

The Duval Family News

for the descendants of Daniel DuVal

Volume IV, No. 1

Summer 2002

Just in Time: Site of DuVal Pottery Is Unearthed During Supermarket Excavation in Richmond

By Susan Blair

The site of an early 19th century pottery owned by Benjamin DuVal Jr. was rediscovered in Richmond, Va., early this year, during the construction of a new supermarket. The property is on Main Street, between 23rd and 24th streets.

Joseph Hays, DuVal Family Association genealogist, visited the site in July, along with DFA member Deana Snow (S). Photographs he took show a weedy lot strewn with rocks and large hunks of concrete on which the footing must have been extremely uneven. Joseph says the area is roped off, and that it probably will be only a few months before it is paved over to make a parking lot.

Joseph and Deana began their visit by spending three days in the Virginia State Library examining books, periodicals and maps on microfilm. After that, they were raring to get outside. Artist Richard Bland, a local historian and collector of artifacts, accompanied them. Joseph described their "expedition":

"We did not expect to find anything, believing that anything of historical value would surely have been removed by this time, so we arrived unprepared. There were pottery shards and kiln furniture lying on the ground or just below the surface. We had to work fast, as it was getting dark, and nearby construction workers might become inquisitive as to our intent. We made use of an abandoned hubcap and plastic shopping bags to haul the 'loot' back to our truck across a busy street. Then we hit the mother lode, when Deana found the much desired but truly unexpected shard: a piece with the factory name 'B. DuVal & Co./R...', and of course we all began looking where she had found this gem."

The all-but-too-late discovery began when Robert Hunter, editor of the journal *Ceramics in America*, noticed the work going on as he drove past the construction site. According to an article in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on March 10, Hunter was aware that a pottery had once operated in the area, so he contacted David Hazzard, director of the Threatened Sites Program for the



RICHARD BLAND

Joseph Hays and Deana Snow display their great find: a shard showing the mark of the Benjamin DuVal pottery in Richmond.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). (The program works to recover artifacts and other information from construction sites.) Hazzard quickly pulled together a team of archaeologists and pottery experts, who spent a week working amid construction crews to recover as many remnants of pottery and tile as possible. The team also examined debris that had already been hauled to a landfill. Although no intact vessels were found, about 1,000 lbs. of shards from various kinds of objects was salvaged.

Benjamin DuVal Jr. was born in 1765 to Benjamin DuVal (third son of Daniel) and his wife, Ann Kay. In 1785, Benjamin Jr. married Elizabeth Warrock, and by 1790 he had become an apothecary, selling "miracle cures for assorted diseases," according to a newspaper advertisement. But he evidently had a variety of interests—reflected, perhaps, in the name of his plantation, "Experiment"—and in 1791 he advertised for "a potter who understands working at the wheel." No new enterprise seems to have developed at the time, but in 1808 Benjamin announced the establishment of a roof-tile manufactory in Richmond. Insurance records indicate that he had acquired four adjacent lots that today are the block bounded by Main, 23rd, Franklin and 24th streets. (For several years, he was president of an insurance company, which may have inspired him to make roofing material that was more fire resistant than the traditional wood shingles.)

(story continues on page 5)

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

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Board Holds Meeting in Nashville

By Susan Blair

The board of directors of the DuVal Family Association met on June 8 in Nashville, at the home of DFA vice president Roger Baskette and his wife Thetis. Others present were president Judy Hamby, secretary Gina Thompson, genealogist Joseph Hays and board members at large Sarah King and Thomas Dunscombe, Jr. The new editor of the newsletter, Sue Blair, sat in on the meeting at the board's invitation.

Although treasurer/registrar Pat Koenig was unable to attend, she provided financial and membership reports for the board's review. Of 217 DFA members, only 105 had paid dues for 2002. It was generally agreed that the long hiatus in the publication of the newsletter might account for members' forgetting to renew their membership. In spite of concerns about the cost of printing and mailing newsletters to people whose memberships are not up to date, it was decided to send the next issue to everyone who was a member last year. One copy will be sent to each mailing address.

President Hamby focused her report on the need to seek new membership in the association. She suggested a national advertising campaign in such publications as those of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution and National Huguenot Society, as well as in certain newspapers. Another possible approach to expanding the membership rolls is to send complimentary copies of the newsletter to other genealogy associations and publications. Formation of a membership committee was discussed. It was suggested that the length of the present membership-application form may discourage people from joining. An effort will be made to create a shorter form.

An election of officers and board members will take place at the June 2003 general membership meeting in Richmond. Thomas Dunscombe was appointed chairman of the nominating committee; Sarah King and Katherine Lewis will be committee members.

DFA genealogist Joseph Hays reported that there has been little response to his requests for up-to-date DuVal descendant information for the new book. In addition to biographical information, Joseph would like to have brief family stories and photographs to use in the book, which will include the most recent generations. The book will also integrate material from the Buchanan and Grabowski books and address corrections to that material as necessary. The cutoff date for submissions to the book is Dec. 25, 2002.

Several suggestions were made regarding possible activities at the next DuVal Reunion,

which will be held June 19-22, 2003, in Richmond. Joseph suggested the placement of a plaque noting Samuel DuVal's accomplishments and his role in the founding of the city. Sarah suggested that the association approach the city of Richmond to help fund such a plaque. Ideas for other activities for the reunion should be directed to Katherine Lewis.

President Hamby is exploring ways the DFA could support research into material found at the Benjamin DuVal pottery site in Richmond. One possibility is to partially fund the expenses of a graduate student at the College of William and Mary who may write a thesis on the discovery. The board postponed further consideration of such a plan pending the student's receiving approval for her project.

In other business:

> consideration was begun into sending Joseph to England to research Daniel DuVal's sojourn there

> the board agreed to thank Liz Switzer for her service as DFA newsletter editor, and will issue a certificate recognizing her efforts

> a survey of members was proposed to determine interest in a DuVal pin

On Friday evening before the meeting, Sarah King entertained the group with a dinner at her home in Murfreesboro. Her daughter, Carmine King Jordan (D) of Birmingham, Ala., acted as co-hostess. The guests were particularly interested in the many family portraits that adorn the walls, as Sarah explained the relationships among the people pictured in them.

After the board concluded its business at midday Saturday, Thetis Baskette, assisted by her daughters, provided an ample lunch for all. Elizabeth Baskette, Roger's sister, was a special guest at the luncheon. Later Roger shared a number of scrapbooks he has kept, including one relating to the original formation of the DFA. To conclude the afternoon, some of the group visited the McKendree Methodist Church in downtown Nashville, site of the first meeting of the DuVal Family Association in 1936. Unfortunately, the building was not open for viewing.



At McKendree Methodist Church (l. to r.): Thetis and Roger Baskette, Deana Snow, Judy Hamby, Joseph Hays, Sue Blair, Gina Thompson.

THETIS BASKETTE

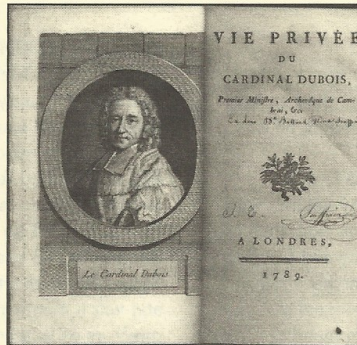
Cardinal Dubois: A Distant Uncle?

By Joseph Stephen Hays

Oh, the wonders of modern technology! A few minutes facing a computer monitor, some keystrokes, several swipes of the mouse ... then relax, and in a few days—voilà!—a book arrives in the mail. This is how I purchased the second-oldest book in my library from the Internet auction website eBay.

The book is *Vie Privée du Cardinal Dubois* (The Private Life of Cardinal Dubois), apparently written by a private secretary to Dubois during his years as a government minister. It was published in London in 1789, “after having passed through many hands and after having been neglected for 60 years,” according to a notice from the editors at the beginning of the book. It is printed in French, and although I have not yet been able to get a complete translation, I have gleaned enough from a couple of pages concerning his ancestry to become very excited and will gladly correspond with anyone willing to translate.

We have for some time been aware of our connection to this illustrious citizen of France, who held such titles as archbishop, Cardinal and Prime Minister. According to the Columbia Encyclopedia (sixth edition), Guillaume Dubois was a tutor to Philippe II d’Orleans, a French royal fam-



ily. In 1715, Louis XV became the King of France, but he was only 5 years old, and Philippe, by then Duc d’Orleans, became the regent. He appointed Dubois Councilor of State in the same year.

The previous King, Louis XIV, had driven the country deep into debt with a 10-year war that had ended in 1714. Dubois altered French foreign policy by successfully forming an alliance with Louis XIV’s enemies. This agreement, the 1717 Triple Alliance of France, England, and Holland, was no doubt Dubois’s greatest achievement, earning him the accolade of having “saved France” and the title of Minister of Foreign Affairs. He became a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church in 1721 and Prime Minister of France in 1722. On the other hand, not everything written about him was good: he was described as an atheist and cynic, and there is no short supply of disparaging descriptions of his physique and character

by many of his contemporaries. As his relative, I will not dwell on these.

The publishing of Bessie Grabowskii’s book *The DuVal Family of Virginia* in 1931 flushed out the records of the Horsley-Easley Bible. Previously, no published source told anything about Daniel DuVal’s wife or her ancestry. This Bible record aligned the families of DuVal and Dubois, claiming Abbé (abbot) Dubois a close relative and implying a marriage between the families of Dubois and DuVal as represented by the quartering of the two families’ arms on the now legendary golden tureen that descended in our family before being lost.

When Margaret Buchanan published *DuVals of Kentucky from Virginia* in 1938, she incorporated this new information, stating that the Abbé Dubois was an ‘uncle’ of Daniel’s wife. With her book there is the assertion that Daniel’s wife was the “daughter of Jean and his wife Marie Deyaget. Jean Dubois was the only brother of the famous Abbé Dubois.” This being in contradiction to the book I recently purchased, which states that Jean was father of the Abbé Dubois and not his brother, I searched for the origin of this discrepancy. Thanks to member Tom Dunscombe, who has shared the letters between his father and Margaret Buchanan, I found the source to be a book quoted by Margaret’s sister, Tilla Clarkson, which said the Abbé Dubois had only one brother, Jean.

(story continues next page)



Sunshine Corner

By Molly Dunscombe O’Leary

Greetings, Cousins! The following announcements have been reported to me, and it is with joy that I pass along these tidbits of family news. It’s fun to see how our tree is growing! Please send your notices to me at molly_d_oleary@hotmail.com.

BORN

Ethan Hamilton DuVal, on April 24, 2002, to Stephen and Cindy DuVal of Richmond, Va.. He is the first grandchild of Ted (B) and Mary DuVal of Mechanicsville, Va.

William Caleb Laverty, on Feb. 24, 2002, to Kurt and Dana Laverty, in Durango, Colo. He is the great-nephew of DFA member Kate Terry (S) of Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Amelia Louise Laverty, on July 1, 2002, to Robert and Kimberly Laverty, in Durango, Colo. She is the great-niece of DFA member Kate Terry.

Logan Edmund Milburn, on Feb. 8, 2002, in Charlottesville, Va.. Reported by Gene Milburn (B).

Thomas Stanley Tidwell, on Oct. 14, 2001, to Tommy and Lois Tidwell, in Bowling Green, Ky. He is the great-nephew of DFA member James Taylor (S) of Bowling Green and the first cousin once removed of DFA genealogist Joseph Hays.

ENGAGED

Allen David Hahn, son of DFA newsletter editor Susan Blair, to **Karen Keagle**, daughter of Barbara and William Keagle of Decatur, Ill. The wedding is planned for May 17, 2003, in Decatur.

