



DuBois

Family News

June 2011

45th Anniversary
October 1966 - October 2011

The 2011 DBFA Reunion – Celebrating Our 45th Year

BY: TERRY L. DUBOIS, DBFA PRESIDENT

When: Friday, October 14th and Saturday, October 15th, 2011. Where: Huguenot Street in New Paltz, New York. Back where it all began 45 years ago. October 29, 1966. DuBois family members and supporters founded the DuBois Family Association, to raise the funds to purchase the DuBois family homestead, built in 1705, lovingly known as “The Old Fort”. So that it could be restored and preserved, to be enjoyed by future generations. The DuBois Family Association purchased the Fort in 1968 and gave it to the Huguenot Historical Society of New Paltz (now known as Historic Huguenot Street). The DuBois Family Association was also dedicated to the compilation of the DuBois Family genealogy.

This reunion is a very special event. Not only because we are celebrating our 45th anniversary. It is also special because we have newly discovered information on the ancestry Chrétien du Bois and the du Bois family in France. The first in a series of articles, by Monte Horton, on the revised ancestry is featured in this newsletter. We have now also located and contacted direct descendants of Chrétien’s daughter, Anne du Bois, who remained in France. These descendants are providing us with volumes of information on our ancestors that had been, for many years, thought to be lost forever. This information is also revealing more about the relationships between the patentee families. One of those descendants, Mme Jeannine Duquesne, a highly regarded genealogist and author in France, has sent us, her American cousins, a video message and pictures which we will view at the Friday evening program.

The DuBois Family Association Executive Board has an exciting weekend planned. We have slashed the prices to make it easier for our members to attend this historic reunion. This year we have also added something new; two price options from which to choose.

Option #1: Members may purchase a “reunion package” which includes all the reunion weekend activities and a motel room, for from one to four people for two nights for one discounted price.

Option #2: Our local members or those members wanting to provide their own accommodations. You can just pay for the weekend activities and the catered luncheon.

More information is available on the registration form and the reunion schedule or from any Executive Board member. The motel rooms are limited and registration **MUST** be received by August 5th, so please send in your registration forms and payments now.

SEE YOU THERE

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From The President's Desk

By Terry L. DuBois, DBFA President



Here it is June already! This is a special year for the DBFA. It was 45 years ago that DuBois Family members and supporters got together and formed the DuBois Family Association, to raise the funds needed to purchase the DuBois Fort so that it could be restored and preserved for future generations to enjoy.

This year is also a reunion year. We will hold our biennial reunion/business meeting in New Paltz on October 14 and 15. We have a special weekend planned. The weekend will begin with the Friday evening get together in Deyo Hall with a very special program. We will view a video message from Mme Jeannine Duquesne in France. Mme Duquesne is a direct descendent of Anne du Bois, sister of Louis and Jacques.

Anne remained in France and we knew very little, if anything, about her until now. Mme Duquesne has done extensive research into the DuBois Family history in France. She is well respected in the genealogy community in France, having published many articles. She has also sent pictures from Wicres that will be on display. There will be the usual cheese and wine, apple cider, soft drinks and a light menu of snacks. The menu is still being worked out. Saturday morning will begin with the President's Breakfast in Deyo Hall. A continental breakfast menu is planned.

I realize that money is tight in this economy and gas prices are outrageous. We believe that this will be a very special, even historical weekend. Therefore to help lower the cost of attending the reunion, the Executive Board is covering a large portion of the cost of the reunion. We have also reserved a block of motel rooms, which will be included in a "reunion package". The packages will include a motel room for from one to four people for two nights at a highly discounted price. The package price will also include all reunion activities for the weekend including Friday evening, Saturday morning, President's breakfast and the catered luncheon in Deyo Hall.

Reservations must be received by August 5th, so please make plans now and mail in your reservations. Rooms are limited so don't delay. Package reservations must be made through the DBFA only. The Super 8 motel in Highland is a new, clean, very nice motel and is only about 7 miles from Huguenot Street. I believe the highly discounted prices are unbeatable. The DBFA is tax exempt so you will also save with no sales tax on the rooms. Local members and those members who do not wish to purchase a package may pay for the weekend at a discounted price. If you wish to only attend certain activities you may do so by selecting those activities on the reservation form.

