



DuBois Family News

April 1, 2014

President's Message

Hello fellow members of the DBFA:

Please let me introduce myself. My name is David Dubois, the recently elected President of DBFA, Inc. I have just completed the first month of my office and wanted to write concerning the upcoming year.

First and foremost, I would like to take the opportunity to formally thank Pamela Bailey for stepping forward and picking up the banner of the association as our interim President following the death of Terry DuBois. Pam succeeded Terry as stipulated in the By-Laws. During this period she continued in her capacity as Treasurer and planned a very successful biennial meeting in October, 2013. I take pleasure in hearing a sound solid round of applause from the membership for her successful efforts in these matters.

Next, I would like to provide for your information a brief recitation of my background. One of 7 children, I grew up in Northwest Indiana. I am a graduate of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio with a B.S. Degree in industrial management and of Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana with a L.L.B. degree in law. Having first become a member of DBFA in 1980, my interests waned until my sister, Sally, prompted me to renew my involvement by attending the 2011 reunion. I am a sole practitioner of my law practice in Portage, Indiana, having recently completed my 48th year in that field. Other accomplishments include 3 beautiful and successful children, along with 6 equally (or more) beautiful grandchildren.

As you know we all belong to a great family organization. Through the efforts of my predecessor presidents, officers, board members and volunteer genealogists and others, we have developed an accurate picture of our lineage leading back to the European continent. However, there still remains work to be done to preserve and expand these efforts. I and the duly elected board of directors have pledged to carry forth this responsibility.

We would solicit your assistance in this regard. Volunteer work in the continuing expansion of the family genealogic history as well as financial support for the organization is needed during the coming year. We would solicit your family records to augment the prior information recorded in this regard. Additionally, we would also request that you join or renew your membership in DBFA; please advise and we can forward the proper form for that purpose. Further, we would also encourage you to make a contribution in any amount you would feel to be appropriate; we are a federally approved charitable organization and any donations made by you would be tax deductible.

Thank you in advance, for your consideration of our requests for your assistance. I would also wish to extend my wishes to you and your extended family for a happy and prosperous 2014.

David R. DuBois
President@dbfa.org

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Executive Board

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DBFA Genealogy Update Is A Major Project

During the 2013 time frame, the DFBA Board took an inventory of assets and conducted an analysis of the genealogical records, some of which are published and some of which exist in filing cabinets in storage. The DBFA storage facility unit located in New Paltz was inventoried and stabilized resulting in moving all pertinent material to a new unit. Immediate past President, Pam Bailey, researched the DBFA genealogy history and activity. Pam was able to communicate with a leading genealogy service provider located on the East Coast for advice and counsel. Based on that contact and other information, she reported to the Board that a reorganization of this function would be appropriate. This analysis was embraced by the Board and the incoming new President, David DuBois. The Board then determined that this function requires a new approach: an active individual Board member presence in this work coupled with the eventual participation of someone who has genealogical expertise. Marjorie Findlay, former and current Board member, volunteered to be the point person on the Board.

During 2014, the Board is to work to determine a more definitive plan for this function and then begin execution. Inasmuch as this is a complex matter, there is naturally a reluctance by the Board at this time to publish a timeline. The current estimate for honing in on a more definitive timetable for a Scope/Schedule and Budget is to accomplish this by the end of the year.

In the meantime, we have been actively seeking the identity of anyone inside or outside DBFA who has genealogical experience to work on this project either as on a one-time transition changeover and/or on a continued basis. The good news is that the Board understands what has to be done and is working towards a permanent solution. The Board welcomes any ideas or thoughts by members.

DBFA Technology Update

VP Technology Board member Jason Adams is the key point person who is leading major technology changes for DBFA. Following his detailed presentation at the DBFA reunion this past October, those present reacted in a very positive way learning about the logical thinking that has gone into proposed and, at the time of this writing, some implemented changes to DBFA technology. The Board in open Executive Committee voted

directly on some of them given the confirmation of the body at the meeting.

Immediately and gradually, members will see differences in the Website and the performance of all DBFA functions that are driven by or touched by technology. Some of the details of these changes are also elucidated in the article by Pam Bailey regarding the future of DBFA. While some of the technological changes that are new or planned for the future are “blind” to members, such as membership management software, they are needed to conduct the business of the Association.

Perhaps, though, the most important take away in this update is the need for not one by two or three other volunteers to share the burden of work that Jason is managing. Once the design changes are fully implemented during the next 12 to 18 months, maintenance of the systems is ongoing as well as relatively smaller necessary changes in the future. Anyone who is willing to help Jason is invited to contact him directly. Experience is needed as well as a willingness to work a few hours a month.

New DBFA technology changes are to appeal to new generation family members who are to be the sustainers of DBFA in the future.

DBFA Biennial Reunion Held October 18-19, 2013 at New Paltz, New York

This reunion was once again well attended by participants who came from around the country. Although the remaining other active initial Huguenot family outings have recently experienced fairly low attendance, more than thirty descendants and their family members came to this reunion. This two day meeting was held on a Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. The reunion boasted of a wide range of activities including a social reception, tours of homes and the DB fort on the “Street,” an oral history presentation, a church service, a presentation by Historic Huguenot Street leadership, DBFA specific presentations about current initiatives and forward planning, the biennial business meeting at which officers are elected, and finally an open Executive Board Committee meeting at which members witnessed DBFA decision making first hand.

In all of this activity, there were some common elements and themes:

- DBFA is now under new leadership and being reorganized to match current and new trends;

- DBFA is to refresh its membership given generational change and need for new volunteers;
- DBFA genealogical activity has lapsed somewhat and needs to be repaired;
- DBFA seeks to improve communications through website revisions including easier access to membership;
- DBFA is increasing the dues amounts from what had not been changed for many years;
- DBFA is moving forward as an independent family association that intends to preserve its traditions.

During this reunion some participants were recognized for their special efforts including: the immediate past president, Pam Bailey, and board; Sally DuBois, and Allison Findlay who served on the board for several years and did not stand for re-election; Dina DuBois, a former DBFA President, who led a reading from love letters of a past DuBois love relationship; Jason Adams who offered an in depth slide presentation on DBFA projects; and Marjorie Findlay for ensuring that participants were well cared for during the reunion.

This DBFA reunion, one of the most information filled during the past ten years, clearly brought forth the existence of and planning for the immediate and future challenges of the association. At the end of the reunion on that late Saturday afternoon, there was a renewed sense of interest in and dedication to DBFA.

DuBois Family Association Future and the Costs of Survival

BY PAM BAILEY, TREASURER

We can always count on change to keep us focused on the preservation of our Huguenot heritage. These values are preserved by the families connected with Huguenot Street. The DuBois family is numerous in numbers that are not even reflected in our current 350 members.

We face critical choices in regard to preservation of our heritage. The first is maintenance of the DuBois Fort, a living monument to the original family. The second is our genealogical database. The third is expansion of our membership.

Maintenance of the Fort on a day to day basis is carried out by Historic Huguenot Street (HHS), using funds from the Newsome Trust. Those funds today produce a maintenance income of about \$30,000 a year. DBFA

gave HHS \$21,000 from its association fund to improve the interior of the Fort and install a catering kitchen. We cannot continue to make that level of contribution with the fund we have on hand.

DBFA funds are needed to renew and update the genealogy, first published in 21 parts: The Descendants of Chretien DuBois of Wicres, France. Chretien was the father of Louis, Jacques, and Francoise who are the family who came to New Paltz and became the progenitors of the American Dubois family. These books except for the last volume, as they were called, were scanned into a computer and downloaded on a CD, a copy of which is available from the DBFA Treasurer at a cost of \$100.00. This database is in MicroSoft Word. This database is to be transferred into a new genealogical data base that can be easily updated. When descendants apply for membership and provide their specific generational information, they should then receive confirmation that the updates have been done. Updates have not been completed for several years. Necessary genealogical records work will take time and funds.

Increased membership in this increasingly electronic age is a challenge to keep pace with attracting and retaining members and meeting their needs. The Association must take possession of its website and continue to enhance and build upon it to offer more services, improve communications among members including seeing Association reports and "Street" news and accessing the Newsletter on line---just to name a few of the new functions that may result. Simply, in today and tomorrow's world, DBFA must be an interactive body to serve its members. This work is ongoing now and requires funding for personnel to develop and maintain it.

NEWS FROM HISTORIC HUGUENOT STREET (HHS)ADMINISTRATION

Mary Etta Schneider, Chairwoman of the Board of HHS has announced the appointment of Dr. Taylor Stoermer as Director of Strategy, Development and Interpretation. Formerly associated with Colonial Williamsburg, he was responsible for planning and historical affairs. Dr. Stoermer is to conduct a nine month strategic planning process to establish a new foundation for the "Street" to strengthen ties with the past and today, including the broader, regional community.



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Return Service Requested

DBFA Dues Increase

At the last biennial DBFA business meeting, the Board, in open Executive committee, approved a dues increase of not more than 25% that was formally adopted in February to be effective January 1, 2014, a date that reflects another change---one in the By-Laws that changes the DBFA business year to a calendar year. See the website notation of the dues changes at: www.dbfa.org.

Justification for the dues increase has multiple reasons: the costs of business and inflation given dues have not changed for several years; necessary upgrades for the DBFA website; increased mailing costs and the cost of offering Pay Pal to facilitate dues paying; and finally to ensure that DBFA fulfills its responsibility to contribute to the capital preservation the DuBois Fort. In 2013, DBFA made a significant financial contribution to the upgrading of the Fort interior including a catering kitchen to be used to host contributing guests and to facilitate the use of income producing activities for Historic Huguenot Street (HHS) such as weddings that have become very popular. HHS who manages the "Street" for all of the family homes is required to raise funds to meet their responsibility.

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
#60 726 Loveville Road
Hockessin, DE 19707

Dues
Individual – 1 year \$25; 3 years \$62
Household (2 adults) – 1 Year \$37; 2 years \$62
Family (2 adults, 3 children)- \$75
Individual Contributor – 1 year \$62
Donor – 1 year \$125
Patron – 1 year \$625