



# 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)

Spring/Summer 2026 Newsletter

## Presidents Message



Greetings Huguenots! Spring has sprung and I hope you are out and enjoying the weather we are having and the renewal of all life.

Our March meeting was a huge success at the Country Club here in Waynesboro. Thanks to all of those who could make it and who brought guests with them. David LaGrande worked overtime to make the arrangements at the club *and* be our speaker. Our members are quite dedicated to the history of the Huguenots. We are looking at locations near Richmond for the next meeting in October.

Please welcome our newest member **Donna Quick Courtney** to our family the next time we meet. Her ancestor is Abraham Seay who came from England in 1700 and settled in Manakin, VA. She lives in Fredericksburg and is a friend of Shawn Martin, another recent

new member. Our Registrar, Catherine Southworth has her hands full with inquiries about membership. Interestingly enough, some of our Prospectives have expressed an interest in membership due to our society maintaining our Protestant only policy.

We are forming a Bylaws Committee to update our Bylaws and include more detail and add clarification for the future. If you are interested in helping us pull these details together, please volunteer by contacting me at [paradiso@ntelos.net](mailto:paradiso@ntelos.net) or Gerald Runyan at [gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com). We need one or two more members.

Have a lovely summer and we will reunite in the fall. Please remember to share your adventures with our Newsletter Chairman, Gerry Runyan.

À bientôt!

**Constance Paradiso**

*President*

## VHS Donations

The following members have made donations to the Virginia Huguenot Society since October 2025. Thank you all for your generous support. Your support helps defray expenses that the dues do not cover and to support our Huguenot related projects and activities. Our regular annual dues of \$20.00 are among the lowest of any Virginia Heritage Society. Thanks to David LeGrande, Louis March, Randolph Williams, Donna Courtney, Madeline Townsend, and Patrica Hale. If you would like to make a donation to VHS, please contact Randolph Williams.

## HUGUENOT ANCESTORS OF MEMBERS WHO SERVED AND SUPPORTED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

This year has been marked as the 250th anniversary of the United States. The Declaration of Independence was written, signed, and affirmed in the Summer of 1776. We will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence throughout this year. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past and honor the contributions of our ancestor Huguenots who participated in the American Revolutionary War to give us the freedoms we cherish today.

The following are memorials to some of our Huguenot ancestors who took part in the War. Many thanks to Virginia Huguenots who took part in this endeavor.

### **Donna Tucker Quick Courtney:**

Our original French Huguenot ancestor, Abraham Seay I, left France for England in the 1680s. He was born between 1650 and 1660. His wife is thought to be Miss Wilson from England. The dates of their deaths are unknown, but by this time they were living in Manakin Town, VA. It is known today as Manakin-Sabot near the village of Fork Union, Goochland County.

Their son, Abraham II and his wife Naomi Seay, had a daughter nicknamed Amy. Amy Seay was born in 1741 in Fluvanna County. She married John Loving of Lovingston, VA, in 1769. John and Amy had 11 children and lived in what is now Nelson County.

John entered the Revolutionary War as a Lieutenant in March of 1775. He eventually became a Captain and led his troops at Charleston and at King's Mountain as well as fighting against Tarleton. In 1781, Capt. Loving marched his troops from Amherst to Yorktown where he and his men were present at the Surrender.

I am pleased to say that the old original Loving home is still standing (barely) and the Loving Cemetery is across Route 29 in a thicket of woods, briars, ticks, and snakes. It is surrounded by an old stone stacked wall with many fieldstones placed at headstones plus two flat table topped stones. This Loving line has fought in every war from the

American Revolution to WWII except WWI, as that line only had daughters. All four of the Loving baby boys died at birth.

I am thankfully blessed to have been born into this wickedly funny, sweet, and patriotic family.

### **Louis T. March**

Peter Dauge (Dozier), Dec. 1739 -Sept. 1801, colonel and legislator, was born in Pasquotank County. The first of his family in America was Jacques D' Auge, who moved to Charleston, SC, from the Province of Berry in France with a band of French Protestants in the early part of the eighteenth century. At twenty-six, Dauge was appointed as a road overseer in Camden. On 22 Apr. 1776, he was made a major in the Second Regiment of the Pasquotank militia. As second major his first task assigned by the Provincial Congress was for him and Dempsey Gregory to confiscate enslaved people belonging to the Tories Thomas McKnight, James Parker, and Robert Gilmore. The people McKnight was enslaving were moved with dispatch in May 1777 by Dauge's regiment. On 3 May 1776, Dauge was appointed lieutenant colonel in the state militia from the district of Edenton; on 11 May 1776, he was given the rank of colonel. On 8 Aug. 1776, he was appointed lieutenant

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colonel of the Tenth North Carolina Regiment, Continental Line, which joined General George Washington in 1777 and fought throughout the Revolution. In November 1776 he was also appointed lieutenant colonel of the First Battalion, which was ordered to assist South Carolina.

### **Suzanne Crutchfield**

My great, great, etc. grandfathers were on my mother's side (Noland); on my father's side, (Moore). Both are named as Veterans of the Revolutionary War with their names on a Veterans monument in front of Independence, MO, City Hall. Ledstone Noland fought for Kentucky; William Moore fought for Virginia (it was he or his son who married Druscilla Weatherall also from Virginia). Both are buried in Missouri: Moore at the Moore Cemetery, Noland at the Pitcher Cemetery.

Another of my direct ancestors who was in our Revolution: John Estes Yates, of Culpeper, VA, born February 2, 1752, died July 4, 1820. My great, great etc. grandfather! He served as a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Troops during the American Revolutionary War: the DAR has documented his service under "patriot ancestor A129437", and his name appears on the "Culpeper List of Passes" 1781.

### **Gerald, Darich & Christopher Runyan & Susan Perry**

Richard Runyan was our principal ancestor who fought in the ARW, one of his brothers, Hugh, also fought in the war. Richard was born 30 Nov. 1758 in Somerset County, New Jersey. He died on 16 August 1845 at the age of 87. Richard joined the local New Jersey

Militia as a private when he was 16 (1774) in Kingwood, Hunterdon County, NJ. He served with Col. William Chamberlain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Hunterdon County Militia, NJ. This militia unit supported the Continentals when the fighting came to their area. Richard was in several small battles throughout New Jersey for much of the war. He was also involved in the following principal battles: Battle of Trenton, Battle of Princeton, Battle of Germantown, and the Battle of Monmouth. Following this service Richard ended his war service as a teamster driving wagons with supplies, etc. for the Army.

Richard was the great-grandson of Vincent Runyan of Potiers, France. Vincent was a Huguenot and traveled to the Isle of Jersey to join a group of Huguenots who sailed to New Jersey on the *Ship Philip*, arriving in July/August 1665. The new Governor of East Jersey, Philip Carteret, brokered the voyage and many Huguenots were on the ship along with Gov. Carteret. Vincent was born on 7 May 1645 in Potiers France died on 11 November 1713 in Piscataway, NJ, age 68.

### **Gus Lewis**

By the time of the Revolution, the Latané were very wealthy landowners and well established by marriage in the local gentry of the middle peninsula. A grandson of Parson Lewis Latané, William Latané, contributed by patriotic service in Essex County as Justice of the Peace and sheriff during the war, roles critical for local governance and for supporting the war effort. A second grandson, John Latané, is listed in records as having provided supplies and support to the Virginia forces, qualifying him as a Revolutionary Patriot (DAR).

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### David LeGrande

David has several ancestors who were in the ARW:

- Pictured is Alexander LeGrand, born Dec 25, 1732, in Goochland Co., died Jan 25, 1822, in Prince Edward Co. Alexander, a Virginia patriot, supported supplies (material aid) to the ARW
- Abraham LeGrand born in 1724 in Henrico Co., died May 1799 in battle at Pittsylvania Co., VA
- His son, John N. LeGrand, born Nov 4, 1760, in Halifax County, died 1843 in Forsyth County, GA. John served in the German Battalion of the Continental Troops under Lt. Col Welter
- Son of Susannah LeGrand & Richard Cardwell, Richard Cardwell Jr. died in battle 1780 in Charleston, SC
- Peter "The Burgess" LeGrand's son Major Peter LeGrand Jr. born 1771, fought in the War of 1812. Died Aug 12, 1834, in Tipton Co., TN
- William T. LeGrand was in Captain Beverly Robinson's Company of VA Militia in 1776 & 1777.
- James & Philip LeGrand (brothers). James was in the Commissary Dept. and Philip in the Light Horse Cavalry, 1778 - 1780.



### Brenda Graves:

(The line I am using is the original Huguenot I joined The Virginia Huguenot Society through: ALEXANDRE THESEE de CHASTAIGNIER~)

This French Protestant line was from La Rochelle, France, arriving in Charlestowne,

SC, the year 1685. His daughter, Henrietta Charlotte de Chastaigner (picture shown here) married into one of the well-established early English Colonial families of the area. Her husband, Capt. Nathaniel Broughton (pictured here) inherited "Mulberry Castle," built by Nathaniel's grandfather in 1714 which is situated on a high bluff overlooking the Cooper River. Gov. Thomas Broughton designed the home as a replica of his family estate in England.



Many early settlers along the river took refuge there during the Colonial Indian Wars, Revolutionary War, and the War Between the States. Mulberry still stands today in the 21st century as a testimony to early colonial architecture.



Mulberry Plantation was a source of food and horses for Francis Marion's troops during the American Revolution. British troops were on the property several times during the occupation of Charlestown. Capt.

Nathaniel Broughton was killed riding off from the British on his horse; hitting a lower limb of a live oak while looking back at the

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Red Coats following him. His death resulted from a broken neck 8th October 1778~

The next generation:

Nathaniel Broughton, Jr., married Marie Ravenel, daughter of Daniel Ravenel and Elizabeth Damaris de St. Julian~ These are among the many Huguenot families that have descended to this day.

Sources: "Broughton Memoirs"; Leon Broughton, 1972. Ravenel Records, Henry Edmund Ravenel, Publ.1971. South Carolina Historical & Genealogical Magazine, Mary King Hatcher, (my 1st. Cousin). Info shared and Publ. Virginia Society Dames of the Court of Honor; Biographies of Qualifying Ancestors, Vol. II September 2006~

### **Greg Eanes**

Greg is the president of the Manakin Huguenot Society and has 12 ARW ancestors! Two are listed here.

Colvin, William, Jr. (1760-1820) Son of CAPT William Colvin and Elizabeth Eanes. The younger Colvin was a ship captain in support of the revolution. He was a grandson of Huguenot descendant Mary Vaden (Vaudin) and Edward Eanes of Chesterfield County, VA. Mary was a granddaughter to Huguenot

immigrants Paul and Claire Vaudin who arrived 1673 in Henrico County. Believed to be from Sark, Channel Islands. (also spelled as Vodin, Voidin and Vaiden). Contributed by Colonel Greg Eanes. (HSFMCV, Virginia).

Eanes, Arthur (1758-1818). Charlotte County VA Militia; Spencer's Company, Lt. Col. Nathaniel Cocke's Regiment, Stevens Brigade at battle of Guilford Court House (March 15, 1781); Severely wounded in action (WIA). He received a severe wound, the ball passing through the left arm just below the shoulder and penetrating his body, was extracted at the back bone---That in consequence of it, his arm has withered and is greatly disabled, and his health materially affected, so much so, that he is scarcely ever well...". Pensioned by Virginia for wounds. He was a great-grandson of Huguenot descendant Mary Vaden (Vaudin) and Edward Eanes of Chesterfield County, VA. Mary was a granddaughter to Huguenot immigrants Paul and Claire Vaudin who arrived 1673 in Henrico County. Believed to be from Sark, Channel Islands. (Also spelled as Vodin, Voidin and Vaiden). Contributed by Colonel Greg Eanes. (HSFMCV, Virginia). DAR No. A035377. SAR No. P-152270.

