



The Virginia Huguenot Society

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

frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org

Fall 2018 Newsletter

Attack on the Huguenots

Society News

The Society voted at the Fall meeting to fund the conservation and re-framing of the William D. Washington painting "Attack on the Huguenots," which is displayed at the Preston Library at VMI. This late 19th century painting is large at over five feet square. It depicts the persecution of the Huguenots in France during a raid by Duke Francis de Guise in 1562. The work is in generally good condition but the varnish has darkened to a point that many of the figures and other elements of the painting cannot be seen, even close up. A more appropriate frame is also part of the project.

It will take over a year to complete the conservation and we plan on having a meeting



Attack on the Huguenots

by William D. Washington. Oil on canvas, 63 X 79 inches 1855, Dusseldorf, Germany. Gift of Dr. Roy Steiman and Family

at the site to view the work when it is completed.

All history is not related and expressed solely in writing. The painting is an excellent work of art that needs to be conserved and displayed in order that history can be preserved. Art depicting actual events is visual history and needs to be seen and understood as much as books and letters etc.

By conserving this painting we are also honoring and perpetuating the memory and spirit of our Huguenot ancestors and the struggles that they endured in their quest for freedom which are so adeptly depicted in this work. Their struggles and sacrifices led to the freedoms we enjoy today.

*We are thankful to **Ann Darst** for bringing this need to our attention. If you'd like to support the re-framing and conservation of the "Attack on the Huguenots," please contact Ann.*

(Continued on page 2)

This painting depicts the 1562 massacre by Duke Francis de Guise of about 100 Huguenots attending a worship service in a barn located in Wassy, France. The event is considered the first of a long period of armed conflict between the French Catholics and French Huguenots (Calvinist Protestants) which would extend over the next 100 years. Many Huguenots migrated to America to avoid persecution.

(Continued from page 1)



“Attack on the Huguenots” was painted while William D. Washington (1833 – 1870) was studying art at the Dusseldorf Academy. He was appointed VMI Professor of Fine Art following the Civil War. Only 18 months after taking his office, Washington died suddenly on December 1, 1870.

During a brief year and a half the artist painted over 20 portraits of VMI alumni who had died in the war, using photographs to guide him.

Washington was the first member of the Institute’s faculty to die in office. Studies were suspended until after his burial and a battalion of cadets escorted the coffin to the grave during the funeral. He is buried in the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery.

With 26 original oil paintings by William Washington depicting historical events, landscapes and portraits, VMI has one of the largest holdings of his work in the nation.

A Short History of a Huguenot Descendant and Selected Ancestors

By Delbert T. Agee

My emigrant ancestor, Mathieu Agê, was born near Nantes, France in 1670. He fled France to the Netherlands and joined the army of William of Orange to help him gain the English throne. About 1700, he emigrated to Henrico as part of the Huguenot settlement at Manakin – Sabot. He married Ann Gandovin in Virginia about 1714.

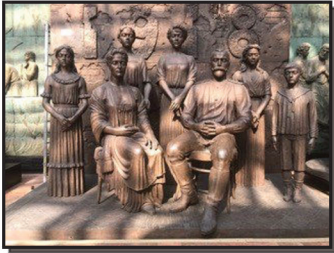
Anthony Agee, the oldest son of Mathieu and Ann, was born in 1719 at Manakintowne; and is my 5th great grandfather. He is listed in the King William Parish Tithables. I have seen references that he was a private in the American Revolution, but have not seen sources of proof.

My 4th great grandfather is Mathew Agee, the second oldest son of Anthony. He was born in 1747 at Flat Rock in Powhatan County, Virginia, which at the time was part of Cumberland County. He moved to Buckingham County with Anthony and was listed in the 1764 Buckingham Tithables. He married Mary Ligon in 1772 and is listed with his father-in-

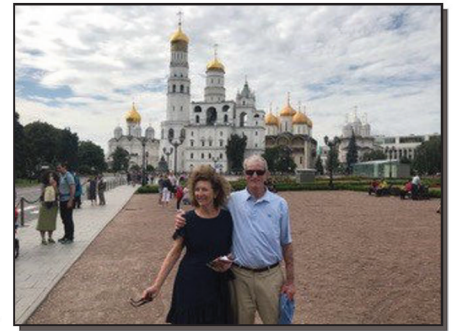
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“Oh, the Places You Will Go!” Some Huguenots Can’t Stay Home!

