

DUVAL FAMILY ASSN.

CHARTERED IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA 1999

2012 Board Meeting

The DuVal Family Association Board of Directors met in Vicksburg, MS on March 30th. The Board elected Thomas DuVal Roberts to fill the vacancy in the Vice-president position. Treasurer, Jim Duval asked for an audit of our books which was conducted by Tom Roberts and Deana Snow. Although early, President Ken Pfeiffer suggested that the Board consider Richmond for the 2015 reunion. Ken also mentioned that the Association by-laws will need to be changed to reflect the separation of the Secretary and Registrar positions. That vote to be held at the 2013 reunion. Jim Duval has assumed the registered agent duties to be our contact for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Deana and Dottie will work on producing a card with Association and reunion information to send to libraries in the San Antonio area. Tom Roberts was elected to chair the nominating committee. Further details are in the meeting minutes which will be available at the reunion. A trip to Goliad to see the restored fort and witness the re-enactment of the Battle of Coleto is planned for Saturday March 23rd. The hotel is on Alamo Plaza and steps away from the famous River Walk. Registration which includes reception and dinner is \$45.00 sent to Jim Duval, 3123-B Stony Point Rd., Richmond, VA 23235. Transportation to Goliad may be extra depending on how many wish to go. Please act early so we can better plan.



The 2013 DFA Reunion will be held in San Antonio, Texas March 21-23 at The Hotel Indigo at the Alamo. Make your reservations early to insure you get our special rate. 1-210-933-2000



DFA Officers and Board Members

Ken Pfeiffer, President, pfeiffer327@gmail.com Tom Roberts, Vice-presidenttdrii0@aol.com
 Dorothy Nelson, Secretary, nelsonno@bellsouth.net Jim Duval, Treasurer, jimduvall@verizon.net
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 Sue Blair, Board Mbr, sblair55@aol.com

Battle of the Coleta, March 1836

Early in 1836 the Kentucky Volunteers under Cpt. Burr DuVal were inducted into the Texian Army in the command of Col. James Fannin. They had come ashore in the vicinity of Aransas Pass, moved to Copano then on to Goliad; the location of Fannin's Headquarters. By February news was coming in that a large Mexican Army under Santa Anna had crossed the Rio Grande and was headed east. Late in the month Fannin had received orders to move east and join Gen. Houston to consolidate the army. Fannin had also received a message from Travis that he was surrounded at the Alamo and to send aid. After some days and confusion about what to do the decision was made to move east. By mid-day on the first day of the move as Fannin approached the Coleta Creek they were surrounded by Mexican cavalry under the command of Gen. Urrea. The Battle of the Coleta ensued with several charges by the cavalry being driven off.



“...the three columns with trumpets braying and pennons flying, charged upon us simultaneously from three directions. When within three or four hundred yards of our lines our artillery opened upon them with grape and canister shot, with deadly effect,- but still their advance was unchecked, until their foremost ranks were in actual contact in some places with the bayonets of our men. But the fire at close quarters from our muskets and rifles was so rapid and destructive, that before long they fell back in confusion, leaving the ground covered in places with horses and dead men.”

The fighting continued through the afternoon with Cpt. DuVal showing his superior marksmanship against four Carise Indian marksmen who had wounded several Texians.

“...whenever one of the indians showed his head above the tall grass it was perforated by an ounce rifle ball.” “...we [later] examined the locality where the indians had secreted themselves, and found the four lying closely together each one with a bullet hole through his head.”

Cpt. DuVal had a finger shot off during this episode. At nightfall Fannin suggested that the only way out of their predicament was to escape to the east after dark. However, as about seventy were wounded “...it was unanimously determined not to abandon our wounded men, but to remain with them and share their fate, whatever it may be.”

The Mexican's were reinforced overnight with several hundred soldiers and cannon. The next morning the Texians were treated to a bombardment from the Mexican artillery. "We expected momentarily that the cavalry would charge us, but after firing several rounds from their nine pounders, an officer accompanied by a soldier bearing a white flag, rode out towards us, and by signs gave us to understand that he desired a "parley". The substance of the Mexican officer's communication was ... Gen. Urrea would guarantee to Col. Fannin and his men, on his word of honor as an officer and gentleman, that we would be leniently dealt with, provided we surrendered at discretion... When this message was delivered to Col Fannin, he sent word back to the officer "to say to Gen. Urrea, it was a waste of time to discuss the subject of surrendering at discretion - that he would fight as long as there was a man left to fire a gun before he would surrender on such terms".

"A little while afterwards the Mexicans again made a show of attacking us, but just as we were expecting them to charge, Gen. Urrea himself rode out in front of his lines accompanied by several of his officers and the soldier with the "white flag". Col. Fannin and Maj. Wallace went out to meet them, and the terms of capitulation were finally agreed upon, the most important of which was, that we should be held as prisoners of war until exchanged, or liberated on our parole of honor not to engage in the war again - at the option of the Mexican commander in chief.

"... I am thus particular in stating what I know to be the facts in regard to this capitulation, because I have seen it stated that Gen. Santa Anna always asserted there was no capitulation, and that Col. Fannin surrendered at discretion to Gen. Urrea. This assertion I have no doubt was made to justify as far as possible his order for the cold blooded murder of disarmed prisoners."

"I have always believed myself that Gen. Urrea entered into the capitulation with Col. Fannin in good faith. and that the massacre of the prisoners, which took place some days afterwards, was by the express order of Santa Anna, and against the remonstrances of Gen. Urrea. If Gen. Urrea had intended to act treacherously, the massacre, in my opinion, would have taken place as soon as we had delivered up our arms..."

"Dr. Joseph Barnard, our assistant surgeon, who was saved from the massacre to attend their wounded, told me afterwards the he was confident that we had killed and wounded between three and four hundred. After our surrender we marched back to Goliad, escorted by a large detachment of cavalry, and were there confined within the walls surrounding the old mission."

Quotes taken from "Early Times in Texas" by J.C. DuVal Edited by Mabel Major

Image of Gen. Urrea's original copy, in Spanish, of the surrender document owned by The Sons of the Republic of Texas and housed at The University of Texas at San Antonio confirming J.C. DuVal's report that Fannin's men were to be treated as prisoners of war.

Resolucion de la fuerza que se hallaba en Pecos a las ordenes del Sr.
D. Juan H. Fannin.

Articulo 1.º Habiendo pasado la tropa Mexicana a disposicion de mis
señores jefes en Mexico y acordado a requesta sus señores que
se les diese una bandera blanca y al momento vinieron los Sr. Co-
mandantes D. Juan Morales y D. Mariano Salas en compania
del Sr. Coronel de Ingenieros D. Juan Jose Holmgren y los
procuradores Mexicanos a Pecos, a lo que quedamos conformes
Articulo 2.º Se dio el consentimiento para que se diese una bandera
con toda la consideracion posible proporcional al numero de
señales.

Articulo 3.º Se dio el consentimiento para que se diese una bandera
de guerra y se diese a disposicion del Supremo Gobierno
el campo de la Cruz de Guadalupe y la Bahia de
20 de 1836. = B. C. Wallace may Clarke. J. m. Cha-
rrock ad. genl. = Approved. W. H. King. Head Quarters. =

Como cuando se puso la bandera blanca por el motivo de
transferencia al jefe de ellos que me habia mas consideracion
que el de que se habia a disposicion, sin otra circunstancia,
y se acordase en ello por conducto de los Sr. Jefes que quedan
apartados, me dieron lugar los otros jefes que habian los
que me habia con Mexicanos. Asi lo he manifestado a ellos
y quedamos conformes, para mi parte, sin que se acuerde otra
cosa. = Sr. Urrea.

My Favorite Ancestor: Lucy Joanna Duval

My g-g-grandmother, Lucy Joanna (Duval) Cantley, was born in 1827 in Richmond, Virginia. She had numerous siblings, but seemed to be very close to her brother John Richard who was only a year older. The first Duvals arrived in Virginia in 1701. Four generations later my line migrated by covered wagon to Mississippi. My direct line then moved to Palestine, Texas about 1847. Palestine was the seat of Anderson County with 179 residents. Lucy married Audley Gazzam Cantley (A.G.), from Mississippi, shortly after arriving in Palestine. Lucy is on the 1850 Palestine census with A.G., and children; John 2; and William 22 months. A.G. was County Clerk then County Judge in Anderson County. On the 1860 Palestine census she is enumerated with her children, John, William, Audlie and Charlie but not A.G. Lucy and A.G. had separated. Living in the same Palestine hotel with A.G. was his mistress Allie Elizabeth McGrew. A.G. and Allie lived together until the divorce then they left leaving Lucy to raise four children. We do not know if A.G. gave Lucy any money.



The next evidence of Lucy is a letter written to her brother's (John Richard) wife in September 1861, inquiring about his safety and whereabouts during the early parts of the Civil War. We learn from her letter of an outbreak of Yellow Fever in Texas as many were sick. She refers to both black and white members of her family as being sick. It was common to consider slaves as part of the family. I get a sense of deep depression from her letter. Life must have been very hard after the divorce and the many family deaths from the Civil War. Our next contact with Lucy was in 1872 when she wrote her will and died the same year in Palestine. Her children then were John, 24; William, 20; Audlie, 17; and Charlie, 14. She left most of the assets (loans due the estate) to her daughter Audlie, my g-grandmother. She married the next year but was unable to collect her inheritance because she was underage. She and her husband returned in 1876 to claim it. We believe she got very little as the executor, Thomas Duval, had died and failed to probate the will. She made a good marriage and lived a good long life, unlike her brothers John and Charlie.

Nine years after Lucy's death her sons were still living in the Palestine area. At that time, according to a newspaper account, there was a fight between John and Charlie stemming from a misunderstanding about John's intimate relations with a woman of ill repute. My Aunt Lena's account gave it as the brothers scuffling and a gun went off. It appears it was unintentional other than Charlie may have been drunk. John took care of his brother by taking the blame and gave him \$1000 and considerable town property before he died the next day.

About four years later, Charlie went to Silver City, New Mexico where he became deputy sheriff and later city marshal. On October 11, 1895 Charlie, under the influence again, got into a gunfight with a Mr. Fielder who shot him dead in the White House Saloon. The Enterprise newspaper stated “ Marshal Cantley was well regarded and generally considered fearless in the face of the outlaw element. His long continued authority as an officer caused him to assume an arbitrary demeanor, which at times tended toward aggressiveness. Liquor to which he was slightly addicted would aggravate this tendency.” Was the shooting caused in part by Charlie’s guilt over killing his brother?

If A.G. had been around to be a father and help raise his sons, would there have been such a tragic ending for John and Charlie? One would think that A.G. more than anyone, would know how important a father figure would be in his children’s lives. His own father, Major John Cantley, a banker, was shot dead at the age of 37. A.G., fourteen, was taken by the Doxey family who raised him. My belief is that sweet Lucy did the best she could raising the kids by herself and am glad she didn’t live to see the terrible ending for two of her sons.

Audlie, my g-grandmother, married Rufus Pinkney Watts, a rancher and Methodist Episcopal Minister in Texas. He was first ordained in 1878 and was renewed in ’79 and ’80. They had eleven children. Martha Joanna, my grandmother married Arthur Jones. While preaching out of town R.P. was shot dead at the age of 55. It was a case of mistaken identity. As the story goes a lawyer lost a case and after returned to the courthouse and pistol whipped the judge. The judge, bleeding from the head, ran to the door with his gun to stop the lawyer. He mistook R.P. for the lawyer, shot across the street and hit him. He died later from complications of the gunshot wound. Audlie never remarried and died at the age of 74 in Porterville, California.

What became of A.G.? His early government positions led to a clerk appointment in 1877 on the Committee of Commerce in the House in Washington D.C. However, in 1878, at age 52, he committed suicide by gunshot. The coroner ruled suicide caused by a chronic disease of the brain. It may have been a brain lesion but some researchers believe it could have been syphilis. Allie died at age 77 of breast cancer and their daughter died at 33 of pneumonia.

Tragedy brought on by infidelity, alcoholism, shootings and suicide plagued the lives of many of my ancestors during this time. However, there is a deep pride in what they were able to accomplish. They contributed much to what we are today. We respect their hardships and losses and their never giving in or giving up. They were resolute in their effort to build better lives for their families.

Carole Bridges
2012

I wish to acknowledge the incredible help from my cousin Carol Unger; also Jack Ward, Susan Lake and Ralph McGrew.

Thanks to Carole and friends for providing the above aspect to our DuVal family history.

We encourage others to consider sending their DuVal family vignette. We all benefit from knowing more about our family history.

If you haven’t sent in your annual dues, it isn’t too late. See Membership Renewal Form

Ken Pfeiffer, President, DuVal Family Association



DuVal Family Association
Annual Membership Renewal Form
2012

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email address for future contact and newsletter distributions

_____ Individual membership \$10.00 Dues are on Calendar Year Basis

_____ Spouse \$10.00 (optional)

_____ Family dues \$25.00

Please list spouse and eligible children under the age of 21.

Spouse _____

Children names and ages _____

Please **return form & mail check** made out to DuVal Family Association (DFA)
to: Jim Duval, 3123-B Stony Point Rd., Richmond, VA 23235

San Antonio Texas Reunion March 2013: Please check below to indicate
interest in this reunion:

_____ Interested _____ Not Interested _____ Not Sure

WANTED NEW MEMBERS

Do you have DuVal relatives who are not yet DFA members that you think may be
interested in becoming a member. If so, please use the space below to help us
increase our membership. Use back if necessary.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email _____