



Emblazon of Génolhac, France

Newsletter of the

BONDURANT FAMILY ASSOCIATION

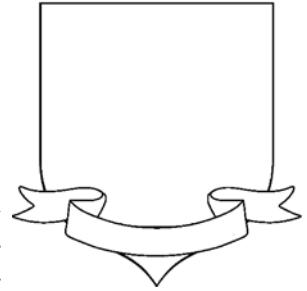
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Celebrating our 30th year!!

Coats of Arms and Heraldry in France

by Philippe Bondurant, Ph.D.



From your editor: Our cousin Philippe Bondurant in France has prepared this information especially for BFA in answer to numerous posts on the BFA Facebook page with questions about coats of arms for the Bondurant family. Thank you for your help, Philippe, so that we may better understand the appropriate use of heraldry in our own family research!

The French system of heraldry has been greatly influenced the British system. Much of the terminology and classifications are taken from it. However, with the fall of the French monarchy (and later the Napoleonic Empire), there is not currently a *Fons Honorum* (power to dispense and control honors) to strictly enforce heraldic law like College of Arms does in the British Commonwealth countries.

So as a rule of thumb: British heraldry = Granted arms + Restriction to Noble families + managed by a special body of experts (College of Arms) to arbitrate conflicts.

French Heraldry = Assumed arms + Free use + Protection of the earliest bearer of the arms by the civil judge.

Who can use a coat of arms?

Originally, a coat of arms was designed so that a fighting man encased in armor might be differentiated from others, whether friend or foe, by the decoration on his shield. This design was granted by the lord or nobility to whom he owed service.

Coats of arms are generally considered to be the intellectual property of one particular person and their descendants, or a municipal body. They are not intended to be used by just anyone with a similar surname, as is often assumed in the U.S. Thus they are similar in function to registered trademarks in the U.S.

Assumed arms (arms invented and registered by the holder rather than granted by an authority) are considered valid unless they can be proved in court to copy that of an earlier holder. (*See Philippe’s own invented coat of arms at the end of this article.*)

Even under the French Monarchy, bearing arms was never restricted to noble families. As early as the 15th century, many municipalities, corporations and even simple commoners used coats of arms as badges of identity. Instead of banishing their use, the King of France saw there was an opportunity to make some money for the Royal Treasury. Thus for them to be protected, coats of arms had to be registered in public armorials, and were taxed by the public officers who delivered the certificates of registration. The armorial tax was a special tax probably triggered to help pay for the Hundred Years War with England.

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Under Louis XIV, a general armorial registry was established from 1696 to 1700, by virtue of the royal edict of November 1696, under the supervision of Charles René d'Hozier (1640-1732), French heraldry judge and genealogist of the king. At this time, emissaries (agents of the king) were sent out all over the kingdom and offices were set up where the owners of coats of arms would make their declarations (and pay the tax), and where those who wish to receive them will come to present their requests. After examination, patents bearing the drawing on parchment of the coat of arms will be given to them, and their arms will be described and drawn in the general collection kept in Paris.

There were many assignments of coats of arms by the effect of the zeal of the clerks of Charles René d'Hozier to bring in tax revenues, either to overcome the lack of coats of arms or the refusal to communicate, to avoid cases of homonymy (similarity or duplication), or for other reasons of kinship or heraldry.¹

The agents of the General Armorial had to fight against public inertia, or even opposition, from several categories. There had been several judgments of the King's Council to ensure its execution, either by moderating the excessive zeal of the agents, or by compelling the recalcitrant.

Many communities did not see the point of having a coat of arms. Outside the craft communities and chapters, they sometimes did not have a particular coat of arms, and royal agents often had to assign them coats of arms with a score and random colors. In the Languedoc region of France, many communities were forcibly registered under such random coats of arms, with the distinctive local style of lozengy (a field of diamond shapes) in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal stripe. Génolhac, being a hotbed of the Huguenot Resistance, was one of them.

One could say these arms are one of the symbols of the rough times. While many Huguenots from Génolhac, including Jean-Pierre Bondurand, had to flee for their lives, the central power continued to impose these symbols to tax their former neighbors.



The Armorial Général de France of 1696, page 134, shows the registration of the coats of arms assigned to several villages, including Génolhac.



Crest of the village of Génolhac, France

The earliest mention of the present Coat of Arms of the Municipality of Génolhac is 1696, which is BEFORE Jean Pierre left. At that date, this design is credited to *La Communauté des habitants de Génolhac*.