Kathryn & Bobby Edwards recently returned from an informative trip to the Baltics and Russia. They made their way to meet their small group and tour guide in Vilnius. Their handsome guide was Eric, born in Moscow and who now lives in Germany. He arranged foreign guides who spoke English for the trip. Museums, site-seeing, lectures with Q&A, entertainment, and free time were all part of the trip.

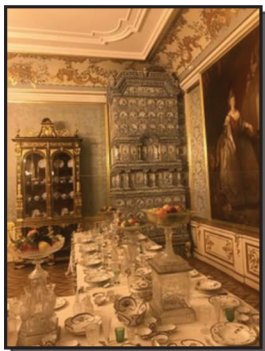


The food was wonderful and the cities were exceptionally clean. From Vilnius, the Edwards traveled to Riga and Tallinn by bus and to Helsinki by hydrofoil. Travel from Helsinki to Saint Petersburg and Moscow was by train.

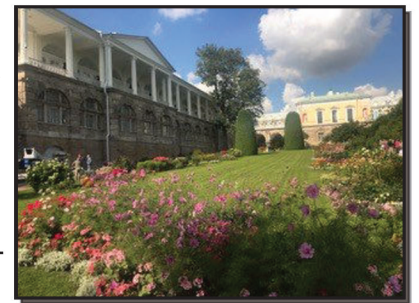


The Edwards outside the Kremlin.

The first stop in Moscow was in a restaurant/sculpture gallery that included a work of Alexandra and Nicolas with their children.



Another stop on their trip was the royal palace Peterhof. The interior and the exterior are enormous and rich. The picture to the left shows some china that belonged to Catherine the Great. The picture on the right is a façade of Catherine’s Palace at Pushkin, which has a beautiful interior as well.



September saw the Edwards traveling to Mountain View, the home place of Kathryn’s great-great grandmother near Chatham, Virginia. The Edwards attended a memorial service of the owner (who is not a family member). This picture is of Kathryn’s ancestor’s grave in case the next owner is less welcoming! The daughter of Benjamin Watkins and Susan Watkins Dupuy, her name is Agnes Morton Watkins Jones, a Huguenot!



Paul Morissette had a different sort of trip this year. During the summer he went to Andalusia, Alabama, in South Central Alabama, with a group of men from the Kings Grant Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. The group Paul is in is called the King’s Builders and they take a mission trip to help build churches every year. They were there for a week and helped build a church for locals as a mission work. He cut his hand on a saw but it has healed up OK. Thank you Paul for your good work.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Gerald & Bette Runyan visited Ireland this past summer and came across a Huguenot Cemetery in Dublin. It dates to 1693 and is well maintained by the French government. Note the shrubbery cut into the shape of a Huguenot cross.



If you have traveled or done a project or any other activity of interest please let Gerald Runyan know for the next Society newsletter! Email gerald@aercorp.com

March Family Visits Bogota, Columbia

In November, Louis, Katharine, and their son John “BT” March visited daughter Isabel March in Bogota, Columbia. Isabel, a 2018 graduate of Wake Forest University, is teaching at the Universidad Nacional de Columbia on a Fulbright Scholarship and is expected to remain in Bogota through May 2019.

While in Bogota, the family did some sightseeing, including a trip to the old Caribbean port of Cartagena. It was wonderful to have the family together and the trip was an eye-opener, as Columbia was a part of the world the March family had never visited.

John “BT” March is a 2017 graduate of Hamden-Sydney College and currently serves as Director of Communications for the Republican Party of Virginia.



Isabel and John March, Bogota, Columbia, November 2015

(Continued from page 2)

law, John Ligon, in the 1773 Buckingham Tithables. He moved to Henry County, Virginia soon thereafter and by 1783 was listed in that county's personal property tax list. He owned a good deal of land as shown in the Henry and Franklin County Deed Books. He died in Franklin County in 1823 and his will is recorded in that county's Will Book 2. Mathew and Mary had ten children and their fifth child Ai is my 3rd great grandfather.

Ai Agee was born on September 15th 1784 in Franklin County. By 1807 he acquired land in Bedford County, Virginia. There he met and married Betsy O'Brien, a marriage that produced eleven children. His occupation was listed as blacksmith and farmer, and court records showed he also made surveys for roads. Military Records at the National Archives show that he served in the War of 1812, first in 91st Reg't and 5th Virginia Militia and then in 5th Virginia Reg. commanded by Col. Francis Preston. His death occurred on March 21st 1870 in Bedford County, Virginia.

Mathias Agee, my 2th great grandfather, was born January 1st 1819 in Bedford County, Virginia. He was the ninth of eleven children. On September 11th 1843, he married Mary Jane Karnes. His military records show that he enlisted in the Confederate Army in March of 1863 at Liberty, Virginia. He was 44 years of age and served in Company B 10th Battalion Heavy Artillery until he was discharged for poor eyesight on April of 1863. At the time he applied for his veteran's pension, he was blind in one eye and

could barely see with the other. He died in 1908 in Bedford County, Virginia.

My great grandfather, John Albert Agee, was the 5th of seven children born to Mathias. Lelia Ellis became his wife on January 8, 1879 in Bedford. He was tall for his generation, standing at 6



feet 2 inches. He was a farmer, a flute and violin teacher. He died April 3, 1909 at the home of a daughter in Lynchburg, Virginia. John and Lelia had eight children.



Delbert Judson Agee, the oldest child of the eight, was born December 2, 1879 in Bedford County, Virginia. About 1899, he traveled west with two friends to go to the Alaskan gold rush. When he arrived in Washington State, then Oregon Territory, he was

low on funds and unable to book passage to Alaska. He found a job on the Eagle Ranch, a fruit ranch in Yakima Valley some distance from Seattle. It was owned by Enoch Morris, who employed about 40 people. Addie Morris, Enoch's youngest of twelve children, assisted in cooking meals for the help. She and my grandfather fell in love and were married in Chelan County, Washington in 1906. For their honeymoon, they made a trip to Virginia, stopped at the Chicago World's Fair, and attended the Jamestown Exposition. They raised two sons at the ranch, but when my great grandfather

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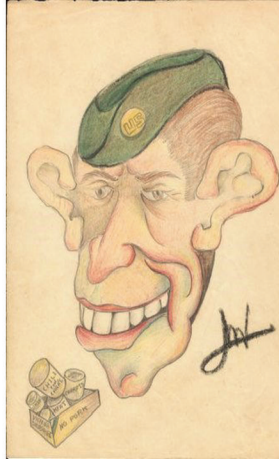
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Enoch sold his business, they moved to Virginia. Not to Bedford, but to Richmond.



My father, Delbert William Agee, was born in Wenatchee, Washington, in 1908 and was 17 when the family moved to Richmond. Here he attended John Marshall High School. He married Lillian

Woodson in 1929. Lacking two months of being 35, he was drafted into the army in 1943. Basic training occurred at Camp Lee, (now Fort Lee) Virginia, where he was told that he would not see combat because he was too old. He was first sent to North Africa and then to Europe. He was awarded three battle stars, one for Italy, one for the invasion of Southern France, and one for the Battle of the Bulge. His rank at the end WWII was 1st Sgt. Dad never talked much about the war, but his former company commander would visit him every year and I learned much from him. My dad passed in 1985. He was a member of the "Greatest Generation" and will always be a hero to me.



A cartoon of my dad drawn by a GI cartoonist during WWII

I was born in Hanover County, Virginia.

I retired from a career in Forensic Science with the Commonwealth of Virginia after 35 years service. I am a charter member, and served a term as President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS). Membership is composed of lab personal from the FBI, DEA, ATF, and Customs; and from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. I was also a certification inspector for the American Crime Lab Directors Association. I collaborated on articles published in the Journal of Forensic Science and the New England Journal of Medicine. I am a member of several geological societies and served on the board of GRIVA. I am most proud to be a member of the Virginia Huguenot Society and serve as needed.

The Heredity Society Community

Thanks to a generous contribution by our members, **Carla and Robert Odom**, The Virginia Huguenot Society is a Perpetual Sponsor of The Heredity Society Community. This is an amalgamation of many heredity groups established to offer support to the ideals of education, genealogy, history, civic duty and patriotism. Three of our members are listed among the Honorary Members due to their long term dedication to honoring the memory, deeds, and sacrifices of all of our ancestors. They are: Dr. Henry Jackson Darst; Carla Lucille Whitehurst Odom; and LTC Charles R. Odom. You will want to check out this very interesting website, hereditary.us. It's eye opening!

Email Update!

Please change Dennis Fritts' e-mail address to

dennisfc1@hotmail.com

Do you have an address, phone, or email change?

Send it to Gerald Runyan at Gerald@aercorp.com.

History of Pierre LeGrand

Pierre was born in 1662 in the village of Bohain in the region of Picardie, France. Pierre's father, Etienne, was also born in Bohain in 1640. Pierre's mother, Barbe Merendez, was born in 1645 in the town of Lot-et-Garonne, region of Aquitaine, France.

Pierre escaped France around 1680, arriving in London, England. In 1682, Pierre married Judith Vrill in Saint James, Duke's Place, London, England. A few years later they moved to La Haye, Holland, where their first born son, Jacques was born and baptized in June of 1688. Pierre and Judith had four more children before leaving La Hayes, Holland, in 1700 for the New World on the galley ship Peter and Anthony. Peter's family and a total of 106 French Huguenot refugees arrived at Manakintowne, Henrico County, on September 20, 1700.

Pierre participated with a team of surveyors in the original 5,000 acre tract of the King William Parish. The surveying of the entire 10,000 acres was completed in 1704. Pierre died in 1707. It was not until 1718 that Pierre's son James LeGrand was posthumously issued a patent for 365 acres outside the French Territory in what is now Chesterfield County. In July 1724, Pierre's third son, Jean Pierre LeGrand, was issued a patent #918 in the French Territory for 50 acres.

Pierre had four sons that were farmers in and around King William Parish. Four of his grandsons were also farmers and soldiers in the Revolutionary War. Another grandson, Peter LeGrand, after serving as a soldier in his militia, became a Burgess for Henrico County and later Prince Edward County. He became known as Peter "The Burgess" LeGrand, serving twelve years as a Burgess.

Virginia Huguenot Society Bylaws Update

It has been sometime since our Bylaws have been updated. A recent review indicated that we need to make our Officer and Council positions match our current needs, to have dues relief for some members over 80, and to formally allow the Council to change a meeting date with cause. The official notice will go out with the Spring Call. The revised Bylaws will be presented for approval at the March meeting.

VHS a 501(c)3 Organization

The Virginia Huguenot Society is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to honoring the memory of our Huguenot ancestors and the sacrifices they made to secure the freedoms that we cherish today. We are an autonomous Society unaffiliated with any other Huguenot group. We are a Perpetual Sponsor of the Hereditary Society Community, their web site address is: hereditary.us

Save the Date!

The next meeting of the Virginia Huguenot Society is **March 30, 2019!** Please plan on attending. Watch your mail and inboxes for more information!

Virginia Huguenot Society Books

1. Huguenot Genealogies by Arthur Louis Finnell, 1st 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 1st 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., 1st 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, 1st 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, 1st 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, 1st 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.



7. The Huguenots of Colonial South Carolina by Arthur Henery Hirsch, Ph.D., 1st Edition 1928, Reprint 2001, 329 pages. This book is a study of colonial history and contributions made in Carolina by the French Protestants.
8. Huguenot Emigration to America by Charles W. Baird, Hard Cover, Two Volumes in One, 1st Edition 1885, Reprint 1991. The author's narration of the coming of the persecuted Protestants of France to the New World and their establishment in the seaboard provinces of the New World.
9. The Huguenots, Their Settlements, Churches, and Industries in England and Ireland by Samuel Smiles, 1st Edition 1868, Reprint 2003, 422 pages. This book describes the industrial skill and spirit of liberty the French Huguenots brought to the English and Irish nations.
10. Memoirs of a Huguenots by Rev. James Fontaine and Ann Maury, 1st Edition 1853, Reprint 2002, 519 pages. An authentic narrative of actual occurrences and is drawn entirely from family manuscripts.

Additional Books Available (owned by E. David LeGrande)

1. The Diligence and the Disappearance of Manakintowne's Huguenots by Allison Neher Elterich, Hardcover, 1st Edition 1999, 103 pages. This book is the story of Manakintowne's settlers. It came to reality through the support of Rev. Wilbur Sims and his wife's research from their family descended from Abraham and Suzanne Sublette of Sedan, Lorraine Province, France.
2. Tracing Your Huguenot Ancestor's by Kathy Chater, 1st Edition 2012. Published in Great Britain, 123 pages. A guide for Huguenot Family historians.
3. Turff and Twigg, Volume One, by Priscilla Harris Cabell, 1st Edition 1988, 2nd Edition, 2006, 428 pages. This is a detailed study of the French Lands (King William Parish) near Richmond, VA. It is a tribute to the courage of the Huguenot families who clung to their belief in the right to worship freely.

Virginia Huguenot Society Website: Great Place for Information!



Please visit our web site regularly so that we can try to build up hits and move up higher on the rankings of the search engine. 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. Visit frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org



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*The Virginia Huguenot
Society wishes all a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*

*See you on March 30, 2019
for our Spring Meeting!*

