

The DuVal Family News

for the descendants of Daniel DuVal

Volume V, No. 2

Spring 2003

Come One, Come All! On Land and Water, DuVals' Biennial Reunion Promises Fun and Learning

By Susan Blair

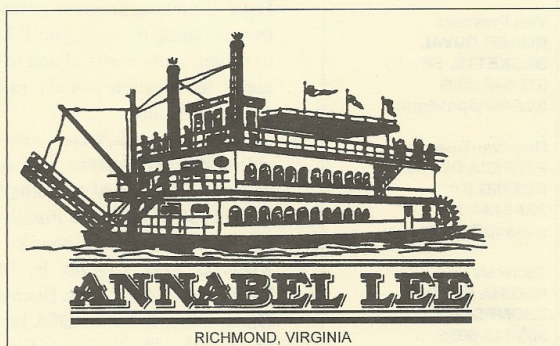
When the descendants of Daniel DuVal reunite in Richmond, Va., on June 19-21, they will be able to immerse themselves in a full schedule of entertaining events that relate to the intertwined histories of Virginia and the DuVal family. Katherine Lewis, DFA board member—with help from historian Cy Rilee, genealogist Joseph Hays, president Judy Hamby and others—has planned tours, talks and meals that should stimulate interest in family history and satisfy the appetite for traditional Southern cooking.

Those who can arrive at the Omni Hotel, where the reunion will be held, by early Thursday afternoon will be able to attend a genealogy workshop led by Joseph Hays. DFA Registrar Pat Koenig has prepared posters of the four lines of the family descended from Daniel's sons (William, Daniel, Benjamin and Samuel) that will be on display. The family database will be available for those who wish to check the accuracy of information about their lines. This time will also provide an opportunity to submit new information for the book of DuVal family history that is being planned (*see story on page 2*). Joseph plans to make a short presentation on the preservation and restoration of documents and photographs—a vital topic for those of us whose home-storage facilities are usually a choice between overheated closets and damp basements!

Following a board meeting early Friday morning, the entire membership will convene at 10:45 a.m. Among other business will be the election of officers and board members to serve from 2003 to 2005.

Lunch on Friday will be held at the Omni, with Joseph speaking on "The DuVals 1750-1850: First 100 Years in Richmond." He will focus on the many different occupations taken up by members of the family during that period.

A highlight of the weekend, scheduled for Friday afternoon, is a tour of nearby Tuckahoe Plantation, which was established around 1712 and was the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson. The property is a National Historic Landmark and is considered by architectural historians to be the finest existing early 18th century plantation in the U.S. It sits on a bluff overlooking the James River Valley and consists of a mansion with a unique H-shaped plan and a number of outbuildings. One of the smaller buildings served as a schoolhouse, and it was there that Jefferson attended his first classes.



On Saturday, June 21, DFA members will take a lunchtime cruise on the James River aboard the sternwheeler Annabel Lee

The busy Friday will conclude with a reception and barbecue at Cool Water, the historic Hanover County home of Delegate and Mrs. Frank DuVal Hargrove. Mr. Hargrove has been a member of the Virginia House of Delegates since 1982. On the menu are barbecued pork sandwiches, beans, slaw and cobbler. The Hargroves' daughter, Dale Hargrove Alderman, will co-host the party.

On Saturday, it's "All Aboard!" for a luncheon cruise on the James River aboard the riverboat Annabel Lee. The voyage will feature narration describing sights along the route, entertainment and more Southern food. We will be able to have a DuVal group photograph taken as we board. After lunch, it is hoped that Rob Hunter, the editor of *Ceramics in America*, will give a talk on the manufacture of pottery in the early 1800s. Mr. Hunter was responsible for identifying a building-excavation site in Richmond as the early 19th century location of the Benjamin DuVal & Co. pottery (*see DuVal Family News, Summer 2002*). Part of his talk will address the collaboration of Benjamin DuVal with New York potter John Schermerhorn. It is also hoped that the DFA will be able to dedicate a historic marker noting the DuVal pottery following the talk.

Although this year's reunion schedule does not officially include a visit on Sunday to historic St. John's Church, it is a place of interest to DuVal descendants because of a plaque in the church that is dedicated to Samuel DuVal. Katherine Lewis reports that the plaque is in dire need of cleaning, but whether that will have been done by the reunion weekend is unclear. St. John's is well known for its weekly re-enactments of Patrick Henry's 1775 speech to the Second Virginia Convention that culminated in one of the most enduring statements about freedom: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" A portion of the debate that led to

(*story continues on page 3*)

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

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You've Read the Books, Now ...

