

The DuVal Family News

for the descendants of Daniel DuVal

Volume VII, No. 1

Winter 2005

Judy Hamby Resigns Presidency; Board Members Pay Tribute to Leader of DFA Revival

by Susan Blair

If in the past six years you've met DuVal cousins you didn't know you had, or renewed contact with those with whom you had lost touch, your thanks are owed primarily to one person: Judith Anderson Hamby. It was Judy, along with Patricia DuVal Koenig, who revived the DuVal Family Association, which had been defunct since 1942.

Cousins all around the country will be surprised and disappointed to learn that Judy Hamby has resigned from the DFA presidency. In a letter sent to other members of the board before their meeting in Asheville, N.C., last June, Judy said that her health made it necessary to step down from the position, effective immediately.

As Judy told it, the re-establishment of the DFA, which was originally organized in 1936, came about as the result of a serendipitous combination of the old—a book—and the new—the World Wide Web. For her 60th birthday in 1997, Judy received a very special gift from her sister, Suzanne Stockman (S): a copy of Margaret Buchanan's *DuVals of Kentucky from Virginia*. Judy often spoke of how thrilled she was to find her own name, as well as the names of her parents, in the book. It was the first time she knew that she was descended from a Huguenot immigrant to Virginia named Daniel DuVal.

Having recently been introduced to the Internet, Judy found a DuVal "list," through which she met Pat Koenig. They became good friends, via e-mail and telephone calls, and eventually decided to try to re-establish the DuVal Family Association. A list of Daniel DuVal's descendants was obtained from the National Huguenot Society, and every DuVal they could locate on the Internet was contacted by e-mail.

By the fall of 1998, Judy and Pat thought they were ready to hold a reunion, and the first major meeting of DuVal cousins in more than half a century took place in Richmond in June 1999.

It was the first of three reunions over which Judy presided. One of the most significant achievements of Judy's tenure was the placement of a memorial to Daniel DuVal at Ware Episcopal Church in Gloucester, Va., during the 2001 reunion.

The association has continued to grow. Roger Baskette,

who was elected by the board to fill Judy's unexpired term as president, says, "Judy has worked tirelessly to promote and build the association to a membership of over 200 in a very short period of time. Her efforts have been invaluable, and we owe her a debt of gratitude for her willingness to serve, even when her physical health was in peril. Our profound thanks go to a wonderful leader and president of our association."

Pat Koenig, DFA treasurer, says Judy is "a remarkable woman ... with a big heart." Thinking back to the days when the two were uncertain how many other DuVal descendants were "out there," she recalls that Judy's knowledge of the world of business and her "great ideas" led them to try to re-establish the family association. Says Pat: "Judy picked up the ball and ran like the wind!"

Pat says they started to find others who were as interested as she and Judy were, and "the ideas came so fast and furiously from Judy that we had a hard time keeping up." Judy often wondered "what really cool historical family treasure" would turn up next, Pat says, and predicts that Judy will still be sending suggestions (we hope so!) and "fretting over how things are going."

Gina Thompson, secretary and registrar, is grateful to Judy for including her in the formation of the organization. She says Judy "had the forethought and determination to pull us all together," and that there would be no DFA today if it weren't for her hard work and dedication.

Board member at large Sue Blair reports that after joining the association, she volunteered to help edit a new DuVal book. She is not exactly sure how she ended up as editor of the *DuVal Family News*, but she's pretty sure it had something to do with Judy's charm and infectious enthusiasm.

Those qualities, and the hard work she put into keeping the DFA going, are things all who met Judy through the association will remember. Present and future board members will be constantly challenged to measure up to the high standards Judy Hamby set as DFA president.

Judy, we will do our best to follow your inspiring example and bring more and more cousins together through the DuVal Family Association. Thank you!



Judy Hamby

"Judy's enthusiasm and determination were the keys to bringing DFA back to life. It would never have happened without her creativity and hard work."

