

The DuVal Family News

for the descendants of Daniel DuVal

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Spring 2005

DuVal Descendants Plan Return to Virginia for Reunion Weekend of Shared History and Memories

by Susan Blair

DuVal cousins from all around the country will gather in Richmond, Va., in less than two months for the fourth biennial reunion since the DuVal Family Association was revived in 1998. According to Katherine Lewis, DFA vice president, those who attend can look forward to a number of activities that will be both enjoyable and informative.

This year's reunion will take place June 9-12 at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel, located about six miles west of downtown Richmond. Registration will open at 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, and continue into Friday. Early arrivals can spend Thursday afternoon perusing genealogy charts and other DuVal exhibits, greeting cousins they grew up with or have met at past reunions, and introducing themselves to "that man over there who looks a lot like my grandfather."

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Friday afternoon, June 10, at 1:30 p.m. DFA members will elect officers and other board members to serve two-year terms, as well as conduct other business. The board, which will hold its annual meeting earlier on Friday, has prepared a slate of candidates for consideration (*see story on page 2*).

After the general meeting, Joseph Hays, DFA genealogist, will give a presentation called "DuVals 1750-1850: First 100 Years in Richmond," to be followed by a reception.

The banquet on Friday evening will feature Carla Whitehurst Odom, president of the Virginia Huguenot Society, as guest speaker. She will talk about the role Huguenots played in settling the American colonies, and perhaps about other groups, such as Baptists, Quakers and Moravians, who also sought religious freedom in the New World.

Business completed, on Saturday we will have a chance to tour (by bus) several historic plantations along the James River between Richmond and Williamsburg. The first stop will be Shirley, which was granted to Edward Hill in 1660. Construction of the present mansion was begun in 1723 by Edward Hill III, a member of the House of Burgesses, for his daughter Elizabeth, who married John Carter. The house was finished in 1738, and is largely in its original state.

During the Revolutionary War, Shirley served as a supply center for the Continental Army. Anne Hill Carter, the mother of Robert E. Lee, was born there, and her famous son received part of his schooling in a building on the property.

The house contains a carved walnut staircase that rises three stories without visible support, as well as other fine examples of 18th century craftsmanship, family portraits and memorabilia. Shirley today is still an 800-acre working plantation, operated by the 10th and 11th generations of the Hill and Carter families.

After lunch at Indian Fields Tavern, located in an old farmhouse, we'll pay a visit to Berkeley Plantation, on a hilltop overlooking the James. The original mansion was built in 1726 by the father of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Benjamin's son William Henry Harrison, the famous Indian fighter known as "Old Tippecanoe" who later became the ninth President of the United States, was born at Berkeley in 1773. The rooms are furnished with an extensive collection of 18th century antiques.

A tour of the grounds of Westover Plantation will be the last stop of the day. The house, which was built circa 1730 by William Byrd II, is considered an outstanding example of Georgian architecture, although the interior is not open to the public. There are formal gardens and ancient boxwood hedges around the house, and the columns of the wrought-iron fence are topped by unusual stone finials, cut to represent symbolic objects.

No other "official" events are planned for the weekend, but cousins who stay until Sunday afternoon can attend the weekly re-enactment of Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech to the Second Virginia Convention in 1775 (*see schedule on back page*). The event takes place at St. John's Episcopal Church, a building of interest to the DuVal family for its plaque honoring Samuel DuVal. An organ recital often precedes the re-enactment, for which there is no charge (donations are welcome). The church seats 400, but there is no reserved seating for the re-enactment, which includes parts of the debate that preceded Henry's famous speech.

If you haven't already made your reservations at the Sheraton Richmond West, the time to act is now: the special group (*story continues on page 3*)



Staircase at Shirley Plantation

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DUVAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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

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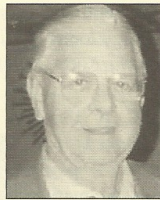
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Contributors: Nancy Blair Norman (B), proofreading

Meet the Candidates: DFA Membership to Elect Board

Officers and other board members of the DuVal Family Association will be elected to two-year terms at the biennial membership meeting on June 10, 2005.

The board will present the following slate of candidates for consideration. Some candidates' pictures were unavailable at press time.

Roger DuVal Baskette, Sr. (President), an attorney, recently retired after 56 years in private practice. He served in the Army in World War II, in the European theater of operations. He is a former metropolitan councilman in Nashville, Tenn., where he lives with his wife, Thetis. They have four children and five grandchildren. Roger is a member of Sons of the American Revolution, the National Huguenot Society and the National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants.



Katherine Williams Lewis (Vice President) lives in Richmond, Va., where she works part-time with the Virginia Press Association. Her husband, Bob, is a reporter with the Associated Press. Both are natives of Tennessee, and they have two sons, Robert, a junior in college, and Anderson, a junior in high school. Katherine has been instrumental in planning the DuVal reunions, and says she spends "a lot of time on the ballroom dance floor."

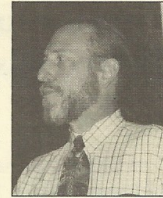


Patricia Duval Koenig (Treasurer) works as an accountant for the Awwa Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization that sponsors research on drinking water all over the world. She lives in Littleton, Colo., and has two children and four grandchildren. Pat worked closely with President Emerita Judy Hamby to revive the DuVal Family Association. Her main hobby is her grandchildren and their hobbies, but she also enjoys genealogy, skiing and riding her motorcycle.

Joan DuVal Thomas (Secretary) is a descendant of Samuel DuVal. Before retiring, she worked in information systems for two major hospital systems in southern New Jersey. Joan lives in Cape May, N.J., a historic Victorian town, with her husband Al, a retired engineer. They have two daughters and six grandchildren. In her genealogical research, Joan has learned

that all of her family lines go back as far as the 17th century on these shores, and she recently traced an ancestor to Jamestown. Her other interests are gardening, needlework and duplicate bridge. She is a member of Daughters of the American Revolution.

Joseph Stephen Hays (Genealogist) is a licensed pharmacist who lives in Smiths Grove, Ky. He has a longtime commitment to history and genealogy that serves him well in his effort to update the DuVal family history, to be published by the DFA. He is restoring the old family home in which he lives and has an extensive collection of antiques. Joseph is a member of Sons of the American Revolution and the National Society of Claiborne Family Descendants.



Charles DuVal Waddell (Historian) lives in Herndon, Va., where he is active in several community groups, and works as a senior systems engineer for Systems Engineering Services in Reston, Va. Charles is a Civil War re-enactor with the 3rd U.S. Infantry, Company D, a unit that has won awards for its standards of authenticity. He also enjoys scuba diving, and he has a collection of vintage Ford Mustangs. He is the father of a daughter and a son.



Susan Lee Blair (Member at Large, Newsletter Editor) retired as the copy desk chief of *Time* in 2001, after a 31-year career in journalism. She is working on a revision of the *Time* style manual and serves on the executive committee of the American Copy Editors Society. With her husband, Robert Metz, Sue lives in East Hampton, N.Y., where she can watch birds and walk on the beaches. She frequently makes the 100-mile trek to New York City to indulge in her other favorite pastime, attending opera and theater performances.



James P. Duval, Sr. (Member at Large) retired in 1989 as a chemical engineer for Allied Signal Corporation. He and his wife Brownie, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding

anniversary, live in Richmond, Va., and also own a mountain home in Madison County, Va. They have three children and six grandchildren. Jim is active in two property-owners' associations and Rotary Club, as well as being an avid golfer. He and Brownie have traveled extensively throughout the world.



Dorothy Duval Nelson (Member at Large), a Louisiana native, has worked as a teacher of languages in several European countries, as well as at Tulane and Loyola universities in New Orleans, where she lives. As a volunteer, she is active in causes related to historic preservation and literacy, and is the executive director of the World Affairs Council of New Orleans. Dorothy is the mother of two sons.



DuVals Return (continued from page 1) rate of \$89 (plus tax) is available only until May 10. The number to call for reservations is 804-325-3535. Be sure to ask for the DuVal Family Association rate. Guest parking is free.

Cousins who have attended past reunions will tell you that besides providing a great opportunity to check and update your own family research, the reunion weekend is filled with a spirit of warmth and the likelihood of happy surprises. Please plan to join the fun and perhaps find your own "missing links." See you in Richmond!



Sunshine Corner

BORN: Kai Jason Brown, on Sept. 3, 2004, to Tara (D) and Kerry Brown of Sherman, Texas. Kai is the grandson of DFA secretary/registrar Gina Thompson and the great-nephew of Susan Reedus of Denison, Texas.



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Shirley Plantation's 18th century mansion

REUNION TO-DO LIST

1. **Before May 10:** Call Sheraton Richmond West, 804-325-3535, to reserve room at special DFA rate.
 2. Return reunion registration form to Katherine Lewis.
 3. Make flight reservations, or break into your piggy bank to fuel up the car.
 4. Gather up family photos, letters and other results of your family-history research to share with cousins.
 5. Buy small notebook to write down reunion memories and family stories.
 6. Check camera battery and buy film.
- Newsletter editor will welcome pictures for Summer 2005 issue.

LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE REUNION!

If you haven't renewed your DFA membership for 2005, 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 living at home*): \$25

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

Gina Thompson, 133 Golden Road, Sherman, TX 75090

CALL TO MEETING

The Board of Directors of the DuVal Family Association will hold its annual meeting at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2005, at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

The Membership of the DuVal Family Association will hold its biennial meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2005, at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel in Richmond, 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, including choosing the location for the 2007 meeting of the DuVal Family Association. If you have suggestions for other matters to be addressed at the meeting, please make them known to Roger Baskette at tpbandrb@sbcglobal.net or 615-646-4239.

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

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR DUVAL REUNION (Subject to change)

Thursday, June 9

- 1 p.m. Registration opens
- 2-8 p.m. DuVal exhibits and genealogy charts on display

Friday, June 10

- 9-11 a.m. DuVal Family Association Board meeting
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. DuVal Family Association General Membership meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Presentation: "DuVals 1750-1850: First 100 Years in Richmond," Joseph Hays
- 5 p.m. Reception
- 6 p.m. Banquet, with guest speaker Carla Whitehurst Odom, president, Virginia Huguenot Society

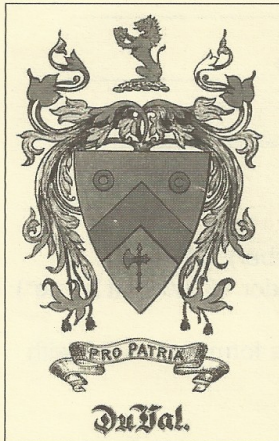
Saturday, June 11

- 9 a.m. Board bus for James River Plantations tour
- 10:30 a.m. Tour Shirley Plantation
- 12 Noon Luncheon at Indian Fields Tavern
- 2 p.m. Tour Berkeley Plantation and Westover grounds

Sunday, June 12

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). There is no charge, although donations are welcome. There is a plaque dedicated to Samuel DuVal inside the church.

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TO: