



DuBois

Family News

December 2006

The DuBois Fort: A lively Visitor Center

by Dina DuBois

The Fort holds a unique place in a visitor's experience of Historic Huguenot Street. Rather than functioning as a house museum toured with a guide, the Fort provides a home base for a variety of events and activities. If you showed up on Patent Day, you could make compass roses at tables on the lawn. On Archeology Day, you could put together broken dishes found on the site. This hands on action approach to historic education makes the Fort interesting to the 12th generation—the children!

This past summer the second Colonial Overnight at the Fort sold out two sessions. Participants cooked stew over an open fire on the lawn, and stuffed mattresses with straw while talking about farming and colonial history. The children argued over who got to use the yoke and buckets to get water from the Estroe house. They did the chore of washing dishes with cold water. After a battery candle tour of the Bevier Elting and LeFevre houses in the dark—with a stop at the graveyard—they played charades in the exhibit room upstairs. Then the climax of the evening, sleeping in the fireplace room of the Fort.

The next morning they made

waffles and talked about the waffle iron in the upstairs exhibit and how it would have been put over the open fire in the fireplace. *Don't you wish you'd been there?*

I was there for another tradition—*Haunted Huguenot Street*. HHS volunteers took approximately 200 visitors on a spooky tour of the street while telling stories about ghost sightings that have been reported over the years.



Above: Cooking over an open fire at the *Colonial Overnight* which was held this summer at the Dubois Fort.

Below: Children stuffing mattresses in preparation for a colonial style bed.

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Executive Board

President

Terry L. DuBois
46715 McLeod Rd.
Myakka City, FL 34251-3907
president@dbfa.org

Vice President- Buildings & Grounds

Dina Downing DuBois
PO Box 473
Cornith, VT 05039
fort@dbfa.org

Vice President-Finance

Pamela Bailey
1237 Golden Canna Lane
Celebration, FL 34741
finance@dbfa.org

Vice President-Membership

Fred DuBois
4296 Jennings Fish Camp Rd.
Lake Wales, FL 33898
membership@dbfa.org

Secretary

Carol Edelman
108 Buck Drive
Ruckersville, VA 22968
secretary@dbfa.org

Genealogist

S. Michael Benson
220 Plutarch Rd.
Highland, NY 12528
genealogy@dbfa.org

Appointed Officers

Editor-In-Chief

Sally Lord
4268 RT 20
Durham, NY 12422
newsletter@dbfa.org

From The President's Desk

by Terry L. DuBois, DBFA President



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It's hard to believe 2006 will soon be a memory and 2007 will bring the hope of new things to come. Even though we did not have a reunion this year, it was still an eventful year. Eric Roth was appointed Executive Director of HHS and he and Dawn Elliott were married in the French Church on September 2nd. Congratulations to both of them! Progress is being made on the Jean Wall project. The DBFA donated \$2,000 to HHS to help save the wall of the Jean Hasbrouck House.

Fred DuBois, VP of membership for the DBFA kicked off our 1000 by 2010 membership drive and we are seeing the fruits of his labor. Early in the year I worked with HHS President, Eileen Crispell Ford, to set up the Newsome Trust Oversight Committee (joint DBFA HHS) to oversee the spending of funds from the Newsome Trust. I am happy to report that the committee is working hard to better manage the use of the funds. The committee's recommendations to HHS are helping to drastically cut spending from the trust account. Eileen and I are working together to improve relations between HHS and DBFA.

The repointing of the Fort has helped to keep the basement dry. The roof of the Fort has deteriorated and HHS has moved the roof replacement and chimney repair to 2007. The water and Sewer project has unearthed some exciting new finds behind the Fort. The Belter Chair, which we acquired in the Faith Sherman will, is now in our possession thanks to Fred DuBois who drove to Ohio to pick it up. The proceeds from the sale of the chair will go towards Fort preservation. This past year also saw the updating of the genealogy books nearly completed. Nineteen of the twenty volumes have now been completed. Thanks to Catherine Smith for the painstaking work she has done in updating the books. Our Online store saw sales surge in the spring and slow during the summer. Be sure and visit the online store and support the DBFA. So as you can see it was a busy year.

As 2007 approaches the Executive Board is beginning plans for the 2007 reunion. Be sure to look for details on the web site and in the June newsletter. I look forward to seeing you all there with many of our new members. Please get your dues in on time and bring in a new member too.

Terry DuBois, DBFA President

A Word from the Vice President-Membership

by Fred DuBois

By the time you receive this Newsletter you should have received your personal membership renewal notice. If you haven't received one by now, please contact me and I will send you a renewal packet immediately. If you received a packet and shouldn't have because your membership doesn't expire until 9/30/07 or /08, please accept my apology.

This past June, the DBFA Officers elected to operate on a fiscal year basis. As a result, all expirations that end on the 30th of September, have been extended to December 31st. After I have sent out all the present 2007 renewal Membership Cards, I will send new cards updating the expiration dates for those that read 09/30/07 or 09/30/08.

To date, I have receive nearly a 45% reply to my renewal requests. I think this response is really amazing. So many of our annual members have chosen to up-graded their status to a three year level or even higher as a Contributor or Donor. On top of that, many members are sending me additional donations to our General, Fort and Endowment Funds.

I have sent a promotional packet to all our Lifetime members, encouraging them to become involved in our membership campaign to increase our membership enrollment to "1000 by 2010".

Thanks again to all of you, I will have a full recap in our June 2007 Newsletter.

Fred DuBois, Vice President- Membership

Where is the Belter Chair?

by Fred DuBois

This is a follow up response to the front page article in our June 2006 Newsletter, written by Pamela Bailey. In her article, she explained how it is that DBFA was blessed with this most unique Antique. The last weekend in September I drove from Lake Wales, FL to Akron, Ohio, to the home of Suzanne Gibson, the Executrix for the Faith Sherman estate. There I picked up this heirloom (*that Ms Sherman had willed to DBFA in the hopes that DBFA would place it in one of the rooms upstairs in the DuBois Fort as a museum piece. This is not going to happen anytime soon. The furnishing decision rests in the hands of HHS, and they have other more pressing projects that have kept them from coming up with an immediate plan. HHS will continue researching what time period they wish to focus on, sometime between the 1820's— when the second story rooms were added—and the 1890's*) on behalf of DBFA, and brought it back to my home.

This handcrafted chair of the 1850's now rests in my living room. Naturally, it is in a climate controlled area covered with bath towels to protect it from dust and ultraviolet light, AWAITING A PERMANENT HOME.

At first, DBFA decided to sell the chair on Ebay or some antique auction house. But I suggested that we offer it first to our membership to see if someone wanted an original, commissioned, DuBois connected, heirloom to add to their collection.

What do **YOU think** we should do with the Belter Chair?

Write to (or e-mail) me with your ideas and together we will come up with a plan, finding a permanent home for the Belter Chair.

Fred DuBois, V P-Membership
4296 Jennings Fish Camp Rd.
Lake Wales, FL 33898
membership@dbfa.org

Archeological Dig

by Eric Roth



Evidence of wood—indicating the possibility of homes predating the stone houses.

examples of brick, coal, ceramic pieces, debitage (leftovers from making projectile points) and other evidence of daily living from the Native Americans, the Huguenots, and more recent people. However, the most interesting find is the wood that is located several feet down. Preliminary information suggests that this is evidence of an early European house that predates the stone houses.

Our 12th generation has spent the night at the Fort, but recent archeological digs around the Fort show evidence of an early European house, or perhaps an even earlier structure.

The village hired Jay Cohen (who also worked on the Abraham Hasbrouck archaeology) to investigate the area where the proposed new sewer pipe will go.

Because the project will disturb all of the soil, the archaeologists are excavating the entire area, rather than doing sample units like the summer field schools do. They have found the usual

DBFA Financial Report

by Pamela Bailey

Investments: \$100,800
Cash: \$23,616
Includes Fort Fund: \$10,498

Fiscal Year 2007 Budget

Income	
American Funds	\$ 600
Contributions	500
Dues	7000
Money Market Interest	400
Sales	500
Total:	\$9000

Expenditures

Bank Charges and Fees	\$ 125
Genealogy	200
Newsletter	800
Office Equipment	300
Office Supplies	300
Postage	675
Printing	400
Storage Rental	600
Telephone	400
Gifts to Other Families for Restoration	2000
Reunion Costs	1500
Reserves	2000
Total:	\$9000

Genealogy Trip

by Mike Benson

I am so thrilled to be appointed as the new DBFA genealogist but at the same time I am trembling at trying to fill Catherine Smith's shoes! She will certainly be missed, but she only lives a couple of miles from me so I expect to consult with her if I need to.

I recently had a chance to visit the locations in Hampshire County and Hardy County, West Virginia where some of my DuBois ancestors lived. Catherine DuBois, a great granddaughter of Louis DuBois and my 7th great grandmother, married William Millar in Philadelphia in 1743. Catherine was widowed and had two children from her previous marriage. William Millar was a cordwainer and had considerable wealth.

In 1749, William received a grant from Lord Fairfax for 433 acres along the South Branch of the Potomac River in Virginia. This was lot #4 of this manor and was located below the trough in present day Hampshire County. William and Catherine packed up their belongings and children and moved to Virginia. William also bought another 500 acres above the trough and only a couple miles north of present day Moorefield in Hardy County. George Washington surveyed this land and was a good friend of the Millars. I can imagine him stopping by the Millars for dinner and maybe even spending a night or two with them. As a surveyor, he was normally a guest in local households.

The 1750's saw the start of the French and Indian Wars

and life on the frontier was dangerous. Many friends and neighbors of the Millars were killed by marauding Shawnee Indians. Isaac VanMeter, a grandson of Louis DuBois, was killed outside his home at Fort Pleasant near Millar's 500 acres in 1757. This was not a safe place to raise a family.

In 1757, William Millar was named one of the first Justices in the newly formed Hampshire County.

However, William and Catherine decided soon after that life was just too dangerous for a family with 7 children and they moved across the North Mountain to the Shenandoah River valley region. They settled near present day Front Royal on the Shenandoah River. He held the land in Hampshire County and gave it to his son, Isaac, who lived and farmed there. Isaac fought in the Revolutionary War. The other

land in present day Hardy County was sold by William Millar for a very low price because of the threat of marauding Indian.

I was able to visit lot #4 and take some pictures of the beautiful bottom lands along the river that were ideal for farming. I would recommend to anyone to take a "genealogy trip" to visit ancestral places. Maybe New Paltz and the DuBois Fort are good places to start!



Lot #4 of the Fairfax Grant in Hampshire County, WV

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