**—James P. Duval, Sr.
DFA Board Member**

DUVAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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

President

ROGER DUVAL BASKETTE, SR. (S)
615-646-4239
tpbandrb@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

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

Treasurer

PATRICIA DUVAL KOENIG (D)
720-344-3433
paduval@mac.com

Secretary/Registrar

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

Genealogist

JOSEPH STEPHEN HAYS (B, S); 270-563-9524
allenhurst@operamail.com

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

DOROTHY DUVAL NELSON (S)

504-891-1601
nelsonnofly@juno.com

President Emerita

JUDITH ANDERSON HAMBY (S)
828-754-7363

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

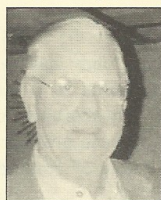
193 Swamp Road
East Hampton, NY 11937

Contributors: Nancy Blair Norman (B), proofreading

DFA Board Acts to Fill Vacancies at Annual Meeting

By Susan Blair

Facing an immediate change in its make-up, the DuVal Family Association board of directors convened for its annual meeting on June 5, 2005, in Asheville, N.C. Those present were Roger Baskette, Sr., James P. Duval, Sr., Joseph Hays, Katherine Lewis and Charles Waddell. Susan Blair, Judy Hamby, Pat Koenig and Gina Thompson were unable to attend.



Roger Baskette, Sr., DFA president

The meeting took place at the Holiday Inn Sunspree, where Henry A. Davis, Jr. (S), DFA legal counsel, maintains a home. In the absence of secretary Gina Thompson, Hank Davis volunteered to take the minutes of the meeting.

DFA president Judy Hamby had submitted a letter of resignation from her office, effective immediately. The letter was read aloud and the resignation accepted with regret. Judy resigned for reasons of health.

A motion was made and passed to elect Roger Baskette as president to fill the remainder of Judy's term. (The terms of all officers and board members will expire at the end of the biennial general meeting of the DFA in June 2005.)

Motions were then made and passed to elect Katherine Lewis to fill the rest of Roger's term as vice president and to elect Dorothy Duval Nelson of New Orleans to fill Katherine's unexpired term as a board member at large.

Katherine read the membership report that Gina had submitted (see *Membership Note* that follows). The treasurer's report was distributed, discussed and approved.

Turning its attention to the biennial DFA reunion, the board approved the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel as the site for the gathering. The dates are Thursday, June 9 through Sunday, June 12, 2005.

In other board reports, Joseph said that he has nearly finished work on a historical marker honoring Benjamin DuVal and his pottery on Main Street in Richmond. Jim reported that the Samuel DuVal plaque in St. John's Church appears to have been cleaned recently. Gina has informed the board that she does not plan to run for the office of Secretary/Registrar next year.

Once business was concluded, some board members visited Biltmore, the Vanderbilt estate (called "America's Largest Home"), while others went antiquing.

Membership Note: DFA registrar Gina Thompson was hard at work last year, maintaining and trying to increase the association's membership. She notified those who had not renewed their membership, as well as sending invitations, application forms and a complimentary copy of the newsletter to prospective members. There are 262 names on the DFA membership list, of whom 197 are active members (renewals up to date).

The status of your membership is indicated on the mailing label of this issue of the *DuVal Family News*. If the status area is highlighted in pink, it indicates that you did not pay dues for 2004. Yellow highlighting in the status area means dues have not been paid for 2003 and 2004; these members will be dropped from the mailing list after March 31, 2005, if the arrears have not been paid.

There is a membership-renewal insert in this issue. You can use it to catch up on past dues, as well as to renew for 2005, so that you don't miss any issues of the newsletter and all

the upcoming news about this year's reunion of DuVal cousins. If you're not sure of your membership status, please get in touch with Gina Thompson. Be sure to provide an up-to-date e-mail address and telephone number. With the reunion coming up in June, we don't want to lose contact with any cousins!



DFA board members and guests dining in Asheville in June. Clockwise from left: Jim Duval, Katherine Lewis, Hank and Hope Davis, Roger and Thetis Baskette, Deana Snow (S), Joseph Hayes and Mary Ailene Duval

Meet Dorothy Duval Nelson

Dorothy Duval Nelson of New Orleans was elected by the DFA board to serve the unexpired term of Katherine Lewis as a board member at large. Katherine was elected vice president to fill the unexpired term of Roger Baskette when he became president of the association.