In honor of our 45th anniversary, we are also having beautiful commemorative plates printed which will be sold to raise money for our Fort fund. We will also have copies of the genealogy CD for sale at a discounted price.

This is also an election year. If you wish to run for an office please contact me ASAP. We do have openings on the Executive Board. It would be great to fill all the openings and have the Board up to full strength.

On August 18, 2010, longtime DBFA member, Marie Matthews passed away after a long illness. She and her husband Ed have supported the DBFA with financial donations as well as gift memberships for many years. Marie was also a frequent shopper in our Cafe-Press online store. Marie loved the Fort. I wish she could have seen all the improvements and repairs that have been done. I think she would have been very pleased.

There have been several changes on the Street. Some of the HHS offices have been moved to the upstairs of the Fort. The display cases have been moved downstairs and people waiting for tours can relax and enjoy a snack in the fireplace room. I have suggested to HHS that the room have a Fort Restaurant motif.

The first article on the revised ancestry of Chretien du Bois is very exciting. The newly

discovered information is a major addition to our genealogy. Monte Horton has done an outstanding job in researching this information. He is a welcome addition to our genealogy team. Our newly discovered resource in France is really wonderful. We are finding out more about the connections and relationships of many of the Patentee families. See you on the Street!
Terry L Du Bois, President

2011 DBFA Reunion Program Schedule

Friday Evening October 14

- 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM:**
- Cheese and Wine meet and greet in Deyo Hall
 - Door Prizes
 - Food (light snacks), Apple Cider, Soft Drinks. *Menu not completed.*
- 6:30 PM - 9:00PM:**
- Evening program: “Meeting Our French Cousins”
 - A video message from Madame Jeannine Duquesne in Lille France.
(A direct descendant of Anne DuBois, sister of Louis and Jacques, that remained in France)
 - A look at the revised ancestry of Chretien du Bois
 - A look back at the last 45 years and looking ahead

Saturday Morning October 15

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM:** President’s Breakfast - Continental Breakfast in Deyo Hall:
coffee, tea, orange juice, donuts, pastries, ETC
- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM:** Free Time
- 9:30 AM - 10.30 AM:**
- Church Service -
memorial service remembering members we have lost
 - French church - Reverend Nigel Massey,
- 10:30 AM -11:15 AM:** “Family Connections” Discussion lead by Dr. Pamela Bailey
(come and talk about your part of the DuBois family). In the Fort or Deyo Hall
- 11:15 AM -11:30 AM:** Reunion Group Picture - In Front of the Fort if weather permits
- 11:30 AM – Noon:** Free Time

Saturday Afternoon October 15

- Noon - 1:30 PM:** Catered Buffet Luncheon - Catered by Bridge Creek Catering
- 1:15 PM - 1:20 PM:** Introduction of Guests
- 1: 20 PM -1:40 PM:** DBFA Presidents’ address
- 1:40 PM - 2:00 PM:** Guest Speaker
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM:** Business Meeting / Election of officers

2011 DuBois Family Association Reunion

RESERVATION FORM

Option #1 Reunion Room Package

(Package Price includes all reunion activities and motel room for two nights)

Check one	Reunion weekend Package	Adults Per Room (ages 12 & up)	Total Package Price add price to payment box	Savings
	Package #1	One Adult	\$125	You save.....\$100
	Package #2	Two Adults	\$140	You save.....\$170
	Package #3	Three Adults	\$160	You save.....\$196
	Package #4	Four Adults	\$200	You save.....\$194

Option #2 Pay a discounted price for the reunion weekend only and arrange for your own accommodations.
Members may pay for all activities or just the activities they wish to attend.

OPTION #2 PRICES

Please select activity choice and circle appropriate price and add price(s) to payment box

**This option does not include a motel room.*

Select activity	Scheduled Activity	Price Per Adult (ages 12 and up)	Price Per Couple	Price Per Child (under 12)
	Friday Evening Program	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$2.50
	Saturday Continental Breakfast	\$ 5.00	\$ 8.00	\$2.50
	Saturday Catered Luncheon	\$15.00	\$24.00	\$5.00
	Total price for weekend	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$10.00

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY/TOWN:
STATE: ZIP:
PHONE :
EMAIL:

PAYMENT OPTIONS

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 5, 2011
please Select the option you wish to reserve

<u>Option #1- Reunion Package</u> Package # ____ Total Price _____	OR	<u>Option # 2 No Room</u> Adult _____ Couple _____ <u>Child</u> _____ Total price _____
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TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING _____

Make check payable to DuBois Family Association
mail to: Catherine Smith
119 N Ohioville Rd
New Paltz, NY 12561

If you cannot attend but wish to make a donation to help cover
reunion costs please include a note with your check

“The Memory of the Just is Blessed”:
The Ancestry and Extended Family of **Chrétien du Bois**,
bailli, lieutenant, greffier, et receveur de la Comté de Coupigny, notaire, homme de loi, laboureur et marchand;
Resident of Wicres, then of Herlies --
Part I - “Beginnings”*
by Monte Horton, J.D.**

«*Mon mari, puisqu'il a plu à Dieu que nous soyons séparés l'un de l'autre, il ne nous a point fait oublier de cœur. Quand j'en viens à me remémorer l'heureux temps passé, il n'est de jour qu'en mon cœur je pleure*» (De Vos).

From **Marie le Gillon**, great-grandmother of our own **Catherine Blanchan**, in a bitter-sweet letter of late 1570 sent from Armenières to **Guy Joire**, her young husband, exiled in London. **Guy** had received the sentence of banishment on April 13, 1568, in the Duke of Alba's *Conseil des Troubles* for the **Joire** family's part in financing the *révolte des Gueux des bois* 1567-1568. (De Vos).

Individuals treated in this series of articles were swept up in the storms of religious conflict that rumbled across Artois and the *Flandre Gallicane* in the 16th and 17th centuries. Their stories long to be told as we, their children, can attest. We can truthfully say in the words of grandmother **Marie**: “He has not at all made us to forget from the heart.”

It seems, for example, that we never truly forgot that we descend from **Chrétien du Bois** of Wicres, France. We have always known -- even when we had no documentary proof -- that **Louis**, **Françoise**, and **Jacques** were brothers and sister. (Thankfully, we now have such proof from Lille and Leiden). Their memory called us back to Wicres in the 1870s and 1880s, where we found the ancient parish register through the agency of M.M.C. Gregoire-Dubois while he was consul at Lille. There, we gazed upon records: faded, worn, worm-eaten, and deliberately mutilated, of “the births, marriages and deaths of [our] ancestors dating back 263 years.” (Heidgerd). Throughout the 20th century, we probed, proposed, published, and discussed, and in so doing, kept the hearthstones warm.

A new century promises to rekindle old memories and to renew interest in our beginnings. Things we once saw “through a glass,” we now see clearly. Though the ancient Wicres register has long since perished, a vast new body of evidence has come to light, thanks to the research of descendants of **Chrétien's** “other” daughter, **Anne**, who still live and work near Wicres.

The DBFA is now in possession of a large number of manuscripts and related documents, recently retrieved from the *Archives Départementales de Lille* (“the *Archives du Nord*”), and the *Archives Municipales de Lille* by Monsieur Eric Bourgoïn and Madame Elisabeth Peckeu, two excellent French *généalogistes* employed for that purpose. The documents represent *actes* passed in the presence of official witnesses and notaries, as required by the feudal system under which our ancestors lived. Such *actes* were generated whenever a transaction touched on the individual's feudal responsibilities. Many of these documents bear **Chrétien's** own signature. Other *actes* bear the signatures of his father **Maître Antoine du Bois** -- a justice official, who, at the time of his death between 1615 and 1619, was *greffier et receveur of the seigneurie de Coupigny* -- his mother **Anne Cousin**, his grandfather **Louis du Bois**, and three of his six siblings, namely, **Jacques**, **Ferry**, and **François**.

Among these many documents are four *actes* dated March 1718 attesting to the fate of four of the seven children of **Chrétien du Bois** (“the Attestation Documents”). There, the witnesses tell the story of one, **Jacques du Bois**, an unmarried son of the late **Chrétien du Bois** and **Françoise le Poivre**, who, around 1658, at the age of 25 to 30 years, left that land to go and live in Holland and never returned. Having viewed his baptismal records, they state that **Jacques** was *born at Herlies*. The witnesses swear that in the days of his youth, **Jacques** alternated his residence at the homes of his uncles, **Antoine le Poivre** at Sainghin-en-Weppes (birthplace of New Paltz's **Antoine Crispell**), and **François du Bois** at Wicres.

In December 1659, at about the time these witnesses say that **Jacques** left his ancestral home, **Jacques du Bois** «[s]est présenté pour être reçu par confession de la foi» in the Walloon Church in Leiden. He was «*accompagné de son cousin Jean Berlinguin*». **Berlinguin** was actually **Jacques'** cousin-in-law, having married in Leiden upon *banns* published there on January 25, 1651, **Anne du Bois**, sister of **Albert**, **Philippe**, and **Jacqueline**. The latter four children were **Chrétien's** nieces and nephews by his brother, **Ferry**, and his wife, **Laurentia Appourcheaux**. We saw the record of their baptisms in the Wicres Parish Register in the 1870s.

At times, the documents *reinforce* conventional wisdom. For example, the tradition that **Chrétien** was a “prosperous middle class linen merchant” as reflected in our website, is remarkably recollective. The documents confirm that he was comfortably within the middle class and indicate that he was, among other things, a *cloth merchant*.

Chrétien's mercantile pursuits were the subject of acte 2E3/7430-61, dated January 16, 1641. On that day, **Chrétien** received an assignment of *censes* (a *seignorial* rent/tribute) from **Guilbert Milleville** and sons, **Jehan et Anthoine**, residents of Herlies.

The assignment of «*trois années de censes portant par an la somme de trente huictz livres*» (three years of *censes* bearing 38 *livres* per year), was to comprise a payment of «*la somme de cent quatorz [114] livres parisis Flandres*» by the **Millevilles** in consideration to **Chrétien** for his sale to the **Millevilles** of «*marchandise de bure*», a term for clothing material.

After transcribing *acte* 2E3/7430-61 for this project, M. Bourgoïn wrote in an enlightening e-mail to the author:

“As you will see, this document is not exactly a ‘sale,’ but rather a ‘cession’ of *censes* (= assignment of rents) by the **Millevilles** to **Chrétien du Bois**. He sold them ‘*marchandise*’ for the sum of 114 *livres*. Since they don’t have the money, they transfer to him the benefit of three years of rents (38 *livres* per year) owed to them by a man named **Noël Danscoine** in connection with a lease they granted to him a few days ago....Anyway, it seems that in January 1641, **Chrétien** was at the same time the ‘*greffier de la comté de Coupigny*,’ a ‘*laboureur*,’ a merchant and a ‘*notaire*’(!), since the lease between the **Millevilles** and **Danscoine** was passed before him. A very busy man!”

At other times, the light glaring from the pages forces a reevaluation of traditional thought. For example, it is now known to a virtual certainty that **Chrétien** was the *eldest son* of a family of seven children: **Isabeau**, **Chretien**, **Jean**, **Ferry**, **François**, **Jacques**, and **Laurent**. This knowledge arises, in part, from an *acte* of sale that transpired soon after the death of **Chrétien’s** father **Antoine**.

On December 31, 1619, **Jacques Pollevesse** (first cousin of that **Antoine**) and **Marie le Mesre** his wife, sold to **Anne Cousin**, widow of the late **Antoine du Bois**, and their children four cents of farm land at Wicres. *Acte* 2E3/7435-99. The new land lay hard against the boundary of Wicres and adjacent to land already owned by **Anne**. It was a portion of the *fief* and «*maisrie d’Oresmieux*», which was situated at Wicres, Herlies, Illies, and Marquillies. The conveyance was made to **Anne Cousin** and to her children «*comme heritx patrimonial*». In this *acte*, the **Dubois** children are listed in the following order:

1. **Chrétien**, 2. **Jean** («Jan»), 3. **Ferry**, 4. **Jacques**, 5. **François**, 6. **Laurent**, and 7. **Isabeau**.

The conveyance was accomplished according to the ancient ceremony of «*rain [fr. rameau] et baston*», which effected the feudal investiture of *seisin* in land:

«*Et pour effectuer ce que dessus lesdis comparans se sont desherités desvestus et dessaissys par rain et baston es mains du bailli soubnommé présens les hommes de loy en nombre competent et de leur consentement la saisine réelle fonsiere et propriétaire en auroit esté faicte et baillée audict Chrestien du Bois tant en leurs noms que es noms de leurs frères.*»

Acte 2E3/7435-99 lines 36-41 (emphasis added).

The finest details of this extinct rite can no longer be described with absolute certainty and doubtlessly varied somewhat from country to country. Nevertheless, on the authority of Sir Edward Coke and others, the essential elements of the ceremony are clear. On a day appointed, the participants entered the land to be conveyed. As the grantor recited words of divestiture, he broke a twig or branch off a tree of the land and handed it to the grantee, saying: “Here I deliver you *seisin* and possession of this [land], in the name of all the lands and tenements contained in this deed,” or words of like effect. If there were multiple grantees, as in this case, the “livery to one” sufficed as livery to all.

Representing the *seigneur d’Oresmieux* in this instance was the *bailli* of the *maisrie*, **Jan Descamps**. Representing the grantees in the transaction was **Chrétien du Bois**, as it is said: «*en auroit esté faicte et baillée audict Chrestien du Bois*». It was **Chrétien**, who, on an appointed day in 1619, went upon the land to meet the *bailli d’Oresmieux*; there, to engage in the ancient rite that would invest the **DuBois** with ownership, subject to all the feudal benefits and burdens appurtenant thereto. It was **Chrétien** who received the “branch or twig” from the hand of the *bailli* on behalf of his mother and all her children, as it is said: «*tant en leurs noms que es noms de leurs frères*». Thus, not only is **Chrétien** listed first in the catalog of **Antoine’s** children, but the transaction itself casts him in a role characteristic of the eldest son.

Also, in the contract of the marriage of **François du Bois** with **Jenne le Blon**, **Chrétien** was listed first -- ahead of his brothers **Jean** and **Jacques**, in that order -- as assistants and «*frères germains*» of **François**. *Contrat de mariage*, 2E3/7977-68 (December 5, 1634).

Further proof of **Chrétien’s** position in his family is demonstrated by the fact that he was -- as was his father before him -- a *justice official* of the *seigneurie de Coupigny (lès Fournes-en-Weppes)*. Their *seigneur* was **Claude d’Ongnies** (died 10 Jan. 1640), *chevalier*; *seigneur de Wicres, Coupigny, Beaucamps, Rouvroy, Morckhoven*, etc.; created *Comte de Coupigny* on May 6, 1624; himself, a **DuBois** descendant, being the great-grandson of **Barbe du Bois**, *dit de Hoves*, wife of **Josse Mallet, Sr de Berlettes**. (M. de Vegiano). **Chrétien** stepped into the shoes of his father after **Maitre Antoine’s** death, serving throughout the remainder of his life in the magisterial offices, whether separately or in some combination of them, as *bailli*, *lieutenant*, *greffier*, or *receveur of Coupigny*.

“[T]hese justice officials ... formed a middle social class between the [*seigneur*] and the crowd of peasants and artisans, and ... happened to be the first step of many families’ social rise in the 17th century.” (Bourgoin). Acquisition of these offices by hereditary succession was commonplace. “In principle, the [*seigneur*] could dismiss the justice officials.

In fact, the end of the office usually occurred [upon] the death of the holder or by resignation, for health reasons, for example, and the *office would go to the son* or a relative of the former owner.” *Ibid.* (emphasis added).

Chrétien’s life following the death of his father is exemplary of that of a first-born son, as all available evidence attests. Whether **Chrétien** was a *Protestant* at the time of his death is a more difficult question, which will be taken up in a later installment of this series.

Also, while it is not the purpose of these articles to reiterate that which we *already know* of **Louis, Jacques, and Françoise** and their activities in this country, the new sources shed considerable light on the pre-emigration activities of **Louis** and **Jacques**. Those activities demand to be explored in some detail, as they require a reevaluation of current understanding regarding the ages of those two children. There is also much to say regarding the very interesting *maternal* ancestry of **Catherine Blanchan**.

Questions and comments engendered by these articles are welcome and may be addressed to the author,

Monte Horton, at [mntorton@yahoo.com](mailto:mnthorton@yahoo.com).

*Unless otherwise stated, transcriptions of original French from the manuscripts of the Archives du Nord are essentially those of Monsieur Eric Bourgoin. Where French names have been Latinized or Anglicized, the French form will be used throughout this series, i.e., Magdalena = Madeleine; Jacoba = Jacqueline, etc., except in direct quotations.

**Memberships: *Groupement Généalogique de la Région du Nord*; American Mensa Ltd.; Society of Mayflower Descendants; Baronial Order of Magna Charta; Plantagenet Society; DuBois Family Association.

Sources:

Archives du Nord:

Sale to Anne Cousin, 2E3/7435-99 (1619); agreement of heirs, 2E3/7501-9 (1602); assignment of censes, 2E3/7430-61 (1641); contract of marriage of François du Bois and Jenne le Blon, 2E3/7977-68 (December 5, 1634); and Attestation Documents, (2E3/7787-27 (1718), 2E3/7787-33 (1718), 2E3/7787-34 (1718), 2E3/7787-35 (1718)).

Editions:

Proverbs 10:7; I Corinthians 13:12; Francis De Vos, *Vers la Liberté* 94, 117, 139 (2007); William Heidgerd, *The American Descendants of Chrétien du Bois of Wicres, France* vol. 9, p. ii (1974); *Bi-Centenary Reunion of the Descendants of Louis and Jacques du Bois: (emigrants to America 1660 and 1675)* pp. 29-30 (1876); 1 Sir Edward Coke, *The First Part of the Institutes of the Laws of England* § 48.a. (Legal Classics Library 1985); M. Chassan, *Essai Sur la Symbolique du Droit*, p. 390 (Paris 1847); M. de Vegiano, Sr de Hovel, *Suite du Supplément Nobiliaire des Pays-Bas, et du Comté de Bourgogne* pp. 54, 62 (Malines 1779); *Bulletin de la Commission Historique du Département du Nord* vol. 20, pp. 74, 76 (Lille 1897).

Microfilm (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (“FHL”)):

Fiches op de Waalse registers, 1500-1828, Card index of Huguenots in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany and elsewhere. Known as the Leiden Collection, FHL film no. 0199813; *Registers van kerkelijke huwelijksproclamatiën (der Gereformeerden), 1575-1811, Huwelijksafkondigingen 1642-1653*, FHL film no. 0119016, p. 200(b)). *Französisch-Reformierte Kirche Mannheim*, FHL film no. 1192139.

Unpublished Manuscript: Eric Bourgoin, *Historical/Explanatory Report «Chrétien du Bois»*, February 24, 2008, p. 5.

Electronic: *Généalogie Doresmieulx*: <http://chateaudelapree.blogspot.com/2009/05/genealogie-doresmieulx.html>.

P.S. Lately comes news from Saint Germain en Laye, France, that New Paltz Patentees Antoine Crispell and Louis du Bois were related by blood as well as by marriage. Details on the relationship and the ancestry of Antoine Crispell may be seen in the series of articles to be published this summer by Madame Jeannine Duquesne and Monsieur Jean Castelain, eminent French généalogistes and descendants of Chrétien’s daughter Anne. The articles will appear in Nord Généalogie, a publication of Groupement Généalogique de la Région du Nord.

To be continued in the December newsletter.

Savor the Past.

Recipes and Memories of the Old Fort Restaurant, Huguenot Street in New Paltz is in its second and last printing. The cost of a book is \$13.00 but will be available at twenty percent off (\$10.40) through this newsletter only. If shipping is needed, add \$3.00. To order books, please **contact Diane DuBois Gleichenhaus, 38 Hasbrouck Rd. New Paltz, N.Y.** or call **1-845-255-7629**.

