



DuBois

Family

News

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## 2003 New Paltz Colonial Street Festival a Hit!

By Caroline S. DuBois

I was delighted to serve as a tour guide at the DuBois Fort (c. 1705) during this summer's annual New Paltz Colonial Street festival on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, centering on the oldest street in America with its original houses. I was proud to help interpret our "family headquarters," and to honor our ancestors, who worked so hard to build the town more than 300 years ago.

Once again Huguenot Street was packed with costumed craftsmen displaying their wares, knowledgeable history buffs and curious modern families eager to learn about colonial daily life. Formerly called Stone House Day, the festival featured tours of the historic houses, hands-on child friendly demonstrations, folk musicians, puppet shows, Dutch dancers, butter churning, bread baking, wool spinning, cloth weaving, and petting goats.

In keeping with the historic theme, only those items available on a market day in colonial



The DuBois Fort is the backdrop for Colonial Day Festivities

times were offered. Visitors could buy hand-made furniture, wooden bowls, brooms, pottery, flint fire-making kits, knives, tin lanterns, can-

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## 2003 DuBois Family Reunion Cancelled

The 2003 DuBois family reunion slated for the weekend of October 18th was cancelled due to lack of advanced registration. As of the end of September, only six people had signed up to attend the planned events.

Dina Dubois was obviously disappointed at the low registration rate, but she noted that several of the other family associations were experiencing poor turn outs as well.

The election of officers that normally occurs

during the annual meeting at the family reunion will instead be handled through a mail-in ballot included in this newsletter. Please find the ballot of candidates and make your choice.

There is also a ballot for voting on the adoption of the revised DBFA By-Laws. When you have marked the ballots you can mail them in the envelope supplied.

Ballots must be received by January 15, 2004.

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### Special Inserts:

2003 DBFA Officers Election Ballot
New DBFA By-Laws

# From the President's Desk

By Dina DuBois, DBFA President

Dear DBFA Family Members,

The last year for DBFA included a major shift in how we operate our basic functions. Catherine's job as master of our DBFA universe has changed because we need to involve members more so that her time is free to finish the updating of the genealogy. Mike Benson is joining us as an officer to produce the newsletter and get it mailed. Pam has agreed to take on Catherine's job as treasurer in addition to being the finance officer, a position that oversees the investments of the organization and advises on directions DBFA should take financially. Carol Edelman has agreed to be the secretary and will be taking minutes and keeping records. I will continue as President and build programs for each annual meeting. (Although this year's program didn't seem to draw much interest....) Adrienne Wiese has agreed to continue as Liaison officer, and Terry has taken on again the job of on-line communications.

Catherine has been the main stay of this organization for around 15 years. We are indebted to her loyalty, clarity of vision, and thorough handling of the finances, membership, and communications to the members. Her genealogical work has created a valuable document that has and continues to have major interest for DBFA members.

The other major change is that DBFA has given up their rented office space at the

Family Association Center on Huguenot Street in New Paltz. Catherine now has the DBFA office in her home. She continues to receive the same pay as before, but has not charged DBFA for the use of her home as office space. We thank her tremendously for this generosity.

Catherine is willing to continue in this position for a few more years. We need to plan for the long term and how we will continue the genealogical function in the future. That has financial implications. Do we want to continue to have a paid genealogist if the genealogy has been updated and completed when Catherine leaves the position?

Pam Bailey has led us in revising the by-laws, a major undertaking. The officers

worked on them in April and May and then voted on Oct. 18th to pass the amendments. Because of the cancellation of the annual meeting due to lack of attendance, we are asking the members to vote on the officers' approved changes. See enclosed ballot.

Also the election of officers will be by mailed in ballot. See enclosed.

The other main event that has happened that benefits DBFA is that Alice Phillips has left around \$400,000 to HHS with priority to be given to the maintenance of the Fort. See more on that in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing how these new changes work out financially and to invigorate involvement of the membership.

## Alice G. Dubois Leaves Legacy

Alice DuBois, a person of diverse interests and accomplishments, died on December 21, 2002 at age 92 in her home state of Indiana. Born Alice Goodwin on June 24, 1910 in Muncie, Indiana, Alice attended Muncie High School and obtained her Bachelor's Degree from Ball State University in 1937.

At the onset of World War II, Alice volunteered for military service. Her distinguished military tour included assignment with the Women's Army Corps and work in the Pentagon as a military intelligence analyst and cryptographer. This included top secret com-

munications, among which were transmissions to and from Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower. Alice's cremated remains were enurned with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Following the war, she married William Soldan, a businessman, and resided in Chicago, during which period she served in management positions with Dearborn Furniture Company. He passed away several years ago.

In later years, Alice resumed intermittent

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## Genealogist's Corner

By Catharine Smith, DBFA Genealogist

The genealogy compiled by William and Ruth Heidgerd is slowly being updated and corrected part by part. The process is up to part nine and parts 1-8 are available for you to order. Please see the back of this newsletter for ordering information. Updates on your family can be sent to Catherine Smith, 119 N. Ohioville Road, New Paltz, NY 12561.

While the process of updating and correcting is sometimes long and tedious, it is a little history lesson. As you read the information you can see the times in which the people lived and died.

There are whole families that died, together as the result of attacks by Native Americans during the French and Indian War. You can see where families lost several children in a week because of diseases for which there was no cure. How hard life was in the early history of the DuBois family and America and yet both have survived and are still growing. In future columns we will have stories about the families of DuBois lineage, letters from Civil War soldiers, stories that have been past down about pioneer settlers in Kentucky and Virginia and letters written to family members telling of daily activities.

## DBFA Passings

We regret to inform you that the following DBFA members have recently passed away.