MARRIED

Dr. Sarah C. DuVal, daughter of Ted and Mary DuVal of Mechanicsville, Va., to **Sean R. Swineford**, son of Bill and Cindy Swineford of Richmond, Va., on April 13, 2002, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond.

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES W. DUVAL (D) of Leawood, Kan., died on May 29, 2002, at the age of 77. His wife, Vicky, to whom he was married for 55 years, survives him.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., to Hugh and Ida Duval, "Chuck" Duval, as he was known, was an Army veteran who served in the South Pacific in World War II. For more than 40 years he owned and operated City Wide Heating and Cooling in Leawood, a business owned by his sons since his 1989 retirement. Mr. Duval was also active in professional associations and the Better Business Bureau and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. After retiring, he was an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

Mr. Duval is also survived by his six children—Judy Catanzaro, Tim, Nick, Ted, Doug and Chris—and their spouses, and by 11 grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Hugh and his wife Mary and many nephews and nieces, among them DFA Treasurer/Registrar Patricia Duval Koenig.

WALTER HUGHEY KING SR., husband of DFA board member Sarah McKelley King, died on Jan. 7, 2002, in Rutherford County, Tennessee, at the age of 81. Mr. and Mrs. King had been married 60 years.

Mr. King, who lived in Murfreesboro, Tenn., most of his life, volunteered for the Marines in World War II and was a veteran of the invasion of Iwo Jima and the occupation of Guam. In 1983 he retired from South Central Bell (now Bell South) after 43 years of service. Mr. King organized the Stones River chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and was a member and onetime president of the board of directors of Rutherford County Hospital. He also belonged to Rotary International and had received a distinguished service award from his local Rotary Club.

Mr. King is also survived by his children Walter Hughey King Jr., Carmine King Jordan, Newton Dudley King and Sallie King Norton, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Material contributed by Pat Koenig and Judy Hamby

Dubois (continued)

Margaret subsequently assumed that Jean and Marie were the parents of Daniel's wife if she was the Abbé's niece. I have not been able to reconcile how Daniel's wife became the Abbé's niece if all previous sources claim she was just "related."

The first pages of *Vie Privée du Cardinal Dubois* confirm certain facts about Dubois's life. He was born in Brive-la-Gaillarde in the Limousin region of France on Sept. 6, 1656, to Jean Dubois and Marie Dujoyer, and was baptized on the 24th of the same month. His grandfather was a Béarnaise (from a region in the extreme southwestern part of the country) who had relocated to Brive. His father was an apothecary, a profession Guillaume himself may have followed for a brief time. A loose translation of further pages indicates that as a student at a college in Brive, he frequented balls and parties. At some point, he moved to Bordeaux, where he became amorously involved with a chambermaid; they were married in Limousin. After a short time they moved to Paris, where Dubois returned to his studies and by mutual consent separated from his wife.

Having tried to document all facts, and with the absence of documentation in the past, I am excited to learn of this new 'evidence' in the form of a very early book. It is yet to be reconciled which sources are correct. Much of the book concerns politics of the day, which I am sure would prove very dry to the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**THE THIRD BIENNIAL
REUNION OF THE
DUVAL FAMILY**

JUNE 19-22, 2003

**OMNI HOTEL
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

**STAY UP TO DATE ON
ACTIVITIES PLANNED
BY READING
THE DUVAL FAMILY NEWS**

**KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP
CURRENT SO YOU CAN
JOIN YOUR COUSINS IN
ALL THE FUN!**

average reader. Cardinal Dubois died in 1723, and on the last pages are his epitaph and a description of his burial place. What else might these pages hold?

I am always in search of new information. If you can suggest a way to get this book translated, please let me know.

Information quoted from the book was gained from partial translations by DFA members Kate Terry (S) and Susan Blair.

Want to See Your Name in Print?

Preparation of the new DuVal genealogy book is moving forward quickly. Information uncovered since the publication of the two previous books in the 1930s is being evaluated for reliability and possible inclusion in the new volume.

