

The DuVal Family News

for the descendants of Daniel DuVal

Volume V, No. 4

Fall 2003

Welcome to the Neighborhood: A Surprising Discovery Makes Newcomers Feel Right at Home

By James P. Duval, Sr.

Although I was born and raised in Richmond's West End, my wife and I moved to Plainfield, N.J., after I completed my degree in chemical engineering at the University of Virginia. My oldest son had been born in Germany while I was serving in the military, and our other two children were born in New Jersey while I worked for Exxon Corp. My children were thus the first generation in my branch to be born outside of Virginia since Daniel I.

In 1960 we returned to Richmond, where I had taken a job with Allied Signal Corp. We wanted to live in the Bon Air area of Richmond and purchased a home there without realizing that the area had once been part of the Cedar Grove Plantation owned by Stephen DuVal. This part of Richmond had been growing rapidly since the completion in 1950 of the new Huguenot Bridge across the James River, which connects the West End of Richmond and Bon Air. I also had an uncle and aunt who had settled in Bon Air a few years prior to our arrival, so it was natural for me to be attracted to the area.

We had lived in the Bon Air area for several years when one day our children came home all excited. While riding their bicycles after school, they had discovered a grave site with our family name on it. They of course wanted to know who these people were, and a quick investigation determined that they were indeed



BEFORE: The brick enclosure, gateposts and the obelisk with its inscription of the names of Stephen DuVal and his wife, Lucy, were overgrown with vines and weeds until a few years ago.



MILO PYNE

AFTER: The grave site as Stephen DuVal envisioned it in his will: "I desire and direct that the family graveyard be completed with good hard brick, five feet high and a substantial iron gate ..."

some of our relatives: Stephen DuVal, who lived from 1782 to 1850, and his wife, Lucy Johnson DuVal, 1790 to 1842. What a wonderful discovery to find them buried in our neighborhood! My son, James P. Duval, Jr., who was about 10 years old at the time, found it particularly special to learn from the grave obelisk that he and Lucy had the same birth date: April 1.

Although we are descended from Daniel Jr. and Stephen was descended from Benjamin, we were very much interested in finding out more about Stephen. It turned out that Cedar Grove had probably encompassed the land where our home was located. In addition, we learned that Stephen was a civil engineer who had been involved in building Boshers' Dam on the James River, which is located just above Richmond very near our home. He was one of the first engineers to use a cofferdam in underwater construction.

As the years went by, the grave enclosure gradually fell into disrepair. The brick wall around the grave site remained, but the iron gate had disappeared, and the plot had grown up in honeysuckle and weeds, including poison ivy. A few years ago, Milo Pyne (B) called me from North Carolina, and my son Jim and I met him at the grave site one Saturday afternoon to begin the difficult job of cleaning it up. The site, about 30 feet square, consists of a 10-foot obelisk monument with the names of Stephen and Lucy DuVal inscribed on it. We believe there may be other graves there (Stephen's will directs that the area "be reserved as a family burying ground, with free access and egress for all time to come"), but unfortunately they are not marked.

The DFA, with the help of Board legal counsel Henry Davis, Jr. (S), is currently attempting to have the deed of this
(story continues on page 3)

DUVAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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

President
JUDITH ANDERSON HAMBY (S)
828-754-7363
djhamby@charter.net

Vice President
ROGER DUVAL BASKETTE, SR. (S)
615-646-4239
tpb6464@prodigy.net

Treasurer
PATRICIA DUVAL KOENIG (D)
393-973-2094
pkoenig@pabko.com

Secretary/Registrar
REGINA REEDUS THOMPSON (D)
903-546-6065
ginathompson10@msn.com

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

Historian
CHARLES DUVAL WADDELL (B)
703-435-2520
boss302@erols.com

Board Members at Large
SUSAN LEE BLAIR (B)
Newsletter Editor
631-324-3097
sblair55@aol.com

JAMES P. DUVAL, SR. (D)
804-272-0762
jimduval@erols.com

KATHERINE LEWIS (S)
804-360-1087
katwlewis@aol.com

The DuVal Family News is published quarterly. Please send story suggestions to the editor at the e-mail address above or to:

193 Swamp Road
East Hampton, NY 11937

Contributors: James P. Duval, Sr. (D), Molly O'Leary (S), Milo Pyne (B), Gina Thompson. Special thanks to Nancy Blair Norman (B) for proof-reading.

New DuVal Family-History Book Needs Your Updates Now

By Susan Blair

The deadline is fast approaching to submit your updates of family lines, stories, brief biographies and copies of letters and pictures for the new DuVal family-history book that is being prepared by DFA genealogist Joseph Hays. The date by which he must receive your material is **Dec. 31, 2003**. Information received after the end of the year will be used to keep the family database current, but if the association is to meet its goal of having the new book available at the reunion in 2005, everyone who wants to contribute should send their input to Joseph by **Dec. 31**.

In addition to records of births, deaths and marriages, Joseph is interested in hearing how your family has moved about the country, to show how widespread the DuVal family has become. The database of only those DuVals who are DFA members shows that we have spread out "from sea to shining sea," but the book should be able to tell us about all the places in between where the descendants of Daniel DuVal have chosen to settle.

Joseph and the other members of the book committee wish to assure all family members that the privacy of living individuals will be protected in the publication process, and no details about living people will be available in any online database.

The new book will update, correct and expand on two family histories published more than 70 years ago: Bessie Berry Grabowski's *DuVal Family of Virginia, 1701* and Margaret Baskette Buchanan's *DuVals of Kentucky from Virginia*. Thus it is particularly important that those who send information bring the family tree in their line up to date from the last generation recorded in those books.

In a letter written in 1935 to Don Dunscombe, a member of the original DFA, Mrs. Buchanan commented that the Grabowski book depended "very largely on the records of the various families descended from Daniel DuVal, and family legends vary considerably, unless Bible records, wills, deeds etc., can back

them up." Later she noted that "the book has errors, but in spite of that it is a most valuable book to us as a family." With input from as many living DuVals as possible, whether from family records handed down or personal research pursued, the upcoming book can be much more accurate, and thus will be a valuable historic document to family members and other researchers.

In the same letter, Mrs. Buchanan said, "I shall be always & forever grateful to Mrs. Grabowski[i] for her painstaking research in giving the Va. DuVals and their descendants the true history of the origin of the Va. branch of DuVals who came direct to Va. and were in no way related to the Maryland family of same name."

Present DFA members can be "always & forever grateful" to Joseph Hays for his unending dedication to the current book project, his curiosity about family stories (and his amazing ability to recall and relate them!), his insistence on documentation for accuracy, and the vast amount of personal time he devotes to collecting DuVal family history.

In another letter dated 1935, Margaret Buchanan wrote, "those genealogists down there [Richmond, Va.] want a small fortune even before they begin to search, and then can't guarantee they will find anything. The only sure way is to go in person & hunt for yourself." Thank goodness Joseph doesn't charge for his work: we wouldn't be able to afford him! So if you've gone in person and hunted for yourself, please share the results of your labor with your living cousins and the DuVal generations to come by sending them to Joseph before **Dec. 31**. His e-mail address is allenhurst@premiernet.net, and his postal address is:

13790 Louisville Road
Smith's Grove, KY 42171

Correction: In the Spring 2003 issue, the state abbreviation for Joseph Hays' address was printed as NY. Joseph lives in Kentucky, not New York.

Gift Idea for a DuVal



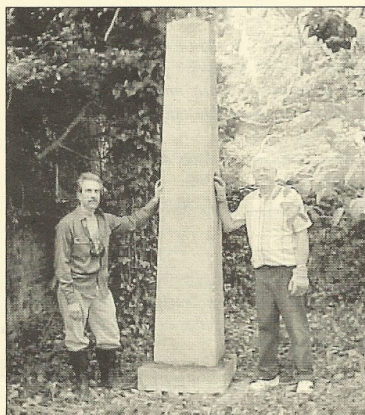
A Huguenot cross pendant in gold, gold plate, sterling silver or enamel would make a lovely and meaningful gift for a DuVal you hold dear. See them at www.la-place-vendome.com. Prices vary; shipment from France is \$10 or \$45 (FedEx).

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

Graves (continued from page 1)

grave site transferred from the previous owner to the Association. However, this kind of transfer can take time to accomplish, and the fact that the owner of the land has recently died may complicate matters further. Once the transfer has been completed, we will have to establish a regular maintenance schedule for keeping it up. If you have any interest in seeing the grave site, please contact me. Although we have recently moved, we are still only a few blocks from the site where our ancestors are buried.



Milo Pyne, left, and Jim Duval, Sr. rest after clearing DuVal graves that were once located on the Cedar Grove Plantation



Sunshine Corner

By Molly Dunscombe O'Leary

Here's where we keep up with news of the ever-expanding DuVal family. Please send your notices to me at molly_d_oleary@hotmail.com.

BORN

Randall McLane Swineford, on Sept. 5, 2003, to Sarah and Sean Swineford of Mechanicsville, Va. Sarah is the daughter of Ted (B) and Mary DuVal of Mechanicsville.

MARRIED

Tara Layne Thompson (D), daughter of DFA secretary/registrar Gina Thompson and her husband Robert of Sherman, Texas, to **Kerry Dee Brown**, son of Kelli and Mike Stephens of Sherman and Mike Brown of Bells, on Sept. 20, at Bella Vista on the Boulevard in Durant, Okla. They will live at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, where Kerry serves in the U.S. Army.

You're Related to Me How?

Ever wonder who your "first cousin once removed" might be? You'll find relationship charts, some easier to use than others, at www.CyndisList.com/cousins.htm#General.

DOZENS OF COUSINS!

Over two dozen "new" DuVal descendants, representing all four branches of the family, have joined the DFA in the past two years. Let's bid a warm welcome to all of them.

2002

William F. Smith, Alexandria, Va. (W)
Thomas W. Comer, Gallatin, Tenn. (S)
Heather W. Hawes, Denham Springs, La. (D)
Thomas DuVal Roberts II, La Plata, Md. (S)
George W. Johnson, Jr., Forrest City, Ark. (S)
Erna G. Johnson, Forrest City, Ark. (S)
Charles M. Foster III, Schenectady, N.Y. (B)
Ann E. DuVal, Newport News, Va. (B)
Martha H. DuVal, Winston-Salem, N.C. (B)
John Ryan DuVal, Russelville, Ky. (B)
Martha I. Roberts, La Plata, Md. (S)

2003

Charles W. Nelson, New Orleans, La. (S)
Lee Claiborne Nelson, New Orleans, La. (S)
Hunter W. Nelson, New Orleans, La. (S)
David Solomon, Bedford Corners, N.Y. (B)
Courtney Solomon, Bedford Corners, N.Y. (B)
Whitney Solomon, Bedford Corners, N.Y. (B)
Emma Solomon, Bedford Corners, N.Y. (B)
Frank D. Hargrove, Sr., Glen Allen, Va. (B)
Kathy Arrowsmith, Lexington, S.C. (S)
Oriana H. Alderman, Glen Allen, Va. (B)
Eleanor DuVal White, Gainesville, Fla. (B)
James P. Duval, Jr., Midlothian, Va. (D)
Thomas DuVal Roberts III, Richmond, Va. (S)
Charles DuVal Waddell, Herndon, Va. (B)
Wendall F. DuVal, Brownstown, Mich. (B)
Jacquelyn D. Moltedo, Hawthorne, Fla. (B)
Elizabeth P. Morgan, Richardson, Texas (S)

Recipes & Remembrances: The DuVal Family Cookbook

This collection of family recipes contributed by members of the DFA would make a **wonderful holiday gift** not only for DuVal descendants, but for anyone who is interested in traditional cooking. It includes recipes for appetizers, soups, salads, main courses, breads and desserts. It has a hard cover and a sturdy spiral binding, so it will stand up to repeated use in the kitchen. The price is **\$12** per copy, plus **\$4** per book for shipping and handling. Send the form below, with a check or money order payable to DuVal Family Association, to: **DuVal Family Association, 133 Golden Road, Sherman, TX 75090.**

Please send me _____ copies of *Recipes & Remembrances: The DuVal Family Cookbook*, at **\$12** per copy, plus **\$4** per book shipping and handling. Enclosed is my check or money order for \$_____.

Mail books to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DO YOU HAVE A RED STICKER?

It's not a holiday decoration! If there is a red sticker on the address area of your newsletter, it indicates that you have not renewed your DFA membership in the past year (since October 2002), and this will be the last issue of the *DuVal Family News* you receive. How on earth will you be able to keep up with DFA activities if you don't get the newsletter?

Fortunately, there's a quick fix for the situation. Use the enclosed membership-renewal insert and send it with your payment to the address on the form. Dues received in December will be applied to a year's membership for 2004. If you think an error has been made with regard to your membership status, please contact DFA registrar Gina Thompson by telephone (903-546-6065) or e-mail (ginathompson10@msn.com), or at the address on the insert. Don't lose touch with your cousins! Send your renewal today!

With this issue I begin my second year as editor of the *DuVal Family News*. I hope it is apparent how much I enjoy the job, but my greater hope is that you enjoy reading each issue. The newsletter can only be as interesting and varied as the family stories and pictures that DFA members contribute, so please send them to sblair55@aol.com or my new mailing address below. I thank all who have helped out in the past year, not least the good folks—Carrie, Garda, Mike and others—at Montauk Printing in East Hampton and Montauk, N.Y., who make our newsletter look terrific every time! Happy holidays to all!

Sue Blair

The Genealogist's Psalm

*Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray;
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried tombstones.*

*It leadeth me into still Court Houses,
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge.
It leadeth me in paths of census records and ships' passengers lists
for my surname's sake.*

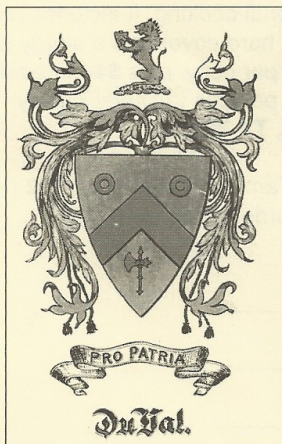
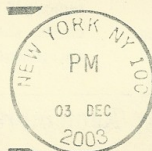
*Yea, though I walk through the shadows of research libraries
and microfilm readers,
I shall fear no discouragement,
For a strong urge is within me;
The curiosity and motivation
They comforteth me.*

*It demandeth preparation of storage space for the acquisition
of countless documents;
It anointeth my head with burning midnight oil;
My family group sheets runneth over.*

*Surely birth, marriage, and death dates shall follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of a family-history seeker for ever.*
—By Wildamae Brestal

Thanks to Jeannine Laverty of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., for providing this selection. She found it on a wall at the Northumberland County Historical Society in Sunbury, Pa., in the course of tracking her ancestry back eastward from Iowa.

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



TO:



www.duvalfamilyassociation.com

42171+0112 02

