



DuBois Family News

August 2016

President's Message

Hello fellow members of DBFA:

The time seems to go by so quickly between newsletters but already it has been six months since our last one. I shall try to keep you up-to-date by my comments.

We have had a vacancy on the board and, pursuant to the bylaws, we have selected a person to fill out the term of that vacancy. Her name is Jamia Jacobsen, and she is from the great state of Indiana--now living in Indianapolis. I can say the great state of Indiana because, as you probably know, I likewise hail from that state and presently live in Portage.

She was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and received degrees (B.S., Masters and Ph.D. in Education) from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and, subsequently a Psy.D. at Newport University. Dr. Jacobsen has had varied and active professional practice activities related to personal and family relationships. She likewise has had many varied and interesting activities in volunteer work including, specifically, the past presidencies of Indiana Veterinarian's Medical Society, Indiana School of Education Board of Alumni, Zionsville Woman's Club, etc. She is also been the Regent of National Society of Daughters of American Colonists and the Governor of First IN Company, Jamestowne Society. She has a strong interest in genealogy and is a member of the Huguenot Society of America.

The listing of the above memberships and activities is my attempt to provide a representative sample of her many, many professional and volunteer activities in the past. Following a brief discussion of her interest and background, Dr. Jacobsen was unanimously selected by the board to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term until the end of 2017.

We have begun the process of attempting to set up the biennial membership meeting for 2017 which has been traditionally held in October and, as provided by our bylaws, in New Paltz, New York. We have instructed our chairman of the membership biennial meeting committee, Ann DuBois, to negotiate our use of the facilities for our membership meeting in October 2017.

I am aware that a number of you are also members of the HHS, and I would

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request that each and every one of you who are members of that organization send out a letter to them directed to Josephine Bloodgood, Interim Executive Director and Curator; I would suggest that you implore them to do whatever is necessary to permit us to conduct our biennial meeting during October 2017 at the facilities located along Huguenot Street. You may send your letter to her at 88 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY 12561 or at info@huguenotstreet.org. I would appreciate that you send a copy of your letter to me at P.O. Box 14, Portage IN 0014 or at my email address: daviddubois.president@gmail.com. Please notice also Ann L. DuBois, Committee Chairperson: duboisworks@gmail.com.

Finally I note that many of you have forwarded your email address and I would thank you for that information.

Your cousin David R
President, DBFA, Inc.

Committee Chairman's Update for the Proposed October 2017 DBFA Celebration

Dear members,

It was decided at the board meeting on July 9th, at my urging, for me as chairman (Ann L. DuBois), to make arrangements with Historic Huguenot Street for our October 2017 family celebration. I contacted the interim president of HHS Josephine Bloodgood, a person I have known for many years, who I've always found to be trustworthy and forthright. She informed me that the calendar for that period of time had not yet been decided. This is good news in that, contacting her in their early stage of scheduling, we have an excellent chance of being included. My approach has been that if I don't hear from HHS within two week intervals, I call to see what progress is being made. So far none has been made.

If any member wants to contact me on this matter my info is duboisworks@gmail.com or call 607 652-4018

Billiou-DuBois Homestead on Staten Island

BY CAROLINE S. DuBOIS



BILLIOU HOUSE



BILLIOU HOUSE — ANOTHER ANGLE

Staten Island's oldest house was built in 1662 by one of our Huguenot ancestors. Our great x12 Aunt and Uncle, Pierre Billiou (1625-1708) of W icres, near Lille, France and his first wife Francoise DuBois (1622-1695), the daughter of Chretien DuBois also of W icres are responsible for the 4th oldest house in New York State.

The original one-room fieldstone structure features a steeply pitched roof, a huge jambless fireplace, and massive wooden beams. Complete with half cut Dutch doors and recessed windows enclosures, it has a steep staircase leading to a sleeping / storage loft with a hidden chamber for valuables.

The property was originally part of an 80-acre farm stretching down to the waterfront overlooking New York Harbor, and sits a mile from the Verrazano Narrows Bridge built at Fort Wadsworth, a natural point of defense, which featured a blockhouse and wharf as early as 1663.

While the Billiou house is 43 years older than the 1705 DuBois Fort in New Paltz, New York, it was built in the same one room, jambless stone fireplace style and can be considered the oldest DuBois Family homestead in the new world (and thus worthy of DBFA support). The Dutch Colonial farmhouse has been expanded with timber frames at least five times over the years, and now boasts three fire places, with seven rooms on the first floor and nine rooms on the second floor, accessed by three sets of stairs.

The land surrounding the farmhouse, now called the Billiou-Stillwell-Perine House, is owned by Historic Richmond Town, a part of the Staten Island Historical Society, has been reduced to less than an acre alongside a busy highway. It is located at 1476 Richmond Road in the modern community of Dongen Hills.

Pierre and Francoise DuBois Billiou were married in the Walloon Church in Leyden, Holland, in 1649. He is listed as a “grosgrain (ribbon) worker dwelling in the Cattle Market, the son of Jeacq Biljou.”

The Billiou and DuBois families must have been close-sharing home towns, textile occupations, the Protestant religion, and, presumably, they mingled finances and dwellings. They all lived in Leyden, a sophisticated urban center, for over 11 years, while their brother-in-law, Jacques DuBois was attending Leyden University and managing the DuBois linen exporting business there.

Louis DuBois (1626-1693) Francoise’s younger brother returned to Leyden in 1660 from a failed adventure to M anheim, Germany, leaving again that same year to start over in the wilderness of the Hudson River Valley. Their much younger brother, Jacques DuBois (1628-1677) continued to manage the family linen business until 1668, when he also left for America, having sent profits across the Atlantic for reinvestment in the new world for many years.

W hen Jacques finally arrived in Kingston, he may have been extremely disappointed to discover that all Louis had to show for the money was a brewery

in the wilderness, while Billiou had already founded a community, achieved political recognition and w as rapidly buying lands in adjoining communities. Jacques moved back and forth across the Hudson River between Fishkill and Kingston, trying to establish a trading post, but died a year before New Paltz was founded in 1678.

Previously, while fleeing religious persecution in Europe, Billiou, and his family arrived in New Amsterdam in August 1661, a year following the arrival of Louis DuBois, and after a 4-month voyage from Leyden, Holland, on the ship St. Jean Baptist. The family consisted of his wife Francoise and their four young daughters (Martha, Catherine, Francoise and Christienne) and new baby son, (Isaac), who was born at sea. Clearly well-educated and devout, they are both recorded as reading the Bible during the voyage.

Marie Billiou, aged 10-11 years, the eldest daughter of Pierre and Françoise, had apparently accompanied her Uncle Louis and Aunt Catherine Blanchan DuBois to the new world a year earlier in 1660, moving w ith them to Kingston, New York (a.k.a Wiltwick which had been established as a trading post in 1614). It is reasonable to suppose that M arie assisted as a baby sitter with Louis’ two children, Abraham and Isaac, aged 3-4 years and 1-2 years, respectively, on their voyage to this country. At Kingston, she married Arendt Janson Prall in 1670; however, by 1675 she had moved back down to Staten Island to live with her own parents.

Within three months of landing on Manhattan Island, the Billiou family joined the Reformed Protestant Church of New Amsterdam, which had been established in 1628 by Peter M inuit in the second floor of a mill just outside the walls of the Dutch Fort. In the fall of 1661, nineteen Dutch and French settlers under the leadership of Pierre Billiou petitioned Dutch governor Peter Stuyvesant for land on Staten Island, which was granted to them by the Dutch West India Company.

In former settlement attempts, the Dutch had found the Native Americans on Staten Island to be hostile to settlers, but Billiou was able to befriend them through trade, and a permanent settlement was begun on the Eastern shore where they established Oude Dorp (Old Town), the first permanent settlement, on the site now occupied by St. M ary’s Cemetery in South Beach. In

1662, within a year of his arrival Pierre Billiou moved inland and built his stone house on Richmond Road, an old Indian trail connecting it to Fresh Kills on the Western shore of Staten Island, across Richmond Creek and the Arthur Kill estuary from New Jersey.

A prosperous and energetic merchant, Billiou continued buying more land (perhaps with DuBois family linen profits) for the next 40 years, eventually owning property in Flatbush, Long Island, and in Great Kills, Oude Dorp and Fresh Kills, Staten Island, as well as in Elizabeth Town, Piscataway, Bridgewater, Blue Hill, Plainfield and Somerville, New Jersey. He made trips up the North (Hudson) River as far as Albany to trade with Huguenot and Dutch families and gave welcome sanctuary to new Huguenots in his home when they arrived from overseas. In 1664, England reclaimed all Dutch properties, and by 1668, had purchased Staten Island from the Indians, giving the island more protection from attack, and enabling trading, farming and timbering to prosper.

Billiou was made a judicial officer by the British of the first Staten Island Court established in 1664, became a delegate to the General Assembly that year, and was appointed a Lieutenant of Militia in 1669. In 1673, Billiou was elected Schout Scheppen (Sheriff and Magistrate), but he proved to be a contentious neighbor, and over time lost some of his authority through legal disputes.

In 1695 Francoise DuBois died, and Billiou married his second wife, Gerritje, widow of Jan Spiegelar that same year. They lived in the stone house, which had been expanded in 1680, with his daughter Martha Billiou Stillwell (1652-1736) and her husband Thomas Stillwell (1651-1705). After her father's and husband's deaths, Martha inherited the property and continued to live there with her second husband Rev. David de Bonrepos (1654-1734).

Martha's descendants, the Brittons, owned the property until the mid-18th century, when it was acquired by Edward Perine in 1758. The house was occupied by British troops during the American Revolution. The Perine Family owned it until 1913, when it was bought by the Staten Island Historical Society and used as its headquarters. It was operated as a tea room in early 20th century.

The building is currently undergoing a Historic Structures Report and Archaeological Review by the Trustees of Historic Richmond Town, which operates a large museum complex nearby. This report is expected to be completed by Fall 2016. Recommendations about costs and next steps for restoration will be made at that time. The house is currently occupied by a caretaker and open by appointment only.

Disclaimer: As is usual with historic research, the sources for this story do not all agree in dates, spelling of names or truthiness.

They include the DuBois Family Association records; documents published by Historic Richmond Town and the Staten Island Museum; free-family-roots-web: Billiou; find-a-grave: Billiou; and of course that font of all wisdom: Wikipedia.

Apologies where needed are freely offered. The best thing to do is go see for yourselves, this wonderful old stone house which our whole family should embrace with gratitude for all the hardships our ancestors endured to bring us to this point.

Appreciation and credit are given to Ms. Caroline S. DuBois for the preceding article, as well as to the Staten Island Historical Society and the Historic Richmond Town for the photograph(s) of the Billiou house.

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Newsletter submissions, anyone?

If anyone has knowledge or information regarding places or events, past or present, involving DuBois descendants that could be of particular interest to members of our association, we invite submissions to DBFA for possible inclusion of pieces in future Newsletters. Please email submissions to: mnthorton@yahoo.com.

Fascinating Facts of Military Service of Some Descendants of Françoise DuBois Billiou Through Her Son, Isaac (1661-1709)

By **GEORGE BOILEAU**

John B. Ascough (1842-1904) was a survivor of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. The chain after Isaac is his youngest son Daniel (1708-?);

Daniel (1737-1789);
John (1771-1864);
and Rebecca Boileau Ascough (1814-1872).

Antoine Gaujot (1878-1936) and his brother Julian Gaujot (1874-1938) both won the Congressional Medal of Honor; Antoine in the Phillipines in 1899 and Julian on the Mexican border in 1911.

