

#2

BONDURANT FAMILY ASS'N. NEWSLETTER
Vol. I, No. 1 August 1987

I will try to give you a synopsis of what has expired since you received the invitation to the meeting in VA on June 21.

We arrived in VA a few days before the meeting and went by to check the cemetery. What a surprise, our fence had been removed from around the cemetery. The lot had been cleared and four surveyors staked were around a wooden fence some seven feet to one side of the original fence, and a road was going in nearby. After talking to Walton Bondurant, attorney, I contacted Mr. Lewis, attorney for the sub-division and part owner of the sub-division. With the help of David Holland, and John Bondurant, we made a date with Mr. Lewis to meet on the site on the morning of June 21.

We met with Mr. Lewis, and had a copy of the plat from Mary Epling, which clearly showed the cemetery; and also a letter from Division of Historic Landmarks, Commonwealth of VA which clearly stated that we had every right to the cemetery and access to it. Mr. Lewis agreed to work with us with the hope of coming to an amiable agreement.

A number of Bondurant cousins, who would not be at the meeting in the afternoon had come by the cemetery site that morning and all were in favor of going on with our project.

At the afternoon meeting, a good number of Bondurant cousins showed up and such enthusiasm for such a warm June day. We formed a Bondurant Family Ass'n. with dues of \$5.00 a year to defray the cost of the newsletter, the carry on the project of restoring the cemetery, meeting again in VA in Oct. 1988, and having a genealogical committee to help others with their genealogy on the Bondurant family. The meeting was very informal and all committees were filled by volunteers.

Mrs. Mary Bondurant Warren will serve as the genealogy committee and with the files from Mrs. Mary Epling, and your genealogy charts, will compile them.

Mr. Walton Bondurant, Peggy Rutledge, and Susan Epling will serve on the cemetery committee. Mr. Bondurant has been in contact with Mr. Lewis and it looks favorable that we will have the old cemetery plot back soon.

Susan Epling will see about our meeting in Oct. 1988. Make your plans now to come to this.

We will need your help as so far, we only have about enough money to cover the cost of a new fence. We will need a fund for a marker, and of course we will always need a fund to maintain the cemetery.

I am acting as the treasurer until we have another meeting and elect a treasurer. I will be glad to accept your money. We will also need to have your dues, so we can continue to keep you informed of our progress.

We will gladly consider any idea that you might have on all of this. We hope to get all of you involved in this.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Lozo
Mary Beth Lozo
HC4 Box 233-E
Canyon Lake, TX 78133-2804

BONDURANT FAMILY NEWSLETTER

March 1988

Vol. II No. 1

I know that most of you expected this newsletter earlier, so did I. I am doing the best that I can from TX, but it is hard to get all of the things done. Mrs. Mary Epling did come to my rescue. We do have a TIME and PLACE for our next meeting. It will be at the Holiday Inn in Richmond area, on Oct. 14 & 15. They have reserved a block of 25 rooms for us and we can have more if needed. The rate quoted is \$39.00 per nite plus tax.

At this time, I have not planned any special speaker. I really think that we will have a business meeting in the morning, with a luncheon together at noon. In the afternoon, we will try to work out some of the genealogy problems. I would appreciate your suggestions.

If you have received this newsletter and have not paid your dues; which is only \$5.00 per year--THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE. Dues are payable to me. Make your checks to Bondurant Restoration Fund, % Mary Beth Lozo, HC 4, Box 233-E, Canyon Lake, TX 78133-2804. We will also accept donations for the restoration of the cemetery of Jean Pierre Bondurant.

Since we are a new organization, I have set up one bank account. I am hoping that we can have a election of officers for the next two years at our meeting in Oct. What job would you like? I can't do it all by myself.

I have not heard from Walton Bondurant lately who is working with the owners of the cemetery plot. The last letter mentioned that he was to get an estimate on a iron fence to enclose the plot. Peggy Rutledge has gotten the information on the marker that the Commonwealth of VA can put up for us for about \$700.00. I will get a letter off to them in the near future with the necessary proof.

Please make your plans to meet with us in October in Virginia. Will let you know more later about the luncheon and where to mail your luncheon reservations--also about the program. Mark your calendar NOW!

The following information is from Don Bondurant who spent his later years in Heber Springs, AR and who was responsible for the latest proof on the genealogy of our ancestor, Jean Pierre Bondurant. It had long been thought that Jean Piere was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ann Chastain Bondurant. There was a Dr. Joseph Bondurant in Lyon about 1650, and in 1979 some of the descendants of Jean Pierre Bondurant wrote a short history of the family based on Joseph as the father of Jean Pierre.

According to information from American correspondents, the Dr. Joseph Bondurant and his son Jean Pierre were "discovered" by Dr. P. M. Agree, also a descendant of Huguenot refugees and relation of the Bondurants, author who about 1930, wrote "History of the Agee Family". He did not give the source of his information and his notes are now lost.

In view of the uncertainty, Don undertook on his own research. Those of us on Don's mailing list received periodic reports of his progress. After Don's death a few years ago, Mary Dennis of Nashville was called in to help preserve his notes. With the help of many of us, copies were made and placed in various libraries. The originals were placed in the State Library in Richmond Virginia. Copies are in the libraries of the universities at Murry, KY; Martin, TN; and TN State Library. I understand that the copy at the TN State Library is now on microfilm.

Since this hopefully will be only the first installment on the genealogy of Jean Pierre Bondurant, I will try to give proof as I see it and comments from Don's notes. I

am sorry that my computer or printer does not have the capability to print the French punctuation signs.

