



# 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 2020 Newsletter

## Letter from the President

Epidemics of influenza have occurred in our lifetime but the current pandemic from the novel coronavirus is unlike any of these by its stealth, ease of transmission and lethality. As a physician, I am acutely aware of the challenges facing our healthcare workers and the populations being served by them. The economic hardships, as well as the health risks, are affecting our nation profoundly.

It was regrettable that our March meeting had to be cancelled, but there was no question that it needed to be done to protect our members from the spread of this infection. We are hoping to schedule our speaker at a later date. God willing, there will be effective treatment options and, eventually, a vaccine that will allow us to return to our former lives within a reasonable period of time.

Nous survivrons. Nous survivrons ensemble,  
*Augustine Lewis*

## *Attack on the Huguenots* Painting by William D. Washington



*Before conservation and restoration*

We look forward to the framing and rehangings of the painting. We could possibly have a meeting in Lexington to see it when the work is all finished.

*We will keep the membership informed of the status of the painting as we wait for its completion & display. Tax deductible donations in any amount toward the cost of the project are appreciated.*

The conservation and restoration of this painting has been completed. It has been three years since Col. Gibson gave us a program about this painting. It has been an interesting project to be associated with. The next step is to have the picture framed. A Richmond frame shop is currently finding suitable frames to match the period of the painting. The VMI Museum will make the final determination on the frame. The before and after photos of the painting show a dramatic improvement, which is even more obvious when viewed in person.



*After conservation and restoration*

## Call for Action: From the Project Chairman

### New Members Needed



Membership is critical to the long term success of our Society. We have recently completed a meaningful project—the restoration of the William D. Washington painting. This is an excellent example of how the Virginia Huguenot Society can honor the sacrifices of our ancestors and at the same time increase the knowledge of Huguenot history to the general public, and to pique the interest of potential new members. The more members we have the more we can accomplish.

So as we all return to a more normal life in the next few months be aware of potential new members. Often other heritage groups are a prime source of candidates. After all, remember what Jackson Darst used to say, “Scratch a Virginian and you will find a Huguenot.” Another prime source of new members that we need to attack first and in a coordinated fashion is *other family members*. These folks should be relatively (yes...pun intended) easy picking. Ask sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, cousins, etc., to join. You know they can qualify and they can use your application as the basis for their application with a few recent additions and paperwork.

We now have something to tout as reason to join, other than good camaraderie and good lunches. And our dues are the cheapest of any Heritage group that I know.

So I am asking you to write down the name of one or two relatives, or others that you can ask to join, and follow up with them—ask them to attend our next meeting, send them a copy of this newsletter (ask me and I’ll send one to them), just talk to them in normal conversation about our group, what we do and why. I hope we can raise our membership by 10 over the next 12-18 months. ~ Gerald Runyan, Project Chair, [gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com)



### Looking for a Good Book?

There are many books in our library on the history of the Huguenots. Please contact David LeGrande if you wish to check out any books. [edlegrande@hotmail.com](mailto:edlegrande@hotmail.com) or 804-739-3785

Huguenot Emigration to Virginia by R.A. Brock, Originally published in Richmond 1886. Reprinted in 1962. A detailed study of French Huguenots moving into King William Parrish. An excellent reference for researching your family ancestors.

The Trail of the Huguenots in Europe, United States, South Africa, and Canada by Dr. G. Elmore Reaman, originally published in Toronto 1963. Republished by Genealogical Publishing Co. Baltimore 1972 and 2000. This is a fascinating story of the great exodus of Huguenots from France and widespread dispersal in countries listed in the book title. Reaman's book is mainly devoted to the Huguenots who went to America and Canada. *See a list of other available books on page 7.*

## The Role of King William III in the Settlement of Huguenots at Manakintown

It has been said that King William III, who ruled England with his wife, Mary II from 1689 to 1702, had a particular interest in helping refugees. The part he played in providing refuge to the many protestant immigrants that left France before and after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 is known. It's also well established that because of his gratitude for Huguenot support in his army, he eventually had an important role in the establishment of the settlement of Manakintown in the English colony of Virginia.

William was born Prince of Orange in Ghent in 1650 and before he became King of England was the primary opposition on the continent to King Louis XIV of France and his attempts to expand his influence (and Catholicism). William married his first cousin, Mary, daughter of the eventual king of England, James II, in November of 1677.

Many Huguenots had fled France in the 17<sup>th</sup> century because of the persecution there and as many as 75 to 100,000 refugees went to the Dutch Republic because of it being a country that would welcome protestants. England also received tens of thousands.

When a number of protestant leaders in England became concerned about James II, a Roman Catholic, because of his despotic and "Romanizing" policies, they urged William to intervene.

Although James was his uncle and yes, his father-in law as well, William organized an army and invaded England, landing at Devon and

marching essentially unopposed to London. In his army were three regiments of French Huguenots and a squadron of French Huguenot Cavalry.

King James fled to France to the protection of his ally, Louis XIV. The English Parliament declared that he'd abdicated and the throne was offered to William and Mary. While there was little opposition in England to William and his army, it was a different story in Ireland. With the help of French troops, James landed there and along with Irish Catholic Jacobites engaged in battle with King William's army made up

largely of Huguenots. The Battle of Boyne in 1690 was decisive in giving King William and Queen Mary control over Ireland as well. The Huguenot troops, numbering 3,000, were led by Fr  derick Armand de Schomberg, a former military leader in France who, because of his protestant faith, left France at the time of the R  vocation of the Edict of Nantes.

Another important military leader of the Huguenots was Henri de Massue, Marquis de Ruvigny, who had once been part of Louis XIV's inner circle and a distinguished diplomat. For staying true to his protestant faith he was expelled from France and forfeited all his property.

Because of his service in the Irish campaign, he became designated Earl of Galway in 1697 by King William and was granted extensive holdings at Portarlington in Ireland. There a number of Huguenots settled, but he, and subsequently King William because of his influence,

*(Continued on page 4)*





realized that there was a need to find places to settle for the large number of Huguenots coming to England as refugees.

Dr. Daniel Coxe, who was Queen Mary's physician, tried to convince the monarchs to have the Huguenots colonize land in which he was speculating on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. King William, (probably because of being aware of what happened with the Huguenot colony at Fort Caroline in Florida), vetoed that plan as being too difficult to defend against the Spanish.

He agreed subsequently to helping through the Protestant Relief Fund to have Huguenots to travel to the colony of Virginia to settle. The idea he had was that they would go to an area in Norfolk County between Virginia and North Carolina (this was also prompted by some land speculation on the part of Dr. Coxe).

When the Huguenot colonists arrived in Hampton, Virginia, they discovered that Colonel William Byrd I and Governor Francis Nicholson had decided that they would go to property owned by the former that was about 20 miles west of Richmond and that had formerly been a Monacan Indian village. This eventually became Manakintowne.

A lot can be written about the difficulties that the colonists endured those years from 1699 on, but the Virginia colony officials did try to assist them as long as King William was on the throne.

When he died in 1702, the tone changed and there was much less accommodation. Their petitions had to be written in English, their church service had to conform to the Anglican service, and the minister assigned to them when the last French speaking pastor left for South Carolina was one who spoke only English and couldn't be understood by the congregation of what was called King William Parish,

named of course, for the king who patronized them. King William III's name endures in Virginia in the naming of King William County. And the joint monarchy of William and Mary is commemorated by the College in Williamsburg and in King and Queen County, both established during their reign.

A very good discussion of the role of King William in the Huguenot migration to Virginia is a book called "The Protestant International and the Huguenot Migration to Virginia" written by David Lambert. There are a number of excellent sources of information on our Huguenot ancestors in the books owned by the Virginia Huguenot Society and available by contacting David LeGrande.

~ Augustine W. Lewis III, MD



### INSIGNIA OF THE 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.

## Carla and Robert Odom's Trip to the Holy Land

### *A moving experience*

In October and November last year, Carla & Robert set out on a once in a life time pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the Eastern Mediterranean. Their tour took them to Rome, Sicily, Israel, Cyprus, Rhodes, Turkey, Athens, and Naples.

They had last visited Rome 40 years ago and, besides seeing many new sights, they reminisced about sights from 1980. Especially the Spanish Steps....which they climbed in 1980, but not this time!

The most memorable and meaningful parts of the trip were in Israel and Turkey. They visited Jerusalem, The Sea of Galilee, and other shrines and

cathedrals reminding them of the miracles of Jesus, such as the Wedding Church at Cana, the Church of the Multiplication (Feeding the 5000), and Church of the Beatitudes. At many of these biblical sites, Carla was overtaken by the sacrifice, courage, and strength of these original Christians. It was a moving experience.

In Turkey, Carla & Robert visited the City of Ephesus and saw, among other sites, the Relics of Mary's house. Also there was a large statue of Mary.

Six months later, Carla and Robert are still reflecting on their journey. It was a blessing to have taken this life altering experience.



