



# The DuVal Family News

for the descendants of Daniel DuVal

Volume XII, No. 1

Summer 2010



DuVal cousins visit the marker in front of the Old Capitol in Williamsburg; Samuel DuVal's name is among many inscribed on the back. The inscription on the front memorializes several important events that led to the American colonies' breaking away from Great Britain: Patrick Henry's speech against the Stamp Act (1765); the formation of a committee to correspond with similar committees in other colonies, the first step toward the union of the states (1773); and the Convention of Virginia's calling on the Continental Congress to declare the colonies free and independent states (1776). The inscription concludes: "Here, June 12, 1776, was adopted by the Convention the immortal work of George Mason, the Virginia Declaration of Rights; and on June 29, 1776, the first written Constitution of a free and independent state ever framed." The monument reminds us that the process of achieving independence was a gradual one, with different steps being taken at different times in the various colonies, starting long before "the shot heard 'round the world" was fired at Concord, Mass., in April 1775.

## DuVals to Return to Williamsburg in 2011

At the 2009 reunion of the DuVal Family Association, held at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, cousins were reminded of the deep involvement of our ancestors in the history of Virginia and the newly formed United States of America.

If you missed that meeting, you'll have another chance to share our history where it began. The 2011 DFA Reunion will be held March 24-26, again at Colonial Williamsburg. The hotel will be the Williamsburg Hospitality House near the College of William and Mary. We are still finalizing details with the hotel but believe the room rate will be \$89 a night plus tax, considerably less than last year's rate of \$129. This reduction is possible partly because the reunion will take place in the off-season. We expect to have a hospitality

suite at the hotel, where cousins can gather informally when no sessions or activities are planned.

We hope to organize a trip to Gloucester and Clay Bank—where Daniel DuVal, Huguenot, landed—and Ware Parish Church, where the association will rededicate Daniel's marker by inscribing the names of his known children on the reverse. There will be genealogy presentations as well as updates on projects, and the general meeting and election will again be combined with the banquet. The registration fee will be \$65, with an additional \$5 fee for those who wish to travel by bus to Gloucester.

We're looking forward to a big turnout at the 2011 DFA Reunion, so be sure to put it on your calendar now!

**DUVAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

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

President

**KENNETH W. PFEIFFER**  
(S); 210-684-4034  
*k.pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net*

Secretary

**DOROTHY DUVAL NELSON** (S)  
504-891-1601  
*nelsonno@bellsouth.net*

Treasurer

**JAMES P. DUVAL, SR.** (D)  
804-272-0762  
*jimduval1@verizon.net*

Registrar

**JOAN DUVAL THOMAS** (S)  
609-884-6284  
*jd.thomas225@verizon.net*

Genealogist

**JOSEPH STEPHEN HAYS**  
(B, S); 270-563-9524  
*allenhurst1872@gmail.com*

Historian

**DEANA KATHRYN SNOW**  
(S); 270-563-9524  
*nahm@aol.com*

Board Members at Large  
**SUSAN LEE BLAIR** (B)

Newsletter Editor  
631-324-3097  
*slblair55@aol.com*

**HENRY ADAMS**

**DAVIS, JR.** (S)  
434-432-0170  
*hwd3188@gmail.com*

**PATRICIA DUVAL**

**KOENIG** (D)  
303-973-2094  
*paduval@mac.com*

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**Contributors:**

**Joseph Hays, Pat Koenig, Dorothy Nelson, Ken Pfeiffer, Deana Snow, Joan Thomas.**

**Layout and production:**  
**Nancy Blair Norman**

## Getting Down to Business

Before, during and after the fun of meeting cousins and exchanging genealogy information at the biennial DFA reunions, the board and the membership have business to attend to. Below, in chronological order, are some highlights of recent meetings.

**Board meeting, June 25, 2009 (Williamsburg):** All board members except Roger Baskette, Sr., president emeritus, and Pat Koenig, member at large, were present.

> Joan Thomas, registrar, reported the following membership statistics: Active, 123; Active families, 5; Junior, 14; Honorary, 2; Associate, 14; Allied, 5.

> The bylaws were amended to provide for an audit of the Association's finances. Hank Davis and Deana Snow conducted the audit.

> There are three DuVal sites on the Internet: *duvalfamilyassociation.com*, the original site; the MyFamily.com site, which is administered by Pat Koenig and requires would-be users to get a password from Pat; and an area on MySpace administered by Deana. Passwords have been given to people who may be researching DuVal lines of ancestry but who have not joined the Association; it was suggested that receiving a password should be made a benefit of membership.

> Joseph Hays, genealogist, said he had responded to many more inquiries that came via the websites than he had received in the preceding year. He continues to work on setting a marker in Richmond at the site of Benjamin DuVal Jr.'s pottery.

> Joseph and Deana reported that the Cemetery Committee was working on restoring the graves of Claiborne and Elizabeth DuVal near Franklin, Ky. The possibility was discussed of adding the names of the four sons of Daniel DuVal, Huguenot, to the back of the marker erected at Ware Episcopal Church in 2001.

> *The DuVal Family News* will be distributed as a PDF document via e-mail. Joan reported that 75% to 80% of members use e-mail; those who don't will continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletter by postal mail.

**General Membership meeting, June 26, 2009 (Williamsburg):** After a welcome by DFA President Ken Pfeiffer, reports of the registrar and treasurer were made to the general membership.

> The slate for election to the board for the 2009-2011 term was presented and elected unanimously. (The names of the officers appear in the masthead to the left.) The vice president position was left vacant.

> Certificates of Appreciation were given to Joseph Hays for his work on the Kentucky gravesite; Jim Duval for organizing the reunion; and Katherine Lewis, for her service as vice president and past reunion chairman.

> Honorary member Frank D. Hargrove, the longest serving member of the Virginia House of Delegates, was honored at the dinner; he introduced other members of his family.

**Board meeting, March 26, 2010 (San Antonio):** Ken Pfeiffer, Dorothy Nelson, Joseph Hays and Deana Snow constituted a quorum at the annual meeting of the DFA board. In addition to a final financial report for 2009, a report on membership (which now stands at about 130), and a report on remaining inventory of cookbooks and T shirts, the following business was conducted:

> Further discussion of the DFA websites and administrative responsibility was held. Different visual designs will be considered, as well as simpler programs for uploading information.

> Dorothy Nelson is to contact St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans to follow up on an 1890 report of a gilt silver platter said to be preserved there, which bore a coat of arms that may resemble that on a soup tureen once in the DuVal family but lost since the 1800s.

> The 2011 reunion will be held in Williamsburg, Va.

> Dorothy will head the Nominating Committee, which will choose a slate of officers to be voted on by the general membership at the 2011 reunion. All members are asked to submit nominations to Dottie, and to let her or Ken Pfeiffer know if they are themselves interested in becoming board members.

## REUNION RECOLLECTIONS



*The 2009 DuVal Family Reunion was, like its predecessors, a wonderful opportunity to renew acquaintance with cousins and build on past family memories or, in many cases, to meet cousins—even close ones—for the first time and begin banking those recollections for future generations. More than 40 people came to Williamsburg, and the direct descendants of the sons of Daniel DuVal were represented as follows: 15 Benjamin descendants, 12 Samuels, 3 Williams, 4 Daniels. Three of those who attended wrote the following recollections of the reunion.*



### **From Amber Kuchta (D):**

The reunion felt so surreal. I've been a genealogy geek/history buff since long before I came to the reunion, so coming to the event and meeting all these wonderful people and seeing all of the history for myself was an amazing experience. I had to keep pinching myself to make sure I was really there.

I remember finally getting to meet Joan [Duval Thomas] after many exchanged e-mails about the upcoming reunion. I remember sitting with Deana [Snow] at a computer and going over my side of the family history, and swapping stories about our home states and what we each



**The Daniels** Bonnie Daughtry, Kathy Arrowsmith, Amber Kuchta, Tony Kuchta, Brownie Duval, James P. Duval, Sr.

SUSAN BLAIR

knew about our ancestors. I remember every single person I had the opportunity to speak with; there are too many to name here. I enjoyed getting to meet each and every one of you, and learning who you are and how we are related and the fact that you all share the same interest in our family history.

I was surprised to find that there were only a few in attendance who were descended from my branch. (My line goes from Daniel Sr. to Daniel II, to James Duval, to Benjamin James, to William Jennings Duval.)

There were two questions that I was asked the most: why my fiancé, Tony Kuchta, and I had made the trip (I can't fly for health reasons, so it was a long drive from Texas), and how/why I had made my scrapbook. The answers to those questions are actually related.

About 15 years ago, my mom had been sorting through the estate of a recently deceased relative and had found some things that had belonged to some of our more recent ancestors (by "more recent," I mean those whose "greats" I can count on just three fingers). We had recently acquired a computer, and she immediately put it to work looking up information. At the time, she wasn't able to track our family beyond my great-great-great grandfather, who was a soldier in the Civil War and died at the Battle of Gettysburg. (Keep in mind this was 1995; there was nowhere near the amount of information to be found on the Internet as there is today.)

My mother wasn't very far into her research when my grandmother was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. My mom immediately put her project on the back burner to take care of my grandmother. Six months later, my grandmother passed away. Mom was never able to bring herself to do the research after that, even though she always talked about it.

Fast forward 10 years. There had been times when my interest in family history was piqued—for example, when

we had to make a speech in my high school geography class about the countries our families were originally from—but I'd never really gotten serious until the fall of 2005. I was starting to get nervous about Christmas because my parents are notoriously difficult to shop for. They insist they only want to spend time with the family.

So I decided to finish my mom's work on the family history and present it to her as a Christmas gift. A couple of months later, I had ordered my first scrapbook, from Ancestry.com. It was much smaller than the one my mom has now (I have since done extensive editing and added lots of new information), but it still made the perfect Christmas gift.

By then the genealogy bug had bitten me, and it has had a hold of me ever since. I first heard about the reunions in 2000, when I'd done the research for that geography project, but it wasn't until a couple of years after I worked on the project for my mom that I got serious about attending. After all of that research (it never really ended; I just worked on different branches throughout my line after finishing the main one), I saw attending the reunion as a culmination of a lot of hard work I'd done. 2009 was the first year I was could afford to come. So now you know that when I said how surreal it was to finally be there, you know I wasn't kidding.

I don't know whether my fiancé and I will be able to make the trip the next reunion. But I had a blast at this one, and I know it won't be my last.



Barbara Williams (left) at the Williamsburg Capitol marker with her husband James, their daughter Virginia and Joan DuVal Thomas

### **From Barbara Williams (S):**

I was pleased to be able to attend the 2009 DuVal Family Association meeting last June. Williamsburg has a great deal of history, and it was very special to meet with all my cousins in the area where our ancestors lived so many years ago. Everyone should try to go to a reunion at least once.

But this was not my first DuVal Association meeting: I went to the very first meeting in 1936, with my parents and three sisters. I was only three years old at the time and do not remember attending, except by the picture taken [where the association met] at the McKendree Methodist Church in Nashville.



### **From Jayson DuVal (B):**

The family reunion was not long enough for me. We had such a good time!

My wife, Lauren, and I planned a mini-vacation around it and went to Gettysburg, Harper's Ferry, Monticello and many other points of Colonial and Civil War era interest. I could have gladly spent more time interacting with the family, however. I have wanted to attend a DFA reunion since I was a kid in Oregon, when Grandpa Jack [John Stockton DuVal] first started telling me about my family back east. I would have enjoyed hearing more stories from the members and more lectures by those doing research on our remarkable family.

After the reunion I set up a Facebook page with DuVal links for family to use, because when I got home I found it frustrating that I was not able to find current contact info on the DFA website for some of the people I met while our conversations were still fresh in my head. I encourage everyone to join. Just search for Facebook DuVals.

Our son, Benjamin Scott DuVal, was born on Sept. 14, 2009. The name Benjamin had been on the short list, as we had been studying the family tree for a few months because we knew a DuVal family first name was something we wanted to give to him. I liked Benjamin because our Benjamin ancestor was a first-generation American, making our little Benjamin a tenth generation. We thought that was special, and when we went to the reunion it really sealed the deal for us.

It would be neat if the next or a future reunion were held in a more central part of the country so more West Coasters might be enticed to come, like in Texas where those two DuVal brothers fought and died. It would also be nice if it were held at a location that all could afford. Because of our budget, Lauren and I stayed at a hotel several miles away from the event location. This prevented us from spending time “after hours” that would have allowed more “one on one” time with the people we met during the day’s events.



**The Benjamins** *Front (from left):* Sunta Rosapepe, Lucy Hamilton, Barbara Grubbs DuVal, Martha DuVal, Susan Blair, Margaret DuVal Lewis, Elmer Zartman, Shirley Zartman, Dale Hargrove Alderman, Stewart Hargrove. *Back:* [not visible: Dorothy Bickley], Dorothy Grubbs, John D. Grubbs, Sr., Thomas V. DuVal, Lauren DuVal Donofrio, Jayson DuVal, Joseph Hays, Frank DuVal Hargrove, Jr., Frank DuVal Hargrove, Sr.



SUSAN BLAIR

**The Williams** Frances Smith, Barbara Bast, Devin Thomure





**The Samuels** *Front:* Melinda Pfeiffer, Natasha Pfeiffer, Katherine Lewis, Deana Snow, Rebecca Price Emmett, Barbara Williams, James Williams, Dorothy Duval Nelson, Virginia Williams. *Back:* Trudy Pfeiffer, Ken Pfeiffer, Joseph Hays, Hank Davis, Joan DuVal Thomas, Thomas Roberts

A fife-and-drum corps marches toward the Capitol as the crowd waiting to hear the Declaration shouts "Huzzah!"



The Declaration of Independence is read aloud from the Capitol to an excited crowd just outside the gates.



A team of oxen listens in as Dottie Nelson learns from their driver all there is to know about the important role such beasts played in colonial times.



## DuVals in the News

DFA Board Member at Large **Henry A. Davis, Jr.**, was elected Chairman of the Pittsylvania County (Virginia) Board of Supervisors.

\* \* \*

*The following item is condensed from an article by Campbell Robertson that appeared in the New York Times on Nov. 18, 2009:*

In November, **Judge Stanwood R. Duval, Jr.**, of Federal District Court in Louisiana ruled that some of the worst flooding in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina was the result of poor maintenance of a navigation channel by the Army Corps of Engineers. It was the first time the government had been held liable for any of the flooding that inundated the area after the hurricane of Aug. 29, 2005. At the same time, Judge Duval ruled in favor of the government regarding flooding in the neighborhood of New Orleans East.

The decision applies only to damage around the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish. However, it may pave the way for many other property owners to join class-action suits against the government.

*DFA Secretary Dorothy Duval Nelson sent the following report related to the ruling about Katrina flooding damage made by her first cousin, Judge Stanwood R. Duval, Jr.:*

At the reunion in Williamsburg in June, I met Barbara Grubbs DuVal of Richmond. Barbara contacted me in the fall and by e-mail introduced me to her brother, Charles Grubbs, who, with his brother Joseph, had been working diligently on a documentary about the aftermath of Katrina. When Charlie visited New Orleans in early February to continue work on the documentary, he set up a meeting with me and my cousin Stanwood Duval, Jr. They interviewed Stanwood, the federal judge who has been handling the Corps of Engineers' levee-breach cases, and me in my home and thus we all got a chance to get to know one another.



Now that *The DuVal Family News* will be distributed to most members by e-mail, as a PDF, it's more important than ever that you keep the association up to date on your e-mail address. If you're not sure DFA records have your current contact information, please e-mail it to Ken Pfeiffer, Joan Thomas and Sue Blair. Their e-mail addresses can be found in the masthead on page 2.

## Sunshine Corner



**BORN: Benjamin Scott DuVal**, on Sept. 14, 2009, to Jayson DuVal (B) and Lauren DuVal Donofrio of Washington, Mich.

## We're Growing!

We know all cousins will welcome the following new members and look forward to meeting them at the 2011 reunion.

**Mary Rebecca DuVal Bennett (S)**, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**Sarah Arianna DuVal (B)**, Adairville, Ky.

**Frank DuVal Hargrove, Jr. (B)**, Ashland, Va.

**Stewart Hargrove (B)**, Rockville, Va.

Mary Rebecca is the sister of Barbara Williams and also appears as a child in the picture of the first DFA reunion in 1936. Sarah is the daughter of long-time members Thomas V. and Martha DuVal. The Hargrove brothers are the sons of DFA Lifetime member and recently retired Virginia Delegate Frank DuVal Hargrove, Sr.

### 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



Samuel DuVal's name as it is engraved on the rear of the Williamsburg marker shown on page 1, with the names of other American patriots.



# KENTUCKY GRAVE RESTORATION COMPLETED



The graves of Claiborne (S) and Elizabeth DuVal in Simpson County, Kentucky, as they appeared in the early 1900s (above) and in 2008 (below), before officers of the DuVal Family Association undertook their restoration.



JOSEPH HAYS (3)



KENNETH W. PEPPER

The restoration of the graves of Claiborne and Elizabeth Pope DuVal in Simpson County, Ky., was completed in March with the reinstallation of the headstones. The salvageable broken pieces of the original markers were mounted on the front of larger slabs of granite (*above*); the original inscriptions are reproduced on the back, followed by a recognition, reading "Re-erected 2009 by the DuVal Family Association." The two lower pictures at left show Claiborne's marker being wheeled to and set up in the re-fenced enclosure. Below, Joseph Hays pauses to reflect on the first project undertaken by the DFA Cemetery Committee.



ALLEN SHEPHERD



## 2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please take a few minutes to renew your DFA membership for 2010. You can also use this form to update your address, telephone or e-mail information, and to suggest DuVal relatives who are not yet members of the DuVal Family Association.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

One-year membership rates:

Active member (DuVal descendant): \$10

Associate member (spouse of Active member): \$10

Associate member/Allied: \$10 (*an Allied member is one with a connection to the family of Daniel DuVal, Huguenot, who has not or cannot provide proof documentation for Active membership. Individual approval by the DFA Board is required.*)

Family membership (Active member, Associate member & children \*under 18 living at home\*): \$25

Please make your check payable to DuVal Family Association and mail it with the form to:

**James P. Duval, Sr., 3123-B Stony Point Road, Richmond, VA 23235**

From the DuVal Family Association Bylaws (Article II, Section 3): "Any member two years in arrears in the payment of dues shall not be deemed in good standing or entitled to vote and may be dropped from membership. Any member may reactivate his membership in any category by paying dues for the current year and the preceding year."

### "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 \_\_\_\_\_

**RENEW YOUR DFA MEMBERSHIP TODAY SO THAT YOU CAN**

Meet new cousins

Find "old" cousins

Stay up to date with *The DuVal Family News*



## IN MEMORIAM

**CLAIBORNE ALEXANDER DUVAL, JR.** (S) died at the age of 90 at his home in Beaumont, Texas, on Jan. 4, 2010. He was born in Austin, the son of Col. Claiborne Alexander Duval, Sr., and Hazel Angelin Stewart Duval, and graduated from the University of Texas with a B.S. in chemical engineering. He met his wife, the former Jerry Austin, while they were UT students; they were married for 67 years until her death in 2006.

Mr. Duval was a chemical engineer at Mobil Oil Refinery. Some of his discoveries and processes were patented while he was head of Mobil Chemical's research and development lab. He retired in 1981. Mr. Duval's hobbies included gardening, photography, fishing, genealogy and anything pertaining to his beloved Texas Longhorns.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Claiborne Alexander III and Robbie Duval; his daughter and son-in-law, Angelin Duval and Michael Potyk; grandchildren Stephenie Boecher, Nathan Duval and wife Amy, Kirk and Tara Duval, and Elisabeth Potyk; and step-granddaughter Dana Stovall, as well as nine great-grandchildren.

**JAMES DUVALL**, 82, died on Aug. 2, 2009, in Glasgow, Ky. A Benjamin descendant, he was born in Bowling Green to the late Fred and Iva Lee Sharp Duvall. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, a Kentucky Colonel, and served in the U.S. Army in World War II. He served in the Glasgow city council for 24 years and was a Barren County magistrate for nine years. Mr. Duvall retired from GTE after 35 years with the company.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Rohena F. Houchens Duvall, six children, nine grandchildren, four step-grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Two brothers also survive; four of his brothers and two sisters predeceased him, as did a granddaughter. Mr. Duvall was buried with military honors.

**ELIZABETH J. FOSTER** of Sebring, Fla., died on Dec. 3, 2008, at the age of 87. Known as Betty, she and her husband, Charles M. Foster, Jr. (B), had celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary the preceding October.

Born in New York, Mrs. Foster had lived in Sebring for nearly 30 years, where she was a member of the First United Methodist Church. She also belonged to the Gem and Mineral Club of Highlands County, as well as two genealogical societies, a coin club and the Republican Women's Club. She had served as a Girl Scout leader.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three daughters, Nancy Lou Hutchins, Sue Ann Helmold and Lisa Jane Foster; two sons, Charles M. Foster III and Brian Foster; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**ORIANA ROBERTSON HARGROVE**, the wife of DFA Lifetime member Frank DuVal Hargrove, Sr. (B), died on Jan. 18, 2010, at the age of 81. Mrs. Hargrove was born in Richmond and attended Longwood College and Arkansas College. She met her husband, who before his recent retirement had served 28 years in the Virginia House of Delegates, at Thomas Jefferson High School. They wed after his return from service in World War II and had been married for 57 years.

Mrs. Hargrove served on the boards of directors of the Hanover County Mental Health Association, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the historic Hanover Tavern, and on the board of associates for Randolph-Macon College. Her interests included gardening, historic preservation and restoration of 18th century structures, including her own home, Cool Water. She was a member of Fork Episcopal Church. Recently she shared her personal experience to promote awareness and understanding of normal-pressure hydrocephalus, an abnormal increase of fluid in the brain.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Hargrove is survived by her children, Dale Alderman and her husband John; Frank Hargrove, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth; Stewart Hargrove and his wife Lynn; and Wellesley Hargrove and his wife Kimberly; and 10 grandchildren.

**JULIAN BRITE HAYS** (B), 91, of Bowling Green, Ky., died on Nov. 26, 2009. He was a son of Lucian Motley Hays and Hallie Brite Hays and husband of the late Lillian Florence Taylor Hays.

Mr. Hays was a graduate of Western Kentucky State Teachers College, in 1939, and the Nashville Auto-Diesel College in 1971. He was an aviation cadet in the Navy and a veteran of World War II, in which he served as

a staff sergeant with the 503rd Fighter Squadron of the 8th U.S. Army Air Force. He was a poultry farmer in Portland, Tenn., and also owned and operated Portland Feed Mill and Hays Garage. In retirement, he worked as a security guard. He was a member of Living Hope Baptist Church.

Mr. Hays' survivors include his wife, Pauline King Epley Hays; his children, Julian B. Hays, Jr., Joseph S. Hays, Paul T. Hays, and Kenneth W. Hays and Debra R. Hays; and six grandchildren. His brother, Franklin P. Hays, predeceased him.

**SUE ADAMS MCMANN (S)** died at the age of 91 on Aug. 8, 2009, in Richmond, Va. She had previously lived in Danville, Va., for more than 60 years. Mrs. McMann was born in Charleston, W.Va., to Mr. and Mrs. Hays O. Adams. Her husband, Wellington S. McMann, died in 1992.

Mrs. McMann, a graduate of Longwood College in Farmville, Va., taught in the Danville public school system, working primarily with trainable handicapped children. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Danville, where she was president of Presbyterian Women, and of the D.A.R., Colonial Dames, the Jamestown Society and Daughters of American Colonists.

Mrs. McMann is survived by her three children, Clare Lancaster, Walter Calvin McMann and David Wellington McMann; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**JESSE A. PFEIFFER, JR. (S)**, 75, died on Sept. 5, 2009, in San Antonio, Texas, where he was born. His wife, Carolyn Massey Pfeiffer, predeceased him in April 2009. His parents were Jesse A. Pfeiffer, Sr., and Irma Jean Duval Pfeiffer.

Mr. Pfeiffer graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in civil engineering and served in the U.S. Army in Germany. After his discharge he worked for the Texas Highway Department, then joined the Army Corps of Engineers, with which he was involved in construction of the NASA Space Center in Houston. He received numerous honors from the Army throughout his career, including medals for Exceptional Civilian Service and Meritorious Civilian Service.

Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer bred and showed English Cocker Spaniels, producing more than 50 champions. Mr. Pfeiffer became a judge for multiple breeds and a delegate to the American Kennel Club.

His daughter Bonnie Pfeiffer and brothers Fred N. Pfeiffer and Kenneth W. Pfeiffer survive him. Another brother, Robert Pfeiffer, predeceased him. Two grandchildren also survive.

**RALPH STEWART SMITH, JR. (S)**, 77, passed away on Aug. 25, 2009. Mr. Smith was born in Charlotte, N.C., to Ralph Stewart Smith, Sr., and Constance Ferguson Smith.

Educated at the Citadel, the University of South Carolina and American University, Mr. Smith served in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division, as a paratrooper. While in the service, he wrote for *Stars and Stripes*.

In Washington, he wrote news for Frank McGee at the NBC affiliate station. In his student days, he worked for Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina, and carried Senators John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson on his elevator. After a stint with the *Charlotte News*, he returned to Washington in 1966 to work for the *Washington Star*.

Mr. Smith was an editorial writer for several newspapers. His editorials spanned some of the most turbulent times in American history, including the era of the Vietnam War and Watergate. He won the American Institute of Architects Press Award in 1968 for his outstanding interpretation of architecture as it relates to our total environment. His early fiction appeared in the regional publication *Red Clay Reader*.

Mr. Smith was active at Reynolda Presbyterian Church and its Missions Committee. He is survived by his wife, Harriett Dickert Smith; three children, Constance Joye Munson and her husband Rev. Steve Munson, Claiborne Thomas Smith and his wife Amy, and Caroline Elise Smith and her husband Darrell Smith; four grandchildren and a stepbrother. His brother, Tod, predeceased him.

**JACK H. THACKER (S)**, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, died May 27, 2009, at the age of 87. He was born near Bowling Green, Ky., to Hugh and Hattie Jackson Thacker, and was reared in Akron, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Akron and received an MBA with distinction from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1957.

Lt. Col. Thacker saw combat as gunnery officer of the 90th Bombardment Group, 5th Air Force in World War II and was awarded three Air Medals and other decorations after participating in many missions against Japanese targets in the Pacific Theater. Following the war he was worked for Star Drilling Machine Co. of Akron. He was recalled by the Air Force during the Korean War. Following retirement from the military he worked for the

Delco Moraine Division of General Motors.

Jack was a genealogist with many distinguished ancestors and a member of the Claiborne, Clopton and DuVal family associations. He was a Mason, and also belonged to Sons of the American Revolution, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels and numerous scholastic and military associations, in addition to the Huguenot Society and Americans of Royal Descent.

His wife of 54 years, Mary Sue Singleton Thacker, died in 1996. Survivors include his daughter Patricia and a son, William, as well as three grandchildren, and a dear friend, Faith Rosenthal. Another son, Air Force Lt. Edward K. Thacker, died in 1973. His brother, Marine Cpl. M. Kelly Thacker, was killed on Guam in 1944.

**REGINA REEDUS THOMPSON (D)**, known as Gina, died in Dallas, Texas, on April 24, 2010, at age 49. She was the daughter of the late Reginald and Beverly Jean Hawes Reedus.

Gina became involved early on in the re-established DuVal Family Association and served as secretary and registrar, as well as starting a photographic record of the first several reunions. She, in partnership with Deana Snow, was instrumental in the publication of the DuVal Family Cookbook. Deana says Gina “was a great friend when you needed one.”

Gina’s husband Robert of Sherman, Texas; a son, Kyle Thompson; a daughter, Tara Thompson Brown and her husband Kerry; and four grandchildren survive Gina. Her sister, Susan Reedus, also survives, as do her brother, Darby Howard, and her stepmother, Judy Reedus.

**NORMAN WILLIAMS (D)**, 91, of Centennial, Colo., passed away on Dec. 28, 2009. He was born in Kansas City, Mo., and married Shirley Fitzer there in 1946. Norman served as a 1st lieutenant in the Army during World War II. He worked for Hallmark Cards for over 40 years.

In addition to his wife, Norman’s survivors include his daughter Vicki and son Jeff, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**RICHARD A. WILLIAMS** of Springfield, Tenn., died, Jan. 3, 2010, at the age of 91. A native of Robertson County, Tenn., he was the son of Robert Lee and Annie Belle Williams. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Pacific Theater, during World War II. Mr. Williams graduated from Tennessee Tech University and retired as an area supervisor with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was a member of First United Methodist Church and was an avid golfer.

His survivors include his wife, Diane Moore Williams (S); a daughter, former DFA Vice President Katherine Williams Lewis; two grandsons; a sister-in-law and a niece. He was predeceased by his twin brother Ralph, his brother Robert and his sister Virginia Williams Eatherly.

*Editor’s note: Many of these DuVal descendants lived interesting lives, serving and involved in the world around them, but space prohibits the inclusion of their complete biographies in the newsletter. You’ll find more detailed obituaries in the Files area of the DuVal site on MyFamily.com. If you don’t have a password for access to the site, please get in touch with Pat Duval Koenig, paduval@mac.com.*