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## **Sample Chapter of "Presidents with Huguenot Ancestry"** **by Katharine Brown**

The VHS is working to write a comprehensive book listing the Presidents of the United States who are descendants of Huguenots. There may be as many as 28, though research is ongoing. The following is a draft of the first page of the chapter on George Washington. Author's footnotes are not included in the interest of saving space. **Let us know what you think. Gerald Runyan, Constance Paradiso, Cat Southworth, Shawn Martin, Committee Members.** *(Continued on page 6)*

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On a fine spring day in London in the year 1620, a young French Huguenot man, Nicolas Martiau, was let off at quayside with a couple of sea chests filled with his clothes, surveying instruments, writing supplies and books for the long voyage, and climbed aboard the *Francis Bonaventure*, a ship bound for the Virginia colony. The ship weighed anchor and left England on May 16, 1620. After a voyage of about twelve weeks, it arrived in the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the James River sometime in August. Coincidentally, while the *Francis Bonaventure* was on the high seas, a small group of English Separatists who had been living in Holland sailed from there to join the *Mayflower*, bound for America also.

Who was that young Martiau, one of the earliest known Huguenots to settle in England's American colonies? Despite considerable work by historians and genealogists in the past century, his early life remains something of a

mystery. Most biographical sketches say that he was born on the Île de Ré off the west coast of France. He reported his age as 33 in a 1724 census, so he must have been born there in 1691. That flat, narrow, sixteen-mile-long island lies just outside La Rochelle, one of the major centers of French Protestantism in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Most of the islanders gained a living from the sea and lived in St. Martin de Ré, the only town and port. The Protestantism that captured the minds and hearts of most residents of La Rochelle and region spread to the island. The names of Martiau's parents are not known. We have no information about his upbringing and education or about his father's vocation but assume that the family was Protestant. By the time Nicolas was born, France's King Henry IV had issued the Edict of Nantes, which granted his Protestant subjects a limited toleration of their worship and beliefs. When and under what circumstances the Martiau

family, or perhaps just young Nicolas, left the Île de Ré and France is also a mystery.

Nicolas would scarcely recognize his old home if he were to return today. In the late seventeenth century, Louis XIV had his master fortification architect, Vauban, design and construct a large fortress at St. Martin de Ré. In the late twentieth century a bridge connected the island to La Rochelle on the mainland. The island was transformed into a charming getaway destination with inns, holiday cottages, chic restaurants, and shops. But Nicolas would recognize at least one building in town, the Hotel de Clerjotte, built in 1470 as a residence for the royal tax collector. Today the building houses the Musée Ernest Cognacq, the local history museum. Martiau might be very surprised to find in the courtyard a bronze bas-relief medallion with a representation of himself mounted on the base of a

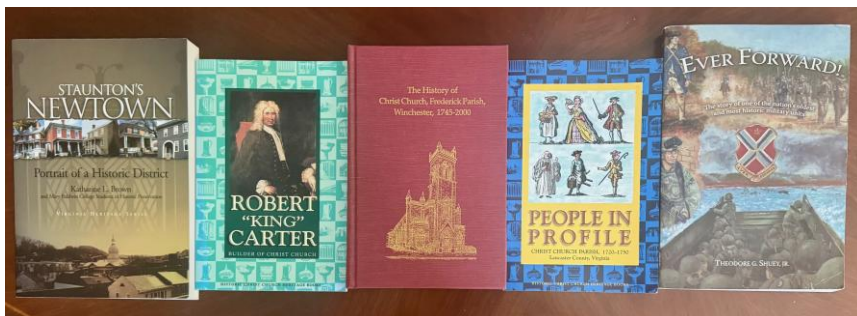
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life-sized statue of George Washington. On that granite base is engraved Washington's direct line of descent from Nicolas Martiau, his 3X great-grandfather.

There are many gaps in the Martiau story, but there is enough evidence surviving to answer the big question: how this Protestant Frenchman became ancestor of the general who commanded the American colonists' successful revolution against Britain and its king and then became the first president of the great nation born of that struggle.

## Other Books by Katherine Brown



Katherine Brown, our prospective author of our proposed President's Book, has lent us five books that she has written and/or published for our members to gauge the quality of her work. Please contact Gerald at [gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com) if you would like to borrow one or more of these books.

