



The Virginia Huguenot Society

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

frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org

Fall/Winter 2023 Newsletter

Holiday Greetings to All!



It was nice to see all of you last month at the Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center in Glen Allen as we enjoyed a plated luncheon and listened to Col. Greg Eanes speak on the history of Huguenots in Virginia. He covered early America through the War Between the States with a beautiful PowerPoint presentation.

Bonne Chance to him as the new president of the Manakin Huguenot Society. Thank you Louis, for making the arrangements.

If you did not receive the new Yearbook/Directory, contact me and I will mail one to you.
paradiso@ntelos.net.

Do you have a favorite location that would make for a good meeting site, or a speaker that you feel our members would be interested in hearing? If so, please contact Vice-President Louis March at 540-960-0504 or email him at ltmarch76@gmail.com.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our spring meeting in late March. Please join us and bring a guest.

Send us your holiday stories and memories to be featured in the next newsletter. Email them to gerald@aercorp.com or mail to: **Gerald L. Runyan, 39 Madison Lane S., Newport News, VA 23606**

Rendre grâce, Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!

Constance Paradiso

President, Virginia Huguenot Society



Save the Date!

The next meeting of the VHS is Saturday, March 23, 2024
Watch for information coming in the new year on time & place!
(Note the change of date due to Easter!)



Virginia Huguenot Society Fall Meeting October 28, 2023 Virginia Crossing Hotel, Glen Allen, VA



Virginia Crossing Hotel

The Virginia Huguenot Society met on October 28, 2023, at the Virginia Crossing Hotel in Glen Allen. It was a pleasant day with cool temperatures and a bright blue sky. A nice crowd attended, the food was very good, and the speaker, Col. Greg Eanes gave an excellent presentation on Huguenots in the Revolutionary War. Col. Eanes is the President of the Huguenot Society of Manakin.

The VHS, through several of our members who are far more versed in genealogy than I, are looking into developing a work on US Presidents who had a Huguenot ancestor. A great deal is known about our Presidents ancestry but there is little mention of their Huguenot ancestry. Also, the idea of working with the Manakin Society on a joint project has been laid out for consideration. They have a number of interesting ideas for a project, but have not yet decided on one.

Visit to the Manakin Huguenot Society Spring meeting April 22, 2023.

Following our invitation to the President of the Manakin Huguenot Society to our Spring meeting, the President of the Manakin Huguenot Society invited members of our Society to their Spring Meeting. The meeting was attended by Del & Nancy Agee, Ann Darst, David LeGrande, Susan Perry and Gerald & Bette Runyan. They had a social hour beginning at 10, a Memorial service at 11 and a lunch and program at noon. The lunch and program were held in the Episcopal Church next door to the old wooden church. The speaker was Col. Greg Eanes who spoke on his research on Virginia Huguenots who served in the Revolutionary War. A total of approximately 40 were in attendance; it was pleasant day (except for the heavy rain) with a group of like minded citizens.



*Window of the 1895
Huguenot Chapel*

Several of our group had not been to the Huguenot church before and enjoyed seeing the old building which has been maintained well over the years since 1700.



On Saturday April 22, 2023, our Vice President presented the VHS wreath at the annual James Monroe birthday event at the Monroe Birthplace site in Northern Neck. Monroe Birthplace House in the background.



Huguenot Genealogy History from Ann Darst

When I was going through lots of old papers, I discovered the attached photo of the great-great grandchildren of Mathieu Agee, my Huguenot ancestor. The one on the left with the book open is my great-grandfather, George E. Booker, who was a minister; the one in the middle is his brother, Frank E. Booker, who was a doctor; and the one on the end is Marshall B. Booker, who was a lawyer and in the Virginia Senate. Frank and Marshall would be my great uncles--right? It is interesting that the three brothers had different professions.

Who was Robert Beverley? A study from Gus

As a follow up to the research done on John Fontaine's travels through my home county of King and Queen which was prompted by Mr. Daniel Moore's talk at our Fall meeting in 2022, at the Salisbury Country Club, I have uncovered a lot of information on his host in the county. He stayed at Beverley Park, home of Robert Beverley, on more than one occasion. The property is north of the present day village of Newtown and in Robert Beverley's day encompassed twelve square miles. Although the home of Robert Beverley is long gone there is an antebellum home there named Park Place. I am very familiar with the family that owns this house currently. Robert Beverley was a colonial leader who in 1699 held the position of clerk of King and Queen. In 1701 he sponsored the settlement of a hundred and forty one Huguenots, who had arrived at Yorktown on the Nassau. Leading the group was Reverend Lewis Latané, who had recently been ordained by the Church of England and who was preparing to become the rector in the local parish. He is my Huguenot ancestor and I still attend services in the South Farnham Par-



ish where he was assigned to serve. Mr. Beverley has a very interesting history. He became leader of a faction opposing Governor Nicholson, but the Governor succeeded in retaining his post and saw to it that Beverley lost his. Beverley promptly went to England where he stayed until the Governor was recalled. During his time there he was so irritated by the misinformation about his country that was published and believed in Europe, that he determined to write a book giving the facts. This was "History and Present State of Virginia," the first history of Virginia written by a native son. The book was a kind of Colonial Chamber of Commerce project meant to encourage immigration, especially of the middle classes, to Virginia. His encouragement had a practical aspect for he gave financial assistance and land to Huguenot and English immigrants. Beverley never remarried after the death of his wife and in his latter years kept a bachelor's hall at Beverley Park where he had some success in the cultivation of grapes. One gets the impression that John Fontaine from his journal entries was im-

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pressed by the volume but not the quality of the wine produced. Beverley won a bet of a thousand guineas by producing seven hundred gallons of wine in the seventh season of production. On August 21, 1716 the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe came through Newtown and reached Beverley Park where they spent the night. John Fontaine wrote in his journal, "This man lives well, but though rich he has nothing more about the house than what is necessary. He has good beds but no curtains; and instead of cane chairs he hath stools made of wood." The Knights were probably glad to be on their way the next morning, although the discomforts may have been mitigated by the consumption of a lot of wine. John Fontaine mentions the soldiers having significant hangovers.

Beverley accompanied them to the Blue Ridge, and although had one mishap falling off a bluff and into a stream, made it back with them to Beverley Park by September 14. Beverley died and was buried at Beverley Park in 1722, leaving to his only son one of the largest estates in Virginia. I found a copy of Beverley's book in

the library of the King and Queen Historical Society and had to read it there since checking it out was not allowed. It was interesting from the point of view of his descriptions of local flora and fauna as well as the indigenous people. Unfortunately there was no mention of the Huguenots he helped to settle in the area but his writing probably predates their arrival and could possibly have drawn them to settle close to Beverley Park instead of going to Manakin. Beverley made a point of taking John Fontaine to a religious service conducted by his fellow Huguenot, Parson Latané. Beverley did describe in his book the emigration of the Huguenots that settled west of Richmond in Manakin; he went on to praise Colonel Byrd, who "received them with all the tenderness of a father, and even since has constantly given them the utmost Assistance." If, indeed, Robert Beverley was instrumental in the settlement of the Latané family in the county I am in his debt, as my Lewis ancestors would not likely have gotten to know them and my family makeup would have been very different.

Thanks for indulging my curiosity!
Gus

Huguenot History: Bullitt Family

Back in the 1990s, I was active in raising awareness of American heritage in public education. We were quite successful, despite resistance from politically correct types criticizing the Founding Fathers as unenlightened slaveholders. Our American Huguenot ancestors were not excepted. During this work an esprit de corps developed among our band of dedicated patriots.

The most exceptional one in our group, a veritable force of nature, was Mrs. Barbara Bullitt Christian. Barbara, a dedicated American patriot, was from Louisville.

The Bullitt family are prominent in both Kentucky, the Philadelphia area and elsewhere. Barbara was quite proud of her Huguenot ancestors.

The first known ancestor of the family of Bullitt was Benjamin Bullett (so spelled at that time), a French Huguenot, who resided in the province of Languedoc, and who, at the age of twenty-five, left France to escape the persecutions which followed the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

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Hatred of the Clans

Gerald Runyan



This past spring Bette and I visited Paris - it was a wonderful trip. Among other sights we visited the Invalides and saw Napoleon's tomb. So, it was quite a surprise to see that they also had an extensive exhibit about the religious wars of the 16th century. It was

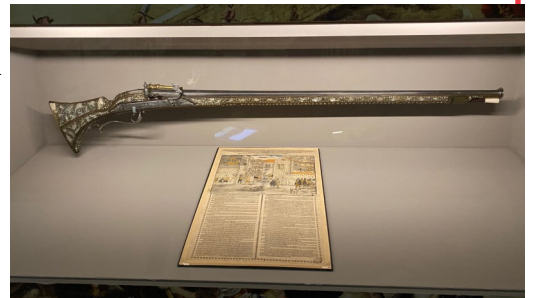
called "La Haine des Clans" (Hatred of the Clans). It told the story of the outbreak of hostilities between the Catholics and the Protestants. The exhibit was very evenly done with no apparent bias for one side or the other.

Besides describing how the war was started - the attack on the



Huguenots in Wassy and other battles and assassinations etc. - they made a strong point

that the war included a great deal of propaganda on both sides. Both sides produced many pamphlets, flyers etc., some of which were in the exhibits. Many engravings were used to inform the illiterate of the population. It was called "the first media war." Two Protestants wrote a book listing victims of anti-protestant wars called the "Book of Martyrs." The exhibit was very well done and informative. Also, outside the Louvre we saw a large monument to Admiral Gaspard De Coligny with two associated plaques. (see next article on page 8)



Photos: Top left: Coat of the Grand Master of the order of Saint Esprit, a Catholic Organization founded by Henry III. Bottom left: period engraving of the St. Bartholomew day massacre. Top right: Period rifle. Bottom right: Suits of armor including one for a child.

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Interested in Colonial American History & Huguenots?

There are several interesting historical articles relating to colonial American history and Huguenots in this web site. Type this info your browser & check it out. Thanks to Luis for finding these articles. <https://www.thecollector.com/who-was-cotton-mather-puritan-minister/>

Oradour-sûr-Glâne, France

On June 10, 1944, four days after the Allied invasion in Normandy, the small town of Oradour-sûr-Glâne began as any other day in occupied France with its citizens going to work, to the market and to school, never suspecting that their lives were about to change dramatically. By the end of the day virtually all of its residents would be dead and the entire town burned to the ground. Early in the afternoon that day a German SS regiment rolled into the town after surrounding it with troops and began to round up its unsuspecting residents. After assembling the people on the fairgrounds they divided the men from the women and children. The men were taken to several barns and sheds where they were locked inside at gunpoint. The women and children were taken to the church where they also were locked inside. With a signal from their commander, the German soldiers began shooting the victims and setting fire to the structures in which they were held. The men were shot mostly in the legs so they could not escape the smoke and flames. The women and children were shown no mercy and the church was set afire after they were fired upon by the soldiers. Out of 648 residents of the town, only one woman, who was able to break through a window of the church, and five men survived the massacre. To this day, now approaching 80 years later, no one has come forward with a clear reason that this was carried out by the German army. After the war was won by the Allies, President Charles deGaulle came to the site and declared that the destroyed town was to remain as it was as a reminder of the inhuman acts carried out in war. So the town's buildings were never



leveled and have been left as a memorial to those who were martyred.

Reading about this event a number of years ago

I was very moved and I determined that someday I would go to Oradour-sûr-Glâne to see this memorial. I made it part of a trip to Europe this Fall. After staying in Paris for a week and going to the Musée de Cluny (amazing tapestries), the Musée d'Orsay, the Sainte Chapelle, the Centre Pompidou, and other sights, my wife and I took the train to Limoges, which is the closet city to Oradour. We were picked up by our driver and guide at Limoges' beautiful Belle Epoque train station and taken to our hotel in the Centre of the town. I was very glad

that I knew French because our guide knew almost no English and I needed to interpret for us; Limoges does not get a lot of foreign tourists. The next day we drove to Oradour where we went through the museum set up by the French government that gave the background of events leading to the Second World War, how France fared during the Occupation and, of course, about the events of June 10, 1944. After having lunch in the new town of Oradour we made our way to the memorial. I can't begin to describe how emotional this was. Farm implements and such



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things as sewing machines were left in the otherwise destroyed buildings. It was particularly moving to enter the church where the women and children were killed. Photos of the departed were displayed and one could see how entire families were lost. After our visit there, Martine, our driver, brought us back to Limoges and treated us to a visit to its cathedral and the Bishop's garden. The next week we went to visit a friend I have had for over 50 years who lives in Zurich, Switzerland. He and I were interns together in Geneva when we were medical students. He and his wife treated us to a boat ride and lunch on an island in the Lake of Zurich, a trip up to the top of Mont Rigi by tram, a tour through Zurich, an opera in the Opera House of Zurich, and a steamship ride on

the Lake of Geneva from Lausanne to Nyon where my wife's grandfather was born. I am glad to have included the trip to Oradour-sur-Glane on our itinerary even if made me very depressed to contemplate this event and how little we have changed in the ensuing years. I need to mention that the massacre there took place the day and the hour I came into the world.

~ Gus Lewis



A Note from Brenda Graves from Florida

I enjoyed an Historical Map Collection Tour earlier this year. This was with my Daughters of American Colonists, Timucuan Chapter. I am the Regent of this Jacksonville Chapter.

The large mural painting by artist Lee Adams of Jacksonville, more known for his ornithology paintings/prints. This is the original landing of Fort Caroline painting which used to be in our Downtown Sears & Roebuck "Ribault Room" Restaurant—lots of happy memories of my childhood out to lunch with my family.

This is now housed at the Main Jacksonville Library, a must see for all Huguenots when you all return for another visit! ~ Cheers! Brenda



(Continued from page 5)

My visit to Paris included discovering a historic Protestant church next to the Louvre. I did not have time to go inside but it will be on my itinerary should I return to Paris. ~ Gerald

CE MONUMENT A ETE ERIGE EN 1889
A LA MEMOIRE DE L'AMIRAL DE COLIGNY,
TRES HAUTE FIGURE PROTESTANTE DU XVI^E SIECLE,
VICTIME DE L'INTOLERANCE QUI ETAIT CELLE DE SON TEM
LORS DE LA NUIT DE LA SAINT BARTHELEMY.

" IL N'AVAIT DANS LE COEUR QUE LA GLOIRE DE L'ETAT "

MONTESQUI



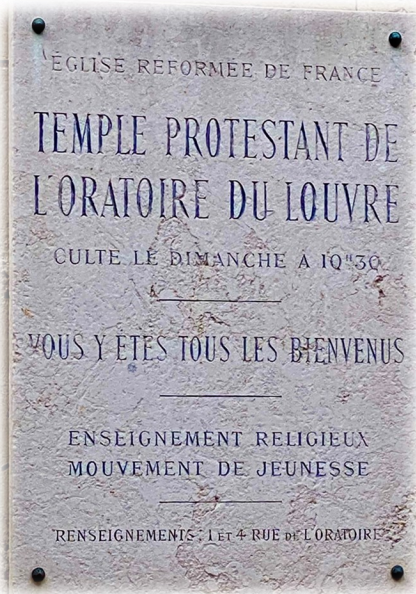
Monument to
Admiral Gaspard De Coligny
This monument is
outside of the Church

Translation on the plaque:

"This monument was erected in 1889 to the Memory of the Admiral de Coligny, a very high Protestant figure of the 16th century. Victim of the intolerance, killed during the night of Saint Bartholomew."

"He had in his heart only the Glory of the State"

This plaque is outside to the right of the base of the monument



The Temple protestant de l'Oratoire du Louvre is a historic Protestant Church located at 145 rue Saint-Honoré – 160 rue de Rivoli in the 1st arrondissement of Paris, across the street from the Louvre.

Translation of the stone plaque:

*Reform Church of France
Protestant Temple of the Louvre Oratory.
Worship on Sunday at 10:30 am
You are all welcome.*

*Religious education
Youth movement
Information 1 and 4 rue de l'Oratoire*



A Note from the Edwards

We had an exhilarating weekend in New York City weekend of November 3! Son Rob and grandsons Jake and Austin ran the Marathon (all finished) with both sets of grandparents looking on. Plus Robert III and his friend Meg were there as well. Nothing like young legs! *Kathryn and Bobby*

In Memoriam



Myron "Mike" Edwin Lyman, Sr., 92, born on May 3, 1931 in Cambridge, NY, passed away on October 25, 2023 in White Stone, VA, where he had been a resident for the last 17 years. Mike had been a member of our Society since 2007.

Mike was a member of several lineage societies including the Virginia Huguenot Society, and has been especially active in the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, serving as a chapter president and state burial chairman and editor/compiler of *Genealogical, Burial and Service Data for Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Virginia*. While president of the Virginia Society War of 1812, he edited and compiled the book, *Burials of War of 1812 Veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia* and was editor/compiler of an addendum to it. He co-edited *Encounters With the British in Virginia During the War of 1812*.

Mike was a past Virginia Governor of the Order of Founders and Patriots in America, a member of The Order of Americans of Armorial Ancestry, The Society of Colonial Wars, The Society of Mayflower Descendants, The Society of the Sons & Daughters of the Pilgrims, The Society of Descendants of Colonial Clergy and The Sons of Union Veterans.

In the Northern Neck, he was an active member of the Richard Henry Lee Chapter SAR, The Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library and the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 4, at Currie Funeral Home in Kilmarnock. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 716, Montross, VA 22520. You can read his full obituary at <https://rrecord.com/myron-mike-e-lyman-sr/>



Directory Update

Please note this new address in your year book or other personal directory.

Bonnie Bew
1111 Hyde Lane
Henrico, VA 23229
email: ronaldeugenebew@gmail.com

Please forward any updates to the directory to:
Gerald Runyan at gerald@aercorp.com

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

Visit the VHS website for all
things Huguenot!
[http://frenchhuguenots-
virginiasociety.org/](http://frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org/)

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He landed in Maryland in the latter part of the year 1685, and purchased lands near Port Tobacco, Charles County. <https://bullittcountyhistory.org/bchistory/thomasbullitt2.html>

The Bullitt family arrived in Kentucky in the mid-1700s, among the earliest settlers.

Prominent Bullitt family members include William Christian Bullitt, Jr., journalist and first U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union; Cuthbert Bullitt, early Virginia political leader, and Dorothy Bullitt, founder of King Broadcasting Company.

Huguenot Benjamin Bullitt's fourth great grandson, William Marshall Bullitt, was the 14th Solicitor General of the United States. Aside from his distinguished legal career, he collected

rare mathematics texts which were donated to the University of Louisville after his death. They included 300 volumes of first edition works by Isaac Newton, Rene Descartes, Galileo, Copernicus, Euclid and others.

William Marshall Bullitt's daughter was my dear friend Barbara Bullitt Christian. Many long years after I was friends with Barbara, it turns out that her son, Lowry Rush Watkins, is a VHS member. Small world.

Another of Lowry's Huguenot ancestors was Dr. Paul Michaux (Micou), lawyer and physician from Nantes, France. He was a Justice in Essex County, Virginia and a founder of Manikintown.

There are so many fascinating items on our Huguenot ancestors and their families. Please share your family's story with our VHS newsletter. ~ *Louis March*

Future Meeting Sites

Do you have a favorite location that would make for a good meeting site, or a speaker you feel our members would be interested in hearing? If so, please contact Vice-President Louis March at 540-960-0504 or email him at ltmarch76@gmail.com.

Links to Websites of Interest - Check Out These Links

Here are some interesting sites that explain some of the history of Huguenots

How were Huguenot refugees welcomed in England?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpk9frd/revision/1>

Comparing 17th century to modern times

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2020/11/wars-religion-france-polarization.html>

Huguenots in Rhode Island

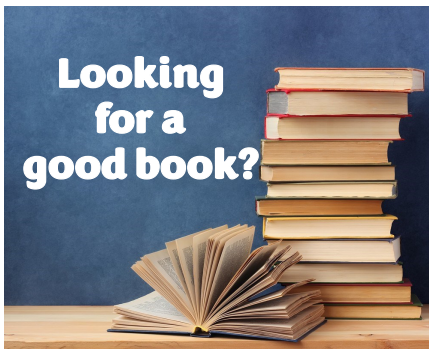
https://www.independentri.com/independents/north_east/opinion/article_e8e95d93-4856-5ee1-9b19-019ace3c02ce.html

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



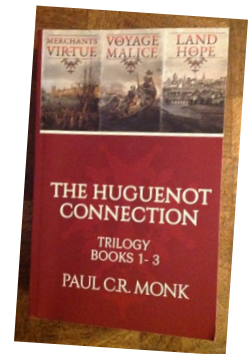
Our VHS library has some wonderful books on our history. Borrowing a book is easy, just contact David at edlegrande@hotmail.com for a list of available books. Here is a trilogy about a Huguenot family in France and America that may interest you.

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 bittersweet 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.

Insignia of the Huguenot 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.



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Registrar Bonnie B. Bew
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The Virginia Huguenot Society wishes all a happy holiday season!

See you on March 23, 2024, for our Spring Meeting!