These are extracts from the Manuscripts of Fernand Teissier-archive curator.

According to the register of the reformed churches of Hautes Cevennes-Gevaudan found in the archives of the court of appeal of Nimes.(These notes are kept at the Society of History of French Protestants in Paris, ref. MS 422).

Reformed church of Barre des Cevennes south east of Florac, department of Lozere. October 28, 1676-was celebrated in the church of Barre the marriage of Jean-Pierre Bondurant, sir de Cougoussac, a middle class citizen living in the town of Genolhac, age 40 years, and of Miss Gabrielle de Barjon, age 34 years, living in Barre. Witnesses were: Mr. Aldebert de St. Martin; Seigneur de Barre (Lord of Barre); Jacques d' Arzillan, wine grower; Jacob Agulhon, pharmacist; Jean Chambonnet, notary, who signed with both parties.

Observation: Cougoussac could be the place called the community of Servieres approx. 10 Kilometers North-West of Mende near another place called le Villaret. Genolhac is now in the department of Gard at the border line between Gard and Lozere.

From the Society of the History of French Protestants.

Pierre Bondurant at the very beginning of the 18th century lived in the hamlet of La Roche, parish of St. Andre de Lancize(Lozere), but also at Genolhac. He had at least one son, Jean. A letter was found dated from Geneva the 2nd or 9th of December, 1712 written by Marie de Roux de Meinadier to her cousin, the wife of Pierre Bondurant. Remarkably written as well for the penmanship as for the style on excellent paper, very legible and gives precious information. This Marie De Roux de Meinadier had gone out of France "for causes of religion without any doubt". She speaks of children of her cousin and principally of the youngest established in Lyon and with whom she seems to have correspondance. She speaks of her sister, her brother, and the son of the latter, several nieces who are with her in Geneva.

We therefore have a first proof that members of the Bondurant family from the Hautes Cevennes left France after the revocation of the Edit of Nantes. Moreover, there was in Lyon a Bondurant but that was in 1712 when this letter was written.

It seems as if the Bondurants were already living in Genolhac as soon as the beginning of the 14th century and they were already important people.

This country of mountains was very isolated at the end of the 17th century and barely accessible for lack of roads, was the theatre of the terrible War of the Camisards which began circa 1702. But as early as the revocation of the Edit of Nantes in 1685 the Protestants were persecuted relentlessly. And many Cevenols(people of the Cevennes) left their country before 1700. First they went to Switzerland, from there they continued to Germany, Holland, and England.

The essential part rests, on the proclamation made 4 January 1718 by Mr. Francois Bertrand, Royal Notary (AD Lozere III E 8564) for the benefit of Gillaume de Latour, Seigneur d'Aquebelle, whom Françoise Argenson employed to defend her interests against Ambroise Lafront; Andre Bondurant, Apothecary of Genolhac; and, generally, against

the "holdings and occupation of the property abandoned by J___ Bondurasnt, late son of Jean Pierre Bondurant, Sieur de Cougoussat," fugitive from the Kingdom because of religion".

That document is not exact as to the date, Françoise Argenson was a niece of Jean Pierre Bondurant, Sieur de Cougoussat; and we have to return to the conflict of opposing interests, before 1718, of Andre Bondurant, Apothecary, son of Antoine Bondurant and Suzanne Raoux, and also first cousin of the Sier de Cougoussat.

 GENEALOGY OF THE BONDURANT FAMILY IN FRANCE
 IN GENOLHAC

JEAN BONDURANT (died ca 1570)
 (son of ANTOINE, Host(hotel owner) at Genolhac
 married GABRIELLE BRUNET, d/o ANTOINE BURNET and
 MAURICETTE BONDURNAT

 ¶ Raymond
 ¶ other children: ¶ Jeanne #1
 ¶ Jaquette
 ¶ Jeanne #2

ANTOINE BONDURANT
 married 2-2-1558 GILLETTE AMAT

 ¶ Pierre Madelline
 ¶ Etienne Jeanne
 ¶ other children: ¶ Andre
 ¶ Gabrielle

JEAN BONDURANT (died ca 1654)
 Doctor; Hotel Keeper; Merchant; Burger of Genalzac
 married 10-4-1602 SUZANNE QUARANTE, widow of Mr.
 RAYMOND LEYRIS, merchant. (Protestant wedding.)

 ¶ Jean Jeanne
 ¶ Antoine
 ¶ other children: ¶ Gillette
 ¶ Françoise

PIERRE (de) BONDURANT ANDRE BONDURANT
 Doctor (Law) & Councillor (Died ca 1675)
 married 12-3-1632 Françoise Doctor, Clerk of Court
 de Joyeuse-then, (later)- Burger (Genolhac)
 Françoise de Guion married Marie de Bertrand

 ¶ ¶ ¶
 ¶ ¶ ¶
 ¶ ¶ ¶

JEAN PIERRE BONDURANT PIERRE, b 1657 ANDRE
 born 1636, died 1718 married JEANNE (Apothecary)
 married 10-28-1676 in de SAVIN, then Consul of
 church of Barre Des LOUISE de VELAY Genolhac
 Cevennes, GARBIELLE 6-27-1684 married
 de BARJON, born 1642 ¶ LUCRECE
 ¶ DURANT
 ¶
 ¶
 ¶
 A son, "Fugitive from the Pierre
 Kingdom" (Presumably, Our Jean (Lawyer)
 JEAN PIERRE) Catherine
 Andre

(To be continued)