



DuBois

Family

News

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2004

Tree Ring Report Proves 1705 Date for Fort

By S. Michael Benson

Recently, our DuBois Fort underwent a Dendrochronology study to attempt to confirm the assumed age of the building. We have all assumed that it was built in 1705 since there are iron numbers on the east end of the house that seem to represent the year in which it was built.

Dendrochronology is the science of studying the annual growth rings of trees so that a piece of wood may be dated. Dendrochronology has been studied for over 80 years and is a fairly accurate way of dating, provided a clear sample of the wood with evident growth rings can be obtained.

There are many variables that can effect the width of the growth rings. The most prominent variable is that of yearly cli-



A core sample was taken from this cellar beam in the Fort

mate. In dryer, cooler climates, the annual growth is diminished and therefore, the rings are narrower. By looking at a large sequence of years and studying their associated climate, the tree ring growth can be fairly accurately predicted. Comparing a sample piece of wood with the known growth ring

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2004 Reunion During Colonial Street Festival

The 2004 DuBois family reunion will be held concurrently with this year's Colonial Street Festival, August 13-14. The summer is a great time to load up the car and bring all of the children to see the environment in which their ancestors lived.

Our reunion will kick off with our regular get together on Friday night where we will re-new old friendships and make new ones. Please use the enclosed membership renewal

card to indicate your intention to join us. Dina has included more details in her letter.

The actual Colonial Street Festival kicks off on Saturday, August 14 from 10 AM to 5 PM. There are many activities planned for this event, including reenactments, music, dancing, food, and of course tours of the world famous stone houses. There is a nominal fee for admission to the festival.

Come see how your ancestors lived!

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Special Interest:

- 2004 Reunion Information
- 2004 Membership renewal form enclosed

From the President's Desk

By Dina DuBois, DBFA President

Dear DBFA Family Members,

The DuBois Family Association has so much good news to share. Generous members have bequeathed money to the DuBois Fort and to the DuBois Family Association. Alice DuBois left around \$400,000 to The Huguenot Historical Society and HHS decided that half of that should go to the Fort she wanted maintained. Another gift from Faith Sherman of a smaller but generous amount (around \$5,000-\$10,000) was left directly to the DuBois Family Association.

Another excitement is that the interior of the Fort has been spruced up for the move of the Gift shop to the room on the street. The shop will be more evident, attract more visitors, to come in and see... the NEW orientation exhibit in the Fort visitor Center. Huguenot Street: An American Story was created by students from the Cooperstown Graduate Program as part of a course on exhibit design. This display explores why Huguenots left France, the purchase of the land from the Esopus Indians, the nature of the community. Several panels outline the preservation of the stone houses as museums, and the history of the DuBois Fort.

Huguenot Street and New Paltz has been designated one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations in 2004 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation!!! So...

Come to the street this SUMMER for our reunion: Seek and you Will Find. The family reunion and program has a "Quest" theme. The program is Friday night August 13. The Huguenot Historical Society's Colonial Street Festival is the next day, August 14th.

At 6:30 Friday evening we'll gather at the Dutch Reformed Church on Huguenot Street for a "sandwich dinner". The cost will be \$10.00 per person and we will need you to RSVP. (Please see the enclosed membership renewal form.) There are two activities that evening. First we'll launch the QUEST FOR THE CREST. You'll receive a

rhymed set of clues to lead you to DuBois sites. Check off your success at finding them and meet on the Fort porch at 2:00 to receive your Crest for participation. We'll have a spot for gathering for lunch. You will be able to buy food on the street from food vendors. There will be a hospitality center at Deyo Hall for the various family association members to meet. Do let us know if you are coming. We'll send you a program of the events with more specific locations.

Then Terry DuBois will lead you on another quest through our fabulous genealogy. He'll use both the old Blue DuBois volumes to explain the system, and show you how do a search. Terry, our amazing webmaster, will also guide you through a search on the computer files that Catherine has been assiduously up-

dating. Come and find out if I'm your fifth and 7th cousin.

We have planned the reunion this year to be in the summer so that you can bring adult children and grandchildren. Camp plans may have been made, but this is a destination of distinction!

In 2005 we celebrate the 300th anniversary of the building of the DuBois Fort. Plan to come for that birthday bash the third weekend in October. You will hear more about the details of this special event soon.

As always, I send you good wishes and hope to see you "on the Street".

Dina DuBois
DBFA President

Genealogist's Corner

By Catharine Smith, DBFA Genealogist

Last newsletter, I mentioned that we would include stories about the DuBois lineage. This story was sent to Bill Heidgerd by Ruth Sims. It had been passed down through the generations. The story takes place in Elizabethtown, KY in 1792.

Elizabeth Rawlings was a descendent of Sarah VanMeter, daughter of Louis DuBois. Elizabeth's husband, Miles Hart and his brothers were known Indian fighters in Kentucky. The Indians had been raiding the area and the residents had recently taken refuge in a fort nearby.

The Hart brothers and the other men of the settlement drove the Indians across the Ohio River, but in doing so Miles Hart, or "Sharp-eye" as the Indians called him had killed the Chief. With the Chief dead the settlers thought, the raids would cease so they returned to the VanMeter Fort where Miles Hart had his wife and his tree children, Joe aged 12, a girl aged 9 and Miles Jr. aged 7 or 8. The family returned to their home, a crude log cabin that Miles had built on a clearing near by.

The log cabin had only a small window and a solid door so there was little light in it. At night the log burning fireplace and a candle furnished the light. In the morning as they were about to eat their meager breakfast they opened the door to let in more light. The Indians who had followed them back to their homes had been prowling around the cabin of Miles Hart all night waiting for an opportunity to kill him in revenge for the loss of their Chief. They pounced upon Hart and killed him.

Joe Hart grabbed his father's rifle and tomahawk hatchet and killed the Indian leader, who was the Chief's brothers, and several other savages before they could overcome him. He struck them as they tried to enter the door to the cabin to take his mother and the children prisoners. The Indians, however, carried Elizabeth, Joe and the two smaller children into captivity.

In the next newsletter we will find out the fate of Elizabeth, Joe, and the other Hart family children.

Tree Ring Dating

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“signature” can precisely estimate the year in which the tree was cut down.

17 core samples were taken from 13 different oak beams in the DuBois Fort cellar. These samples were obtained by drilling into the beam with a special tool that extracts a long narrow piece of the wood. A picture of one of the drilled sample areas is shown in the accompanying picture on the front page. This was from beam #3 under the main part of the house.

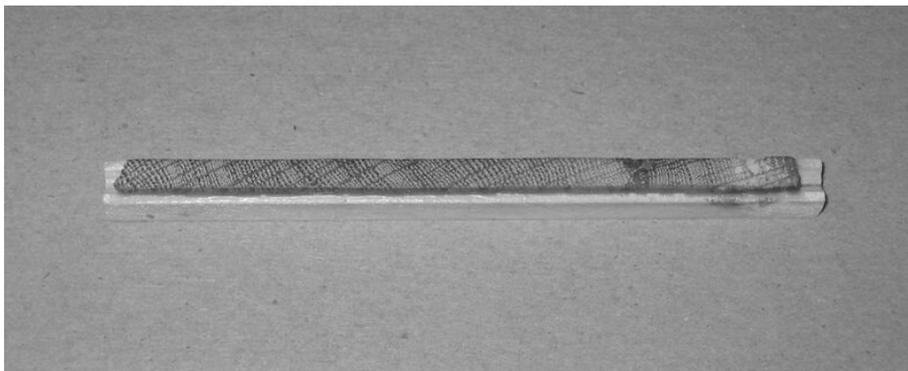
The growth rings were then analyzed and compared with known growth ring signatures. The samples were glued to a mounting stick and each of the rings precisely measured (to .001 mm accuracy) and cataloged.

A picture of a sample core is shown to give you an idea of what the tree rings look like once they have been mounted and polished.

The results of the core sample dating are fascinating. Six oak joists from the middle and rear cellars provide cutting dates of 1703 with a very high correlation to known control samples. In fact, the match was so strong that the possibility of error is less than 1 in 1000! The oldest tree used in the construction dated back as far as 1514, 190 years before its cutting.

The report states that it is a “virtual certainty” that oaks used in the construction of the Fort came from the same local forest as those used in the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck houses. The report goes on to state that the oak timbers were probably cut down in late 1703 or early 1704 and used in the construction some time in 1705.

Three of the five oak joists studied in the front cellar yield cutting dates of 1835,



A sample core from a beam in the cellar of the Fort is shown on a mounting stick.

proving that this section of the building was added much later than the original Fort. Another interesting fact about these results is that the rings do not correlate with local signatures meaning that the wood was probably

shipped from Northern New Jersey or eastern Pennsylvania.

So now we have an additional significant piece of scientific evidence that supports our belief that the Fort was built in 1705. ■

DuBois Family Association Treasurer's Report

By Pamela Bailey, DBFA Treasurer

The Treasurer's report as of 4/30/2004 is shown below. The Account Categories are the amounts that have been designated for specific use.

Assets	
Investments	\$40,713.68
Money Market	\$76,729.84
Total	\$117,443.52

Account Categories	
Endowment	\$4,370.88
Fort Account	\$5,227.00
Life Membership	\$23,400.00
Scholarship	\$3,529.66
General fund	\$40,202.30

Annual Budget	
Payroll for Genealogist	\$10,800.00
Newsletter	\$1,000.00
Taxes	\$835.00
Misc	\$500.00

Total Operating Expenses 2003-2004: \$13,135.00

In 2002-2003, the Family Association received \$7877.32 in dues and contributions for operating expenses and another \$1700 in contributions dedicated to endowments and the Fort.

As you can see, the total income does not support the operating expenses. In order to continue to support the Association, it is important that all members pay their dues and consider the Association for special contributions.

Results of 2003 Election

The results of the 2003 election of officers and approval of by-law changes are official. The entire slate of candidates were approved to serve as officers of DBFA and the by-law changes were also approved.

We received a great response from many of you! There were a total of 140 ballots received from 32 different states! That's an excellent response to the 450 newsletters mailed out. We would like to thank each of you for the time it took to read through the by-laws and make constructive comments and suggestions. Thanks as well for mailing your ballot back.



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Happening's at the Fort

By Jack Braunlein, Director, Huguenot Historical Society

Great improvements have been made to the DuBois Fort since the last newsletter, and while not all are glamorous, they are all a part of the important preservation work that is being carried out on this wonderful building.

Hank and Randy have continued to work on window and door repair and consolidation over the winter months. Old faulty repairs made to interior and exterior doors over time also were removed and the doors restored. Two original doors were taken out of storage and rehung. Building fabric was relieved of excess weight by the removal of old lead waste lines and, where necessary, replacing them with new PVC pipe.

Under the direction of architect Bill Palmer of Waite Associates, exterior walls were prepared and then painted with special moisture barrier paint. Mid-twentieth century wallpaper was documented and removed from the entrance hall, and all surfaces throughout the first floor were painted in the combination of "Lancaster Whitewash" walls and "Revere Pewter" trim recommended by the architect as an interim treatment.

On the interior, the shop has been moved from the center room to the street-facing east room, and Carla has transformed the space into a beautiful showplace for all the wonderful items she is carrying in the shop. Victoria has made the center room a bright and inviting tour office where visitors are greeted and introduced to the Street at the beginning of their tour. The former tour office now serves as our gallery space.

Thanks to funding from the Ulster County Legislature and the Huguenot Society of America, we have our first professionally designed exhibit on Huguenot Street. A team of graduate students worked with an exhibit designer and HHS staff to conceptualize, design, and install an orientation exhibit that familiarizes visitors with the history of the New Paltz settlement. "Huguenot Street: an American Story" explores Huguenot Street through words and images presented on seven fabric banners. An additional banner looks at the history of the Fort itself. It is a beautiful presentation and succinctly captures major themes in the development of New Paltz. I am sure you will be pleased.

Order your DuBois family merchandise today!

- DuBois Family History, Volumes 1-20. A chronological history tracing the descendants of Chrétien DuBois of Wicres, France in America.
 - Volumes 1-8 on separate disks (Microsoft Word or text files)..... \$11.00
 - Entire 8 volumes on CD..... \$70.00
 - Unbounded printouts of volumes 1-8 (per volume)..... \$16.00
 - Hardcopies of selected volumes (pre-update, not all volumes are available)..... \$10.00
- Master DuBois Name Index..... \$25.00
- DuBois Family Coat of Arms. A beautiful 13"x16" replica on parchment paper \$10.00
- Matthew Blanchan in Europe and America. A booklet from the paper of Major Louis DuBois (1891-1965)..... \$6.00
- Roots of the New Paltz Reformed Church..... \$6.00
- Notepaper with drawing of the DuBois Fort. Twelve cards and envelopes..... \$7.00
- Notepaper with the family crest. Twelve cards and envelopes..... \$7.00
- 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