## The Virginia Huguenot Society

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

Whenever you are on online, try to visit our VHS website, [frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org](http://frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org). We need as many "hits" as we can get to help those interested find out about us. You can learn about Huguenot history and the history of the VHS, membership requirements, photos, issues of past newsletters, and important links on our website.

We also post pictures of Society events and happenings of individual members - don't be shy about sending any pictures to Gerald Runyan for posting to our site, [gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com). Visit [frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org](http://frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org).

## Donations for Special Projects



Please consider making a donation to VHS to use to further the recent project and to aid in completing future projects. The Virginia Huguenot Society is a properly recognized 501c3 organization and as such all donations are tax deductible. We have met our commitment for the painting and remain very solvent; however, your financial assistance will take us even further with activities that enhance our status within the Historical/Heritage communities, and more importantly to the general public. Donations can be sent to Ann Darst, VHS Treasurer, 409 Oak Tree Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188

## Heritage Society Community

Thanks to a generous contribution by Carla & Robert Odom, the Virginia Huguenot Society is a Perpetual Sponsor of the Heredity Society Community. Please go to their website, [hereditary.us](http://hereditary.us), the breadth and depth of Heredity Societies is astounding, it is an interesting read. Carla is a HSC Consultant.

## Are You Over the Age of 80?

Last year the Council passed a new policy that any member over 80 who has been a member for five years is exempt from annual dues. With this policy, we hope to maintain contact with many members who are no longer able to attend regularly.

## Virginia Huguenot Society

### Officers:

President - Augustine W. Lewis III, MD  
Vice President - Louis T. March  
Secretary - Nancy M. W. Agee  
Treasurer - Ann B. H. Darst  
Chaplain - Emily "Heath" Thompson  
Registrar - Constance Paradiso  
Historian - Edward David LeGrand  
Immediate Past president - Del Agee



### Council Members:

Susan Tatum  
Paul Morrisette  
Susanne Reynolds\*  
Anne Skidmore  
Brenda Graves\*  
Gerald Runyan\*

\* Council members elected in 2019 will serve a one year term; beginning with the 2020 election council members will serve a two year term.

## Future Meeting Sites

If you have a favorite location to suggest for our meeting, or a speaker you feel our members would be interested in hearing, please contact Vice-President Louis March at 540-960-0504 or email him at [marchlouis@aol.com](mailto:marchlouis@aol.com).



## Presbyterian Meeting House



During a recent visit to Colonial Williamsburg I stumbled across The Presbyterian Meeting House. It is behind the Capitol on N. Waller Street. During the Colonial Period the Anglican Church was the only authorized church in the colonies. If you were a Protestant, but not Anglican, you had to have a license to worship.

In 1765 a group of Williamsburg residents successfully petitioned the authorities to allow them to open their own Presbyterian Meeting House. It was a simple structure as seen in the photographs. ~ Gerald Runyan



## Virginia Huguenot Society Books

*Books available by contacting David LeGrande,  
[edlegrande@hotmail.com](mailto:edlegrande@hotmail.com) or 804-739-3785*

1. Huguenot Genealogies by Arthur Louis Finnell, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1999, 72 pages. Reprint 2003. A list of all published genealogies for documented Huguenot families in America.
2. Huguenot and Scots Links 1575-1775 by David Dobson 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2005, 92 pages. Listing of French Huguenots surnames, living in Scotland, some of which have become Scotticized and may vary from the original name.
3. Memorials of the Huguenots in America with Special Reference to their Emigration to Pennsylvania by Rev. A. Stapleton, A.M. M. S., 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1901, Reprint 1996, 148 pages. This book dwells upon the Huguenot emigrants that had been stripped of all human rights, both civil and religious by the Revocation. In the industrial arts, learning and religious thought, the Huguenots were the most advanced type of civilization in proportion to emigrate to Pennsylvania.
4. Huguenot Emigration to Virginia and to the Settlement at Manikin-Town by R.A. Brock, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 1886, Reprint 2007, 204 pages. A comprehensive narrative of the establishment of the fugitive Protestants in the New World and data related to the Huguenot settlement in Virginia.
5. French Colonists and Exiles in the United States by J. G. Rosengarden, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 1907, Reprint 2002, 210 pages. This book brings to the attention of colonies settled with more or less success in the closing years of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries.
6. The Huguenots in France and America by Hannah F. Lee, Two Volumes in One, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1843, Reprint 2001, 298 pages. The author consulted with many historians and biographers to compile facts of Huguenot history in France and America. It is knowledge of men, not things we want. The facts collected concerning Huguenots who took refuge in America.



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*Happy Spring!*

*Mark calendars for the October 31, 2020 meeting*  
*Location to be determined*