

# The DuVal Family News

for the descendants of Daniel DuVal

Volume XI, No. 1

Spring 2009



Attired in period costumes, Williamsburg's Fifes and Drums regularly parade through the historic area.

## Reunion in Williamsburg: Your Ancestors Will Be Expecting You!

By Ken Pfeiffer and Sue Blair

Buff up your fife and dust off your drum! The DuVal Family Association will hold its sixth biennial reunion in historic Williamsburg over the last weekend in June.

The Woodlands, a family-oriented hotel very near the historic area, will be DuVal HQ for all reunion events from Thursday, June 25 through Saturday, June 27. The special room rate for our family association is \$129 plus tax per night; it also covers three days before and after the reunion dates if you want to extend your stay to take in the many other historic sites near by. To ensure the reduced rate, **the reservation deadline is May 22.** Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-261-9530. Be sure to mention our group, the DuVal Family Association, or use the booking code DUVF09A to get the special rate.

This year's schedule allows plenty of time for sightseeing, shopping and other activities on your own, in addition to official reunion functions. There are two shuttle lines from the visitor center adjacent to the hotel to the historic area. Woodlands guests are eligible to buy discounted passes (\$16, reduced from \$25) to all the attractions in Williamsburg for the duration of their stay, but they must be purchased in advance as a block. On the **enclosed Reunion Registration form** you can indicate how

many passes you wish to buy and include the total amount in your check.

The registration fee for all reunion activities is \$60 per person. It includes everything in the official schedule, as follows:

- **Thursday, 6 p.m.:** Reception
- **Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.:** Tour Williamsburg on your own, with possible family gathering near the statehouse to honor DuVals of the colonial era
- **Friday, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.:** Presentations focused on DuVal family history and genealogical-research techniques (at the hotel)
- **Friday, 6 p.m.:** Biennial membership meeting of the DFA, including election of officers, followed by the banquet
- **Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.:** Take advantage of free National Park Service shuttles to nearby Jamestown and Yorktown, see more of Williamsburg, or take the family to Busch Gardens (5 roller coasters!), which is just down the road.
- **The regular annual meeting of the DFA board is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 24. There will be a short wrap-up board meeting on Saturday at 7 p.m.**

Making this reunion even better for families, kids ages 5-12 who are staying at the Woodlands can participate in the Colonial Kids Club, which provides four hours in the morning or afternoon of supervised activities (crafts, 18th century games) plus lunch.

The insert in this issue combines 2009 membership renewal with registration for the reunion and your order for discounted Williamsburg passes. One form, one check, one envelope, one stamp: staying in touch with your family heritage doesn't get any easier than that!

We hope to see dozens of cousins from far away and near-enough-to-drive. If you live in the area, it's not necessary to stay in the hotel to be welcome at the reunion. However you get to Williamsburg, you'll have an unsurpassed opportunity to meet or get reacquainted with DuVal cousins, share family information and documentation (which can be used toward DAR/SAR membership) and maybe even find out why some of us capitalize the V in DuVal and others don't.

So plan to come to Virginia in June. It's the land of our ancestors, and they'll be expecting us.

## DUVAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to bringing together the descendants of Daniel DuVal, French Huguenot

President

**KENNETH W. PFEIFFER**  
(S); 210-684-4034  
k.pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

**KATHERINE LEWIS** (S)  
804-360-1087  
katwlewis@comcast.net

Treasurer

**JAMES P. DUVAL, SR.** (D)  
804-272-0762  
jimduval1@comcast.net

Secretary/Registrar

**JOAN DUVAL THOMAS** (S)  
609-884-6284  
jd.thomas225@verizon.net

Genealogist

**JOSEPH STEPHEN HAYS**  
(B, S); 270-563-9524  
allenhurst@alltel.net

Historian

**DEANA KATHRYN SNOW**  
(S); 270-563-9524  
nahm@aol.com

Board Members at Large

**SUSAN LEE BLAIR** (B)  
Newsletter Editor  
631-324-3097  
sblair55@aol.com

**PATRICIA DUVAL**

**KOENIG** (D)  
303-973-2094  
paduval@mac.com

**DOROTHY DUVAL**

**NELSON** (S)  
504-891-1601  
nelsonnofly@juno.com

President Emeritus

**ROGER DUVAL BASKETTE, SR.** (S)  
615-646-4239  
tpbandrb@sbcglobal.net

The DuVal Family News is published three times a year. Please send story ideas to the editor at the e-mail address above or the newsletter return address.

**Contributors:** Jim Duval, Ken Pfeiffer. Thanks to Nancy Blair Norman for design and layout.



The graves of Claiborne and Elizabeth DuVal as they appeared in the early 1900s. This photo was published in *DuVals of Kentucky from Virginia* by Margaret Buchanan.



The site as it appeared before restoration began in 2008. The markers had been flattened and broken, and the fence was held together with wire.

## DuVal Grave Restoration Nears Completion

The project to restore and protect the graves of Claiborne (S) and Elizabeth Pope DuVal, which was undertaken by DFA officers Ken Pfeiffer, Joseph Hays and Deana Snow in 2007, has encountered some obstacles along the way but now is nearly finished.

Ken reported in the Summer 2007 edition of this newsletter that they had found the graves in a cornfield in Simpson County, Kentucky, “in a deplorable state, with the markers broken and scattered.” The fence surrounding the plot seemed to have been badly damaged by heavy farm machinery. Although Kentucky laws protect graves on private property, the landowner called the sheriff when the DFA members tried to remove the wrought-iron fence for restoration. They visited the owner’s niece to explain their intentions, and permission to proceed was soon given.

The grave markers were removed so the land could be leveled down to their foundations. On April 13, Joseph and his friend Allen G. Shepherd erected the fence, which had been remade by local ironmongers. He hopes the granite markers will be ready soon. Joseph has put many hours of labor into the project, and although it is nearly finished, some funding is still needed. The total cost was approximately \$3,200, of which \$2,200 has been donated. If descendants of Claiborne and Elizabeth—or any other DuVal cousins—wish to contribute to this worthwhile project, they can send a check made out to DuVal Family Association, with a note that it’s for the Claiborne and Elizabeth DuVal grave restoration, to the treasurer, James P. Duval, Sr., at 3123-B Stony Point Rd., Richmond, VA 23235.

If you know of a DuVal gravesite that needs to be restored and would like to organize the effort to do so, contact Cemetery Committee Chair Deana Snow at [nahm@aol.com](mailto:nahm@aol.com) or P.O. Box 112, Smiths Grove, KY 42171. The committee can offer advice, including information about state laws that protect graves, and assistance in finding others who might join the project.

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*The DFA is looking for someone who lives in or near Richmond to help expedite the placement of a commemorative marker indicating the location of the Benjamin DuVal pottery factory. Please contact Joseph Hays at [allenhurst@alltel.net](mailto:allenhurst@alltel.net) if you’d like to know more about what is involved.*

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Virginia Delegate  
Frank Hargrove

## Delegate Hargrove to Retire

Frank DuVal Hargrove, Sr. (B), who has represented the 55th district in the Virginia House of Delegates for 28 years, has announced that he will not seek re-election in the fall.

Hargrove, who became the first Lifetime Member of the DuVal Family Association in 2003, made his plans known on his 82nd birthday in late January. He is the only remaining World War II veteran in the House and still climbs the stairs to his eighth-floor office in the General Assembly Building.

It is hoped that DuVal cousins will have an opportunity at the upcoming reunion in Williamsburg to congratulate Delegate Hargrove on his long career in public service.



Dr. Wirt Adams Duvall

Thanks to the perseverance of Barry McKown, president of the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants, we finally have a picture of Dr. Wirt Adams Duvall, whose correspondence with Bessie Berry Grabowskii was printed in previous issues of *The DuVal Family News*. Linn Harwell, Dr. Duvall's granddaughter, provided the picture.

Dr. Duvall was born in Anne Arundel County, Md., in 1863 and received his medical degree from the University of Maryland, where he later taught. He was among the founders of the Mareen Duvall Society in 1927 and became its first president. Dr. Duvall died in 1944 in Baltimore.

### Get Ready for Williamsburg!

Here are some websites to help you plan your time in and around historic Williamsburg, Va., site of the 2009 DuVal Family Reunion:

- Williamsburg: [www.history.org](http://www.history.org)
- Jamestown and Yorktown: [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org)
- Busch Gardens: [www.buschgardens.com/BGW2](http://www.buschgardens.com/BGW2)

## IN MEMORIAM

**HENRY ADAMS DAVIS** (S) died on Dec. 12, 2008, in Danville, Va., at the age of 88. He was the son of James T. Davis and Sue DuVal Adams Davis. His wife, the former Erma Abbott, survives him. Madelon Jessee Davis, his first wife, predeceased him.

Mr. Davis attended the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and as a 1st lieutenant was attached to the 9th Army Air Force at Normandy Beach. He spent the winter of 1944-45 in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He retired as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve. After the war he worked for C & P Telephone Co. as an engineer and also developed real estate in Roanoke, Va. He was a lifelong member of the Keystone Baptist Church and volunteered for the Salvation Army.

He is survived by his children, Henry Adams Davis, Jr., and wife, Hope, of Chatham, Va., and Lynn D. Kenan of High Point, N.C., as well as three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, four sisters and a brother.

### Cousins Clue Chart

When DFA members are mentioned in the *DuVal Family News*, their line of descent from the sons of Daniel DuVal, French Huguenot, is indicated after their names as follows:  
W=William; D=Daniel; B=Benjamin; S=Samuel

## 2009 DuVal Family Reunion Registration Form Williamsburg, Va. June 25-27

**Registration Fee: \$60 per person (includes Thursday evening reception and Friday dinner)**  
**Pass to visit all historic Williamsburg attractions: \$16 per person (advance purchase required)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

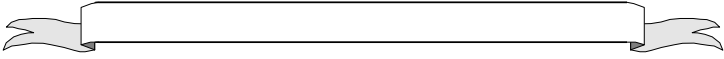
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF OTHERS FOR WHOM YOU ARE PAYING:

\_\_\_\_\_

DUVAL LINE (please circle): William Daniel 2 Samuel Benjamin

Please make your check payable to DuVal Family Association and mail it with this form to:  
**James P. Duval, Sr., 3123-B Stony Point Rd., Richmond, VA 23235**



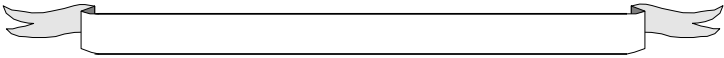
## CALL TO MEETING

The Board of Directors of the DuVal Family Association will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at The Woodlands in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The Membership of the DuVal Family Association will hold its biennial meeting at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 26, 2009, at The Woodlands in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Election of officers and other board members will take place at the Membership Meeting.

Action will be taken on other items of business during the Membership Meeting, possibly including choosing the location for the 2011 meeting of the DuVal Family Association. If you have suggestions for other matters to be addressed at the meeting, please make them known to Ken Pfeiffer at [k.pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net) or 210-684-4034.



Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg was established in 1717 and named for Sir Walter Raleigh, who had attempted the first colonization of Virginia in 1585. Phi Beta Kappa was founded here in 1776.

**DuVal Family Reunion Headquarters**

**Woodlands Hotel**  
**105 Visitor Center Drive**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23185**  
**1-800-261-9530**  
**1-757-253-2277**

DuVal Family News  
Susan Blair, Editor  
193 Swamp Road  
East Hampton, NY 11937

TO:

