived in Virginia prior to the first muster in 1624." Here is the connection:

1. George Washington, son of

2. Mary Ball and Augustine Washington, son of
3. Lawrence Washington and Mildred Warner, daughter of
4. Col. Augustine Warner and Mildred Reade, daughter of
5. Col. George Reade and Elizabeth Martiau, daughter of
6. Nicholas Martiau

This connection is detailed in *Adventures of Purse and Person Volume 2* (John Frederick Dorman). Further research could disclose more Huguenot ancestry and notable details of their lives and accomplishments, along with details such as birth, marriage, death, children, etc.

To make the book credible we would likely need to hire an accredited genealogist(s) to do the research and show the proofs, etc. Do we have such a person within our membership?

Now, it is very possible that this information has already been researched and in print, finding that out should, perhaps, be where we start our quest.

Please send your thoughts and comments on this project to me ([gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com)) or to Louis March (LTMarch@gmail.com), including the name of any possible qualified genealogist.

Gerald Runyan, Chair  
Special Projects Committee

### Insignia of the Huguenot Society

The Huguenot Cross has eight points which stand for the Beatitudes from the Book of Matthew in the New Testament. Between each arm of the cross is a fleur-de-lis or lily, representing purity.

Suspended from the bottom is a dove signifying the Holy Spirit. The Huguenot Cross was designed and first manufactured in 1688.



## What's Up With Gus?

*Past VHS President, Augustine "Gus" Lewis, M.D., relates his recent accomplishment when he received a BA Summa Cum Laude in French from Virginia Commonwealth in December, 52 years after getting a Doctor of Medicine from the same University. Gus goes on to say, "I was inspired to do this by a friend who was a professor of African Literature at VCU and who returned to school to get his BA in French. My Huguenot heritage was also an inspiration."*



Gus Lewis with the graduate students he worked with in Côte d'Ivoire

As a requirement for the degree, I had to do an internship using my skills in French. Through a contact of one of my professors, I was able to arrange one in Yamousoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, on the west coast of Africa. I spent the month of July teaching graduate students at the Institut national polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny how to write their scientific papers in English and in translating their work from French to English to submit for publication. The Ivorian students were really wonderful and looked out for me wherever I went in the city. I even got to have a visit with

the Minister of Technical Education at his office in the city of Abidjan.

Currently, I am tutoring a VCU graduate in French in preparation for him going to the Curie Institute in France to do research.

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## Yearbook Changes

***Please up date your year books with the following information.***

The most recent year book is dated March 2022. If you wish a new yearbook, please contact Gerald Runyan, [gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com).

<b>VHS 2021-2023 Yearbook</b>	
<b>Revised March 2022</b>	
<b>Please note these changes</b>	
Bonnie Kay Shank Sheldon	Died March 23, 2022
James Latané Ware	Died December 26, 2021
Graham Chandler Williams	Died April 5, 2022
William Walker Ware IV	New email: wwalkerware4@gmail.com

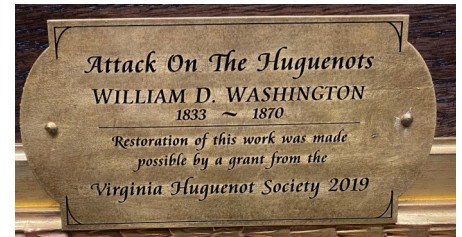
## VHS Spring Meeting

The Virginia Huguenot Society conducted our Spring meeting at Crozet Hall on the campus of VMI in Lexington, VA. It was a meeting to view the restored and conserved painting, "Attack on the Huguenots," by William D. Washington. The restoration and framing were made possible by generous donations from our Society and its members.

Col. Keith Gibson, a graduate of VMI with a degree in Civil Engineering and the Executive Director of the VMI Museum System and Director of the VMI Foundation, gave an update and background on the painting. After lunch the group visited the VMI Museum and then made our way to Preston Hall to view the painting in its location with the new enlarged plaque and lighting. It was a notable day for our Society. Thanks to all who attended and participated in this project.  
~ *Gerald Runyan, Special Projects Chair*



Close up of the completed painting (left) and the plaque (right). The little girl in blue at the bottom right, seems to be peering out at the world, beseeching it to never let this happen again.



Col. Keith Gibson explains the painting, "Attack on the Huguenots" in location. He did an exemplary job.



Members of the VHS take time out to have a picture taken with the painting after Col. Gibson's discussion.

Members of the VHS were able to watch the VMI Cadet Regimental Band march to the parade grounds.





The VHS Council meets



VHS friends meet up. Nice tie, Bobby!  
(Want a tie like Bobby's? Order it from Ben Silver & Co. Charleston, SC (bensilver.com). Use code #U71 Birmingham University. *Warning:* It can be a bit pricey!)



Top and bottom: VHS members enjoying the wonderful luncheon provided by VMI.



On behalf of the VHS members, Louis March presents Gus with a gift of appreciation for his exceptional service as President.