Well, no, it's a little too soon to say "See the Movie"—although there are plenty of colorful stories from the long history of the DuVal family in this country that would make for fascinating films.

But the new DuVal family-history book, under the direction of DFA genealogist Joseph Hays, is making progress toward publication. At the upcoming reunion, you'll have a last chance to submit more material and to correct any erroneous information already in the database for your family line.

The new book, which is expected to be available at the 2005 reunion, will update, correct and expand on the DuVal genealogy books published in the 1930s: *The DuVal Family of Virginia, 1701* by Bessie Berry Grabowskii and *DuVals of Kentucky from Virginia*, by Margaret Baskette Buchanan. In 1935, Mrs. Buchanan wrote to Don Dunscombe, father of DFA board member Tom Dunscombe, "It is a big undertaking to get family records for anything like a printed book." Nearly 70 years later, even in the age of the Internet, her assertion is still true.

The book and the database can only be as complete and accurate as DuVal descendants make it. Whether your records have come to you through your DuVal forebears in letters, family Bibles and photo albums or have been augmented by hours of personal research in libraries and other genealogy resources, the book committee needs your input. (In another letter to Don Dunscombe, Mrs. Buchanan comments on the costs associated with genealogical research: "Genealogists & Court Clerks reason that anyone important enough to have 'ancestors' & Coats of Arms must be wealthy & charge accordingly. They make me indignant.")

Although many DFA members have expressed a wish to add or correct information, very few have done so. Fortunately, the book committee has proposed a change in the numbering system for individuals that will allow the inclusion of all information submitted so far and make it possible to include some future submissions. The family database will be updated on an ongoing basis after the book is published, so that information received too late for print publication will always be added to the database.

Joseph Hays says the committee wants the book to be "more than just a list of names, dates and places of birth, deaths and marriages (which many persons omit)." He would also like to

receive short biographies, family stories and information about family movements around the country, to show how widespread and diversified the DuVal family has become. Such information will be added to the database, but Joseph wants to reassure members that the privacy of living individuals will be protected throughout the publication process, and no details about living people will be available online.

If you plan to attend the reunion in June, please bring with you stories and brief biographies you've written down, and records of births, marriages and deaths not previously submitted, all of which you can give to Joseph when you see him in Richmond. If you have copies of family photographs for the book, he will be happy to receive those too. And although Joseph does not want to assume responsibility for original family pictures, he will be happy to make copies of your originals if you bring them to the reunion.

Those who are unable to join the reunion festivities can submit family-history material to Joseph by e-mail (allenhurst@premier.net) or regular mail. His address is:

13790 Louisville Road
Smith's Grove, NY 42171

Margaret Buchanan first mentioned the possibility of writing a DuVal book in another letter to Don Dunscombe in 1935. She wrote, "I am tempted to write a book 'DuVals of Ky' and their descendants as a sort of successor to the 'DuVals of Va.' But so many are so indifferent about their lineage now, and later, when this present fad of ancestral record hunting has become a recognized duty to posterity, how their children and grandchildren will regret their indifference."

The perseverance of Mrs. Buchanan and Mrs. Grabowskii in recording family history has meant a lot to present-day members of the DuVal Family Association. Surely today's adult generation of DuVals can do as much to provide a record for the DuVals of generations to come.

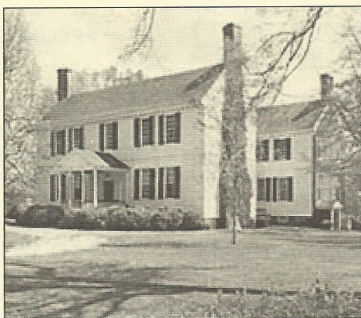
Board Update: News was received too late for the last issue that DFA Historian Cyrus F. Rilee, Jr. had moved home to Gloucester, Va., after spending several years in New Mexico. Cy was responsible for locating our cousin Francis Curtis DuVal (W), who graciously gave the DuVal Family Association permission to place the monument in honor of Daniel DuVal in his family plot at Ware Parish Church.

Reunion (continued from page 1)

Henry's speech, over whether Virginia should arm a militia to oppose King George III, is included in the re-enactment. DFA members who would like to attend this event should arrive at the church, on East Broad Street, by 1:30 p.m. Sunday, for a 2 p.m. performance. There is unreserved seating for 400, and there is no charge, although a voluntary donation is sought when the event ends.

So much to do, so little time! An hour-by-hour schedule of the reunion weekend can be found on the back page. If you plan to attend (and we hope for a great turnout), be sure to call the Omni Hotel in Richmond at 804-344-7000 by May 15 to reserve your room; ask for the DuVal Family Association room block and special rate.