Dorothy is a descendant of Samuel DuVal. She is a Louisiana native, but her studies and career have taken her to many parts of the world. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga., and a Master of Arts from Middlebury College in Vermont. Studies in Switzerland, Austria and Germany constituted part of the master's degree program. She taught German at the University of Florida in Gainesville, then moved to The Hague, in The Netherlands, where she taught English at two higher technical schools.

When Dorothy returned to the U.S., she taught English as a Second Language at Tulane and Loyola universities, then entered law school at Loyola. She received her J.D. degree in 1983 and set up a solo law practice, intending to specialize in immigration law. But, as Dorothy puts it, "motherhood derailed [my] sure-to-be-brilliant career." Her first son, Lee, was born shortly after she established her practice, and her son Hunter followed about three years later.

When her boys began school, Dorothy entered the world of volunteerism, where she has developed three passions: historic preservation, literacy (she is a member of the founding board of directors of the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans), and the promotion of international engagement, awareness and education. In service of that interest, she is the executive director of the World Affairs Council of New Orleans.

The DFA board is grateful that Dorothy could add it to her list of volunteer efforts.



Dorothy Nelson,
new to DFA board

FOURTH FAMILY REUNION IS SET FOR RICHMOND IN JUNE

Mark your calendars! It won't be long until the biennial fun begins at the fourth reunion of the DuVal Family Association. The gathering is scheduled for **June 9-12**. Once again, the DFA will meet in Richmond, but this year the Sheraton Richmond West will be the reunion hotel. It is located at 6624 West Broad Street, about six miles west of downtown and a short drive from Richmond International Airport.

Be sure to ask for the DuVal Family Association special group rate of \$89 a night (plus tax) when you make your reservation. The hotel has a fitness facility and two heated pools, a restaurant, two bars and a Starbucks. Guest parking is free. The telephone number for reservations is (804) 325-3535. Please make your reservation as soon as possible. **The group rate expires on May 10.**

The general membership meeting will be held on Friday morning, June 10, followed by a group lunch at the hotel. The next issue of the newsletter will contain details about activities planned for the rest of the weekend.

If you are interested in helping plan the reunion, or have suggestions for activities or sites to visit during reunion weekend, please get in touch with Katherine Lewis. Her telephone number is 804-360-1087; her e-mail address is katwlewis@aol.com.

Auction Website Yields a DuVal Treasure

"My name is Rick McMullen, and I am an antiques dealer in Lynchburg, Virginia." Thus began an e-mail message Pat Koenig received last June that led her to the discovery of a DuVal family "treasure" for sale on eBay: the original bronze-faced lead printing plates for the cover and spine of Margaret Buchanan's *DuVals of Kentucky from Virginia*, published in 1938.

McMullen, who owns Yorkshirer Antiques in Lynchburg, moved from England to the U.S. after marrying a Virginia woman. While helping to clear out the home of a friend's mother who had been placed in a care facility, McMullen came across a box of printing plates from the J.P. Bell Company of Lynchburg. The woman had worked for Bell from the 1930s to the 1960s and had acquired some company memorabilia, material considered obsolete or older plates that had been replaced. These two plates were the only ones among many that pertained to the Buchanan book.

After photographing the plates and putting them up for auction on eBay, McMullen did a Google search for "DuVal Kentucky Virginia" and was linked to the DFA website. "I thought the plates may be of interest to your family association," he wrote to Pat. "I assume finding anything genuinely historical associated with the family name is not an easy task."

After ascertaining how the plates had come into McMullen's possession, Pat didn't hesitate; she placed a bid of



\$150. While waiting for the 10-day auction to end, she informed the other board members about the plates and made sure everyone agreed that the DFA should try to acquire them. ("If anyone doesn't agree," she wrote, "let me know and I'll send Dr. Phil to your house!")

In the end, Pat was the only bidder, so she got the plates for the starting price of \$39.99, plus shipping and handling costs, which McMullen later refunded.