The community of inhabitants is, with the lordship and the parish, one of the three frames of life in the countryside. The community of inhabitants considered a legal entity, and enjoys a legal existence. It owned the communal lands, was in charge of the maintenance and the repairs of the presbytery, the nave and the bell tower of the church, the cemetery, the laundries. And it was responsible for raising royal taxes.

The community was collectively responsible for the payment of the taxes. An assembly of the family heads typically gathered and chose a method to pay them. The solution varied greatly from one community to another, but in such a small village as Génolhac, it was a matter of discussion between perhaps two dozen persons, no more.

¹ Gallica BNF FR: *Volumes Relies du Cabinet des titres: recherche de noblesse, armoriaux, preuves, histories généalogiques. Armorial général de France, dressé, in vertu de l'édit de 1696, par Charles D'Hozier (1697-1700).*

The Cevenol mentality of solidarity is probably anchored in the custom of solving problems together by discussion and consensus.

No known ancient arms for the Bondurand family

By the way, the D'Hozier armorial does not mention any arms for the Bondurand family. This is easy to explain. Not because they were not wealthy enough. As I said before, since the earliest known mention of the family we find millers, lawyers and masters of textile workshops. All of these may have claimed arms at one point or another.

But after the infamous revocation of the Edict of Nantes in October 18, 1685, the Huguenot faith was no longer tolerated in France. Lenient at first, the politic of forced conversion to catholicism becomes harsher and harsher and in 1702, a revolt erupts in the Cevennes region, and Génolhac is at the heart of it. Brutally suppressed, it ends with 300,000 people leaving France for Switzerland, Germany, England, Holland, and from there to the Americas and South Africa. Jean-Pierre Bondurand was one of them.

But no remaining Bondurand was in a position or even willing to pay the tax for keeping his arms registered. However, the family soon recovered as we find again some Bondurands working as lawyers in Nîmes under Louis XV, and continuously until today, like my distant cousin Olivier who is a Barrister in Sommières.

The mill of Chamborigaud was kept in the Bondurand family until the beginning of this century when the last heiress married a Monsieur Amat, another very ancient Huguenot name. I hope she is well. She was very kind to my brother and me when we visited her eight years ago.

From local records, we know that in order to retain their property and status in the community many Huguenots were forced to convert to catholicism. They are indicated in the Catholic Church records as "N.C." or "new converts." Jean-Pierre's parents were listed as new converts, as was young Jean-Pierre (who was a small child at the time). We also know that as soon as he was a young man, he fled to Aarau, Switzerland, where his uncle, Huguenot Pastor Guillaume Barjon was living, and he recanted his "conversion" to rejoin the Huguenot faith.

This was true to the saying *un Bondurand ne recule jamais*, which echoes the *Lawless* movie line, "we are Bondurants – we don't lay down for nobody."

Establishing Your Own Coat of Arms

Well, there IS a legal status of coat of Arms in USA, and as far as another heraldist from America said to me, it is very similar to the present day French legal point of view. EVERYBODY is entitled to have his or her own coat of arms. And when adopted publicly its protection is equal to the protection of their name. No one else can use it. To get an efficient protection for one's coat of arms, it has to be registered with a certain date. Some non-profit organizations and some commercial businesses offer this kind of service both in France and America.

I'd be pleased to help any individual Bondurant willing to adopt his own coat of arms to design and register it in the appropriate way. Or they can go themselves to the International Society of Commoners Heraldry where they will find independent and very good quality support in doing so. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/societyofcommonersheraldry/>. Contact Philippe at philippe@bondurand.com.

About the author

Philippe Bondurand was born in 1961 in Marseilles, France, the son of Henry Bondurand, former NCO of Marine Paratroopers, then owner of a small construction and painting company, and Marie Maouad, a Nurse of Lebanese origins.

After High School in Marseilles, he got a License in Laws at Aix, then a Master and PhD in Political Science in Paris Sorbonne. He worked as parliamentary assistant



for the President of a Parliamentary group in the Assemblée Nationale. He then joined the French Cancer League as head of communication.

Philippe now owns his consultancy called “Mentor Communication” which advises prestigious clients including lately the Presidency of the Republic of Gabon, and mainly focuses on areas of health, personal services and humanitarian aid.

His hobbies include History, Vexillology (science of flags) and Heraldry. He is a member of The International Napoleonic Society, Flags Of The World, and The International Society for Commoners Heraldry. He lives in Saint-Geniès-de-Comolas, in the Languedoc region of France, about two hours away from Génolhac. Contact him at philippe@bondurand.com or look for him on the BFA Facebook page.

About Philippe’s own personal coat of arms:

My arms are an allegory of my vision of Life. Life (for me) offers you both light and shadow in even proportions. You have to choose between both options, it takes effort. The White part is the Light, and the Black, the Shadow. The red lines are the efforts you choose to make and that makes the balance bend one way or the other.

The motto “Resistez” comes from the wall of the well in the Lady’s Prison of Aigues Mortes. It was etched into the rock by the bare fingernails of the Huguenot women who were imprisoned there at the moment Jean-Pierre fled to America.

The Dolphin stands for its communication skills. The Unicorn is for Purity of Will. The rainbow in the crest instead of a helmet has dual purpose : first to show I do not pretend to be of Noble Birth (being a Bondurand is better!), and second, it is a symbol of Tolerance to other people’s choices, be it religion, gender identity, etc.



Personal arms of Philippe Bondurand of France, designed by himself and registered



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, cousins,

2018 was a good year for the association. We have increased our membership and we are in good financial standing. I think the Facebook page and the internet have helped get the word out.

Marvin and I joined Tom and Shirley Seaborn in Midlothian, Virginia last summer to prepare Jean Pierre’s grave site for this years gathering. As you can see in the photo, the plaque is visible and the fence is still in good shape. Marvin, Tom and I



Bondurant descendants gathered at the graveyard in Powhatan where Jean Pierre Bondurant was buried in the early 1700s.

sawed up many lower branches over the monument and sprayed the poison ivy. The poison ivy will require repeat treatments which we will be doing starting this upcoming spring. I love the old magnolia tree. When I saw it last year, the plaque was totally hidden from street view. We tried to trim only the lowest branches so that it still is not too obvious unless you are looking for it. This will help prevent vandalism.

Shirley and Tom Seaborn did a great job hosting the 2018 reunion in Midlothian, Virginia. Friday night's Meet and Greet was attended by 37 people. I find the sharing about why and how we are there particularly moving. There were several children whose interest in history was most impressive. This is where you really make your connections to people who can help you with your tree and DNA work. We were served moonshine samples from Robert Bondurant, owner of the Bondurant Brother's Distillery.

On Saturday we toured the Huguenot Church, then visited Jean Pierre's burial site. During the church visit I was surprised to see a Bondurant cousin who I'd met during a prior visit to the Bedford, VA, museum, Jennifer Horton Thomson. She was there on other historical business at the neighboring Huguenot Center. Mary Bondurant Warren shared her extensive knowledge of the early Bondurant family with us during the whole afternoon. She is the heart and soul of our organization and author of the three Bondurant books. (See the order form on the BFA website www.bondurant-family.org or search her name on Amazon.com to purchase online.)

Saturday night's dinner was at the historical Half Way House. This restaurant is in an old tavern that was a wayside between Richmond and Petersburg frequented by characters such as George Washington and Robert E Lee. The kitchen is realistically separated from the tavern. The building is in original condition with slanting creaky floors and sagging beams.

During this year's business meeting held at Crab Louie's in Midlothian we approved \$2500 towards erecting another marker to commemorate Jean Pierre's wife, Ann Tanner. She was from landed gentry and probably was crucial in Jean Pierre's rapid assimilation into the English community and prosperity. Hopefully by 2020 we will have Ann's marker in its rightful place next to Jean Pierre.

I am excited to announce that next year's meeting will be in Portland, Oregon, hosted by cousin Susan Bundrant Scharf. It is the furthest west we have gone, but appropriate as Bondurants are everywhere. There will be some interesting history to be appreciated. As is our policy, the following year (2020) we will return to Virginia. Feel free to write or call me.

Your Cousin,
Bruce Ramsdell
Siouxlake@aol.com
404 272 0071



30th Anniversary T-Shirts Are Still Available!

Celebratory t-shirts for this 30th anniversary of the founding of the Bondurant Family Association are still available in all sizes (S-4XL). An order form can be found on the BFA webpage at www.bondurant-family.org, and in the Files section of the BFA Facebook page.

The design of the logo for the t-shirt shows the crest of the French village of Génolhac, where Jean Pierre Bondurant was born in 1677. It also includes several other spellings of the Bondurant surname that can be found throughout the U.S.: Bundrant, Bundrum, Bundren, BonDurant, and Bondurand. We hope you will wear it with pride!