One more request: Please bring your camera! The next issue of the newsletter will include several pages of photos from the reunion weekend, and all submissions will be welcome. Your editor would also love to receive stories and



COURTESY HISTORICTUCKAHOE.COM

The main house at Tuckahoe Plantation, childhood home of Thomas Jefferson

anecdotes about finding long-lost cousins—and meeting new ones—at the reunion or simply by having joined the DFA. As Margaret Buchanan, author of *DuVals of Kentucky from Virginia*, wrote in a letter to the father of DFA board member Tom Dunscombe almost 70 years ago, "I think it nice & cousinly that we should know each other in this world, so we can find each other in the next life and talk all this over." Why wait? Let's share our stories much sooner, in the summer issue of the *DuVal Family News*.

REUNION TO-DO LIST

1. **Before May 15:** call Omni Hotel, 804-344-7000, to reserve room for reunion weekend at special DFA rate
2. Return reunion registration form to Katherine Lewis
3. Make travel plans
4. Buy film and pack camera
5. Pull together family photos and other information for new book
6. Buy small notebook to record reunion memories and family stories

DuVals in National Service

Although the war in Iraq is, in late April, nearly over, the men and women who serve there remain in danger. If you know of a DuVal family member who is serving in the uniformed services or in other government service anywhere that puts her or him at risk, please send the person's name, rank or title, branch of service/government and location to Sue Blair, newsletter editor, by e-mail or at the address on the back. All will be recognized in the next issue.



LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE REUNION!

If you haven't renewed your DFA membership for 2003, this is the last chance to do so before the June reunion in Richmond. **Don't wait another day!**

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

One-year membership rates:

Descendant (Active member) & (if applicable) Spouse (Associate member): \$10

Family membership (active member, associate member & children under 18): \$25

Please make your check payable to DuVal Family Association. Clip this form and mail it with your payment to:

Patricia DuVal Koenig, 5144 S. Taft Way, Littleton, CO 80127

CALL TO MEETING

The Board of Directors of the DuVal Family Association will hold its annual meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 20, 2003, in the Omni Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

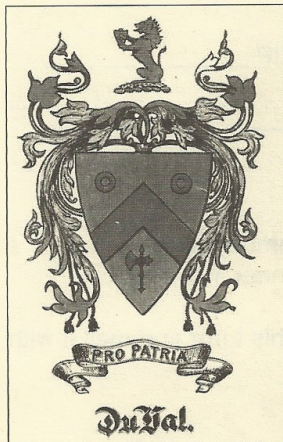
The Membership of the DuVal Family Association will hold its biennial meeting at 10:45 a.m. on Friday, June 20, 2003, in the Omni Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

Election of officers will take place at the Membership Meeting.

The DFA Nominating Committee is in the process of developing the slate of officers to serve the Association in 2003-2005. Inquiries should be forwarded to Tom Dunscombe, the committee chairman, at tdunscom@aol.com.

Action will be taken on other items of business during the Membership Meeting, including choosing the location for the 2005 meeting of the DuVal Family Association. The Board of Directors would like your input on these matters. If you have suggestions, please forward them to Gina Thompson at ginathompson10@msn.com.

DuVal Family News
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www.duvalfamilyassociation.com

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR DUVAL REUNION (Subject to change)

Thursday, June 19

- 1 p.m. Registration
- 2-5 p.m. Genealogy workshop with Joseph Hays
- 8 p.m. Hospitality suite open

Friday, June 20

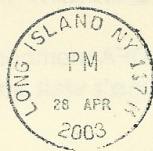
- 8 a.m. DuVal Family Association Board meeting
- 10:45 a.m. DuVal Family Association General Membership meeting
- 12 Noon Luncheon
- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon presentation, "DuVals 1750-1850: First 100 Years in Richmond," Joseph Hays
- 2 p.m. Bus tour: drive by Boscher Dam & Deep Run Coal Mine marker
- 3 p.m. Tour of Tuckahoe Plantation
- 6 p.m. Reception and barbecue at historic Hanover home of Delegate and Mrs. Frank DuVal Hargrove

Saturday, June 21

- 10 a.m. Bus tour: drive by Rocketts Wharf, Mount Comfort site, etc.
- 10:30 a.m. Board Annabel Lee riverboat
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Luncheon cruise on the James River
- 2 p.m. Rob Hunter presentation on DuVal Pottery; Benjamin DuVal Pottery marker dedication

Sunday, June 22

On Your Own: A re-enactment of Patrick Henry's 1775 speech at St. John's Church takes place at 2 p.m. (you must arrive by 1:30 p.m.). There is no charge, although donations are welcome. There is a plaque dedicated to Samuel DuVal in the church.



TO:

