



# 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)

Winter 2019 Newsletter

## *Attack on the Huguenots ~ Update on Status of Painting*



*"Attack on the Huguenots"*

You see here two photographs of ***Attack on the Huguenots*** in it's current state - before in-painting. The painting at this point has been cleaned, varnished, and the structural work has been completed. This includes flattening and mending the tear, adding tacks to the outside edges, and making and attaching a fume-cor and mat board insert to help support the painting. Maura Meinhardt, who owns and operates Framework Studio in Richmond, is currently researching and preparing a proposal for the frame. She is very considered and will be very thorough in her research for an appropriate and good quality frame.

We hope to have the painting finished before Christmas, but we do not know for sure how long the frame will take to choose and then make. You are welcome to come and visit us at any time, just let us know when to expect you!

Col. Gibson of the VMI Museum has told us that the picture will be rehung in the Preston Library when the current Library renovations are complete. That will not likely be before 2021.

Where or how the painting will be displayed in the interim has not yet been determined.



*"Attack on the Huguenots" in detail*

Would you like to help with the refurbishing of this historical painting? While the Society has set aside funds to cover the project, we are asking our members to please consider making a donation to the refurbishing of this painting. (Please consult your personal tax advisor.)

## Dr. H. Jackson Darst, Jr.

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and one who was an ardent supporter of the Virginia Huguenot Society, Dr. H. Jackson Darst, Jr. A service was held at the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA, on Saturday November 2, 2019, with a reception at the Commonwealth Club following the ceremony.

Jackson often was heard to say that our Society was the friendliest, most cordial of all of his lineage organizations.

We express our condolences to Ann and her family in their loss. Dr. Jackson's obituary.



DARST, Henry Jackson Jr., son of Henry Jackson Darst and Corrine Fortune, died in Williamsburg on October 28, 2019, at age 95. He was born in Kentucky, but reared in Dublin, Pulaski County, Virginia, where his ancestors settled when

the area was still frontier. A graduate of the University of Virginia, where he obtained his doctorate, Jackson taught at Lynchburg College and the University of Virginia. He was senior educational advisor to the U.S. Army Transportation School, Department of Defense, and was involved with the graduate civilian education of regular Army officers and overall operation of Army service schools. Since 1960, he had operated two farms, "Bird Hill" in James City County and "Heron Hill" in York County, primarily engaged in the breeding and raising thoroughbred and quarter horses. For over 25 years, he was Chairman of the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Darst was appointed by Governor Allen as Chairman of a State Board to recommend the acquisition of conservation easements. He was President of the Charles City-James City-New Kent-York

Farm Bureau for 32 years, as well as President of the Four Rivers Agricultural Services Corporation. In addition, he served as Chairman of the local board of the Williamsburg Service of Southern States and Chairman of the elections committee for the Southern States Corporate Board. He was the author of three books on genealogy and local history. He had the honor of being the Registrar of the Society of the Cincinnati for over 30 years and was a member of other lineage organizations to include the Society of the Colonial Wars, the War of 1812, the Sons of the Revolution in Virginia and the Virginia Huguenot Society. He was Rector of Jerusalem Christian Church in King William. Dr. Darst was a member of the Commonwealth Club, the Westmoreland Club and Farmington Country Club. He was a former member of the Williamsburg Rotary Club and the Middle Plantation Club. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Ann Harrison Booker Darst; a sister, Joan Darst Calvin of Traverse City, Michigan; stepchildren, Dandridge Keyser Davis (Wilson) and Jonathan Byrd Keyser (Sally); and nieces and cousins. A graveside service will take place at Hollywood Cemetery at noon on Saturday, November 2. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity.

*(from November 1, 2019 [www.richmond.com](http://www.richmond.com))*



## The Virginia Huguenot Society Presented our Wreath at Three Heritage Events Recently

The 261st Birthday Celebration Ceremony for our fifth president, James Monroe, took place at his Birthplace Park and Museum in Westmoreland County on April 20. Representing the Virginia Huguenot Society at the Ceremony was Dr. A.W. Lewis, the current president of the Society.

It was held on a beautiful but windy day that made keeping the many memorial wreaths on their stands a challenge. Many more people attended this ceremony than in years past, according to the docents.



*President Monroe's home.*

The Call to order was given by William Thomas who is the President of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation and who has been instrumental in the recent work done at the site to build a replica of Monroe's home place and to have a visitor's center where there is a reception area and museum. After the Invocation, Presentation of the Colors, and the Pledge of Allegiance, local Delegate Margaret Ransone spoke to those gathered, confirming her commitment to supporting the historical preservation work exemplified by the Memorial Foundation.

The docents for the Birthplace and Museum were recognized by the Foundation Board. After that Peter Davenport, President of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the



*President Augustine Lewis, M.D. with wreath presented at the celebration*

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## The Monroe Celebration at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond

***Our Society was recently represented at a Grave Marking sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) at the Ware Episcopal Church in Gloucester Co. on November 16, 2019***

Past president Gerald Runyan presented the wreath in conjunction with the marking of the grave of Mathew Anderson, Pvt. in Dabney's Legion. The SAR finds graves of veterans of the Revolutionary War and puts a special marker on the grave site to denote that this person was a Patriot and fought for our freedoms. Anderson fought during the Revolutionary war with Dabney's Legion from Virginia to Monmouth, NJ, to Stony Point NY, and finally back home at Yorktown, including the unit

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*Past President Gerald Runyan (on the right) presents our wreath at the SAR grave marking on Nov. 16, 2019*

Revolution, gave a historical perspective on the life and times of James Monroe and the impact his presidency had on the United States.

Twenty nine heritage societies were represented at the Ceremony and as each was called and recognized, an opportunity was taken by most to comment on the impressive work that had been done at the Birthplace and the gratitude all felt at being invited to the ceremony honoring our fifth president.

James Monroe is reported to have Huguenot ancestry but no definitive proofs have been brought forth to our knowledge.

The following week, on April 28th, the James Monroe Foundation held a second commemoration at Monroe's tomb in the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA. Louis March presented the VHS wreath at this event.

This iteration included an honor guard, an army band and 250 in attendance, among them were many friends of the VHS. Monroe's tomb is an exquisite marble sarcophagus surrounded by an ornate gothic style cast iron cage. It was designed by sculptor Albert Lybrock and erected in 1859.

The main speaker was the Hon. Amanda Chase member of the Virginia Senate who spoke on the blessings of Liberty.

When Louis presented the VHS wreath he quoted the now famous words of Jackson Darst "When you scratch a Virginian you will find a Huguenot."



*Tomb of President James Monroe  
Hollywood Cemetery,  
Richmond, VA*

## **The Virginia Huguenot Society**

### **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. Learn about Huguenot history and the history of the VHS, membership requirements, photos, issues of past newsletters, and important links.

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-virginiassociety.org](http://frenchhuguenots-virginiassociety.org).

being a key element at the Battle of the Hook in Gloucester Point, VA. While we know little of Anderson's personal history we do know he married Mary Dabney & thus was related to the Unit Commander, Col. Charles Dabney. Like Monroe, Dabney has been reputed to have Huguenot ancestry. The ceremony took place partly inside the church then finished out at the cemetery adjacent to the church. The first church was constructed in the mid 17th Century, the current brick structure dates to 1719 and is still in use by an active Episcopal Congregation.

Presenting the wreath at these commemorative events helps us honor the men & women who gave us the freedoms we enjoy to this day and it helps publicize our Society.

If you are aware of a celebration or ceremony that offers the opportunity to present our wreath please let me or President Lewis know & we will assist in getting the wreath to you. These types of events are generally interesting and you meet some very friendly, knowledgeable people. And you have the opportunity to pass the word about our Society.



## Old Pictures of Huguenot Lineage

*by Delbert T. Agee*

*Everyone is invited to share any old pictures of their family Huguenot lineage in our Newsletter. Please send in pictures of your Huguenot ancestors and or narratives about their lives and history to share with your fellow Huguenots.*

[gerald@aercorp.com](mailto:gerald@aercorp.com).

This is a picture of my 3<sup>rd</sup> great uncle and the 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandson of Mathieu Age the Huguenot who came to Virginia in the late 1600's. His name is Jubal C. Agee and is pictured with his wife Caroline (nee) Crawford. He was born in 1812 in Bedford County, Virginia and died 1895 in Roanoke County, Virginia.

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### 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.



## Old Pictures of Huguenot Lineage

### Captain Morris Crater Runyan

Following Del's suggestion to send pictures of your ancestors for this publication I have included an etching of Captain Morris Crater Runyan, my Great Grandfather. It was copied directly from a photograph which I still have but it is heavily damaged.

It is from a page in a book about his unit in the Civil War. It was scanned from a photo copy of the page of the book that my father, Harry L. Runyan, Jr., found in the New Jersey State archives in the 1990's.

The accompanying narrative, while accurate, is written in a grandiloquent style that contrasts dramatically compared to today's style of writing where we do not even write out words, we just use coded letters and abbreviations - as when texting one another. A sad loss of personal relationships and communication skills and story telling. Also note the spelling of Runyan. The last "a" or "o" was essentially interchangeable until modern times. My family spelled our name with an "o" until Morris Runyan changed it to an "a". No reason was given for the change, I guess he just liked it better that way.

#### NINTH N. J. VETERAN VOLUNTEERS.



#### CAPTAIN MORRIS C. RUNYON A

Was born January 11, 1837, near Chester, Morris County, New Jersey. His grandfather, with whom he lived until he was seven years of age, served in the New Jersey troops of the Continental army, and died at the age of eighty-seven years. Perhaps the martial spirit which possessed young Runyan at the outbreak of the rebellion, was engendered by hearing his patriotic grand-sire narrate soul-thrilling stories of the war for American liberty. At all events, young Runyan, at that time engaged in the mercantile business at Princeton with his brother, sacrificed his pecuniary interests on hearing the tocsin of war, and hastened to Trenton, where he offered himself in any capacity under the three months' call. Like many other brave and noble-hearted men burning with patriotism, he arrived too late—the quota had been filled.

Returning to his home, he settled some business affairs, and when the government called for a regiment of twelve companies of picked men to serve as riflemen, he went to Camp Olden and joined Company F, of the Ninth. Captain Curlis, observing his strict compliance with all orders, and noting his pride in everything he undertook, promptly made him first sergeant, and never regretted the choice he made in 1861. Sergeant Runyan, one of the handsomest fellows in the regiment, gave high hopes of promise at Roanoke and at Newbern, and all the battles of that year in which the command participated, justified the expectation, his shoulders being speedily graced with a pair of straps. Captain Runyan never disappointed his superiors—neither did he ever lose the respect or confidence of the men he commanded.

# Read Any Good Books Lately?

Here are some great books on the history of the Huguenots!

To borrow a book, contact David at [edlegrande@hotmail.com](mailto:edlegrande@hotmail.com)

## Virginia Huguenot Society Books

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 Revolution. 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.
7. The Huguenots of Colonial South Carolina by Arthur Henery Hirsch, Ph.D., 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



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9. The Huguenots, Their Settlements, Churches, and Industries in England and Ireland by Samuel Smiles, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

11. The Diligence and the Disappearance of Manakintowne's Huguenots by Allison Neher Elterich, Hardcover, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

12. Tracing Your Huguenot Ancestor's by Kathy Chater, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2012. Published in Great Britain, 123 pages. A guide for Huguenot Family historians.

13. Turff and Twigg, Volume One, by Priscilla Harris Cabell, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1988, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

The following officers were elected at the March meeting.  
Please give them your support in the coming term.

### 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.

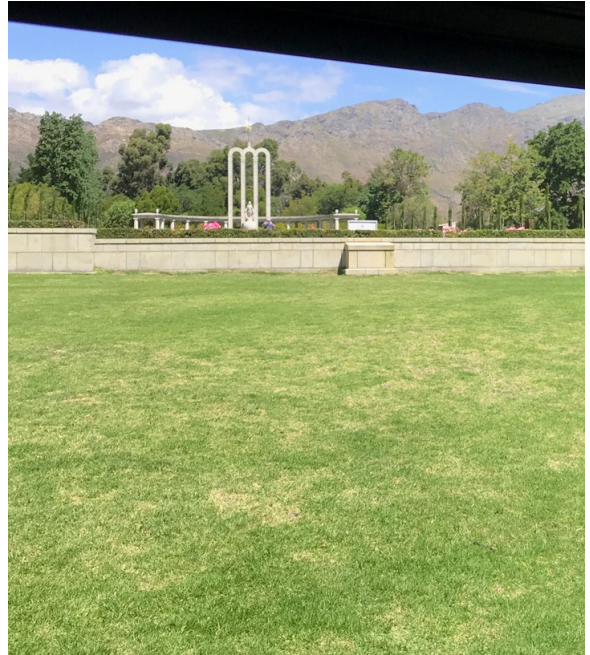


## Where in the World Have You Been?

Dennis Fritts and his wife travelled to South Africa this past Spring. He recalled reading an article in our last newsletter (Spring 2019) about Huguenots emigrating to South Africa and a picture of a monument in commemoration of the Huguenots' sacrifices and their contribution to the country of South Africa.

So on a bus trip to Cape Town what do they pass? The very memorial that was pictured the last newsletter. This is Dennis' picture from the bus. The Guide noted the contributions of the Huguenots to the culture & society of South Africa.

Thank you, Dennis, for sharing your photo!



## *Scenes from the VHS March 2019 meeting.*



*A good time was had by all who attended. Hope you can make our next meeting on March 28, 2020!*

Top, President Lewis conducts the VHS council meeting; Ann and Kathryn enjoy fellowship together. Bottom, Members waiting for lunch; members, guests, and speaker discuss Huguenot business. Right, Louis March introduces our guest speaker.



**The Virginia Huguenot Society**  
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Registrar Constance Brooks Paradiso  
[paradiso@ntelos.net](mailto:paradiso@ntelos.net)

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

*See you on March 28, 2020 for  
our Spring Meeting!*