I want to thank all Duval descendants who have already submitted updated family information. However, there are many, many more of you from whom I have not heard. I had hoped to have all information collected by the middle of this year, but because there are still families who have not sent in updates, the deadline will be extended to **Dec. 25, 2002**.

First and foremost, please bring the family tree in your line up to date from the last generation recorded in the Grabowski and/or Buchanan books. We would like to include the most current generation in each branch when this book is published. I would also like to receive family photos and brief family stories.

My address is:
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Smith's Grove, KY 42171
E-mail:
allenhurst@premiernet.net

The new book will make a wonderful keepsake to pass down in your family. Please send in your data so as not to disappoint your grandchildren!

—Joseph Stephen Hays

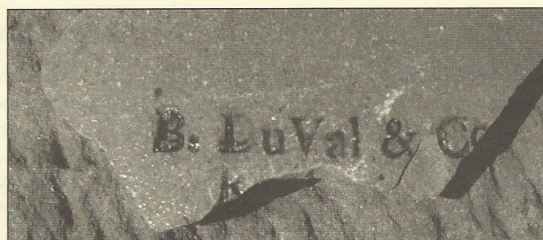
Pottery (continued from page 1)

In 1811, Benjamin advertised the opening of a stoneware-manufacturing business at the tile factory, and the following year announced that the company's stoneware was available for sale at "the sign of the Golden Mortar, Richmond," his apothecary shop. In 1814 he published a list of products: jugs and pots of various capacities, pitchers, bottles, ticklers (pocket flasks), chamber pots, churns, milk pans and ink stands. The pottery continued in business until 1817, when Benjamin announced that his son James would take over the business. James ran an ad at the same time, saying that flower pots and other items of earthenware had been added to the previous product line. (Earthenware, fired at a lower temperature than stoneware, is coarser and slightly porous.)

It is not known how the pottery fared under James' management; there is no record of it after 1820. Benjamin died in 1826. The apothecary business survived, in the hands of sons and brothers of Benjamin, until the burning of Richmond at the end of the Civil War.

Genealogist Joseph Hays is not surprised that this historic site slipped through the cracks of archaeological investigation. He believes that preservation efforts in Richmond are focused primarily on the colonial period and the Civil War era. The location of the DuVal pottery has been known at least since 1978, according to an article titled "B. DuVal & Co./Richmond: A Newly Discovered Pottery," by Bradford L. Rauschenberg, which appeared that year in the *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts*. The site was surveyed by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology in 1985, at which time some shards and kiln furniture (used to prop objects up in the kiln) were recovered, but that seems to have been the last time official notice was taken of the site. Thus the current construction began without further examination of the land.

Robert Hunter says the significance of the find can't be overstated, because it clearly demonstrates a link identified in the Rauschenberg article between DuVal's products and pottery made in New York. Describing a 3-gallon jug marked "B. DuVal & Co./Richmond" that



JOSEPH HAYS

Close-up of pottery shard showing mark of DuVal pottery. The facility is known to have been active between 1811 and 1817.

had been donated to the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Rauschenberg said, "The shape of the body, neck, lip and handles definitely reflects a New York influence." The round handles are bent inward toward the body of the jug, making it less likely they will break off in use. The article says such a handle shape is unusual in Southern pottery of the time. Another New York connection is shown in the type-like letters of the pottery's mark, which were impressed into the surface and then filled or rubbed with cobalt. Hunter says that pottery marks are very distinctive, and that the way the DuVal mark is laid out on the pot is similar to a mark used in New York in the same era. Cobalt also decorates the base of the handles. (Joseph says most of the pieces he, Deana and Richard found have "blue to purple colors, making for a very colorful display.")

Rauschenberg discovered the possible source of the New York influence in a DuVal advertisement that mentions a "Mr. John P. Schermerhorn ... who is concerned in one of my shops." That Schermerhorn was a potter is supported by census records of 1820, which list him as making "stone ware of all kinds." New York historical records show Schermerhorns living there in the late 18th century, and there is a Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn today.