*Save the Date*

**Mark your calendar for our next meeting:  
Saturday, October 29, 2022  
Watch our website for upcoming information!  
[frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org](http://frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org)**

## Our French Ancestors: Where would we be without them?

*Over the next few issues let's take a look at some of our French ancestors.*

### Heath Thompson's ancestor

Pierre Sanxay, a prominent citizen of Saintes (Saintonge), France, was probably born not far from the year 1530. He became a "maître apothicaire"\* and afterwards "minister de La Parole de Dieu"\*\*\* in the Reformed Church at that place. He was an intimate friend of Bernard Palissy, the philosopher, reformer, and artist in pottery, and wrote the introductory verses to the work of the latter, entitled "Receipt véritable par laquelle tous les homes de la France pourront ap-prendre à multiplier et aug-menter leurs thrésors,"\*\*\* which was published in 1563. His pastorate at Saintes ex-tended from the year 1570 to 1576, the latter being the year of his death. His wife, Jacqueline Goy, belonged to a family highly respected at Saintes, and distinguished for the mayors and aldermen it furnished that city.

\*Master apothecary

\*\*Minister of the Word of God

\*\*\*"A true receipt by which all the men of France will be able to learn how to multiply and increase their treasures."

(This is a word for word google translation and it does not seem to carry over a truly accurate meaning of the phrase.)

### Gus Lewis' ancestor

I hope to travel to France soon to visit the town my Huguenot ancestor, Louis Latané, lived before he fled to England. He eventually became ordained in the Church of England, emigrated with his family to Virginia and served in the parish where my family still attends church.

He came from Nérac in the department of Lot et Garonne in the southwest of France. I would love to know the story of how he managed, at age 13, to get to England where his older brother lived.

His ordination papers for the Church of England, written in Latin on sheepskin, was given by my great Aunt to the University of Virginia and are in its archives. I went there to see it a few years ago.

The other place I really want to visit in France is the sanctuary in Orredour sur Glane where there was a massacre of the townspeople by the Nazis in WW2. It happened at the very hour and day I

was born and I have for years felt an intense connection to this incident in French history. DeGaulle declared that the sanctuary had to be left in its partially destroyed state along with the remainder of the town's ruins as a reminder of the horrors of war. It seems that people never learn the lessons of history.



**Virginia Huguenot Society Website: Great Place for Information!**

Visit the VHS website for all things Huguenot!

<http://frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org/>

## The Dublin Huguenot Cemetery & French Emigration to Ireland

I have always been intrigued by the Huguenot Cemetery in Dublin Ireland. I had never heard of it and was in Dublin in 2018 heading to the Bank of Ireland from our hotel to get some fresh Euros at the ATM. My son was with us and he looked up and said, "Look a Huguenot Cemetery."

(Seems there is a name over the entryway.) The cemetery is maintained by funds from the Government of France. A synopsis of Huguenot emigration to Ireland follows (edited).

**Analysis: about 10,000 Huguenots are thought to have come to Ireland in the late 17th century fleeing religious persecution in France**

**By Nora Baker, University of Oxford**

You may have passed by the Huguenot cemetery in Dublin or you may have walked down French Church Street if you've been to Cork. But how much do we know about the individual lives and experiences of the people who fled here in the late 17th century?

The term 'Huguenot' is of uncertain origin, but it is generally taken to mean a French-speaking Protestant. In the mid- to late 1500s, France went through a period of great turmoil during what came to be known as the *Wars of Religion* between Catholics and Protestants. The St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572 saw an estimated 5,000 Protestants killed, and the River Seine was said to have been dyed red with blood. Things calmed down a bit after 1598, when King Henri IV issued the Edict of Nantes, which gave Protestants the right to practice their religion.

But less than a century later, Louis XIV—the 'Sun King' - evoked that right in 1685 and increased the persecution of the Huguenot population. Soldiers known as dragoons were sent to live with Protestant families to intimidate them into conversion. Some accounts from the time claim that these soldiers threatened tortured individuals, or ransacked family goods.



Many Huguenots therefore tried to escape France, even though women faced imprisonment and men risked being enslaved on the king's galley ships if they were caught.

In spite of the dangers, a number of French Protestants did succeed in making their way to other countries. In fact, it is thought that the modern English word 'refugee' comes from the French *réfugié*, used to refer to the Huguenots during this time. In many places throughout Europe, Huguenot refugees became known for their silk-weaving and watch-making skills.

Jacques Fontaine, who was the minister of the French Church in Cork from 1694-1698, also later moved to Berehaven in the west.

Around 1708, Fontaine decided to move to Dublin, and picked a house for his family on St. Stephen's Green, though friends advised against moving in, as the house was rumoured to be haunted! Luckily, as Fontaine drily notes in his memoirs, he and his wife had never had any fear of evil spirits. It is revealed that there is, in fact, no paranormal activity afoot, but rather squatters hiding in the house who are behind the strange noises and goings-on. Their

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

attempts to scare away the new owners do not succeed in frightening Fontaine's wife, and she gains the upper hand. Following his arrival, more and more Huguenot families came to live in the area, particularly on the south side. In fact, some parts of the square became so populated by this community that an area became known as the 'French Walk.'

Of course, it is well known that many other places in Dublin are called after Huguenot surnames, such as D'Olier Street and Fumbally Lane. The first public library in Ireland, Archbishop Marsh's Library, had a Huguenot refugee, Élie Bouhéreau, as its first librarian.

Though initially there were some tensions between the French refugees and the native Irish population, as it was feared that authorities planned to 'replace the Irish with the French,' many Huguenots in Ireland eventually inter-married with locals. The writers Sheridan Le

Fanu and Samuel Beckett were Huguenot descendants, and the La Touche family, who helped found the Bank of Ireland, were also French Protestants.

Of course, the Huguenots were not the only refugee group who came to Ireland in the past. In the early 1700s, the Palatines, refugees from modern-day Germany, also came here. In the 1940s, Ireland welcomed children from mainland Europe to recuperate after the Second World War, an undertaking that became known as 'Operation Shamrock.' Part of what makes history so fascinating is to see how people with different backgrounds have left their marks on society.

*Nora Baker is a PhD researcher and assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford.*

*Article edited for length and was originally published by the Irish Media group RTÉ.*

## Honoring James Monroe

Folks,

It was my honor to present a wreath on behalf of our Virginia Huguenot Society on two patriotic occasions: the first was Saturday, April 23, at the James Monroe Birthplace House near Colonial Beach in the Northern Neck.



The second occasion was the James Monroe birthday commemoration at Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. This event is held every year rain or shine on President Monroe's birthday, April 28. A US Army color guard is present every time.

Both events were well attended (close to 200 gathered at both). Restoration of the Monroe Birthplace House was sponsored by the James Monroe Memorial Foundation.

Gratefully,  
Louis March





# In Memoriam

*Sadly we have lost three members in recent months.*

**James Latané Ware** died December 26, 2021. WARE, Dr.



James Latane, died on December 26, 2021, at home and surrounded by his family. Born in

Richmond, Va. on March 31, 1934, he was the second of four children of Dr. H. Hudnall Ware Jr. and Mary Warren Ware. Dr. Ware attended St. Christopher's School in Richmond, Va. and graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va., the University of Virginia and the Medical College of Virginia (VCU). Passionate about history and travel, Dr. Ware enjoyed trips with friends, but especially those with his family. He loved planning itineraries and exploring the world with his wife, children and grandchildren. Most of all, he treasured time at Ware's Wharf, his ancestral home on the Rappahannock River, where he swam, sailed, boated and water-skied from his first summer until his last.

**Bonnie Shank Shelton:** On a rainy afternoon, March 23, 2022, in her beloved Williamsburg, VA, Bonnie, age 80, peacefully drifted out of this world. She was embraced by her husband as he led her to her family that



she had missed for so long. She and husband Gene renovated a small cottage in Grandview and enjoyed over a decade of weekend retreats on The Bay while catching a Tides game any chance they could. They enjoyed entertaining friends and family in their home with homemade dinners, stellar spirits, and great conversations. Her favorite place was outside where you could find her taking long walks in her neighborhood, picking shells up on any local beach, or even taking care of the bird feeders in the back yard. Bonnie had an inner drive to stay healthy and the determination to stay active. Those daily walks and bi weekly Pilates classes not only helped her sustain her fitness goals but allowed more friendships to blossom all along the way. Though her last years of life were changed due to Alzheimer's disease, her shining spirit and zest for living never faltered. She will forever be known for her abundance of joy, endless sounds of laughter, passion for learning and sharing that knowledge of life with her family and friends.

**Graham Chandler Williams,** 75, died Wednesday, April 5th surrounded by loved ones. Chandler was born September 26, 1946 to L. Randolph and Mildred Williams in Clarksville, Virginia.

Chandler graduated from VMI where he had been the 1st Battalion Commander. His years at VMI introduced him to men who remained significant throughout his life. After VMI he served two years commanding a basic training company at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Then he began a career with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals that lasted over three decades. Chandler quickly demonstrated how his gregarious personality, his incredible memory of names and backgrounds, and his expert knowledge of medications proved to advance him to Pfizer's top Hall of Fame award achieved by only two percent of managers nationally. Chandler played tennis and golf at Willow Oaks Country Club. He loved canoeing and camping on the James River, water and snow skiing. He was a master woodworker and, most of all, a teller of many colorful stories.

Chandler's faith played an important part in his life. He served Manakin Episcopal Church in many leadership roles. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Boys Home of Virginia. He was a past president of the Midlothian Rotary.





**The Virginia Huguenot Society**  
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President Louis March  
**ltmarch76@gmail.com**

Registrar Bonnie B. Bew  
**rbbew@aol.com**



*Until we meet again  
for the  
Fall Meeting  
October 29, 2022*

**"Now may the Lord of  
peace himself give you his  
peace at all times  
and in every situation.  
The Lord be with you all."  
*2 Thessalonians 3:16***