Their chain after Isaac is his oldest son Jacob (1685-1747);
Isaac (1722-1803);
Sarah Boileau Wilson (1755-1839);
William Hart Wilson (1793-1879);
Harriet McGuigan (1823-1881);
and Susan Gaujot (1850-1903).

In April, 1965, Almerion Boileau wrote every Boileau he could find in the Country, offering to provide his research on the family. My father responded and, with Al's help, we soon learned we were descended from Daniel Boileau (1708-17--), D-38 in *The American Descendants of Chretien Du Bois*.

Off and on for 45 years I gathered information on the Boileaus, which was easy because my parents had moved in 1950 to Upper Moreland Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, about two blocks from where Jacob Billiou (1685-1747) (C-20) had moved in 1734. His brother Daniel, my ancestor, moved to the same township in 1753.

Daniel's son Jeremiah (my ancestor) (1745-1793) moved to the Philadelphia waterfront in 1789 and died in 1793, the year of the Philadelphia Yellow Fever epidemic. Jeremiah's son Jeremiah (1777-1833) married Eleanor Williams. She is a distant relative of President Abraham Lincoln, who, according to Ancestry.com, is my "2nd great-nephew of husband of 2nd cousin 6x removed."

Thanks to Ancestry.com, I found several interesting relatives including John B. Ascough (1842-1904) who was with the 7th Cavalry at Little Big Horn. His troop was with Captain Frederick W. Benteen, not General George A. Custer; therefore, he survived. Antoine Gaujot (1878-1936) and his brother Julian Gaujot (1874-1938) both won the Congressional Medal of Honor; Antoine in the Phillipines in 1899 and Julian on the Mexican border in 1911.

I would be happy to assist DFA members researching descendants of Jacob Billiou or Daniel Boileau. My email is boileaugeorgew@aol.com.

George Boileau



*Du Bois Family Association Inc.
New Paltz, New York, 12561*

*Founded 1966
a not-for-profit organization*



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in preserving the historical and educational value of Huguenot Street and of the Du Bois Family specifically.

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 Email: _____

I wish to join the Du Bois Family Association in the membership level listed below:

Individual	1 year	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	3 year	\$62	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household (2 Adults)	1 year	\$37	<input type="checkbox"/>	Household	2 year	\$62	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family (2 Adults 3 Children)	1 Year	\$75	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributor	1 year	\$62	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donor	1 year	\$125	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	1 year	\$625	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please complete the personal information section for each member of the Household and Family memberships using additional membership forms.

Dues	Amount
Membership Level Chosen Above	_____
Other Donations	
General Fund	_____
Fort Fund	_____
Endowment Fund	_____
Scholarship Fund	_____
Grand Total	_____

Make check payable to DuBois Family Association and remit to:

Deborah Trujillo
Secretary-Treasurer
2901 Big Green Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89134

DuBois Family items for sale:

DuBois Family History, - Volumes 1-20.

A chronological history tracing the descendants of Chretien DuBois of Wicres, France in America.

Volumes 1-19 have now been updated. Updating of Volume 20 is partially complete.

- Entire 20 volumes on CD.....\$100.00

DuBois Fort 45th Anniversary Plate

Gold rimmed china 8" plate with picture of the Old Fort.....\$12.00 Shipping.....\$7.00



Book – Ancestry of Chretien DuBois

Ancestry of Chretien DuBois, Wicres, France by Monte Horton, J.D. (15 pages).....\$15.00

Book – Ancestry of Catherine Blanchan

Ancestry of Catherine Blanchan, Wife of Louis DuBois by Monte Horton, J.D. (4 pages).....\$5.00

Purchase online at: http://www.dbfa.org/Family_Store.htm or If you do not order online, please make checks payable to: DuBois Family Association

Send check to:

Deborah Truillo, Secretary/Treasurer

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