

The DuVal Family News

for the descendants of Daniel DuVal

Volume IX, No. 1

Winter 2007

Breaking the Mold: DuVals to Hold Biennial Reunion in Nashville

By Susan Blair

After holding previous family reunions in Richmond, the historic center of their ancestral roots, the descendants of Daniel DuVal will meet in Nashville, Tenn., on June 21-23.

The event will mark a return to the founding site of the DuVal Family Association. On Sept. 2, 1936, the *Nashville Banner* reported that "descendants of Samuel DuVal, Revolutionary soldier of Huguenot descent, held a reunion last Saturday, in the dining-room of McKendree Methodist Church for the purpose of organizing a family association. McKendree Church was chosen as a meeting place in recognition of the sentiment attached to the memory of a member of the family, the Rev. James Gwin, an early pastor of the church who also served as Andrew Jackson's army chaplain."

In 1811, Samuel's son, Claiborne DuVal, had settled in what is now Simpson County, Kentucky, two counties north of Nashville. Susan Ann DuVal, Claiborne's youngest daughter, married Hardy Murfree Cryer, a Methodist preacher; they resided in Sumner County, Tennessee. Alexander De la Plaunché DuVal, Claiborne's son, settled in Sumner County in 1818, after having served with General Jackson during the War of 1812. He married the Rev. Gwin's daughter Margaret.

In the late 1830s, Alexander moved to Mississippi. During the Civil War, his daughter Matilda Kaiser DuVal took refuge with her sisters back in Nashville, where she met and married John H. Baskette. They were the great-grandparents of current DFA President Roger DuVal Baskette, Sr.

Headquarters for DFA activities will be the Sheraton Downtown hotel, where there will be an opening reception on Thursday evening, June 21. A block of rooms has been set aside for the meeting at a special rate of \$119 a night. The deadline for reservations at that rate is May 22. (Call 800-325-3535 or 615-259-2000, or reserve online at www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton.)

The DFA board will hold its annual meeting on Friday morning, leaving cousins who are already in town to see a little of Nashville. In the afternoon, the biennial general-membership meeting of the association will be called to order. Among the items of business on the agenda will be the election of officers and, possibly, the adoption of some amendments to the association's bylaws. Look for the proposed slate of nominees for officers and other board members in the next issue of *The DuVal Family News*, which you will receive in



Nashville, also known as "Music City," will be the site of the first DuVal reunion to be held outside Virginia since 1936

April. There will be a banquet on Friday evening.

A day of interesting activities is planned for Saturday, starting with a tour of the Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States. After a box lunch at Cabin by the Spring, we will be taken on a guided tour of the site of the Battle of Franklin, fought on Nov. 30, 1864, in which 9,000 men were killed in five hours of fighting. We'll also see Carter House, which was commandeered as the Federal headquarters during the battle.

The day will wind up with a tour of Carnton Plantation, which was used as a field hospital during and after the battle. At one point, the bodies of four Confederate generals were laid out on the back porch. The plantation owners later set aside several acres of their land for the reburial of nearly 1,500 Confederate soldiers who had died in the battle; it is the largest private Confederate cemetery in the country. The story of Carrie McGavock, wife of the plantation owner, was told in the recent novel *The Widow of the South* by Robert Hicks (available in paperback from Warner Books).

Of course, Nashville offers many other family-oriented attractions, especially the Grand Ole Opry and Ryman Auditorium, and the Country Music Hall of Fame, where a special exhibit about Ray Charles will be open. There are numerous 19th century mansions in the surrounding area, and the *General Jackson* showboat, a stern-wheeler, plies the Cumberland River, offering food and music both in the day and evening.

In April, DFA Vice President Katherine Lewis will mail a reunion registration form that outlines the cost of each activity. Meanwhile, be sure to block out June 21-23 on your calendar. And start to organize the family letters and photos you'll want to bring with you to share with your cousins.

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ASSOCIATION**

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

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DFA Board Convenes to Plan 2007 Reunion

Thanks to much advance planning on the part of DFA President Roger Baskette and his wife, Thetis, the annual board meeting of the association, including early planning for the 2007 reunion, was a resounding success. The weekend began with the Baskettes graciously hosting dinner at their home the evening before the June 29, 2006, meeting.

The board met in Nashville, site of the upcoming reunion, at the Hampton Inn. Before sitting down around the table, the group boarded a van that Joseph Hays had rented and visited four downtown hotels being considered as the reunion site. Joining the board on the tour were Brownie Duval, the wife of board member at-large Jim Duval, and DFA member Deana Snow.

After lunch the board held its business meeting, presided over by President Roger Baskette, Sr. Present were Vice President Katherine Lewis, Genealogist Joseph Hays, Treasurer Ken Pfeiffer, Secretary/Registrar Joan Thomas, Newsletter Editor Sue Blair, and Member-at-Large Jim Duval. Those unable to attend were Dorothy Duval Nelson, at-large member; Judy Hamby, president emerita; and Charles Waddell, historian.

Joan Thomas reported membership statistics. As of June 2006, dues collected for the year totaled \$788.34. The membership database included 80 inactive members with outstanding dues totaling over \$3,000. The board recommended writing off this amount to clear the inactive accounts to zero. (According to the DFA bylaws, inactive members are charged for the current and previous year in order to reactivate membership.) Joan suggested a membership drive to get inactive members back and encourage prospective members to complete their applications.

Ken Pfeiffer was sworn in as treasurer, replacing Pat Koenig. A new DFA account was opened in Texas, where Ken lives; funds were to be transferred from the previous account. The \$800 bill for the 2006 board-meeting expenses was submitted and approved.

Joseph Hays reported that the marker for the Benjamin DuVal pottery site in Richmond would cost \$380. There will be an article about the site in an upcoming edition of the *Journal of Southern Decorative Arts*. Joseph thanked those who have volunteered to assist in completing the updated DuVal genealogy book.

Joseph is developing a presentation about

the DuVals of Nashville. He noted that one of the last people buried at the Hermitage, the home of Andrew Jackson, was a DuVal.

Highlights of other business conducted:

> Joan has created indexes of archival materials that document DFA activities, such as incorporation papers, meeting reports, newsletter content and reunion presentation materials.

> A motion was made and carried to publish three newsletters per year.

> Note was made of a new DuVal website, created by Pat Koenig (*see following story*). The board moved to appoint Pat as DFA webmaster if she would take on the job.

> The vetting process for prospective members was discussed. Joan will work with Pat to determine what has been done in the past. The practice of issuing a membership certificate and card to new members will continue.

> The president will write a letter of condolence on the death of a member or spouse; the newsletter will continue to publish a notice upon receipt of an obituary. Ken advised that new privacy laws require that a family member approve publication of announcements of a personal nature such as marriages, births and deaths.

> The board selected June 21-23, 2007, as the date of the general meeting and reunion in Nashville. The Board agreed on the reunion events described on Page 1 of this newsletter.

> Katherine Lewis took on the task of negotiating with the hotels being considered and sites the DFA will visit over reunion weekend. She will send members a flyer in the spring with details and costs.

> Jim Duval volunteered to continue as chairman of the nominating committee. He will solicit current board members and interested individuals from the general membership for the slate to be presented at the next general meeting.

> Some sections of the current association bylaws need clarification. Ken Pfeiffer volunteered to review the document and recommend changes to be presented to the membership at the 2007 general meeting.

> A special thank-you was given to Thetis and Roger Baskette for the delicious dinner and hospitality Thursday evening and their diligent fact-finding and site-visit preparations.

After a long afternoon of work, the group gathered at a restaurant for dinner and farewells—until we meet again in Nashville in the coming June.

New DuVal Website a Source for Research

By Susan Blair

If you have attended a DFA reunion, you know that some of the fun consists of swapping family stories, exchanging copies of old letters and looking at other cousins' photo albums. Even though our family gatherings take place only every two years, we now have a way to exchange information every day: the DuVal website on MyFamily.com.

Some months ago, DFA webmaster Pat Koenig invited 100 cousins to join the site. So far only half of them have signed in, but they—and other DuVal descendants who discovered the site—have posted old newspaper clippings and many photos, like the one of the Dunscomb family shown in the next column, which was posted by DFA President Emerita Judy Hamby.

Other items posted on the site are obituaries and other remembrances, and birth announcements of new DuVal descendants. Several people have conducted “conversations” about mutual ancestors, either in messages posted in response to photos or in the News section of the site. Others have discovered old family pictures they didn't know were in the possession of distant cousins. If you're researching your line, contacts you make through the site could provide you with some long-missing link. (Coming soon: a poll on how you capitalize, spell and pronounce DuVal.)

In order for you to use the site, Pat must issue you a user name and temporary password. When you receive them, go to www.MyFamily.com and enter them in the relevant boxes on the page. You will next be asked to change your password (and user I.D., if you like) and accept the user agreement. After doing so, you are linked into the site.

If you'd like to join the DuVal site on MyFamily.com, sent a message to Pat (paduval@mac.com), and she will provide the information you need to share this potential treasure trove of DuVal material and memories.



Family of Samuel DuVal Dunscomb of Clarkton, Dunklin County, Missouri, in a picture taken ca. 1898

From the DuVal website at MyFamily.com

Judy Hamby posted this photo on the site. In response to an inquiry about her relationship to the family in the picture, she wrote: “Samuel DuVal Dunscomb was my great-grandfather. My grandmother, Lillie B Dunscomb Anderson, is standing at his shoulder. Note my grandmother's middle name was simply B—no period. Several other females in my family have only an initial for a middle name. In 1936, the e was added to the Dunscombe name.”

Cousins, Come Back!

Your family association is reaching out to cousins whose memberships have lapsed. In October, President Baskette sent a letter to 25 people who had not renewed their membership in 2005 and 2006. All but one of them returned the renewal form with the dues they owed. More than 80 DuVal descendants have allowed their memberships to lapse for more than two years, and recently they too have received a letter.

The DFA must keep its membership rolls active and the dues current. The association incurs expenses even in a non-reunion year, for example the cost of producing and mailing *The DuVal Family News*.

At the June board meeting, six members were dropped for nonpayment of dues over several years. Don't let this happen to you! The DFA fiscal year matches the calendar year. Why not return the enclosed renewal insert today to renew for 2007 (and catch up on dues in arrears)? You'll need to pay 2007 dues to attend the Nashville reunion.

Your mailing label is color-coded to indicate your membership status. Blue highlighting in the status area means you are an Inactive member; yellow, dues are owed for 2006 and 2007; pink, you owe for 2007 only; green, you've paid through 2007. If your copy is stamped “Complimentary,” you are among 80-plus prospective members. You have expressed interest in the DFA, but so far you haven't joined.

Still have a question? Please contact Joan Thomas (jd.thomas225@verizon.net or 609-884-6284).



Sunshine Corner

BORN

James Anthony Mastandrea, on March 14, 2006, to Christiana Heilman (B) and Patrick Mastandrea of Las Vegas. James is the grandson of DFA member Lynne DuVal Heilman of Pinehurst, N.C.

Amelia Beatrice Hahn, on Nov. 6, 2006, to Allen Hahn (B) and Karen Keagle of Pittsburgh, Pa. Amelia is the first grandchild of DFA newsletter editor Susan Blair.

SWORN IN

Charles DuVal Waddell, DFA historian, as council member of the Town of Herndon (Va.), on June 14, 2006. The Town of Herndon is located in western Fairfax County and has a population of more than 22,000. Charles was elected for a two-year term on the Town Council.

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES EDWIN TAYLOR, SR. (S) of Bowling Green, Ky., died on May 13, 2006. Mr. Taylor, 79, was the uncle of DFA genealogist Joseph Stephen Hays.

A native of Logan County, Kentucky, Mr. Taylor served 22 years as an electrician in the U.S. Navy before retiring in 1967. He worked for Western Kentucky University as a maintenance electrician until 1988. Mr. Taylor belonged to the Fleet Reserve Association and Glendale Baptist Church. He was a son of the late Joe Hobdy and Josephine Whitmore Taylor.

Mr. Taylor is survived by his former wife, Sue Taylor, his son and daughter-in-law James E. Taylor, Jr. and Barbara, and his son William H. Taylor. A brother and sister and their spouses also survive, as do six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, six nieces and five nephews.

HELEN ("JERRY") AUSTIN DUVAL, 86, of Beaumont, Texas, died on June 9, 2006. She was the wife of Claiborne Alexander Duval, Jr. (S); they had been married for 67 years.

Mrs. Duval was born in Guymon, Okla., and grew up in Abilene, Texas. She met her future husband at the University of Texas in Austin. When he graduated in 1941, they moved to Beaumont, where Mr. Duval was hired as a chemical engineer at Magnolia Refinery, later known as Mobil Oil Refinery.

Mrs. Duval and her husband helped found the Westgate Church of Christ in Beaumont in the early 1960s. Mrs. Duval was also a volunteer at Blanchette Elementary School,

several local nursing homes and the League of Women Voters; she enjoyed being involved in local politics. She and Mr. Duval traveled all over the world together.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Duval is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Claiborne ("Clay") Alexander Duval III and Robbie Duval; her daughter and son-in-law, Angelin Duval Potyk and Michael Potyk; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother-in-law; and two half-sisters. Numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews also survive.

KATHRYN TRAVIS LAVERTY TERRY (S) of Pagosa Springs, Colo., died on Oct. 3, 2006, at the age of 85. Kate was the daughter of Luther James and Roberta Cunningham Laverty. The families of both her parents were early settlers in Kentucky. Kate held a B.S. in education from Western Kentucky State Teachers College. She taught in schools in Florida and in Bowling Green and Owensboro, Ky.

In addition to being a member of the DFA, Kate belonged to the DAR, Colonial Dames of America and the Huguenot Society of South Carolina. She was an active member of her community, particularly at the Ruby Sisson Library and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. Kate wrote the "Local Chatter" column for the Pagosa Springs *Sun*.

Kate is survived by her brother Bill Laverty and his wife Peggy and many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

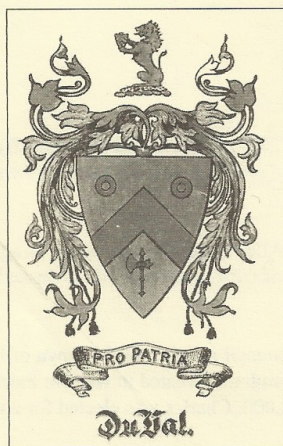
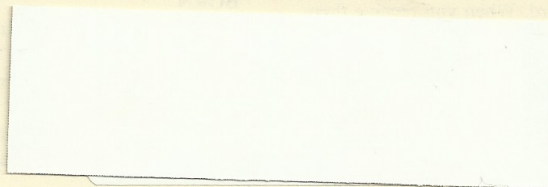
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