*Staunton's Newtown - Portrait of a Historic District*

*Robert "King" Carter - Builder of Christ's Church (biography)*

*The History of Christ Church, Frederick Parish, Winchester, 1745-2000*

*Ever Forward - History of the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Virginia Guard*

*People in Profile - Stories of people who lived in Lancaster County 1720-1750*

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## Registrar's Report & New Member

Please welcome our newest VHS member

Donna Tucker Quick Courtney

7820 General Wright Drive

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22407-5213

540-273-1562

[donnacourtney18@gmail.com](mailto:donnacourtney18@gmail.com)

Abraham Seay I, Manakin Town, Va.

#7-531 Approved April 3, 2026



Please note her information in your yearbooks.

Cat Southworth, Registrar, has reported several prospective members. We are awaiting receipt of their applications.

# In Memoriam

Paul Morissette passed away at his home on October 26, 2025. Paul had been a member of the Virginia Huguenot Society since 1990 – no doubt one of our longest running members. He was dedicated to the VHS and served as president from 1999-2001 and again 2013-2015. His son Matthew sent this message to the Society: “The Huguenot Society was something my pops loved to brag about. His dedication to Huguenot Society was mentioned at the funeral and even a brief history of its origins was spoken of. God bless!” Our condolences to wife “BJ”, son Matthew and family.

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## Siege of Yorktown by Henry LeGrand



Pictured is the painting by Henry LeGrand. Henry copied the original painting by Louis Charles-August Couder. Henry exhibited his painting in 1860 at a Chicago Art Exhibit Show. This 19th century copy depicting George Washington and French General Rochambeau during the last battle of the American Revolution. The name of the painting is *Siege of Yorktown*. The painting is now displayed at the recently opened Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, PA. The bottom picture shows the installation of the giant 16 X 19 framed painting. (David LeGrande)



## Hollywood Cemetery - James Monroe Birthday Commemoration

On Tuesday, April 28, VHS VP, David LeGrande, laid a wreath and extended greetings from the Virginia Huguenot Society at the annual James Monroe birthday commemoration at Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

The wrought iron structure over Monroe's tomb was fully restored by the Commonwealth of Virginia about ten years ago.

The event is sponsored by the James Monroe Memorial Foundation (our own Louis T March serves on the board) and is held on April 28, Monroe's birthday every year, rain or shine. Fifty Heritage Societies presented wreaths at the event, and about 200 people attended the ceremony - it was aired on WTVR:

[https://youtu.be/pSpul0Tm\\_8?si=AUbZNK0Gpx5VmukA](https://youtu.be/pSpul0Tm_8?si=AUbZNK0Gpx5VmukA)

A reception followed at the nearby Virginia War Memorial. Also, one of our long-time members, Adrienne Maxwell, received this year's James Monroe Distinguished Public Service Award. Congratulations to Adrienne.

It is believed by many that James Monroe has a Huguenot connection through his mother's side. But specific proofs have not yet been discovered. (Ed.)



*Louis and David*



*Adrienne receives her award*

***Save the Date!***  
**Our next meeting is October 31, 2026**  
**Tanglewood Ordinary**  
**2210 River Road W**  
**Maidens, VA 23102**



# Virginia Huguenot Society Spring Meeting Minutes March 28, 2026

## Orchard Creek Golf Club, Waynesboro, Virginia

The Virginia Huguenot Society spring meeting took place at the Orchard Creek Golf Course Clubhouse in Waynesboro Virginia on March 28, 2026. After a social hour from 11 o'clock to noon, President Constance Paradiso called the meeting to order. Patricia Haile gave the Invocation in the absence of chaplain Heath Thompson. The ritual then followed, with all standing, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States, and pledge to the Huguenot flag. Lastly, the sacred oath was read in French, followed by the English translation in response.

Introduced today were our newest member, Sean Martin of Fredericksburg, and a prospective member Donna Courtney. Guests from Staunton were introduced, including Ella and Ding Patton and Ray and Ida Griffin. Chardon Jenks and Grenelle Delaney were guests and Katherine March, wife of Louis March. David Southworth, husband of Cat Southworth, joined us for the meeting. Patricia Haile gave

the blessing before the buffet meal.

