



THE WALLOON

Newsletter of the Société Huguenot
de la Nouvelle-Orléans
June 2011 – Issue VII

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24, 2011 – Wine Tasting

*Home of John and Sylvi Beaumont
1469 Henry Clay Ave., New Orleans
2:30 to 5 p.m.*

November 27, 2011 – Annual Meeting

*Home of Allison Kendrick
1315 First Street, New Orleans
2:30 to 5 p.m.*

March 2012 – Spring Party

*Home of William and Cindy Woessner
7 Newcomb Boulevard, New Orleans*

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Our Own – Huguenot ancestry of Jean Brevard of North Carolina

A Secret

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THE SOCIETY IN REVIEW: ANNUAL SPRING PARTY

The Huguenot Society in New Orleans gathered for its annual Spring Party on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at the Uptown home of Margaret and Max Maxwell. President John Beaumont opened the meeting by thanking the Maxwells for graciously hosting the party. He introduced Bill Detweiler, who spoke about The National World War II Museum. We learned that on June 6, 2000 (appropriately “D-Day”) the museum started with the European Theater. A year later the Pacific Theater opened.

Detweiler said the museum’s mission is to tell the story through education about how and why World War II was fought and its meaning today. He said that Americans “go to Washington to remember the War, but come to New Orleans to learn about it.”

He mentioned the Solomon Victory Theatre, the American Sector Restaurant, and the Stage Door Canteen are quite popular. The brand new John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion displays refurbished boats, vehicles, weapons, and equipment, including the locally manufactured PT 305 landing craft. The Liberation Pavilion and the Campaigns Pavilion are in the planning stages.

Due to ever-increasing visitor attendance, Detweiler said the museum has grown considera-

bly. In December 2005 it had 27 employees and now has 240 full-time and part-time staffers.



Jimmy Reynolds, Dan Summit, Waid Thompson, Marie Summit, and Marijane Childress

Quite a few questions followed the talk. Afterward Beaumont thanked Detweiler and the Maxwells and presented them with autographed copies of Stephen Hales' *Rex: An Illustrated History of the School of Design*. This describes the carnival organization through text and photos.



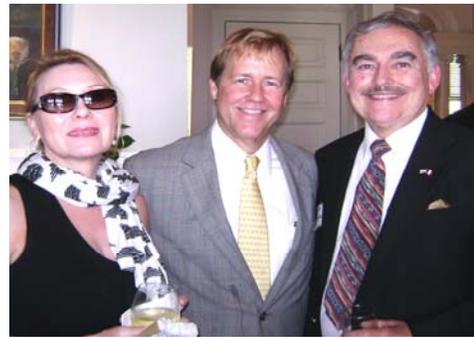
Margaret and Max Maxwell and Bill Detweiler with their books



Mark and Winnie Brown, Jill LeBlanc, and Webb Offutt



Gedge Gale and Elizabeth Sewell



Sarah Williamson, Mark LeCoq, and Lynn Breaux



Phil Lorio, Webb Offutt, Sarah Williamson, Mark LeCoq, Kathy Lorio, Bonnie Boyd, and Suzanne Farrar



Max Maxwell with his ancestor
Confederate Gen. John "Prince John"
Bankhead Magruder (1807-1871)

FAMOUS HUGUENOTS:

A HUGUENOT OF DISTINCTION



Henry Laurens (1724-1792)

Born in Charleston of Huguenot ancestry, Henry Laurens married into a South Carolina rice cultivation family. His wife Eleanor bore several children, and her three sons were educated in England as was

fashionable at the time for some wealthy male offspring.

Henry Laurens rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel during the Cherokee Wars (1757-1761). In this conflict Indians under chief Oconostota (ca. 1710-1783) attacked Carolina settlers and British troops over diminution of their ancestral hunting grounds.

Drawn to politics, Laurens spent nearly two decades in the South Carolina provincial assembly. He served as South Carolina's vice-president for a time and was a delegate to the Continental Congress where he succeeded John Hancock (1737-1793) as its 5th president (1777-1778).

Congress sent him to the Netherlands. After negotiating financial support for the colonies, he went home. On his return voyage to the Netherlands in the fall of 1780 the British Navy intercepted his ship. Before being captured, he threw official papers into the Atlantic Ocean. English sailors recovered them and saw they contained a draft treaty between the colonists and the Netherlands. Deemed a traitor to the crown, he was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and Britain subsequently started the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War (1780-1784). Britain released him in 1781 as part of a prisoner exchange for General Lord Cornwallis (1738-1805), who had been in custody since his defeat at the Battle of Yorktown (1781).

During 1783 Congress dispatched Laurens to France as a Peace Commissioner for negotiations that led to the Treaty of Paris (1783) ending the Revolutionary War (1775-1783). Except for a brief reappearance to sign the United States Constitution, Laurens permanently left public life in 1784.

He retired to his beloved but charred mansion at Mepkin on the Cooper River near Charleston that British occupying forces had

extensively burned. He lived in the estate's caretaker bungalow while workers rebuilt his home. Laurens' wealth derived from rice farming and trading in slaves, all of whom he freed after the War.

Our Louisiana Society: A Distinguished Ancestor

JEAN BREVARD

By: Dave Grissett

At least three of our Society's members -- Jacqueline Gamble, Paul Storey, and Shauna deBow Storey Grissett -- are lineal descendants of Huguenot Jean Brevard.

Jean Brevard (b. 1675-1680 in France) arrived in America with the McKnitts, a Scotch-Irish family from Northern Ireland where the English government sent many Huguenot refugees.

The McKnitts settled in Maryland near the Elk River. Jean became betrothed to a McKnitt daughter, who bore five boys (John, Robert, Zebulon, Benjamin, Adam) and a girl (Elizabeth).

John Brevard (b. 1715) moved to North Carolina between 1740 and 1750. He married Jean McWhorter, sister of a notable Presbyterian minister. They selected Iredell County, NC as their home. John and Jean had 8 sons and 4 daughters, all strong colonial patriots. The penalty for this was the burning of their house and its dependent structures by the British when Cornwallis passed through South Iredell County in 1781.

John's eldest son Ephraim graduated from Nassau Hall of the College of New Jersey (Class of 1768, now Princeton University). He studied medicine and decided to practice in Charlotte, NC as one of the region's first physicians. Ephraim reputedly wrote and definitely signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence in 1775, a date that North Carolina proudly commemorates on its flag.



This young doctor served as an army surgeon. When the British incarcerated him after the Battle of Charleston (1780), he was sent to Florida. Poor nutrition and disease profoundly weakened his immune system. After being freed, Elizabeth Jackson (1737-1781), the mother of future President Andrew "Old Hickory" Jackson (1767-1845) cared for him.

Because of Ephraim's extensive community service, Brevard Street in Charlotte and the town of Brevard, NC bear his name. This hamlet of 7000 people set among western North Carolina's gentle mountains is known for summer music festivals, youth camps, and vacationers like New Orleanians.

Ephraim's brother John (1750-1790), an Army captain, married Hannah Thompson. John's daughter Nancy Green Brevard wed Archibald McCaddin deBow (originally deBoogh) whose family had immigrated to New York City (initially New Amsterdam) from Holland in 1649. He was a student at the University of North Caro-

lina in Chapel Hill. They later moved to Hartsville, TN which until 1796 was part of North Carolina. Their descendants comprise among others the mother of member Paul Storey and grandmother of member Shauna deBow Storey Grissett.

John Brevard's eldest daughter Mary wed Army General William Lee Davidson (1746-1781, 5th NC Regiment), who died from wounds suffered in successfully preventing General Cornwallis from crossing the Catawba River in the Battle of Cowan's Ford (1781).



William Lee Davidson

The town of Davidson (NC), Davidson College (est. 1837), Davidson County (NC), and Davidson County (TN) have all taken his name. Our member Jackie Gamble is descended through Mary and William's son Ephraim Brevard Davidson.

Did you know?
You can view past *Walloon*
issues and more at
www.huguenotsneworleans.org



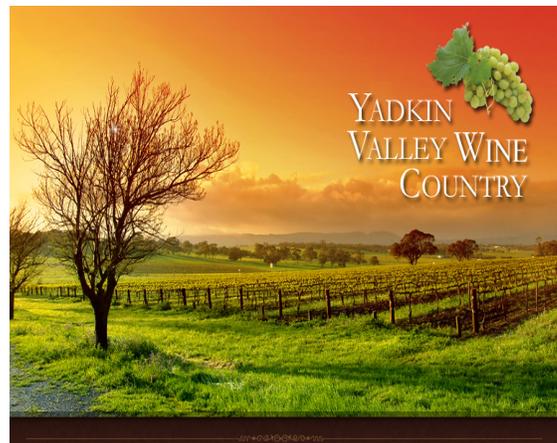
WANNA KNOW A SECRET??

*A secret known only
to a precious few?*

Well, here it is – North Carolina has excellent wines. In fact, over 100 wineries produce there. They have won regional and national awards.

Another secret – During Prohibition more wine came from North Carolina than any other state.

The Yadkin Valley, NC wines at our September 24th party will make you ask where you can get more. You will enjoy wines of European vinifera grape varieties that provide Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, Chardonnay – and Blanc de Blanc champagne.



But do not expect to find them in town. Amazingly, telephone calls to New Orleans wine distributors reveal that not one carries North Carolina vintages. You will have underground information that is quite possibly unfamiliar even to local professional wine merchants.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After the first full year as your President, I am honored to report that membership has increased by nearly 40%. We hold a Spring Party around a topic of historical or local current interest that benefits members. Our popular Autumn wine and cheese party emphasizes areas where Huguenots settled. During late November we celebrate the Edict of Toleration (1787) with a lively function and a short annual meeting

The program quality and members attending functions are at an all-time high. The Huguenot Society serves as a center of vitality, a place where interactions with fellow members stimulate engaging discussions that are consistent with New Orleans' tradition of developing great ideas while also having fun!

Furthermore, your Society has an enviably healthy financial position. Our balance sheet, income statement, and cash

flows are solid. This is especially remarkable considering that we are a non-profit in a challenging environment with abundant economic uncertainties and strains on consumer wallets. Regarding cash to our bottom line, we are substantially ahead in 2011 of this point in 2010.

Our situation is not coincidental. The Executive Board consistently exercises disciplined monetary management. For instance, the Society communicates electronically with almost all members. We publish as much in-house as possible. And, most importantly, members generously volunteer their homes, thus affording us the opportunity of seeing unusual residences while permitting the Society to purge itself of country club fees.

Ed Bush has accepted the task of Treasurer. He is charged with enhancing our product and service and also maintaining fiscal prudence. Ed projects for next year a moderate revenue increase while being cognizant of persistent food- and beverage-driven pressures on our margins.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I express thanks for your continuing support of the Huguenot Society. You, the members, are what make our Society so special and its activities even possible. The BoD and I welcome suggestions in the hope of improving your Society. Please send them to me (JBeau@bellsouth.net).

With best wishes for an agreeable and productive summer, I am John Beaumont.

