

THE WALLOON

Newsletter of Société Huguenot de la
Nouvelle-Orléans

Issue V

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On a beautiful Sunday in April your Huguenot Society convened for its Spring Reception in Frances and Jack Hinrichs' house. Guests remarked at the simplicity and quiet beauty of this Uptown residence.

Besides being the host, Jack also generously doubled as our speaker. He described a trip to southern France that culminated in his visit to historic Avignon. A three-mile, 13th century wall still encircles this city on the Rhône River about 55 miles from Marseilles. The well known nursery song "On the Bridge of Avignon" and the Palais des Papes that housed popes and antipopes from 1305 to 1377 have made this town famous.

With the Spring Reception's success behind us, people are looking forward to our fall schedule. Hopefully, you can attend both parties. Ben Foster as well as John and Bonnie Boyd expect to hold scintillating functions in their lovely homes.

We're fortunate that many fine, new members have recently joined the Huguenot Society. Their considerable dynamism and friendliness enliven our functions. We greatly appreciate the privilege of having them.

As you can see from this copy of *The Walloon*, Elizabeth Sewell continues her fine job in editing our magazine. With considerable thought, she gathers articles and other items that she anticipates will interest you.

Cordially,
John Beaumont
President

UPCOMING EVENTS!

September 19, 2010 – Fall Party
3 – 5 p.m.
Home of Ben Foster
2702 St. Charles Avenue

November 28, 2010 – Annual Meeting
Home of John and Bonnie Boyd
1309 Felicity Street, New Orleans

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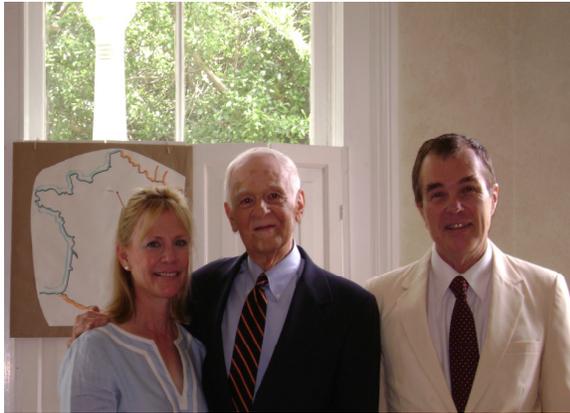
Membership Changes?

Please contact our president, John Beaumont, at jbeau@bellsouth.net so that we may be able to make any name, address, phone, or e-mail address changes to our membership roster. Thanks!

www.huguenotsneworleans.org

THE SOCIÉTÉ IN REVIEW: SPRING RECEPTION 2010

The Huguenot Society in New Orleans enjoyed a wonderful Spring Reception on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at the beautiful home of members Jack and Frances Hinrichs. Featured were wines from California and food from the kitchen at Martin's Wine Celler. Many of the Society's newest members also attended.



President John Beaumont with our host Jack Hinrichs and his daughter, Linda Christovish, at the Spring Party.

As mentioned above in President Beaumont's message, Jack Hinrichs spoke about a trip to Provence, France that he and his wife Frances took several years ago. They visited Avignon, Carpentras, Cavaillon, St. Rémy, Orange, Nîmes, Uzès, Arles, Beaucaire, Tarascon, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Fontaine-de-Vaucluse, Vaison-la-Romaine, and Gordes. He discussed Huguenots' history in these places.

Around 1520 the Huguenot movement became quite popular. Many members of the nobility, the intelligentsia, and the middle class converted to Protestantism. Their numbers included Marguerite de Navarre (1492-1549), the queen consort of King Henry II (1503-1555) of Navarre. Her brother Francis I (1494-1547) became king of France.

Representatives from fifteen churches attended the first Huguenot synod in 1559. More than a thousand delegates came to the second conference.

The Huguenots' rapid expansion caused alarm and jealousy among Catholics. Eight Wars of Religion took place between the years of 1562 and 1598. Each side received foreign assistance.

Catholics obtained help from Spain. England, Germany, and Switzerland sent troops for the Huguenots.

Although in the beginning of his reign Francis I accepted French Protestants, he later persecuted them. Peace followed the third conflict. This was broken by the 1572 Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day. In 1598 Henry IV (1553-1610, nicknamed "the good king Henry"), who was a Huguenot, issued the Edict of Nantes granting people religious freedom.

Louis XIV (1638-1715) revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685 and continually harassed Huguenots. Finding their existence unbearable during his regime, they fled by the hundreds of thousands to Switzerland, the Netherlands, England, Germany, and the British colonies in North America.



Members listen attentively to Jack Hinrichs present a short program about his trip to Provence, France.

The Hinrichs traveled to Uzès, once a stronghold of 17th century Huguenot resistance. Its medieval Cathedral of St. Théodore has a wooden balcony where Huguenots were forced to worship, segregated from the regular congregation. In Avignon, a modern city steeped with tradition and history where they once had strong roots, Jack could find no references to Huguenots, but in Nîmes Huguenots built the still extant Grand Temple on Boulevard de l'Amiral-Courbet.

Throughout the journey these peripatetic New Orleanians marveled at the abundance of Roman ruins. Aqueducts, arches, bridges, amphitheatres, and coliseums remain in use two thousand years after their construction. Particularly impressive to the Hinrichs was the 18-mile long aqueduct across the Gardon River to the city of Nîmes. Jack recommended that everyone with the time and interest investigate the many treasures of southern France.

FAMOUS HUGUENOTS: A HUGUENOT OF DISTINCTION



Julien de Lallande Poydras **April 3, 1746 – June 14, 1824**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia and
books.google.com/books

Julien de Lallande Poydras was born in Rezé (near Nantes), France of parents with Huguenot ancestry. He served in the French Navy, and was captured by the British in 1760 and taken to England. He escaped on board a West Indian merchantman to Saint-Domingue, from which he immigrated to New Orleans, Louisiana in 1768.

Poydras had several significant achievements. For example, he wrote the first poetry published in the Louisiana Territory in 1779. He was also president of the first legislative council of the Territory of Orleans, and he was elected to the House, serving from March 4, 1809 - March 3, 1811. Additionally, he was the president of the first state Constitutional Convention.

Poydras founded the Female Orphan Asylum in New Orleans and founded and endowed the Poydras Asylum.

Poydras died in Pointe Coupee, Louisiana. He was originally interred in Old St. Francis Cemetery but was later reinterred on the grounds of the Poydras High School, New Roads, Louisiana.

In Ponte Coupee the legacy has been diverted to educational purposes, but in West Baton Rouge it continues in its original use. Poydras himself was a bachelor.

It is said that when he came to Louisiana he owned little more than the pack on his back, and, as the girl he loved was too poor to furnish a dowry, it was impossible for them to marry.

One of the main streets of the New Orleans Central Business District is named Poydras Street in his honor.

For additional biographical information about Julien Poydras and particularly his poetry, conduct a google search and locate the site of Alcee Fortier's [Louisiana studies: Literature, customs, and dialects, history and education](#) that has been scanned. Look for this title at books.google.com/book. Fortier's book was written in 1894, and she was at that time a professor of French Language and Literature of Tulane University of Louisiana.

She comments that Poydras' epic poem about the campaign of the popular Spanish governor Galvez was written in 1779. The title of the poem is "La Prise du Morne du Baton Rouge par Monseigneur de Galvez". While Fortier comments that this poem "has no great literary merit", she does enjoy the poem's historical references.

HUGUENOT TRAVEL DESTINATIONS OH THE PLACES WE CAN GO!

NEW YORK CITY AREA

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

There are many Huguenot connections in the state of *New York*. Barred from settling in New France, many Huguenots moved to North America, settling instead in the Dutch colony of New Netherland (later New York and New Jersey).

L'Eglise du Saint-Esprit



The Huguenot congregation was formally established in 1628 as L'Église française à la Nouvelle-Amsterdam. This parish continues today as L'Eglise du Saint-Esprit, a French-speaking Episcopal congregation in the *heart of Manhattan*.

Though its services are in French, many of the materials used are translated into English for the benefit of those who may need some help with the French language.

The church is situated on the north side of East 60th Street, between Park and Lexington avenues. The origins of the French Church of Saint-Esprit go back to the original settlement of New Amsterdam. Among the first settlers who arrived were a large percentage of Huguenots and Walloons (French-speaking Protestants from Belgium) who had fled to Holland in order to escape religious persecution. By joining the Dutch colonists in coming to the New World they had greater opportunities to own land and to prosper at their trades.

Of note was one of the church's former priests, a young Lutheran clergyman, born in Alsace but receiving much of his theological training in the United States named Alfred Wittmeyer. Wittmeyer was called as rector in

1879 and was ordained to Episcopal orders by Bishop Horatio Potter. He was to be rector for the next 46 years. During this time helped found the Huguenot Society of America in 1883 (20 W. 44th St., Ste 510, NY, NY 10036; www.huguenotsocietyofamerica.org). He was its secretary and guiding light for 15 years and he worked tirelessly to bring together Americans of Huguenot descent in order.

For more information, go to the church's website at www.stesprityc.net.

Huguenot, Staten Island New York

Another Huguenot connection in the immediate *New York City area* is a neighborhood on the South Shore of the New York City's borough of Staten Island named Huguenot. The original name of the town was called Bloomingview, but its name was changed and named in honor of the Huguenots, led by Daniel Perrin, who settled in the area during the late 17th century and early 18th centuries to escape religious persecution.

New Rochelle, New York



Lastly, the city of New Rochelle, New York, is named after La Rochelle, a former Huguenot stronghold in France. The town was settled by 33 families in 1688 that were fleeing Catholic-instigated massacres in France. Many of the settlers were artisans and craftsmen from the city of La Rochelle, France, thus the name of New Rochelle.

Of all the Huguenot settlements in America founded with the view of being distinct French colonies, New Rochelle most clearly conformed to the plans of its founders. The colony continued to attract French refugees until as late as 1760. French was spoken, and it was common practice for people in neighboring areas to send their children to New Rochelle to learn the language.