



The Virginia Huguenot Society

An organization of descendants of French Protestants who,
due to religious persecution, fled France.

frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org

Spring/Summer 2024 Newsletter

President's Message



I am enjoying serving as your President and getting to know some more of our members.

Members enjoyed another successful luncheon and meeting at the Tanglewood Ordinary with their gracious hospitality for our group.

Our Vice President, Louis T. March, found another stellar guest speaker for us from the Huguenot Fellowship, Mr. Brian K. Wunder. He serves on the Board of the Fellowship based in Glenside, Pennsylvania. The Huguenot Fellowship is dedicated to supporting the Reformed Seminary in Aix-en-Provence, Faculté Jean Calvin (FJC). Additional information regarding the Fellowship is available on their website: <https://www.huguenotfellowship.org>. Information on Faculté Jean Calvin (FJC): <https://www.facultejeancalvin.com/>, (French). Mr. Wunder, a dedicated Christian and fluent French speaker, is a Houston, TX, attorney (also resident in Virginia) with a thriving commercial litigation practice. He had a stimulating presentation for us.

We have identified a project to publish a booklet about the U.S. Presidents that have Huguenot ancestry. I have been working on this and have found nine presidents so far and put together their lineages. There may be as many as twelve.

Anyone who may be interested in helping with this project can contact me or the project chairman, Gerry Runyan, gerald@aercorp.com.

Let us know about your travels and any connection to the Huguenots along the way. Until October, here's wishing you a wonderful spring and summer season.

D'ici là mes amis...

Constance Paradiso

*President, Virginia Huguenot Society
2023-2025*



Save the Date!

The next meeting of the VHS is
Saturday, October 26, 2024

Information on place and time to sent out at a later date.

Virginia Huguenot Society Spring Meeting March 23, 2024 Tanglewood Ordinary

The VHS met at the Tanglewood Ordinary in Maidens, VA, on a rainy, cloudy morning. But the spirt inside was good with fellowship and friendship holding court. The council met at 11:00 and discussed the status of the society. As always we discussed the need for new members and encouraged the group to be



Your council members hard at work!

mindful of other folks we know who might qualify and have some interest. The Council discussed some possible

ways to find new members including an in-depth discussion of an application received from a person who describes himself as "Orthodox." No action was taken and the matter was tabled for further study.

The General meeting was pleasurable, as always, and the old style southern cookin' at the Tanglewood was outstanding.

Our speaker was Mr. Brian K. Wunder. He is on the Board of the Huguenot Fellowship in Glenside, PA. This group is dedicated to supporting the reformed Seminary in Aix-en-Provence, Faculté Jean Calvin. He gave us a description of the group and just what the Seminary is and their purpose. An excerpt from their web site:



Speaker Brian Wunder

The Huguenot Fellowship is dedicated to supporting the Reformed Seminary in Aix-en-Provence, Faculté Jean Calvin (FJC).

THE LINK BETWEEN SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED CHURCH HISTORY.

Today, the number of Protestant Christians in France is only 3% of the population, of which Evangelicals are about 700,000 at 1% of the population. France, like much of the West, has become secular. Relativism and religious confusion reign and churches are often without strong convictions. In such an atmosphere, renewal and reformation are needed.

Since 1974, the Reformed Seminary in Aix-en-Provence has been training women and men for Christian leadership. Its mission is to send pastors and other servants into ministries in France and abroad, armed with the whole council of God.

His presentation was direct and interesting about a seminary in France that teaches reformed Christian principals - those of Jean Calvin - in France and worldwide.

The officer reports were made and President Paradiso told the group of her research into a project for our group: that is preparing a book, or other media presentation, of the Huguenot ancestry of Presidents of the United States. If you are interested in working on this project please contact Constance or Gerry Runyan.

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VHS of Virginia Spring Meeting Minutes ~ March 23, 2024

The spring meeting of the Virginia Huguenot Society was called to order by President Constance Paradiso at noon. Following an Invocation given by chaplain Heath Thompson, all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, the Huguenot Pledge to the Flag and then the Sacred Oath of the Huguenots in French followed.

The presidents welcomed members and guests to the meeting. There were no new members but guests included Mr. Bob Nutt of Staunton and Mrs. Catherine March of Staunton, guests of Louis March; Margaret Leynes of Richmond, guest of Ann Darst; Mr. William Thomas and



*Adrienne Maxwell and
Guest Bill Thomas*

our speaker, Mr. Brian Wunder, and his wife, Victoria, who have recently moved from Dallas, Texas, to Staunton. Following a blessing of the meal by the chaplain, lunch was served.

Louis March introduced our speaker for the meeting. Brian Wunder is an attorney who has recently moved to Virginia to be closer to his wife's family but is still actively engaged in the practice of law with his office in Texas. He is a board member of The Huguenot Fellowship which is based in Pennsylvania. This organization, founded in 1976, is dedicated to supporting the Reformed Seminary in Aix-en-Provence, France, the Faculté Jean Calvin. This seminary named for the great humanist and reformer teaches young people from around the world the principles of the Reformed church that were central to the Huguenot movement in

France. Mr. Wunder has a very special connection to the school. In wanting to learn the French language, inspired by a trip he took through southern France, he lived in Aix-en-Provence for a year auditing courses at the school. He had several slides that he showed of the school, its students, and the beautiful city of Aix-en-Provence, plus some of the scenery around the town that inspired Cezanne, the well known impressionist painter. Following his talk, Mr. Wunder answered questions from the members present and gave the internet addresses for The Huguenot Fellowship and the Faculté Jean Calvin for those of us wanting to give support to the seminary.

A brief business meeting followed. Minutes from the last meeting were approved and the treasurer's report was also. Constance brought up the issue of accepting members who were of religious faiths not included in our by-laws. The subject will be addressed at our next meeting when the membership will have had an opportunity to consider the ramifications of such a move and even possibly vote on changing the bylaws at that time. Constance presented her research on the Huguenot connections of our National Presidents and requested input from members. Gerald Runyan also requested articles of interest to put in our newsletter.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm



*Members and guest enjoy
the fellowship time*

To Change or Not to Change: Questions to Ponder

Recently the VHS received an application for membership from a gentleman who has indicated that he is an "Orthodox" Christian. An "Orthodox" Christian of course is not a Protestant and on the face of it he would not currently qualify for membership.

This happenstance has opened the door for discussion of the issue. Are we a heritage/lineage group, a religious group, or a historical group. Currently we claim all three aspects of Huguenot Heritage. This three tiered approach has served us well in the past, but times change. Do we need to consider change or should we stay with our roots?

Some background and thoughts and questions as we mull accepting non-protestant Christians. Would it materially change the makeup and tenor of our group? For better or not?

We would have to change our By-Laws, our Huguenot Oath, and it could affect our 501c3 designation depending on how the original application was written.

The Huguenot Society of South Carolina (one of the largest Huguenot organizations in the country) has no religious component for membership.

We have heard that the National Huguenot Society has recently removed the "protestant" requirement and will accept Catholics, and presumably other Christian denominations.

Would we see an increase in membership? (I know of three people who we could approach about membership since we know they have Huguenot Heritage but are Catholic. Would they join?)

Could we have "associate" members who are Huguenots but not Protestants?

What of other sects - Mormons, 7th Day Adventists, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witness etc.?

At this juncture the Council does not have a position on this question but is seeking out the thoughts and ideas of our membership.

Please respond with your thoughts and suggestions as to how best to approach this subject to Constance at paradiso@ntelos.net or call 540-949-6351.

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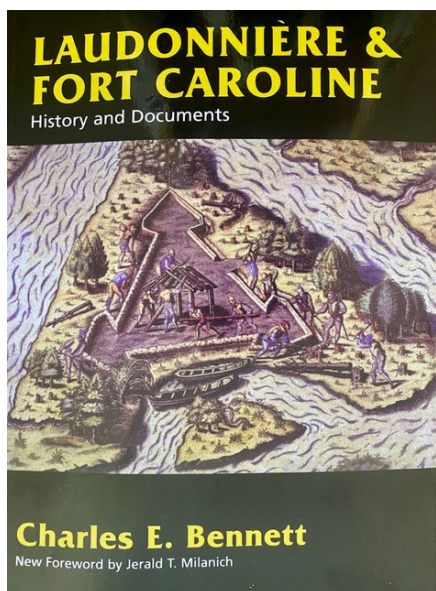
Bill Thomas, President of the James Monroe Foundation, attended as a guest and reminded us that the two annual celebrations of James Monroe's birthday are coming up in April. One at his birthplace in Westmoreland County, the next at his tomb in Hollywood Cemetery. Please attend if you are able. The VHS generally sends a representative to place a wreath.

By the time we adjourned the rain had stopped and the sun was shining. This made for a pleasant ride home.

Laudonnière & Fort Caroline: History and Documents **by Charles E. Bennett**

I found this small book at the gift shop at the Fort Caroline National Monument near Jacksonville, Fl. It was originally published in 1964 and reprinted in 2001.

It consists of two parts: one, a 60-page history of René Laudonnière with emphasis on his part in establishing Fort Caroline and events following. Two: 15 translations from the French or Spanish of various original source documents, reports, depositions, etc., that relate to Laudonnière and Fort Caroline.



It is an interesting story of René Laudonnière, an important figure in the establishment of Fort Caroline—one of the first European settlements in North America—the following trials and tribulations and his subsequent life, though there is little recorded later in his life. History often puts him in the shadow of Jean Ribault. But there would likely not have been any French attempt at settlement if it were not for Laudonnière; and if Ribault had listened to him the settlement may well have survived the Spanish assault and eliminated them as a threat to Fort Caroline.

The documents are interesting to read though I had difficulty reconciling the description of events in some of the documents with the descriptions in others! That is: everyone has their own “spin” even in the 16th century.

It is a very readable book giving a clear account of events around the Fort Caroline tragedy in straight forward language.

The book is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble for \$24.95.

~ *Gerald Runyan*

Leadership Change in VHS

Our Registrar, Bonnie Bew, has felt it necessary to resign her position on the Council. This decision was driven by an unfortunate hacking event on her personal computer combined with a move to an area with marginal broadband capabilities, making it difficult to do the research that the position requires. Bonnie intends to stay active with our Society. We will miss her insight, knowledge, and personal interest in the work. But look forward to seeing her at our meetings.

We are very fortunate that the position will be filled by the most capable and experienced Catherine Southworth. Catherine is very experienced in genealogy, doing it professionally and for the delight found in the work. Catherine is a well-known genealogist across Virginia.

Please wish Catherine and Bonnie well as the Society moves forward. (See updated contact information for Bonnie on page 8.)

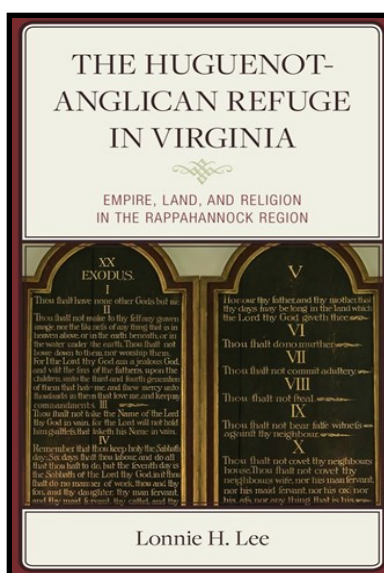
The Huguenot Anglican Refuge in Virginia

By Lonnie H. Lee

On April 25, the Rev. Dr. Lonnie H. Lee made a presentation at the Historic Christ Church in Lancaster County, promoting his book on the Huguenot Anglican Refuge in Virginia, which he described as a significant but overlooked settlement of French refugees in the state. In particular, he told the story of his own ancestor, Reverend Jean Bertrand whose father was a pastor in Western France in the town of Cozes, leaving there under duress because of the persecution of Huguenots, escaping to England, and then coming to The Northern Neck of Virginia with the encouragement of then Governor, Lord Howard of Effingham. The Governor recognized the importance of having bilingual clergy to serve the incoming numbers of French speaking settlers as well as the established population. Jean Bertrand served for several years in the North Farnham parish and brought with him a number of fellow refugees from Cozes. He eventually purchased a plantation on the Rappahannock River, a property that is today the Belle Isle State Park.

Factoring into the promotion of the area around the Rappahannock River was the publishing of a document that was widely circulated, "A Huguenot Exile in Virginia," by Durand de Dauphine which described in glowing terms the natural riches of the area and the economic possibilities. The Bishop of London, Henry Compton, also actively recruited French clergy who had been ordained in the Anglican tradition to counter the rising influence of Puritan and Presbyterian theologians.

The area described as the Huguenot Anglican Refuge by Dr. Lee stretched from what is now Stafford County to the north to King William County to the south, mostly on the shores of the Rappahannock River. By his estimation there were as many as 300 households, exceeding the number of Huguenot refugees in New York and South Carolina and of the Huguenot settlement in Manakin. Because they were so spread out they rapidly integrated into the surrounding communities and because they were able to acquire property relatively cheaply they prospered and became part of the landed gentry. Dr. Paul Micou, a Huguenot refugee whose grave-stone is at Vauter's Church in upper Essex County, became very wealthy and helped a number of his fellow countrymen to acquire land and establish themselves in the area.

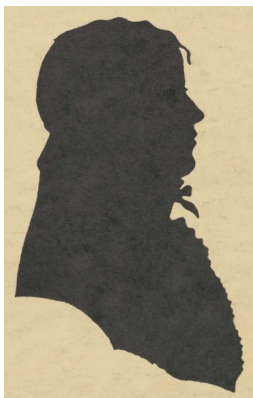


Jean Bertrand was the first Huguenot to serve as an Anglican priest in 1687 but he was soon followed by James Boisseau in St. John's parish in New Kent County and Nicholas Moreau in the South Farnham parish. Rev. Moreau did not stay long but was followed in that parish by Lewis Latané who had a long and successful career, despite an obstreperous vestry that tried to end his contract supposedly because of his French accent. The Governor countermanded that move. Parson Latané, whom Dr. Lee called the "lynchpin" of the dual language ministry, was followed by Rev. James Marye who served in St. George's parish in the newly formed county of Spotsylvania. Dr. Lee has done extensive research on the part of the

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Who was Jack Jouett

Jack Jouett has been referred to as the Revere of the south. Ask most people about Paul Revere and they know about him, but ask



The only known likeness of Jack Jouett is this silhouette

them about Jack Jouett and they don't. For many years a text book called the Story of Virginia was used to teach Virginia history to 4th graders. It contained a brief presentation of Jack Jouett's ride and a poem many of us had to memorize.

There are many parallels between Jack Jouett and Paul Revere. Both are of Huguenot descent, both rode to warn of

British soldiers, and both had a poem written about their rides. The fact that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a well-known poet, wrote about Revere did much to tell the public of his exploits.

John "Jack" Jouett's father, was Matthew Jouett. Matthew owned land in what is now the counties of Hanover and Louisa. Cuckoo Tavern was part of his property, so called, it is said, because of a cuckoo clock that hung on the wall. The tavern no longer exists, but the area in Louisa County, Virginia, is still known as Cuckoo.

Cornwallis was near Richmond, Virginia, in June of 1781 when he sent Colonel Tarleton, with his cavalry on a secret mission to capture the Virginia Legislators in session in Charlottesville. Jack Jouett was at Cuckoo Tavern when they passed and he realized their intent. Thanks to his thoroughbred horse and his knowledge of the area, he was able to outride them and warn Thomas Jefferson at Monticello as well as the General Assembly, which included members important to the American Rev-

olution such as Patrick Henry, Archibald Cary and Richard Henry Lee.

In later years Jack moved to Kentucky where he died in Bath County in 1822 and was buried at Monticello.

There are many books that have been published about Jouett and much more information on the internet about this brave American Huguenot, including his genealogy and song about his ride. He was indeed an important hero of the American Revolution.

~ Delbert Agee

In an attempt to promote Jouett's memory, the Charlottesville Daily Press published the following poem on October 26, 1909:

When Jouett Rode to Save Jefferson

*Hearken good people: awhile abide
And hear of stout Jack Jouett's ride;
How he rushed his steed, nor stopped nor stayed
Till he warned the people of Tarleton's raid.*

*The moment his warning note was rehearsed
The State Assembly was quickly dispersed.
In their haste to escape, they did not stop
Until they had crossed the mountain top.
And upon the other side come down.
To resume their sessions in Staunton Town.*

*His parting steed he spurred,
In haste to carry the warning
To that greatest statesman of any age,
The Immortal Monticello Sage.*

*Here goes to thee, Jack Jouett!
Lord keep thy memory green;
You made the greatest ride, sir,
That ever yet was seen.*



Directory Update

Please make these changes in your 2023-2025 yearbook!

New Registrar:

Catherine Bowers Southworth

18382 Taylor's Creek Rd
Montpelier, VA 23192
cat.southworth@gmail.com

New Address & Email

Bonnie Bew

1111 Hyde Lane
Henrico, VA 23229
ronaldeugenebew@gmail.com

James Friend Dickerson

jachininc@gmail.com

Spelling correction and add ancestor:

Lowry Rush Watkins, Jr. (no "e" in Lowry)
Dr. Paul Micou

Future Meeting Sites

Do you have a favorite location that would make for a good meeting site, or a speaker you feel our members

would be interested in hearing? If so, please contact

Vice-President

Louis March at
540-960-0504 or email him at
Itmarch76@gmail.com.



Virginia Huguenot Society Website: Great Place for Information!

Visit our VHS website, frenchhuguenots-virginiasociety.org to learn about Huguenot history and the history of the VHS. There is also information on how to apply for membership and the necessary requirements, photos, issues of past newsletters, as well as important links.

Feel free to send pictures and articles of our VHS members to Gerald Runyan at gerald@aercorp.com.

Links to Websites of Interest - Check Out These Links

Here are some interesting sites that explain some of the history of Huguenots

How were Huguenot refugees welcomed in England?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpk9frd/revision/1>

Comparing 17th century to modern times

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2020/11/wars-religion-france-polarization.html>

Huguenots in Rhode Island

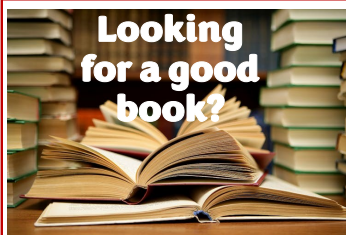
https://www.independentri.com/independents/north_east/opinion/article_e8e95d93-4856-5ee1-9b19-019ace3c02ce.html

The Huguenot Doctor who helped fight smallpox

<https://www.apollo-magazine.com/matthew-maty-smallpox-british-museum/>

This link includes references to books about Dr. Maty, a Dutch Physician & Huguenot:

http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/Matthew_Maty



Our VHS library has some wonderful books on our history.

Borrowing a book is easy, just contact David at edlegrande@hotmail.com for a list of available books.

In Memoriam

Cranston Williams, Jr., died December 10, 2023, at Brandon Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Roanoke, VA.

He is survived by his daughter, Sally Williams of Chapel Hill, NC and son, Reade Williams of New River Valley, VA; nieces and nephews Ann Claire and Joel Shepherd of Rocky Mount VA, Ellen and Mike Massey of Charleston, SC, and Ann and Bill Johnson of Roanoke, VA, as well as by four godchildren and many special cousins.

Predeceasing him were his wife, Marilyn Johnson Williams of Roanoke VA; his parents, Caroline and Cranston Williams and brother, Hutter Williams, all three of Lynchburg, VA.

Cranston was born in Chattanooga, TN, and moved with his family to Scarsdale, NY, as a young child. After graduating from Scarsdale High School in 1944, he served in the US Navy for two years during WWII. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a BEE in electrical engineering in 1950, then received his MBA degree from Wharton Graduate Business School (University of Pennsylvania) in 1952.

While at UVA, he was a member of the Thomas Jefferson Society, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, the Virginia Engineering Review and the Dean's List. As a dedicated alumnus, he was in the Thornton Society and Virginia Engineering Foundation, as well as always being a loyal and avid UVA sports fan.

Cranston had a deep interest in the history and genealogy of his family; he spent his first 18 summers at Thomas Jefferson's summer house, Poplar Forest, in Forest, VA, which was the home of his maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Christian S. Hutter of Lynchburg, VA.

He enjoyed his family, his travels around the United States and Europe with his wife, golfing with his buddies, football games at UVA, and American history trips with his friends.

Cranston was also a 62-year member of Second Presbyterian Church where he served as a deacon and elder, a Sunday school teacher, and on many church committees. He attended services every week and after he could no longer attend in person, he faithfully watched the service on his computer.

A note from Heath Thompson, who recently lost two dear kinfolk.

I lost my sister and her husband in a six- day stretch, Edith and Fred Hirsch. To put it in the flow of things, my elder brother, born in 1940 died in 2020. I, the oldest daughter, was born in 1943. Edith arrived in 1946. The perfect family of two boys and two girls was blown by the arrival of Elizabeth in 1950. Julia arrived in 1953 and in late 1954, finally the second son, Francis, was born 14 years after Earl the oldest.

Francis' middle name is Meriwether who is a 6th or 7th great-grandfather on our family tree. Add the children and grandchildren, we could form our own private society if there was interest. I connect into the Saxony line at the great-great-grandmother point. They had 10 children. Their youngest son from which my line continues had 15 children. Twelve grew up and seven married and had children. I have a mob of unknown cousins. ~ *Heath*



What's Up with Our Members!

Congratulations to Dr. Billingsley!

The VHS is proud to inform you all that our own Dr. Cheryl Billingsley is the President Elect of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. This is a very prestigious international dental organization dedicated to developing and recognizing leadership in the dental profession. In February of this year she traveled to Cairo, Egypt, to attend a Fauchard conference. Even the Paparazzi were there!



Huguenot Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland

Del Agee's daughter Beth and grandson Truman were in Ireland this past summer and came across this small cemetery in Dublin.



The inscription reads:
The Huguenot Cemetery founded in 1693 by the French Huguenot non-conformist churches of Dublin and now belonging to the French Huguenot Fund Restored in 1986 through a grant from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in association with FAS.



Huguenot Family Gatherings



Suzanne & Donald Reynolds visited Hilton Head with their family this spring.

Springtime brought Gerald & Bette Runyan's daughter Katherine for a visit, all the way from Oregon!



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Huguenot diaspora that found its way to the Rappahannock area, both in the available records in those counties but in England and France. His time in England has led him to pronounce Huguenot like the British do, leaving off the “t” at the end in deference to the French (but the French would also not pronounce the “h” at the beginning.)

Dr. Lee’s book was purchased by our Society’s members and will be available to any members wishing to read it. ~ Gus Lewis



Dr. Lonnie H. Lee

Commemorating James Monroe’s Birth



Vice President Louis T. March attended two commemorations of James Monroe this April, one at his tomb in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond and the other at his birth place in Westmoreland County. He presented the Virginia Huguenot Society wreath at each occasion. Louis quoted Jackson Darst at each presentation: “Scratch a Virginian and you will find a Huguenot.” Thank you Louis for your strong efforts for the VHS. Also attending at Hollywood Cemetery were Anne Darst, Cat Southworth, and Adrienne Maxwell, who gave the Gubernatorial Proclamation. Cat’s husband, David, gave the presentation from the Society of the Cincinnati. This is a wonderful event that takes place every year, please put it on your calendars for 2025.

“Tools for a Trade”

Our member Chandler Williams, who passed two years ago, had been an avid and accomplished woodworker (among many other notable talents). Rather than to sell the extensive woodworking tools that he had at his own workshop, his brother, and our current member, Randolph Williams, decided to donate the tools to The Boys Home in Covington, VA. The tools are now in what is known as Chandler’s Workshop as part of the Trades Building. These tools are being used daily to help young boys to learn a trade and—more importantly—to learn self-esteem, and self-confidence, and prepare them to become productive members of their community when they graduate.

The Boys Home is a home for orphaned and otherwise disadvantaged boys. Here is their statement of their goals.



All successful men were once boys. But not all boys become successful men. Whether it’s due to a lack of positive role models, quality living circumstances, or a welcoming school environment. We provide each, so that boys can go on to be successful men. Men who will take care of their families. Men who will contribute their gifts. Men who will be role models for the next generation of men. At Boys Home of Virginia, we show our boys that every day is a step toward that success.

Thank you, Randolph, for making this happen. The Boys Home web site is boyshomeofva.org. Check it out for more information.



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Newport News, VA 23606

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Registrar Catherine Southworth,
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Natural Bridge, Virginia

The Virginia Huguenot Society wishes each of you a wonderful spring and summer and the opportunity to see the great sights the Commonwealth of Virginia has to offer!