The DFA is extremely grateful to Rick McMullen for taking the time to find someone to whom these artifacts have meaning. Old-fashioned thoughtfulness and the modern wonder of the Internet have helped us regain some of our family's illustrious history.

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

2005 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please take a moment now to renew your DFA membership for 2005. Even if your membership is up to date, **please use this form to update your address, telephone and e-mail information.**

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 and mail form and payment to:

Gina Thompson, 133 Golden Road, Sherman, TX 75090

“Each One Reach One”

Do you have DuVal relatives who are not yet DFA members? If so, please help us increase membership by writing their names and addresses below. (Use the back of the form if you need more space.)

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____ E-MAIL _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____ E-MAIL _____

Thank you! We hope to see you in Richmond in June!

RENEW YOUR DFA MEMBERSHIP TODAY SO THAT YOU CAN

Attend the 2005 DFA Reunion

Meet new cousins

Attend the 2005 DFA Reunion

Find “old” cousins

Stay up to date with the *DuVal Family News*

Back from France, Back on Track

Cousins, I have let you down. As part of your membership in the DuVal Family Association, you expect to receive the *DuVal Family News* four times a year. In 2004, only one issue was published, and the shortfall is my responsibility.

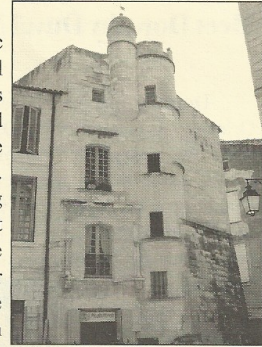
Last summer, my husband and I took a trip we had dreamed about for five years. We rented a house in France large enough to accommodate rotating visits from members of our extended family. We were away for almost two months, and the vacation was everything we had hoped it would be. When we came home, it took a good month to get back into our routines, and to get the daydreaming under control. Then I felt obligated to turn my attention to the project I've undertaken for my former employer, *Time*, on which I am far behind schedule. Before I knew it, the holidays were close at hand.

I regret that the newsletter took a back seat to all that. Preparing this issue, I realize that the newsletter is largely what connects us between biennial reunions. It stimulates our interest in our shared heritage, perhaps inspires individual efforts in researching family history, lets everyone know the status of ongoing projects. I pledge to you that this vital link will be published more regularly from now on.

But about France. We spent the last week near the area where pockets of Calvinism developed in the mid-16th century and visited the medieval town of Uzès, a Huguenot stronghold that was the fifth largest Protestant town in France. All 10 of its churches were

destroyed in the Wars of Religion.

One of the many historic buildings in Uzès is the Hôtel (mansion) Dampmartin, with its Renaissance façade and a round stair turret, regarded as a sign of the wealth of the merchant who built it. His identity is unknown, but, being excluded from holding government positions, many Protestants became rich through trade. The proprietor of this grand home may well have been a Huguenot, but wealth wouldn't have protected him from persecution in that bloody time.

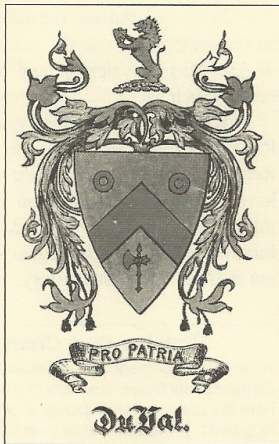


Hôtel Dampmartin, Uzès

From Uzès we drove to the village of St.-Quentin-la-Poterie, renowned since the 14th century for its tiles and pottery. Large-scale production ended about 100 years ago, but since the mid-1980s, modern ceramicists and other artisans have revived its traditional industry. A major fair was in progress, and in the guide to local artists I found one Eric Duval. We navigated the narrow roads beyond town to his studio, only to find a sign saying he was showing his work at the local wine co-op during the fair. When we finally found the display, Duval wasn't there. I was disappointed: I'd been rehearsing in my head the conversation in which I would tell him (in all too elementary French) that my mother's family name was DuVal. I guess this means I'll have to return someday.

Sue Blair

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



TO:

www.duvalfamilyassociation.com