Most of the material recovered early this year has been taken to Hunter's shop in Yorktown for study; Hunter hopes an article on the find will appear in his ceramics journal in the next year or so. Because the artifacts were found on private property, they technically belong to the developer who owns it, Forest City Enterprises of Cleveland, but David Hazzard of the VDHR hopes the company will recognize the historic value of the pottery and give it to the state.

Joseph Hays says he and his companions were surprised at how much material remained at the site after almost 200 years. In spite of the imminent paving over of the area, he hopes that someday it will be rediscovered and there will be another chance to learn more about our ancestor's pottery business.

Sources: "The Past in Pottery," © *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, March 10, 2002; "B. DuVal & Co./Richmond: A Newly Discovered Pottery" by Bradford L. Rauschenberg, *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts*, May 1978



JOSEPH HAYS

Basket filled with pieces of jugs and other items that were collected by Snow, Hays and Bland on their "expedition."

A Note from the Editor

When I found the DuVal Family Association website on the Internet more than two years ago, it naturally made me think about my mother, Alice Spottswood DuVal Blair, and her family. My grandparents, Evelyn (née Penick) and Raymond Burton DuVal, lived not far from us in suburban Chicago, as did my mother's two older brothers, Thomas Penick and Raymond Burton Jr. Thus my sisters, Ann and Nancy, and I often celebrated holidays and other special occasions in the company of our first cousins. My mother's younger brother, John Stockton, had settled in Oregon, but every few years he and his wife and two sons would visit us in the Midwest. My family photo collection shows clearly how much my mom enjoyed her brothers' company.

My mother and grandparents imparted to me a sense of the significance of being part of a family that had been among the early European settlers of Virginia. *The DuVal Family of Virginia*, written by Bessie Berry Grabowskii, my grandfather's first cousin, was displayed with great pride. Yet because my grandfather's business had caused him to move his family from Richmond to Chicago in 1920, I never knew any "DuVal Cousins of Virginia." Eventually, my grandfather's and mother's deaths a year apart, combined with the fact that I left the Chicago area to go to college, resulted in my losing touch with the cousins I had grown up with.

Now the DFA has opened up a new world of cousins wider than I could ever have imagined. I was honored to be invited to the annual DFA board meeting in June, where I met the first

of my "new" relatives. Now I look forward to getting acquainted with many more of you through the newsletter and at the next reunion, and especially to reacquainting myself with the cousins of my childhood.

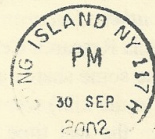
Compared with the newsletters of several other family associations, which Judy Hamby kindly shared with me, I think the *DuVal Family News* is extremely professional, thus you won't see much change in its appearance. In the articles, the names of DFA members will now be followed by the first initial of the son of Daniel DuVal from whom they are descended: W = William, D = Daniel, B = Benjamin, S = Samuel. The exception will be board members, whose lineage is indicated in the new masthead on page 2. (The information will be taken from Pat Koenig's membership database.)

Luck has been with me for this first newsletter issue I've edited: there was a lot of interesting news about DuVals to fill the columns. But I'll need your help to keep coming up with material for future issues. Please send me ideas for stories, and let me know if you'd like to write an article yourself. The more voices we can hear, the better! And pictures, we need pictures—either scanned and sent via e-mail, or clear copies of photos, which now can be made at many shops that develop film.

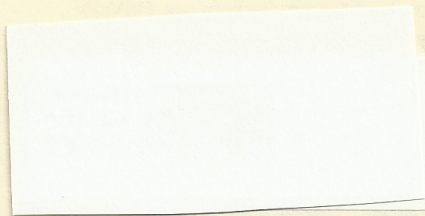
I'd like to hear what you have to say about this issue. My e-mail address is sblair44@aol.com. My address appears below. Greetings and good wishes to all of you,

Sue Blair

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