



DuBois Family News

June 2013

President's Message

Dear Family Members

Greetings! See you at the DuBois Family Reunion, October 18-19!

Thank you for your dues payments. The dues received are used for publishing the newsletter, maintaining the web site, Board telephone conferences, document storage and, of course, for the reunion. The collection of dues for the operation of the Association is an important aspect, but dues funds are not the only aspect of funding. Maintenance of the Fort is costly. You will see a short article about our need for fund raising for that effort.

Another important function of the Association is participation by members. We hope to bring more members into volunteer activities. Just planning for and delivering the reunion takes time and creativity. Newsletter preparation, website input, database management are other functions important to the Association. The post of volunteer genealogist is open now. Family genealogy is a major focus for us.

Featured this time is an article by Jeanne Crawford. She has put together a book of the courting letters of her grandparents, Louise DuBois Berry and John Clarence Dingman. Louise was lived in the Fort and attended school in New Paltz. As you read the article, you will feel charmed and moved by the personal sense of a life lived by a DuBois family member. This kind of remembrance is why we care about the Fort and why we need you to be involved in its preservation.

I solicit your memories and historical records of life lived in New Paltz and of your family. It would be great to have in future newsletters more records of family histories.

Please do come to the reunion October 18 and 19. The registration form is on the back page. I look forward to meeting you there.

Best Wishes,

Pam Bailey, President DBFA

Contents

President's Message	1
DBFA Fund Raising	2
Genealogist Opening	2
Biennial Meeting Registration Form	3
Membership Update	4
Letters From The Fort	4-9



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DBFA Plans Fund-Raising Drive

BY JERRY DOWNIE

The DBFA Board recognizes the absence of fund-raising efforts for the Fort in prior years given the accumulation of income from dues, gifts, and bequeaths. Family members have successfully supported the DBFA financially for many years.

As we see and note the generational change in all non-profit organizations around us, we recognize that DBFA is no exception. Other Huguenot families “on the street” have made this realization. They, like us, are planning for the time when the next generation will lead the Huguenot family associations in the spirit and tradition that has marked our legacy.

For us, a DBFA Fund-Raising Drive offers an opportunity for new leaders to emerge as well as for newer efforts to be developed— gradually achieving greater sustainability over the coming years. It is time to plan and prepare for the future of the Fort.

We invite all family members to express their views and interest in this worthwhile endeavor. For those who attend the Reunion, we will encourage discussion and set forth ideas to implement this activity initially some time in 2014.

In the meantime, the President and the Board solicits donations now for improvements to the Fort.

DBFA Volunteer Genealogist Openings

BY JERRY DOWNIE

We are looking for a DBFA volunteer genealogist reporting to the President of DBFA.

The Board seeks an individual who has some experience and who has a passion for the work. Thanks to Catherine Smith, our former genealogist, the DuBois genealogy is preserved on a CD. However, we need someone who will work on it continuously, in order to update the families.

The Board is now in the process of some reorganization including recognition of generational change and will present information about future planning at the next Reunion (that is held every two years) scheduled for October 18 and 19, 2013 in New Paltz, New York (more details are contained in this newsletter). The Association needs members to be active in order to continue the purpose of the Association, which is preservation of the Fort and maintenance of the family genealogy.

Contact Pam Bailey at 302-635-7973 for any questions and/or more details.

DBFA October, 2013 Biennial Meeting Registration Form

This is the form is to be used to confirm your attendance at the Biennial Meeting by July 31. There is a prepaid registration fee of \$50.00 for adults (children under 12 are free) to cover actual meeting costs including the Friday night reception, the Saturday morning continental breakfast and the Saturday luncheon. There is a prepaid motel reservation option **through** the Association at a group rate of \$118.50 per night (taxes included) by the **July 31, 2013 deadline** at **The Super 8 Motel, 3423 Route 9 West, Highland, NY 12528. All of the reserved rooms are non-smoking two double bed accommodations.**

Meeting Schedule

Friday, October 18

5:30 pm Light food and drink reception Old Fort

Saturday, October 19

7:30 am Continental Breakfast Deyo Hall

8:30 am Church Service French Church nearby

9:15 am Huguenot Street House Tours Walking distance

Optional Presentations TBD Deyo Hall

11:45 am Luncheon Deyo Hall

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm HHS Presentation Deyo Hall

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm DBFA Member Planning Workshop Deyo Hall

3:00 pm DBFA Business Meeting Deyo Hall

Confirmation and Payment

Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Total number of participants @ \$50.00 each = _____

Super 8 Motel reservation @ \$118.50 each = _____

Grand Total = _____

Send a check made payable to: Dubois Family Association

Mail to : Pamela Bailey

Cottage 60

726 Loveville Road

Hockessin, Delaware 19707

Reminder: deadline for Confirmation and Payment is July 31, 2013

Membership Management Update

JASON ADAMS, ACTING VP OF TECHNOLOGY

My name is Jason Adams and I began volunteering for the Association in late 2011 in an effort to help bolster the membership management process. Previous to that time, DBFA had wisely invested in a laptop computer for the Secretary and purchased a robust computer software package designed to administer club memberships. I recognized the Board's sincere desire to improve member relations and formalize member-related activities such as dues processing, mailing lists, etc. and felt comfortable digging-in. Despite the challenges associated with Board member turnover and geographically dispersed Officers, the Board has been successful in fully implementing and utilizing all the capabilities of the membership management software.

Based on the efforts of the Board and their fortitude in driving improvement in the Association's membership management process, the last two membership years have been typified by more timely, accurate, and responsive member communications. Specifically, the Association is soliciting and processing dues payments in an effective and efficient manner. Web-based technology has been developed to facilitate communications between Officers that ensure the accuracy of member contact information and allow for the participation of Officers from across the country. Similar tools have been developed for members to update their contact information via the Association's website: http://www.dbfa.org/membership/Contact_Information.htm

DBFA is now regularly communicating en masse via e-mail, letter, and postcard in addition to the twice yearly newsletter and biennial reunions. The Association is consistently providing membership cards to new members, dues and donation receipts, and correspondence from the Board President. All of this has been made possible based on the foresight and determination of the Board with respect to the Association's leveraging of technology, computer software, and improved member service.

I would like to thank all of the members that had a dues renewal this calendar year and chose to continue their membership and financially support the family. To date for the 2013 membership year, the Association has received dues payments from roughly 120 members totally nearly \$4,000. The DBFA Secretary will be sending out receipts for these dues payments in the coming weeks.

If you are interested in learning more specifics about DBFA's member base and the overall membership management process, I will be conducting a presentation at the upcoming biennial reunion and I encourage you to attend. DBFA is at an exciting crossroads when it comes to member service, information technology, and generational change – all of these topics should be a vibrant part of the discourse at the reunion. The DBFA Board has demonstrated their commitment to continuously improving member service and I am excited to be associated with the Family. I hope to see you in October where we can all contribute to the solvency of the Association and heritage of the DuBois Family!

THE COURTSHIP LETTERS of LOUISE DUBOIS BERRY AND DR. JOHN CLARENCE DINGMAN

BY JEANNE DUBOIS CRAWFORD

My grandmother, born Louise Dubois Berry, grew up in the Old Fort on Huguenot Street. The Dubois Family Association purchased the Old Fort from my grandparents, Louise and Dr. John Clarence Dingman in 1968. After my grandparents' deaths, my mother, Ruth Dingman Crawford, found and saved their courtship letters, written between 1898 and 1908. These letters, carefully catalogued by my mother, remained in boxes for many, many years.

When my mother was 91, after my father had died, she brought out these boxes and started reading the letters to me. I loved the letters! This began a project of reading and transcribing my grandparents' courtship letters. My intention was to produce both a family history and a very personal glimpse into life at the turn of the 20th century. Throughout the years that we worked on the approximately 400 letters my mother had preserved and

catalogued, I came to realize that the great pleasure of reading them again and sharing them with me was my mother's goal in this enterprise. I, on the other hand, was the one who was product oriented.

Since I was project-oriented, my plan for organizing and transcribing the letters was simple: Ruth would read them aloud in sequence, starting with her father's letters; I would record these recitations and have a good, fast typist (not me!) transcribe them. We would then have the letters bound together into a book to share with relatives.

Focusing on the end product as my goal, I wanted my mother to have the satisfaction of seeing a bound volume of the letters that she had treasured for so long. Ruth, on the other hand, simply enjoyed sharing them with me as they were being recorded. From time to time she would stop the tape recorder and comment on what she had read or explain medical procedures or old-fashioned terms to me. She never wanted to record the letters when I was not with her.

The project moved along very slowly because I was working. As a result my time with my mother was limited and I was not always able to do the taping when I was with her. Ruth died in 2009 at the age of 97. She did not live to complete this project, but she did get to read and share these letters with her family, the only goal that had been important to her.

Now I have the satisfaction of reaching my goal, this collection of my grandparents' courtship letters written so long ago.

I have created two volumes, one for Louise's letters and the other for Clarence's. Because my grandfather was pursuing Louise, by giving Louise her own volume, I feel she is seen more as an individual in her own right, and not just a respondent to Clarence's persistent courting.

After Louise graduated from Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn, she moved to Minneapolis with her friend, Nelbert Murphy, first to teach high school art and then to be active in the Arts and Crafts Movement. The Arts and Crafts movement began in England in the 1880s and continued into WWI as a reaction to the increased industrialization of goods. The Arts and Crafts movement promoted the integrity of hand-craftsmanship, the integration of art into everyday life and objects, and a belief in the moral and spiritual uplift of making objects by hand using indigenous materials and tradition. It included the decorative arts in all media (metal- works, ceramics, glass, leather, textiles, furniture, etc.), as well as architecture and interior design. One aspect of the movement was to create "guilds." These were usually types of cooperatives for craftspeople providing a forum for them to share their ideas and work. The Handicraft Guild in Minneapolis was started in 1904 by women artists. Not only was it a forum for them to share their ideas and work, but, once they acquired a building in 1907, it also provided space for studios, production workshops, sales, exhibitions and art education. Louise and Nelbert created the hand leather work studio at the Handicraft Guild, doing tooled leather design.

My mother's recollection of how this courtship began:

How They Met

BY RUTH DINGMAN CRAWFORD

My father, John Clarence Dingman (born 1881) lived in Spring Valley located near the Hudson River about 25 miles from New York City in Rockland County. His father was a country doctor in Rockland County and had thirteen children (not all survived infancy). My mother, Louise DuBois Berry (born 1879), grew up in New Paltz, New York. This town was located near the Hudson River, sixty miles north of Spring Valley. New Paltz was founded in the 1600's by French Huguenots led by the DuBois brothers fleeing religious persecution. Louise was descended from Louis DuBois and grew up in the Old Fort built by the Huguenots in 1705. She had one older sister, Marie. A brother had died in infancy.

She went to New Paltz Normal School to become a teacher (that's what teacher training schools were called). It was actually two years added on to the end of high school. My father's oldest sister, Mary Dingman, was also going to Normal School in New Paltz, and she became close friends with Louise. The first time my mother ever set eyes on my father was when Clarence was coming to New Paltz in February 1898 to visit his sister Mary. On

the day he arrived on the train, his sister, Mary, was not feeling well, and asked Louise to go meet her brother at the train station. Now Clarence was 17 at the time and a senior in high school. Louise went to the trolley which came from the Highland Park Train Station. Clarence got off the trolley with a bouquet of violets for his sister. (His father supplemented his doctor's income by raising violets for the New York City market.) I remember my mother and father talking about that first meeting. Louise apparently took the violets and exclaimed how lovely they were. Clarence was afraid she thought he'd brought them for her. Apparently, this was straightened out, but that was how they first met and, for my father, it was love at first sight.

Preface to the Letters of Louise DuBois Berry

BY JEANNE DUBOIS CRAWFORD

In this volume we hear from Louise herself. In reading Louise's letters and thinking a lot about why she took so long to warm up to being courted and then to finally saying "yes", I became more curious about her background and whether it might offer some clues about her resistance to Clarence's entreaties.

I knew the big picture about Louise's ancestors, the French Huguenots, and their settlement of New Paltz, Louise's hometown. My grandmother, Louise DuBois Berry was a direct descendent of Louis DuBois. The Old Fort, built in 1705, was inhabited by the descendents of Louis DuBois and it was there that Louise grew up.

However, Louise was not born in New Paltz. Her mother, Mary DuBois, was born there (1838), but Louise was born in Idaho. Here is how this came about:

Louise's mother, Mary DuBois, had several tragedies strike in her teens and early twenties. First her father, Daniel DuBois, died when she was 14 and then her mother (Magdalena Hasbrouck) passed away when she was 20 years old. Shortly thereafter her fiancé died. Needing to make a living, Louise's mother gave piano lessons.

One of Mary's best friends married Sol Hasbrouck who had accepted a job in Boise, Idaho. This friend, Anna Van Wagner, wrote to Mary (age 30) from Idaho saying she should come because, "You have nothing to hold you there — the adventure will do you good and you can make it profitable. They pay \$30 (gold coin) per quarter for playing on the piano and at present are without a teacher and a great many wanting to take lessons."

"In answer to your question 'Is there anyone I would like?' Bless you — just lots of them." Anna then went on to describe several eligible, rich bachelors to prove her point. At age 33, Mary did indeed go West, to Boise, Idaho in 1871. She took a steamer from New York to New Orleans, then a riverboat up the Mississippi to St. Louis. After traveling by train to Cheyenne via Denver, then on to San Francisco, she arrived four months later, in Boise.

Four years later she married Ronello W. Berry, who ran a drugstore in Boise. Louise DuBois Berry was born in 1879. Louise recounted a childhood memory of watching an Indian squaw helping her mother hang out the laundry. Louise remembers the squaw had her baby in a papoose hanging from a nearby tree.

Louise had an older sister, Marie, born in Boise in 1877, and also a younger brother, Arthur. Unfortunately, Arthur got sick and died in July of 1883 when he was just one-and-a-half years old. This was a great sorrow for Louise's mother.

Louise speaks of her father being a stranger to her for he was home so little and not involved with the children. In 1884, Mary packed up the two girls and left to go back to New Paltz. Louise recalls that her mother had to return to New Paltz to pay off mortgage debts in order to keep the Old Fort, her family home. Mary gave piano lessons to earn money but the family had to scrape by. According to my mother, this was why Louise was so frugal and never wasted anything, whether a scrap of cloth or vegetable trimmings or meat drippings. Louise's mother became ill around 1900, and Marie and Louise took care of her until she died in 1902 (probably of breast cancer). Louise was 22 years old.

Louise's father, Ronello, left the drugstore business in Boise and moved to Hailey, Idaho, about 70 miles east of Boise in the mountains, to open a hardware store that supplied silver miners. He also invested in mines and did some prospecting. At first his business ventures did well, but later did very poorly. He obtained a divorce on grounds of desertion in 1891. I don't think he had anything to do with Mary or his children.

Louise had only her sister, Marie, left as "family", and her sister married a professor of horticulture who taught at

the Agricultural College out in Corvallis, Oregon (later Oregon State University). In those days, this was a good long journey from the East coast. While Louise wanted very much to be near her sister, she also felt a pull to New Paltz and her family home at the Old Fort.

So a picture of Louise's early family life begins to emerge. She certainly had no positive role model for a husband or father, for Ronello was never much of a father to her, and does not seem to have provided much financial support. Her anxieties and doubts about marriage may have come from seeing her mother's unhappy experience with marriage. Seeing her mother scrimp for a living may have also made her want to be as self-reliant as possible. While this background is sketchy, it may help the reader to understand Louise and her motivations as you read these letters.

I knew almost nothing about Louise's parents, so I owe much thanks to Dina DuBois for giving me historical information about my great grandparents. Dina's great grand-parents, Jesse and Mariah Elting and their daughter, Lanetta, rented the Old Fort from Louise's mother while she was living in Boise, Idaho. Dina's grandfather, George DuBois, was the nephew of Louise's mother and he courted and married Lanetta. Dina had culled through many of George and Lanetta's letters which provided more information and insight into Louise's mother and father.

What follows are excerpts from Louise's letters. The early ones are very formal, written when Clarence was a medical student in NYC and Louise was a student at Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn. Gradually the tone changes.

240 Lafayette Avenue

December 9, 1902

My dear Mr. Dingman:

Your invitation to hear Mansfield delighted me very much.

I shall be most happy to go: but could it be some evening before Friday as I go home on that day.

However, if no other evening but Friday is available, let it be then.

Come over Sunday afternoon and if the day is fine perhaps I can acquaint you with some parts of Brooklyn.

Thanking you kindly for the invitation.

I am Sincerely

Louise DB. Berry.

406 South 9th Street, Minneapolis

September 25, 1905

Friend Clarence,

This is the close of my fourth Sunday in Minneapolis and I am beginning to have that feeling of always having been here — that feeling of familiarity which comes as soon as new sights and sounds cease to seem strange. Nor do I feel as though I were any farther from home than if I were in Brooklyn — indeed, I have not been half so homesick here as I was there. It is only when I look at the map and realize the miles between that I seem far away. Having slept pretty well the two nights of my journey it made the distance seem very short.

This is quite a large boarding house but it all seems very nice and refined. At our table are a young married couple from New York, two Christian Scientists, the assistant pastor of the Universalist Church, Miss Murphy and myself. The assistant pastor is real jolly and keeps us all roaring at times. He would shock most terribly old orthodox church people for he goes to the Vaudeville quite often and does numerous things one would not expect of a minister. He is very broad in his views, however, and I think looks at things in the right way. He seems, at times, to delight in trampling on the toes of the Christian Scientists just a bit by remarking about his "very material appetite" — or something of the kind.

Friend Clarence,

February 15, 1906 Minneapolis

Although I may not scold you, Clarence, I feel that I must at least talk frankly with you.

Your last two letters have made me realize what, I think, I have not fully realized before. It seems so strange and I cannot understand it. Our lives have touched so little and we have been so little together — I cannot see why you feel as you do, my experience never having been more than that of mere friendship.

It would be wicked for me to let you go on hoping when there comes no response from my heart to your plea.

Perhaps if my work were not so interesting or the projects so alluring or if my habit of mind were different I might feel otherwise — But as it is now, I cannot.

Please do not feel bad over this but tell yourself you have made a mistake and then begin to forget.

You will forget easier if I do not write to you and then, too, I shall probably not go East this summer but further West — I don't know for certain yet but these are the prospects. When you have given up and forgotten you will be ready to have your life filled with other things and I hope some day with the love of someone more sympathetic than I.

Do not think I have written this without much thought and a struggle, too knowing it must cost you pain but it seemed best. Please do not let it grieve you.

Good bye

Louise.

November 18, 1906

Minneapolis

Friend Clarence,

This letter has gone by fits and jerks because every little while Miss Murphy, who is also writing, and I have stopped to talk of our plans for next year. We are going to make a venture — we don't know just where yet — but we are both determined. We have decided that this is our last year of public school teaching and we expect to start a studio of arts and crafts. We have quite a leaning towards Seattle and Miss M. is now writing to a friend there to make some inquiries. We get terribly excited when we talk of it for we think it will be great fun. At least there will not be the grind of school teaching and if we can "make it go" (and we think we can) we think we shall be very happy in the venture.

And now, Clarence, I shall write to you sometimes but I cannot promise real often for I write to no one but Marie — often. And always remember that it is as a friend. I cannot help it that no other feeling than that of friendship has come to me. If my letters are formal and impersonal, I'm afraid I cannot help that either for, naturally, I feel restrained when writing to you. I shall always be interested to know what you are doing and always wish you the best of success and happiness. My good times in Spring Valley will be ever good to think on — and the people who made it pleasant for me while I was there will ever hold a place in my memory.

I must now close — Your friend

Louise.

April 13, 1908

Minneapolis

Dear Clarence,

Do you know Browning's poem beginning "Oh to be in England now that April's here" I nearly always say it over in the spring time only instead of "England", I say, "New Paltz", for the coming of the spring there in our old yard was always such a joy to me. Just as soon as the ground showed through the snow in patches I would go out to the foot of the larch tree to find the grape hyacinths peeping through — then out further in the garden I would look for the tulips and daffodils and lilies of the valley. My pansy bed was usually ready to blossom just as soon as the snow was gone. When the grass grew green the flats below our hill were like one vast lawn stretching out to those beautiful mountains — the violets made purple flashes beneath the blossoming apple boughs in our orchard — the earliest birds came to the tall reeds in the swamps to find seeds and there would sing their thanks.

April 20, 1908

Minneapolis

Dear Clarence,

Oh, such a bonnie, bright Easter day as it has been! Let me tell you how I have spent it. At ten minutes past six this morning I awoke with a robin's reed like notes floating in at my window. As Nelbert and I had planned the night before that we would attend the early morning Episcopal service, I called Nelbert and we got up, dressed, and went. When we returned, a little before eight, we had breakfast then phoned Berta that we were coming to walk in the country in the vicinity of her home and would she join us. She was happy to do so. We reached Berta's at ten o'clock and straightaway made for the woods. Then such a rapturous out-of-doors service that we heard and saw. No Easter bonnets were worn for none were required and moreover we had none to wear — but the birds didn't care. We walked and walked, threw ourselves down on a sunny bank near a frog pond which was melodious with the songs of the frogs. Then on again we walked to the bank of the great father of waters, the Mississippi; here we rested again then wandered up the river gathering hepatica and blood root; then back to Berta's home where we were invited to stay for dinner. So warm was the sun that we needed no coats.

August 1, 1908

Corvallis, Oregon

My dearest James,

Yesterday and today have been very hot but we escape that depressing humidity which you have. Somehow I never remember the summers in the East as being very hot though, and I think it's because we always had that dear, delightful, cool, old stone house to live in. Oh! It used to be lovely there in the summer time; the great big rooms with their deep window sills, the long shady porches, the beautiful yard with its great trees and deep shadows. I almost wish that you & I could live there.

Your letters, dear boy, are beautiful. I never dreamed it possible to possess such a love as yours or that I could be the cause of so much happiness to another. At last my life seems purposeful.



DuBois
DuBois Family Association
538 Willoughby Road
Mason, MI 48854-9442
Return Service Requested

DuBois Family Association Dues

Dues renewal notices are have been mailed. Please make your checks payable to the DuBois Family Association.

Mail to:

Pamela B. Bailey

Acting Treasurer

726 Loveville Road Cottage 60

Hockessin, DE 19707

Dues

Individual – 1 year \$20; 3 years \$50

Household (2 adults) – 1 Year \$30; 2 years \$50

Family (2 adults, 3 children)- \$60

Individual Contributor – 1 year \$50

Donor – 1 year \$100

Patron – 1 year \$500