At 1:12 PM the business meeting and the program were called to order by the president. She called for minutes of the last meeting, and these were read by Secretary AW Lewis. There was one change. The minutes recorded that Shirley Seaborn was the president of the Manakin Huguenot Society and was turning this over to Leon Via. The president was Colonel Greg Eanes. Mrs. Seaborn was the president before him. Randolph Williams handed out the treasurer's report which shows that as of this date the balance in the Wells Fargo account of the Virginia Huguenot Society is \$18,126.11. A copy of this report will be kept within the minutes. He commented that the previous treasurer, Ann Darst, did an excellent job of keeping a very accurate account of the society's finances.

The registrar, Cat Southworth, reported that in addition to our one new member there were four prospective members who

are in the wings and likely to be turning in their paperwork soon.

The vice president reported that as of yet, he does not have a location or a speaker for the October meeting.

President Constance Paradiso gave her president's report that included items that were discussed at the council meeting, which was held online last weekend. Because of some confusion as to who has paid dues, and when they are due, it was decided to have the treasurer keep account of the dues that have been paid and to remind members of the dues separate from the charges for the meetings. This reminder will go out in September. If dues have not been paid by December a second notice will go out.

Donations made by members will be mentioned in the newsletter by name only and not by the amount of donation.

Another subject discussed during the council meeting was having a second vice president to help with

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making the arrangements for the meeting while the first vice president secures a speaker for the program. It was felt that the position of vice president doing both was somewhat burdensome and it would help to share the load.

Another subject discussed was having an insignia for the society that could be made to be on a pin or medallion. The design for this would need to be decided and a master mold done which could be costly. Constance has asked Anne Jackson to oversee coming up with suggestions for the design and a prospective budget. Members of the council appeared to look very favorably on the design that we have for our letterhead.

Gerald Runyan was asked to discuss the progress on our perspective book on the Huguenot ancestors of American presidents. He has had the author Katherine Brown submit a chapter as an example of her writing style. A copy of this chapter on Nicolas Martiau, George Washington's Huguenot ancestor, was made available to council members to read and give feedback.

Gerald is also asking society members to write a short paragraph on a Huguenot ancestor who served in the continental army during the American Revolution. This would be for our newsletter. He felt it was appropriate to celebrate Huguenot contributions to the American cause as it is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the American Revolution this year.

As chair of the nominating committee, Gerald also gave the names of Anne Jackson, who has been filling the seat of Paul Morissette for the past year as one, and Susan Perry and Priscilla Knight as nominees for the council, serving in the class of 2026 to 2028. There were no nominations from the floor, and the three nominees were voted on to fill the positions.

Adrienne Maxwell, who is a member of the council, has had some health issues but seems to be doing better now, according to Louis March who had contacts who knew how she was doing. Heath Thompson, who has served for chaplain of our society for years, is currently residing in assisted living in Petersburg.

Our program for the meeting is being given by Vice

President David LeGrande. The subject is the "Huguenot Contribution to London." With the Huguenot diaspora leaving France in the 17<sup>th</sup> century because of persecution for their religious practices, many went to England, and there were many residing in London, primarily in Spitalfields. Among these refugees, there was a wealth of experience and talent in many crafts, including the fiber arts, glass, watch making, silver smithing, among others. Huguenot weavers and dress makers were some of the most sought after by the London aristocracy. David showed slides of some extraordinary examples of the silver pieces that were done by Huguenot craftsmen. France's loss in all this talent was definitely London's gain. Gradually there was assimilation of the Huguenot population into English society.

Following David's well researched program the motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the meeting ended at 2:42 PM.



**The Virginia Huguenot Society**  
**39 Madison Lane S**  
**Newport News, VA 23606**

President Constance Paradiso  
**paradiso@ntelos.com**

Registrar Cat Southworth  
**cat.southworth@gmail.com**

The LORD will give strength unto his people;  
the LORD will bless his people with peace.  
**Psalm 29:11**

