



# The Virginia Huguenot Society

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

[frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org](http://frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org)

Fall/Winter 2022 Newsletter

I trust our Virginia Huguenot Society family is hale and hearty as we approach the 2022 Christmas season.

Our Day of Remembrance Meeting was on Saturday, October 29 at the Salisbury Country Club in Midlothian, Virginia. Many attendees drove on Huguenot Trail to arrive at the club, which is not far from the site of the Manakin Town Huguenot settlement.

The meeting was quite well attended. Our speaker was Daniel Moore, a History Educator, Trainer and Supervisor at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. His informative and engaging presentation was entitled "John Fontaine and the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe."

The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe were members of Governor Alexander Spotswood's expedition (1716) to explore, map and claim Virginia's western lands (Shenandoah Valley) for the Crown. Huguenot John Fontaine went along, and as a journalist his account of the endeavor became history. After the expedition, Governor Spotswood gave each participant a gold horseshoe stickpin inscribed "*Sic juvat transcendere montes*" or "Thus, it is pleasant to cross the mountains." Recipients of the stickpin became known as the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.

For further information, a starting point is the Wikipedia entry: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights\\_of\\_the\\_Golden\\_Horseshoe\\_Expedition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_of_the_Golden_Horseshoe_Expedition)

The meal was absolutely delicious! That alone was worth a good day's drive:-)

We also inducted two new members, Catherine Bowers Southworth of Montpelier and Susan Runyan Perry of Virginia Beach. Catherine and

Susan, welcome aboard!

We also have some good news: Chaplain Health Thompson, Joyce Collier and Ann Skidmore are recovering well after recent mishaps. We look forward to seeing them at the next meeting.

We are considering new projects for the Society, including a scholarship and additional research activities.

There is a treasure trove of information out there on the

Huguenot ancestry of early Virginia and national leaders. Any suggestions would be welcome.

It is widely acknowledged that the Virginia Huguenot Society "punches above its weight" in collegiality, activism, and historic preservation. If you know of prospective members out there, family or otherwise, let us know.

And please send any news about you and your family to VHS for inclusion into our newsletter. Items on family births, marriages and career changes would be wonderful to have. Entries should be sent to me or Gerald Runyan at [gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com) or to Gerald at: 39 Madison Lane S., Newport News, VA 23606.

Finally, many thanks to our Registrar Bonnie Bew for snaring the splendid Midlothian Country Club, and a very special thanks and tip of the hat to Vice President Constance Paradiso for another outstanding achievement in successfully completing the Herculean task of arranging a most meaningful and welcoming Day of Remembrance commemoration.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year,

In Huguenot Faith,  
Louis

## A Message from the **PRESIDENT**

# Virginia Huguenot Society Fall Meeting

## October 26, 2022

### Salisbury Country Club, Midlothian, VA

The VHS met at the Salisbury Country Club in Midlothian, VA ,on October 26, 2022 for our Fall gathering.

A goodly number attended, including two new members, on a very pleasant autumn day. There were several trees at the club house that were totally bright golden in color - strikingly beautiful. (I did not get a picture of the trees but this one gives you an idea of what it looked like.)

The meal was excellent, as was the congeniality of the group (as always). Our Speaker was Daniel Moore and he spoke on **"John Fontaine and the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe."** John Fontaine - of Huguenot descentent -

was an important part in the Spotawoods expedition to the Western Frontier of Virginia. While Fontaine was not of the British aristocracy, as all of the official members of the expedition were, he did keep a journal that is the only record of the trek. If not for his daily recording we would know little if anything of the expedition today. Fontaine did not receive one of the Golden Horseshoes that the others did, but he did have a spring named after him!

Mr. Moore is a History Educator, Trainer and Supervisor at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. It was a most interesting presentation!



Friends & Huguenots enjoying the social time.



A golden leafed tree. Isn't Mother Nature grand?



Adrienne, Bill , & Susan

(Left to right, Randolph, Suzanne & Donald, enjoy fellowship together.



Clockwise from the front David, Guest Speaker, Gus, Nancy, Del, Constance enjoying the lunch.



**Save the Date! Our next meeting is March 25, 2023!**

# Project Committee Report

Gerald Runyan, Project Chair

In Article II, Purpose, of our Virginia Huguenot Society Bylaws, it states that, "Emphasis shall be placed upon assisting and encouraging the preservation of records and historic sites associated with our Huguenot ancestors and to aid in perpetuating the memory of their spirit and deeds."

Our most recent project met the criteria very well and I think we can all look at the completion of that project with pride - the restoration and conservation of Washington's painting "Attack on the Huguenots."

We are now in search of a new project. It may be difficult to find such a visual and visceral cause as the painting "Attack on the Huguenots." However, there are many other ways to meet the goal.

Several suggestions have been put forth for consideration. But this is by no means a final list of candidates.

1. Reestablishing our scholarship fund.
2. Researching the Huguenot ancestry of our founding fathers and preparing the data into a book or pamphlets for distribution.
3. Funding a university research project into an aspect of the Huguenot experience.
4. Working with the Goochland Historical Society, the Virginia Historical Society, or other such groups to locate Huguenot documents, records, and genealogies and put them in a format that the general public could learn from.
5. Host lectures on a Huguenot subject at a known venue.
6. Assisting in erecting monuments & memorials to Huguenots
7. Donating books on Huguenot history to libraries & schools.

If you saw the picture of the Huguenot Cemetery in St. Augustine, shown on page 5, you might have noticed that the lettering and the gate are in need of some repair. This would be a great project idea if the graveyard were located in Virginia. Also note that our Bylaws state that we are ... "an independent organization with a national scope."

Please keep your eyes and ears and mind open to possible new projects for our Society to carry out to achieve the goals and purpose of our Society. If you have an idea about a future project, please email at [gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com).



Washington's "Attack on the Huguenots" painting restored.

## Attention all Huguenots!

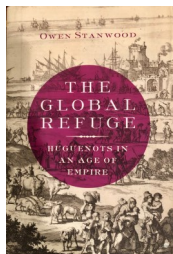


The Nominating Committee will be coming to life again soon as they begin their search for new board members. The Nominating Committee will also be searching for committee members to assist the officers, especially the Vice President with

programs, the Project Committee, and the House Committee which assists at the meetings by putting out name tags and flags.

If you are interesting in helping, please call or email Louis March, 540-960-0504, [LTMarch76@gmail.com](mailto:LTMarch76@gmail.com). Please say "yes" if a member of the Nominating Committee calls upon you to serve!

## **“The Global Refuge” Huguenots in an Age of Empire by Owen Stanwood**



*This new book on the Huguenot diaspora is a well written and thought-out academic book by Owen Stanwood, a Professor of European History at Boston College. The book was published by the Oxford University Press.*

The book is broken into seven chapters with an epilogue. Each chapter covers a separate element of the Huguenot diaspora. There is little if any recounting of the trials, & tribulations of the Huguenots in France. It begins generally with the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes and continues until the revolutionary periods in America and France with a wrapping up of how a Huguenot heritage was a source of pride and influence, especially in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The book covers their spread from France to much of the world, from enlightened countries in Europe, to North America to Africa, to the Caribbean, and even to Islands in the Indian ocean. How they remained separate yet finally assimilated to survive. Especially noted was their ability to work within empires and regimes and with mercantile institutions like the Dutch East India Co. The Huguenots used their influence to add value to themselves and to the specific regimes from which they sought support. After the regimes fell from power, the Huguenots, by necessity assimilated into the culture of these who had been their hosts.

I found it a very interesting book with many references to original sources. It was not a quick read, but worth it in the end as one can feel further pride in being a Huguenot after realizing all of the efforts made by our ancestors to live in freedom from tyranny and seeded the beginnings of the freedoms we have today.

*Welcome*  
**New Members**

***Please add our newest members to your VHS yearbook!***

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).

VHS 2021-2023 Yearbook Additions

### Catherine Bowers Southworth

18382 Taylors Creek Road

Montpelier, VA 23195

Phone: 804-814-1587

Cat.southworth@gmail.com

Ancestor: Thomas Lamar

*Cat is a Genealogist and is a member of several heritage organizations.*

### Susan Runyan Perry

1732 Harvest Bend Court

Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Phone: 503-804-8147

soozoerry@msn.com

Ancestor: Vincent Rongnion

*Susan is a new citizen of Virginia, having moved from Oregon to be close to her son and family.*

*She is also a member of DAR.*

### **Yearbook Update**

David LeGrande

922 Newsome Ct.

Goochland, VA 23063

Do you have a new address, phone, or email address? Please let Gerald Runyan know so he can update the directory! [Gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:Gerald@aercorp.com) or mail your changes to him at 39 Madison Lane S., Newport News, VA 23606

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

Visit the VHS website for all things Huguenot!

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

## A Visit with Brenda Graves Gerald & Bette Runyan

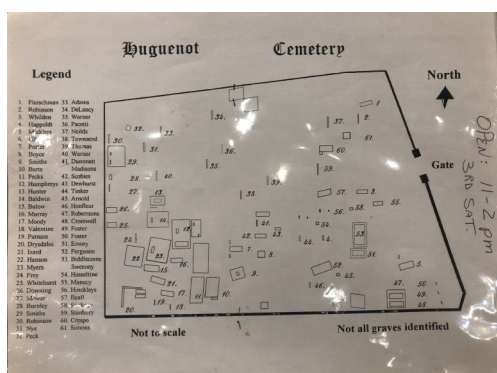
Bette and I took a short trip to Saint Augustine, FL, in September. We stayed at the St. Francis Inn, built in 1791. While there, we spent a day visiting with VHS member Brenda Graves and her husband John. We had a wonderful time as they showed us all around St. Augustine.

Stop number one was the Huguenot Cemetery not far from the old town and the Fort.

This is the cemetery that I mentioned in the report on the next project (see page 2).

We took in the Old Fort, the lighthouse, olde town and had lunch at a lovely restaurant on the waterfront. I had conch fritters - a first for me!

Brenda and John have a lovely home in St. Augustine and are doing well. St. Augustine is where both of them were raised and they are in comfortable territory. They send their best to all of the Virginia Huguenot Society. ~ Gerald Runyan



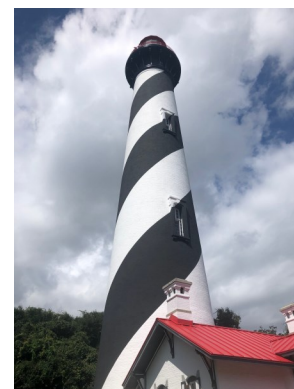
Map of cemetery



Bette and Brenda outside the cemetery gate



St. Francis Inn



Old lighthouse

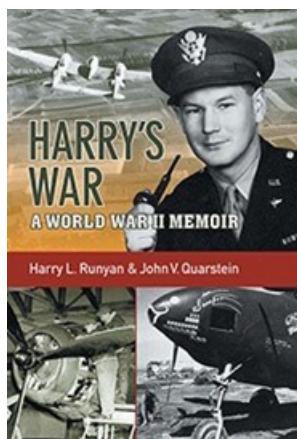
## Harry's War: A World War II Memorial

Gerald Runyan, has produced a new book on World War II based on his father's, Harry L. Runyan, Jr., written experiences during the war, and hundreds of actual wartime photographs which make this book an interesting and informative read.

Harry L. Runyan served the United States Air Forces as an engineering officer in the 30th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron during World War II. Supported by award-winning historian and author John V. Quarstein, Runyan shares his unique viewpoint of this world-changing event in *Harry's War: A World War II Memoir*.

Perfect for anyone interested in history, aviation, or life during the first half of the Twentieth Century. *Harry's War* describes the 30th Photo Recon-

naissance Squadron history, from formation, through training and action, to final demobilization, as well as its "everyman" soldiers, like Runyan himself, who gave up safety, security, and loved ones to fight for victory.



As much a tale told in words, it is one told in compelling photographs taken by a young Runyan. Aerial closeups of destroyed cities, pre-D-Day dicing pictures showing the German defenses, high-altitude photos of the D-Day invasion, and personal snapshots of the men and the planes that carried out the war, both in action and going about their daily routines, offer glimpses into a world few have seen.

You can purchase the book on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or signed copies through Gerald. Price is \$18.95. Email Gerald at [gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com) or phone 757-775-1669.



## What have our folks been up to?

*What's happening in your life?  
Want to share it with VHS?  
Email Gerald Runyan at  
Gerald@aercorp.com*

~**Suzanne Reynolds** reports that her oldest grandchild, Madeleine (Maddy) McDade, graduated from the University of Virginia MacIntire School of Business in May with a degree in accounting. She has just taken the final part of the CPA exam and also started a job with Baker Tilley accounting firm in northern Va. Our family is rejoicing with this first grandchild to enter the adult world.

~Truman Chancy grandson of **Del and Nancy Agee** graduated in the class of 2022 from Washington and Lee University with the following special honors:

Co-Valedictorian as a graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade-point average, calculated to four decimal places and including the work of the final term prior to graduation. Truman also received the Robert Stewart Award in Music, the Washington and Lee University Jazz Ensemble Award, and the Washington and Lee University Wind Ensemble Award. He received his Bachelor of Science, Honors in Music (Thesis: "An Examination of the History and Music of Select Classical Saxophone Works and Jazz Standards"), Phi Beta Kappa; summa cum laude.



**Louis March** writes that he and Katharine are enjoying life in the Shenandoah Valley. Katharine is quite a talented artist, with paintings in several galleries in the region. Son John recently earned his Masters degree from VCU's Brand Center, with a concentration in Creative Brand Management, and is based in Richmond working with Greenhaus, a California-based advertising firm. Daughter Isabel is teaching high school in Madrid, Spain and pursuing her musical career. Isabel is a gifted singer and some of her music is on SoundCloud and YouTube. We are quite thankful that all is well, and are expecting Isabel home for Christmas.

~ **TC & Sarah Dickerson** - TC & Sarah are living at the Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville and say they don't get out much these days. We miss seeing them.

~ **Walker Ware** is doing well and working in the Real Estate business. He is still living at his home in Lenexa, VA.

## The "Real" First Thanksgiving?

*When was the first "Thanksgiving" in American history? 1621, 1619, 1564? If you guessed 1564 you could be right.*

In the 1500s, Europeans were attempting to colonize the New World and French Admiral Gaspard de Coligny sent Jean Ribault on an expedition to establish a French colony along the St. John's River in Florida in 1562.

That attempt failed. Two years later, he sent another expedition out, led by René de Goulaine de Laudonnière, further south to the mouth of the St. John's River. The group of 200 Huguenots named the

*(Continued on page 7)*

# In Memoriam

Marilyn Johnson Williams died on Monday, May 16, 2022.

Marilyn is survived by her husband of 61 years, Cranston Williams Jr.; and their two children, Sally Warner Williams of Chapel Hill, N.C., and Cranston Reade Williams of Christiansburg and Radford, VA.

Marilyn was a graduate of Jefferson High School where she spent happy years. She was a graduate of Longwood University and held a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Hollins University. Marilyn studied art with the University of Virginia.

As a 60-year member of Second Presbyterian Church, Marilyn served as a Sunday school teacher, a teacher of crafts for youth groups, an usher, greeter and for many years served as an officer, circle leader and historian of the Presbyterian Women. Recently, she worked on the knitting and needlepoint projects for the church.

Marilyn was a descendant of early Virginians and was a member of the Order of the First Families of Virginia, the Virginia Huguenot Society and the Jamestowne Society and served on the Board of the Margaret Lynn Lewis Chapter of the Daughters of the DAR. She was the recipient of a Paul Harris Fellow Award by Rotary International.

On a personal note, besides her beloved family, Marilyn had a deep appreciation of the beauty of nature, of beautiful art and music. She enjoyed the continued study of art and music, her handwork, playing bridge with close friends and traveling with her husband and family.

A private interment was held at Evergreen Burial Park. The family requests in lieu of flowers, that those wishing to make memorials consider Second Presbyterian Church Fund, 214 Mountain Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA 24016 or to Jefferson Poplar Forest, P.O. Box 419, Forest, VA 24551.



*(Continued from page 6, "The Real First Thanksgiving")*

area La Caroline after French King Charles IX. These French colonists would build Fort Caroline, not far away from established Spanish colonies. The local Timucua Indians, who had lived there for over 1,000 years, became friends with these French and helped them build their fort.

Now, we come to the first Thanksgiving on American soil – at Fort Caroline, Florida (near present-day Jacksonville). They were just starting to build the fort and took time to have a service of thanksgiving to God, on June 30, 1564.

Their leader, de Laudonnière, proclaimed: "On the morrow, about the break of day, I commanded a trumpet to be sounded that, being assembled, we might give God thanks for our favorable and happy arrival. Then we sang a psalm of thanksgiving unto God, beseeching Him, that it would please

Him of His grace, to continue His accustomed goodness toward us, His poor servants, and aid us in all our enterprises that all might turn to His glory and the advancement of our King.

There was a service at daybreak, and this is also the first recorded Protestant hymn-sing in the New World. The Huguenots sang from John Calvin's psalter. Just think, we've been singing hymns in North America for 458 years! There was also a meal with fowl, fish, and alligator!

So, the first Thanksgiving on American soil was French and was in 1564 in present-day Florida. The first Thanksgiving in US History was 55 years later at Berkley Plantation.

Whether in 1564, 1619, 1621 or 2022—let's thank God for His abundant blessings ... and our religious freedom!

*Adopted from an article in the Fort Madison Democrat 11.27.22 by Rev. Aaron Hand*

## **Family History: Who is on your family tree?** ***Have you ever thought about why you are interested in Genealogy?***

Why do people get interested in genealogy? The answer is surely different for everyone. I caught the bug 25 years ago when some of my relatives thought I should be the keeper of the family history. I remember when [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) launched its website in 2000 the census records were not indexed. I spent hours paging through records. At the time I had dialup Internet access and it tied up my phone line for hours. Didn't care. Was having so much fun. I can't take all the credit for the work done on my family as I had cousins and aunts who visited and wrote letters to clerk's offices, state libraries, and contacted other members of the family for information and memories.

My father's family had a reunion every year which was held on the weekend closest to my great-grandfather's birthday. The earliest documented reunion was June 1928 in which there was a group photo. Before he died, this great-grandfather gave each one of his grandchildren a copy of his family history. There was also a monthly newsletter where each child (of said great-grandfather) submitted his/her news of the family. Both these traditions ended in recent years.

As a child when visiting my mother's side of the family, I was amazed that my grandmother could tell me who her parents, grandparents, and great

grandparents were. (I thought their names were funny.) However, my interest was sealed when she gave me her tintypes and old photographs of the family. She also gave me my great-great grandmother's recorded "memories" of the Civil War and the letters written to her by her husband who died while serving, not from action, but from an "impure vaccine." The widow found out about her husband's death when his casket was dropped off at their home. She was given a bill for the delivery of his body.



As for my Huguenot ancestors, I have at least three: Thomas Lamar, who arrived in Virginia and then moved on to Maryland in the late 1600s; Michael Desloges, who arrived in Isle of Wight, Virginia, in the late 1600s; and Timothy Jerome, who came to Connecticut by 1700 and left many descendants, one of whom was

Winston Churchill.

I now have shelves filled with reference books, family binders and photograph albums. So much information has recently been digitized and available on various websites that I can barely keep up with it. How can someone not be thoroughly taken with their ancestors? They deserve to be remembered and I'm doing my part.

Catherine Southworth

May the GOD of HOPE  
fill you with all  
JOY and PEACE  
as you trust in HIM.

*Merry Christmas and Blessings for the New Year!*