Florence Bruce	6/4/03
Mr. Charles O'Connor	4/12/03
Alton A. DuBois, Jr.	4/10/03
Stanley M. Parkhill	6/24/03
Arthur T. DuBois	6/12/03

# New Paltz Colonial Street Festival

*(Continued from page 1)*

dles, soap, jam, willow baskets and bonnets. My favorite purchase was a bag full of ripe antique-variety tomatoes in assorted colors of pink, orange, yellow, and brown with green stripes from the organic fruit stand.

The Fort was in the middle of all the action. A fast talking lady juggler walking on a slack-rope was giving shows across the street, a classical guitar duo played on our porch and the liberty pole, with cap on top, was set up in the middle of the green next door, along with the campfires and tents of the militia and their families.

These historically accurate brigade members marched to the tunes of a fife and drum band, gave musket-shooting demonstrations and displayed the contents of their packs. However, in a wild mix of centuries, the “dress-ups” of other volunteers ranged from deerskin clad “Indians”, Daniel Boone style woodsmen, 18<sup>th</sup> century milk-maids, handsomely suited gentlemen in knee britches and tri-corn hats, and fancy Shakespearian ladies wearing silk ball gowns to Abe Lincoln look-alikes in stove pipe hats.

I even managed to look “old-fashioned” myself, with a navy blue jumper and white blouse, home-made bonnet and apron, complete with new strap on portable pockets (made from linen place mats) for my 21<sup>st</sup> century junk (wallet, cell phone, camera.) The wide variety of straw bonnets, caps, snoods and shawls was astonishing. They



**Tour Guide Caroline DuBois in Colonial outfit**



**A Volunteer in Colonial era dress gives directions to visitors in front of the Fort**

reflected the social status, occupation and region of the wearer and were great conversation starters!

This was my fourth year volunteering at the festival, so I felt comfortable sitting in the front hall of the Fort answering general questions, handing out family association literature, pointing out the gunports, and teasing the kids with the treasure hunt questions set up in the parlor. For example: Q: show 3 ways to get light into the room? A: a candle, an oil lamp and a windowpane.

The festival organizers had sent me plenty of information beforehand, to help make my job easier. I was given the history of the fort, highlighting its use as a communal gathering place through the years, first as a place of refuge against the Indians, then a boarding house and more recently as a restaurant. I was prepared to discuss structural reports, newly discovered footings for the “jamb-less or no leg support” fireplace, and future plans for the gift shop inside. However, one of my most important jobs was to keep an eye on the historic artifacts to make sure they

weren’t broken or stolen. I knew that I should not let anyone touch the items on display, even if they claimed to be an expert on old teapots or silver spoons.

The best part of being a tour guide was that people gave back to me their own stories about the Fort or glimpses of their own family history. I learned about the wedding receptions and Sunday dinners held in the Fort, the construction techniques of other Stone Houses in the valley, the history of other Huguenot families who settled in the Chesapeake Bay, and the location of the Indian village across the river.

I even met some new “cousins” who were researching their genealogy and renewed my friendship with old friends from our Huguenot roots tour to France a few years ago. Therefore, I can heartily recommend the experience of being a “Guardian of the Fort” to any of my fellow DuBois Family Association members and hope to see you all there next year, in costume!



## DuBois Family Association

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## Happening's at the Fort

By Jack Braunlein, Director, Huguenot Historical Society

Restoration work at the DuBois Fort has recently been aided by two additional sources of support: the French Heritage Society and the late Alice D. DuBois.

In 2002, the French Heritage Society conducted a special competitive grant program to commemorate the organization's twentieth anniversary. Six awards were made in America, and the DuBois Fort was chosen as one of the project to be so honored. FHS is contributing \$15,000 toward masonry repairs that will be completed in 2004.

HHS also has recently received a bequest from Alice D. DuBois of Chicago, Illinois. Ms. DuBois left the Society nearly \$400,000 to be used for the general work of the organization and for the preservation of the Fort. HHS will divide the bequest accordingly so that one-half of this amount will be applied toward costs of the on-going restoration.

We have recently met with architect Bill Palmer of John G. Waite and Associates to determine the scope of this work. As of the writing of this report, a final assessment has yet to be made, but the work will be directed to the exterior restoration and repair as detailed in the Historic Structure Report that Waite compiled on the Fort in 2002. This work will include repointing to the masonry (including the removal of modern Portland cement which has a deleterious effect on stone walls), rebuilding the chimneys, repairs to the Southeast façade of the c.1836 frame addition, completion of door and window consolidation and repair, and repair and restoration of the front porch and balcony.

These funds have presented the Historical Society with an unprecedented opportunity to undertake work needed to preserve the building and to restore the exterior of this important National Landmark to its appearance in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

## Alice G. DuBois Legacy

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teaching, and also did graduate work at the University of Chicago. As a result of her interest in genealogy and contacts with the Huguenot Historical Society, Alice had her name legally changed to DuBois.

Alice was also a philanthropist with a keen interest in charitable causes. Her estate made signifi-

cant provisions for both the Huguenot Historical Society and the Chicago Community Trust. Alice left the Huguenot Historical Society nearly \$400,000. HHS plans to use half of the final amount for ongoing fort restoration. We are extremely thankful for her generosity.

Alice had no children, and was survived by sisters Fredda Jones of North Manchester, Indiana and Elizabeth Bradway of Muncie.

## Order your DuBois family merchandise today!

- DuBois Family History, Volumes 1-20. A chronological history tracing the descendants of Chretien DuBois of Wicres, France in America.
  - Volumes 1-8 on separate disks (Microsoft Word or text files)..... \$11.00
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- Postcards - A beautiful color picture of the DuBois Fort..... 5/\$1.00

Make checks payable to DuBois Family Association. Send order to DBFA, 119 North Ohioville Rd., New Paltz, NY 12561