

The Virginia Huguenot Society

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

frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org

President's Message Michel de Montaigne, the great essayist of 16th Century France, was first known as a politician. During the wars between the Catholics and Protestants in France, he attempted to negotiate a number of peace agreements. As the mayor of Bordeaux, he was finishing his second term when the city was struck by the plague, killing a third of its inhabitants. Montaigne and his family retreated to his castle where he began isolating himself in a tower and he started to write his "Essais," which have become

classic examples of philosophical writings. In exploring his thoughts on a variety of subjects, he developed his ideas of philosophy as the means to master oneself and so better deal with life's challenges, no less than its sudden catastrophes.

His last entry in his final book of essays, "Of Experience," is about how to live when life itself comes under attack: "It takes management to enjoy life. Especially at this moment when I perceive that mine is so brief in time, I try to increase it in weight; I try to arrest the speed of its

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flight by the speed with which I grasp it and to compensate for the haste of its ebb by my vigor in using it. The shorter my possession of life the deeper and fuller I must make it."

While we cannot isolate ourselves completely from the current day pandemic and shelter in place in a tower of our castle like he did, we can certainly take away something from Montaigne's thoughts about how to make the best of a very challenging time in our lives.

May you all stay safe, Gus Warner Lewis

Virginia Huguenot Meeting October 31, 2020

The VHS held its Fall meeting of Remembrance at the Spring Creek Country Club in Zion's Crossroads, VA, on October 31, 2020.



Members and guests gather prior to the meting

Our Spring 2020 meeting had been scheduled for March 2020 and had to be cancelled due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and all of the unknowns about the disease. Since that time, we have learned a lot about avoidance, and medically reasoned protocols have been established. Therefore, the VHS decided to go forward with the Fall meeting. All activities met the current protocols.



Members greeting guest speaker and his wife (Continued on page 3)

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



As previously reported, the conservation and restoration of the painting has been completed by the Richmond Conservation Studio. The improvement is dramatic with many figures and details now visible that were previously hidden under layers of foggy varnish. Next step is the framing.

Col. Keith Gibson of the VMI Museum has given us the following report of the work's status.

"I have talked with Richmond Conservation Studio (RCS) several times recently regarding the final selection of the frame.

The shop that was originally going to frame it backed out, but we have two additional shops who can do this sort of large-scale project. Beth at RCS is getting samples from our 'short list' of frame types to actually fit onto a section of the painting, which will give us the best sense of the finished effect.

"Regarding the style of frame: we are considering rococo style gold gilded frames which were popular in the 1850s, but not sure that is right for this subject matter.

"I have attempted some research to inform us as to what Washington might have favored. We also have about twenty original frames on our collection that William Washington placed on portraits in the late 1860s. Those frames are by and large relatively simple gilded frames without much molded decoration.

"Beth and I are inclined to think a simple frame may be more in keeping with a scene of a sacred worship held in a barn under attack. This does not mean that the frame would not be significant—the frame must be a minimum of six inches wide in order to balance the scale of the painting. We should be able to get an order to the framer in by the end of October.

"The space in which we intend to hang the completed painting is still under construction in Preston Library, but will be ready perhaps by mid-December. Of course, the title plate acknowledging the support of the Virginia Huguenot Society will be created before the painting is placed in Preston Library.

"The road to completion has taken some unexpected turns, but the journey is coming to a successful end. Thanks!" (Col. Keith Gibson)

Donations for Special Projects

Please consider making a donation to VHS to use to aid in 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

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The Spring Creek CC was very accommodating and the staff friendly, efficient, and attentive. Food was good, too. We had a good turn out and the

speaker, The Most Rev. Peter D. Robinson, spoke about Huguenots in Ireland. Many Scots-Irish settlers in the New World were Huguenots. The Rev. Robinson spoke about the strong influence that Huguenots played in Irish history, culture, business, science, government, and architecture. There is a French Huguenot cemetery near the Shelbourne Hotel on St. Stevens Green. I had the joy of accidentally stumbling over this gem when last in

Ireland and was staying at the Shelbourne Hotel. There are pictures on our web site, frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org. Go to the photos link on the left side of our home page and scroll down until you see



member Bonnie Bew



them.

In spite of the facemasks and social distancing, everyone had a good time. We had several new members and prospective members attend.

We all look forward to the Spring meeting in March 27, 2021. Please mark the date on your calendar! Gerald Runyan

HUGUENOT HERITAGE

Emily "Heath" Thompson, our Society Chaplain, is sharing a synopsis of her Huguenot family history. It is an interesting story with her ancestry going back to the earliest possible time one could be a Huguenot. Thank you, Heath, for sharing your story.

My 9th grandfather Pierre Sanxay is my ancestor. He was born about 1530 in the town of Saintes, a reformed religion stronghold. It was also about the time the Bible appeared translated into French. He became pastor of the church in Saintes in 1570 and remained there until his death in 1576. At the time of the St. Bartholomew Massacre, he and additional citizens were threatened with being beheaded and drawn and quartered. Despite this and other interruptions, Pierre Sanxay managed 300 baptisms. He and his wife Jacquette Goy had four known children, three girls and a son Pierre.

This Pierre was born around 1570, married Anne Buny, and became a very wealthy man in

Saintes. His 4th son Josu, was baptized 27 August 1614 in Saintes. He moved to Tailebourge and also became a successful businessman. He died around 1670. Josu married Marie Viver.

Their son Jaques became a pastor in the reformed church at Tailebourge in 1677. He continued there until the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes when all pastors of the reformed church were given 15 days to leave France, become Catholic, or face death. He and his family wished to go to England but the 15th day, there had been only ships to Holland. On the last day they boarded a ship for Holland but a violent storm came up and they ended up at Plymouth, (Continued on page 5)

In Memoriam Lost members

Sadly we must announce the passing of three members since our last meeting in October 2019. Ormonde Wilkinson, Patsy Underhill, Dr. H. Jackson Darst. See the attached Obituaries. (Jackson's obituary was included in the March Newsletter.)

Ormonde had been an active member for many years, having served in a number of Council and Officer positions including President for the 2009-2011 term. She lived in Richmond and is survived by her husband Gary and her sister Lynn Harris of Charlottesville.

Patsy, likewise, was a strong, dedicated member of our Society. She was President for the 1995-1997 term. In addition to her deep interest for our Society, she was a lover of genealogy. She was well known throughout a number of Virginia Lineage Societies. Patsy started our first newsletter which often included anecdotes about members and some wry "country" style humor. She resided in Tappahannock.

Also to be acknowledged is the passing of Joyce LeGrande, in August of this year. While not a member of the Society she was the wife of David LeGrande, a long time member and our Historian and Librarian.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the families of these missing loved ones.

Ormonde (pronounced "oar-mund") Catherine Deane Wilkinson, born to Ormond Carter



and Frances Katherine Culbreth Deane in Charlottesville, VA, on May 11, 1941, passed away on June 9, 2020. Initially at odds with her name, she came to appreciate that it was unique though often mispronounced. She is survived by her husband Gary, older sister Susan Deane Tatum (Rob), their three adult children, and younger sister Lyn Deane-Harris and her two adult children.

Ormonde went to Venable Elementary and Lane High School in Char-

lottesville, was graduated from The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and got her Masters degree in Recreational Therapy from Penn State.

Ormonde was a longtime active member of the Old Dominion Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), The Virginia Huguenot Society and The Tuckahoe Woman's Club. She also enjoyed hosting on a rotating basis her Ma-Jong group while Gary escaped to the study.

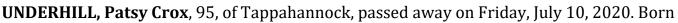
Ormonde enjoyed her life and found her life's mate in Gary who said they always had fun together. "We were a good fit."

(Read Ormunde's full obituary at https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theprogressnews/ obituary.aspx?pid=196364141)

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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**.





October 5, 1924, in Tasso, Tennessee, she was preceded in death by her parents, Henry Alfred Crox and Ruth Duncan Crox; sister, Carolyn Ann Crox Craig; and her husband of 62 years, Harold Alexander Underhill. She is survived by her daughter, Pamela Ann Underhill of Tappahannock; four nephews, George Craig (Jennifer) of Merritt Island, Fla., Henry (Hank) Craig (Tricia) of Cleveland, Tenn., David Craig (Joann) of White Plains, N.Y., Roger Craig (Julia) of Summerville, S.C.

Patsy was a proud alumna of the University of Tennessee (go Big Orange), where she was a member of the Delta Zeta sorority. Patsy was a gifted seamstress and artist. She made it her life mission to trace her family history and "dig up" every ancestor possible. She almost succeeded. She and Harold rubbed many tombstones throughout Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia looking for those kin.

She was an active member of The Virginia Huguenot Society, National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century and Daughters of the American Revolution, holding many offices at local and regional levels in all. She was a member of Rappahannock Christian Church in Dunnsville, Va.

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England, with his wife and three children. He eventually became pastor at St. Olave's in Exeter, England. French services continued there until 1758.

They had two sons, Daniel and James. James

married Anna Badger. He served at several churches in England. He was lastly at Tetcott in the county of Warwick. They are both buried there. Their 10th and last child John, baptized 10 September 1746, came to New York City and married Mary Devoe at Trinity Parish, New York City. I de-

scend from their 11th son Richard Davenport Sanxay.

Richard was born 10 August 1794 in New York and died in Richmond, VA, on 1 January 1870. He and Emily Tabita Gordon were married by Bishop Moore of the Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA, on 8 September 1818. Their oldest daughter Charlotte Isabella married Robert Gilliam of Prince George, VA, October 29, 1839.

The book on the Sanxay family states that the largest Sanxay line without the Sanxay name is in Virginia. Robert and Charlotte had 12 children and 54 grandchildren. Their 10th child was Richard Davenport Gilliam, my great grandfather who with Irong Janes had 15 of

grandfather who with Irene Jones had 15 of

those grandchildren. My grandmother, Emily Gordon Gilliam Heath, was number five and number 14 Lucy Gilliam Alexander that led me to the Sanxay book.

My mother Emily Gordon Heath Ellis born 30 July 1915, had 15 first cousins born between 1907 and 1949, six still

living. Charlotte is buried with Robert in Blandford Cemetery. There is another plot in Blandford where her mother and other Sanxay family are buried but no markers. There is also a Sanxay in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond with no marker. I have an untold number of cousins I have never met and at this point will probably remain that way.



Welcome New Members

We warmly welcome the Virginia Huguenot Society's newest members. We appreciate their interest and desire to honor our Huguenot forefathers by affiliating with the VHS. Thank you all and we hope we will be able to see you at future meetings. Please call upon any member or Officer with questions or for more information about the Society, including working on any new projects of the Society.

Joined October 26, 2020

Graham Chandler Williams, 2729 Kenmont Terrace, Midlothian, VA 23113 804-379-0031 (home), 804-399-2266 (cell), gcw68vmi@gmail.com (Ancestor: Samuel Puryear)

Joined September 21, 2020

Lewis Randolph Williams, Jr., 6730 Metrica Court, Gainesville, VA 20155 703-609-2261, lrw66vmi@gmail.com. (Ancestor: Samuel Puryear)

Joined June 28, 2020 **Bonnie Bew,** (a cousin of Lewis Williams), 2300 Lastingham Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113 804-379-0975, rbbew@aol.com. (Ancestor: Samuel Puryear)

In April, 2 new members who happen to be cousins **Claire Sheridan Walters,** 2810 Hillcrest Ave, Augusta, GA 30909 706-373-2357, mcsw310@aol.com. April 30, 2020 (Ancestor: Jacob Ammonet)

Jane Henderson Barrett, 2913 Lombardy Court, Augusta, GA 30909 706-736-7916, jane.barrett@comcast.net. April 22, 2020 (Ancestor: Jacob Ammonet)

New Webmaster

Our Society has a new Webmaster to oversee our website. He is George McDaniel and is well known to Louis March. Our "old" webmaster Jane Dudley decided to retire from the business. We were well served by Jane for a number of years with precise, accurate, and timely additions, edits, domain issues etc. All of these will be handled expertly by George going forward. We anticipate a good ongoing relationship with

George.

Gerald Runyan will be the primary contact with the Webmaster, Louis March will be the secondary contact. Please pass on any questions, comments, ideas or items of interest to Gerald for possible inclusion on the Web site. And visit often! **frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org**



After the October meeting we will add several new links that explore the history of Huguenots. Check the site as they will be posted as soon as practical by the Webmaster. (See page 11)

Our Virginia Huguenot Society website is a great place for information for all things Huguenot. Visit http://frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org/.

Virginia Huguenot Society Books Huguenots in current literature:

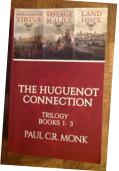
While we quarantine many of us have stepped up our reading. Following are several books that are informative and entertaining that feature Huguenots & Huguenot history.

THE HUGUENOT CONNECTION

This trilogy is a well researched historical drama of the life of a Huguenot family in France and later America. The book's publicist says "The Huguenot Connection is an epic historical trilogy. If you like vivid depictions of the past, seafaring adventures, and heartwarming tales of family loyalty, then you'll love Paul C.R. Monk's emotional saga."

The three books break down as follows -

1) *Merchants Virtue*: France, 1685. Wealthy merchants Jacob and Jeanne Delpech have been expelled from their home and stripped of their fortune, but the greatest blow of all is being separated from their children. Louis XIV's soldiers will stop at nothing to convert the country's Huguenots to Catholicism, yet Jeanne and Jacob hold fast to their faith. Will their convictions come at too high a price?



- 2) *Voyage of Malice*: With their family torn apart, Jacob and Jeanne travel the globe searching for a safe haven. As Jacob becomes an indentured servant on a Caribbean plantation and Jeanne earns a meager living in Switzerland, a sudden disruption in European politics leaves their chance of a bitter-sweet homecoming more doubtful than ever.
- 3) *Land of Hope*. Will the Delpech family survive the years of persecution to reunite at last?

About the author: Paul C. R. Monk is the author of the Huguenot Chronicles historical fiction trilogy and the Marcel Dassaud books. First published in 2018 by Bloomtree Press. All three books total 756 pages.

Thank you Davis LeGrande for bringing this book to our attention.

Days of the Upright, by O.I.A. Roche

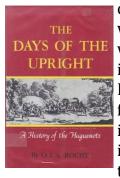
Published by Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. in 1965

This book is out of print but used copies may be obtained through Amazon, eBay, and other used book sellers at a reasonable price.

This work is a well researched and written non-fiction account of the trials and persecution of the Huguenots in France from about 1535 until Diaspora and includes a chapter on Huguenots coming to America. The chronological history is informative and descriptive and the writing flows well.

What I found most interesting is Roche's theory that the Huguenots were persecuted and suffered greatly from the "Feudal Establishment" for reasons not totally based on religion. They were a threat to the supremacy of the ruling class of the Lords and Priests, that is the Feudal System in which there were only ruling classes and the peasants. During this time of several

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centuries, the Huguenots were generally well educated, could read & write, they were merchants, artisans, craftsman, ship captains and the like. The Huguenots were not peasants. They were a growing middle class population, in numbers and in influence. Thus.....they were breaking down the Feudal system that had ruled Europe since the fall of the Roman Empire. A feudal system that only had room for Rulers and ruled (peasants). This is what the Established Church and the ruling Lords were most concerned about. So the Huguenots were not only challenging long held religious doctrine they were establishing a new class of citizenry that did not fit into the established order. In fact it was breaking up the old order

that the ruling classes desperately wanted to hold on to.

A few quotes..."The basis of the conflict, although it took on deep religious coloration, was sociological - above all, economic."

"...and by the justifying passages he found in the Scriptures, the Huguenot was convinced that there could be no Divine Right of such a class to rule over him."

"To those in feudal power, the Huguenots were a grave threat. First, the new class to which so many belonged undermined the economics of feudalism, its very foundation. Second, through emphasis on individual interpretation of the Scriptures, they undermined its idealogical basis and directly challenged the main political arm of the system, the Established Church."

All in all, a very worthy read. ~ Gerald Runyan

Village of Scoundrels, by Margi Preus Published by Amulet Books, 2020

This short novel is about a village and its residents in the Languedoc section of France during World War II. They smuggled Jewish people and downed allied airmen across the border into Switzerland. While it is a fictional tale, it is based on true events and actual people. The book has photos and short bios of the actual people that the characters in the story were based upon. In the Epilogue the author also points out that many of the citizens of the Haute-Loire area, where the story unfolds, were descendants of the Huguenots that had suffered sever persecution and they were therefore sympathetic to other persecuted peoples. ~ *Gerald Runyan*

What Have You Been Doing Lately?



The pandemic/quarantine era has dramatically changed how we go about our daily routines. From shopping, learning, working and just about every facet of life. So question is what are you doing these days? We asked a few of our members how the quarantine has affected their lives & what they are doing differently. We received some positive answers.

Lee Holifield. I've obviously been doing everything on line or virtual, my DAR chapter has started meeting via Zoom. We also have celebrated a graduation as well as our daughter's baby shower virtually as well.

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Constance Paradisio

In April, I taught myself how to build a website for my DAR chapter and by June had won the website of the month for June for all DAR websites nationwide. Then I built another website for my Virginia Pilgrims Society. As you can imagine, once someone sees that you can do this... well...I have built two more websites for other societies.

The State DAR Regent asked me to serve on the State VIS Committee, reviewing new websites for other chapters and I said yes. Just reviewed my first one this week.

I also stated a Keto diet on June 1st and have lost 30 lbs. so far.

Suzanne Reynolds

During this pandemic I have been sewing like a maniac. During the spring and summer I made four pairs of pajama pants for each of our five teenage grandchildren, multiple face masks for our immediate and extended family, face masks for P.E.O. friends (for which they donated \$10 each to our educational projects), 200 face masks for church and a senior residence in Arlington,

and about 200 face masks for our son to sell in his chiropractic practice. I also was commissioned by the preschool where I teach music to sew face masks for all the children and teachers (another 100 face masks). This has been a different sewing focus for me, as a lot of my prior sewing was for clothing for American Girl dolls for family and friends and for sale at



our annual church fall festival (cancelled this fall, of course). And, like so many others, I have been baking--not only cakes, cookies and pies, but different types of bread--my favorite being dilly bread. We are definitely not going hungry around here!

Now that school has opened virtually, my daily responsibility is to sit next to our kindergarten granddaughter each day from 9AM to 4PM to keep her focused on her computer for instruction. I think it's too much screen time for a kid (and for me). There are two 15-minute breaks and one hour for lunch, but it's still too much time in front of a computer.

I'm glad I grew up when I did because I realize that I have a lot of life skills that young people today are not learning. I may be a dinosaur in the tech world, but I am a dinosaur who knows how to survive. ③

Paul Morisette

I am doing great with the exception of staying close to home and out of crowds. Six months ago I signed up for the following courses. Meteorology, The Science of extreme weather, and The Old and New Testament. I have completed them all. This was all DVD with book.

Gerald Runyan

Staying home mostly, doing almost all shopping on line, reading (a lot), taking French classes on line, coloring for relaxation and stress relief. I have a book of Van Gogh paintings that I am coloring. Very intricate work! I am also working with a local author and historian to write a book about my father's experiences in WW II. It will have almost 200 pictures and text. He was in a photo reconnaissance squadron during the war, hence all the pictures.

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Louis March

Son John B.T. March is working with a campaign/business promotions consulting firm and also in grad school at VCU's Brand Center, which works closely with Silicon Valley companies. Daughter Isabel is doing very well as a singer and pondering future options since graduating summa cum laude from Wake Forest. Wife Katharine is an artist, oil painting still life and landscapes.

Kathrvn Edwards

Our social changes are at the maximum we can accomplish considering Bobby's full time work. He coordinates from Atlantic Beach with his office and clientele. He is better with electronics than he used to be. He is challenged by Home Ec 101 so he plays more golf.

I enjoy reading and find more time for it. I like organizing my family lives into a book. Sadly I don't use library services online to help me. I shuffled the passwords and left them somewhere. I tried French with a group on Zoom. That's fun if you like Zoom. Its not fun to me but I receive and write simple French notes to them. Same goes for bridge.

Speaking of fun, I constantly look for it and remember to smile. Our fisherman's beach

provides a lot of colorful people. I enjoy all of them.

Signed up for an art class. It fell through because of social distancing requirement. The NC ferry system is great. We went to Oriental one day and ate on the porch at M&Ms, a favorite. Oddly I enjoy that no one attempts to enter my home here. Am freed from housecleaning. We plan porch and deck visits. We pour nibbles in tiny bowls or cups so there aren't fingers in the same bowl. Anything is worth seeing a 3D person.

I take time to grieve. Otherwise that will pile up too much. I recommend the beach. Wherever the population is denser, all these adaptations are harder. I look forward to hearing from you.



Del Agee

These are trying times and I hope everyone has found something of interest to keep themselves occupied while trying to keep safe.

> I, as probably everyone else, have been in self quarantine mode. However, I am fortunate to have a small woodworking shop to keep myself busy. My project has been to design and build from scratch a grandfather clock.

The clock is made from cherry and is for one of my children. Starting with rough sawn lumber, I dimensioned and planed it to size. This lumber was then used to make the parts, molding, arches and columns.

It has been a lot of work, but so far it has kept me out of trouble. Here are pictures of my progress to date.

Sally Lunn Bread

On a recent showing of "The British Baking Show" on Public Broadcasting Station, there was a short film on the "Sally Lunn Bun." It said that the very rich bun or teacake made with a yeast dough including cream and eggs, similar to the sweet brioche breads of France, originated with

a Huguenot refugee who fled France in 1680 and lived in Bath in southwest England. It was first recorded in 1780 as a breakfast staple and was the delight of Georgian society that flourished in Bath, a popular destination for its spa.

The woman who supposedly was the originator was names Solange Luyon, later anglicized to Sally Lunn. Another theory for the name is that it comes from "soleil et lune" (French for sun and moon) because of its golden crust and creamy interior.



I recommend turning in to "The British Baking Show" when it is on PBS. It is absolutely delightful. I looked up the recipe for the Sally Lunn bun but I am not including it because no one can affort to eat bread with this many calories, with the possible exception of Louis.

Stay safe, fellow Huguenots! Gus Warner Lewis

Links to Websites of Interest - Check Out These Links

Louis March has found some very interesting articles and has shared them with us. Once they are put on the Society website you will be able to easily open the links and read the articles. They will be put on the website as soon as practical after the meeting.

Louis XIV revokes the Edict of Nantes:

https://www.indexjournal.com/community/this-month-in-sc-history-louis-xiv-revokesedict-of-nantes-french-huguenots-flee-to/article_bc983d91-75c2-5b6c-9cf1-11e99407ae4c.html

Tom Poland: The mystery of Huguenot Georgia

http://www.indexjournal.com/news/columnists/tom-poland/tom-poland-the-mysteryof-huguenot-georgia/article_d7ccb422-aa8f-5926-80c4-595d209e1610.html

The Huguenot Doctor who helped fight smallpox https://www.apollo-magazine.com/matthew-maty-smallpox-british-museum/

This link includes references to books about Dr. Maty, a Dutch Physician & Huguenot: http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/Matthew_Maty

Here are two other references, quite similar in content: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Maty and https://wikimili.com/en/ Matthew_Maty

The Wedding Behind the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre https://theravenreport.com/2017/09/28/cheers-to-the-royal-wedding-that-served-up-death/



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President Augustine W. Lewis III, MD <u>lewisaugustine@gmail.com</u>

Registrar Constance Brooks Paradiso paradiso@ntelos.net



The Virginia Huguenot Society wishes all a happy fall and a healthy upcoming holiday season! See you on March 27, 2021, for our Spring Meeting!