Bondurant Obituaries found in the newspaper archives from Nov. 23, 2018 to Jan. 10, 2019 on the subscription website www.genealogybank.com and elsewhere, compiled Jan. 10, 2019 by EBM.

Kay Glenn Latimer Maples

April 2, 1938 - December 17, 2018

Kay Latimer Maples, aged 80, died December 17th 2018. Born April 2nd 1938 in Tampa, Florida, she is survived by her husband Don Maples, and step-sons George, Michael and Benjamin Maples.

Her children are Emmet Bondurant and Florije Sherifovska, Beth Bondurant, Melissa Bondurant, Chris Bondurant, Miles and Amy Bondurant, and their son Remy. Niece and nephew are Cortlann Peddy Thomas and Robert Peddy.

Preceding in death were her parents Virginia and C.W. Latimer, and sisters Charlene Latimer and Ann Latimer Peddy. A memorial service was held in Clayton, GA, on Saturday, January 12, 2019.



Kay with Bondurant children, about 1991 in Athens, GA

Bon Durant Obituaries found in the newspaper archives from Nov. 23, 2018 to Jan. 10, 2019 on the subscription website www.genealogybank.com and elsewhere, compiled Jan. 10, 2019 by EBM.



Kirk M. BonDurant, Sr.

February 1, 1944 -November 29, 2018

Kirk BonDurant Sr., 74, Wyatt, IN, died 4:45 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 at Memorial Hospital. He was born Feb. 1, 1944 in Bremen to Delbert "Bud" and Marion (Mutti) BonDurant. On Feb. 1, 1969 he married Carolyn Kay (Zellers) BonDurant and she died Oct. 4, 2018.

Kirk was a graduate of Bremen High School and worked as a heavy equipment operator. He was a member of the Midwest Operating Engineers Local 150.

Preceding him in death are his parents and wife, Carolyn. Surviving are a daughter, Belinda Beehler, South Bend, son, Kirk M. BonDurant Jr., Wyatt, three grandchildren, Jordan, Blake and Alex, a brother, Kim (Sherry) BonDurant, Bremen and a sister, Kristine (John) Hudkins, Bremen.

A memorial gathering was held 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, at Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret-Lienhart Funeral Home, 117 W. Waterford St., Wakarusa. Burial will be at Bremen Cemetery at a later date. Memorial donations may be directed to the Madison Township Volunteer Fire Department.

South Bend Tribune (IN) - Sunday, December 2, 2018

Bremen Enquirer (IN) - Thursday, December 6, 2018

<https://www.rrefh.com/obituaries/Kirk-Bondurant/#!/Obituary>

Bundrant Obituaries found in the newspaper archives from Nov. 23, 2018 to Jan. 10, 2019 on the subscription website www.genealogybank.com and elsewhere, compiled Jan. 10, 2019 by EBM.

**Mackie Gwen Bundrant**

Dec. 1, 1953 - Jan. 2, 2019

Mackie Gwen Bundrant, 65, of Bokchito, OK, passed away on January 2, 2019 at her home. Mackie was born on December 1, 1953 to Johnny Powell and Lela Mae (Campbell) Bundrant Sr.

Mackie attended school at Bokchito and worked as a caregiver until her retirement. She enjoyed computers, needle work and she dearly loved her family and friends.

Mackie was preceded in death by her father and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Campbell and Mr. and Mrs. P.C. Bundrant. Mackie is survived by her mother, Lela Bundrant; sons, Mike Mintz and Chris Bundrant; brother, Johnny Bundrant Jr. and wife Dianne; granddaughter, Martha Campoverde and husband Diego; 3 great-grandchildren and numerous extended family and friends. Funeral was held Jan. 6, 2019, at Brown's Funeral Service, Durant, OK.

Herald Democrat (Sherman, TX) - Sunday, January 6, 2019

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK) - Sunday, January 6, 2019

<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/obituaries/Mackie-Bundrant>

Bundren Obituaries found in the newspaper archives from Nov. 23, 2018 to Jan. 10, 2019 on the subscription website www.genealogybank.com and elsewhere, compiled Jan. 10, 2019 by EBM.

Nancy E. Henerfouth Bundren

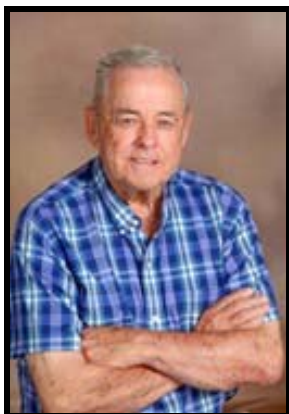
June 23, 1933 - December 26, 2018

Beloved wife of the late James "Phil" Bundren Sr.; loving mother of Teri (Cox) Robbins, John (Karen) Cox, James (Barbara) Bundren Jr., Daniel Bundren, and the late Donald (Tina) Cox Jr.; dear grandmother and great-grandmother of 23; dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt, great-aunt, cousin, and friend.

Funeral from KUTIS AFFTON CHAPEL, 10151 Gravois, Monday, December 31, 9:15 a.m. to St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church for 10 a.m. Mass. Interment Mt. Hope Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to St. Vincent DePaul Church appreciated. Visitation Sunday, 4-9 p.m.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MO) - Friday, December 28, 2018

<https://www.kutisfuneralhomes.com/13007>

**Harry Dale Bundren**

Sept. 16, 1934 - Jan. 10, 2019

Harry Dale Bundren, 84, of the Westport, IN, area, passed away at 12:47 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at Our Hospice Inpatient Facility. He was born in Jennings County, IN, on September 16, 1934, the son of John Thomas Bundren and Florence Mildred (Barnes) Bundren.

He grew up in Jennings County and attend the Zenas grade school and graduated from North Vernon High School in 1952. He moved to Indianapolis where he was employed at Eli Lilly, retiring from there in 1993 after 40 years of service. After retirement, Harry returned to the Westport area. He enjoyed playing cards with friends, mushroom hunting and was a NASCAR fan. He was a faithful attender at the Rodney Wesleyan Church.

In 1953 he married Patty Morgan in Greensburg and she preceded him in death. In 1975 he married Hyon Sue Chang in Indianapolis and she survives.

Surviving with his wife, Sue are three sons, Rick (Pam) Bundren of Greensburg; Kevin (Traci) Bundren of Indianapolis; Bill (Jennifer) Bundren of Zionsville and two daughters Lana Bundren of Indianapolis; Karen Bundren of Greensburg; 11 grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren; and his beloved dog, "Shorty". Also surviving are his mother-in-law and sister-in-law of Westport area and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Jesse Dale Bundren; sisters, Vera Hoffman, Emma Clark, Helen Cornwell and Betty J. Smith; brother, Jesse James Bundren; 1 grandchild, John Bundren and 1 great grandchild, Jesse Ross.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 14, 2019 at the Bass & Gasper Funeral Home with Pastor Tony Guy officiating. Burial will be at the Rockcreek Cemetery. A time of visitation will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019 from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cancer Research or to Rodney Wesleyan Church through the funeral home. Online condolences can be made to the family at www.bassgasper.com

The Republic (Columbus, IN) - Thursday, January 10, 2019

Greensburg Daily News (IN) - Thursday, January 10, 2019

No Bundrum or Bundrent Obituaries were found in the newspaper archives from Nov. 23, 2018 to Jan. 10, 2019 on the subscription website www.genealogybank.com and elsewhere, compiled Jan. 10, 2019 by EBM.

**ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF
MEMBERSHIP**



It is time to renew your membership (if you have not already done so)! We are counting on your continued support of your family organization! The 2019 membership form can be found in this issue, or you may renew using the PayPal link on the Membership page of the Bondurant Family Association website www.bondurant-family.org. Dues are just \$20 per year (\$22 for PayPal).

The 2018 membership list will be sent to paid members only - we ask that you respect the privacy of your cousins in using this list.

Books About Our Bondurant Ancestors

THE BONDURANTS OF GÉNOLHAC, FRANCE

By Mary Bondurant Warren

Ancestry of our immigrant ancestor, Jean Pierre Bondurant

Family history and family trees are included, with photographs of sites and documents relating to the ancestors of Jean Pierre Bondurant. Maps and a driving tour of the family's most important places let you be your own tour guide, and see the sights of France at your leisure.

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Here is the story of Huguenot Jean Pierre Bondurant's life after he landed in 1700 at Jamestown. How did this French exile adapt to an English-speaking society? What was his life like in the colony? Meet his wife Ann Tanner and learn more about their five children and grandchildren. Watch the Bondurant family grow with the colony, move into new lands, and new occupations.

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