

THE BONDURANT FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Mary Bondurant Warren, Editor, 170 Windsor Court, Athens, GA 30606-2956

NUMBER 24 - JULY 1994

**1994 ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 21-22
HOLIDAY INN CROWN PLAZA, LYNCHBURG, VA**

Dear BFA Cousins,

Excitement is in the air!

Fall is in the air!

Anticipation is in the air!

It's time again for the BFA annual meeting. This year we will be at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza (formerly the Radisson) at 601 Main St., Lynchburg, VA 24504. Phone 1-800-HOLIDAY before Sept. 21, 1994 for reservations at our special group rate. Hotel guests may use free airport shuttle and free covered parking.

Several members from the area became a local planning committee when we met in April to make the arrangements.

FRIDAY EVENING (7-10 p.m.) will be our usual sharing and "Meet Your Kin." We encourage sharing research, pictures, videos, and also ideas and examples of ways to display in your home memorabilia and artifacts of your relatives. Please bring whatever you can to make our sharing time worthwhile and enjoyable.

SATURDAY MORNING (9-11) first the business session, to consider Salt Lake City for the 1995 BFA meeting location, the election of officers, new members and budget report, etc.

SATURDAY LUNCH will be a buffet at the hotel - \$5.95 per person.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON (1-2) Dr. Bob Bondurant of Roanoke, VA, has agreed to speak about his research and findings regarding Bondurant ancestors.

Afterwards, from 2-5 p.m., there will be three tour options, directed by members of our local planning committee,

- (a) "Point of Honor", City Market, Quaker Church (Lynchburg)
- (b) Walking tour of the historic district of Lynchburg
- (c) Thomas Jefferson's "Poplar Forest" and Bedford County Museum, Bedford.

SATURDAY EVENING from 7-10 p.m. we will see videos of Genolhac, France, taken by Lisa Warren David and others.

SUNDAY MORNING there will be an Executive Board Meeting.

At 10 a.m. a meeting will be held for persons who might be interested in another Bondurant group trip to Genolhac, France in 1995 or 1996.

These are highlights of our planned activities, but the best part is the fellowship and camaraderie and meeting and greeting new and old cousins, and learning more about our roots.

We're anticipating an exciting gathering.

SEE YOU IN LYNCHBURG!

Cousins/CoPresidents: Wayne and Betty Bondurant Brown

LA BELLE FRANCE

This year has been a time of reminiscence for those who went to Genolhac, and a spring of "surprises" for your editor.

First a German friend sent an article from *DIE ZEIT*, of Hamburg, with the note "We hope you will find somebody to translate this article, because it underlines the research work you did for your ancestors."

My Neuchatel "host" Gregor Bawidamann did just that, so we can learn more about the Huguenots and the Cevennes.

FRANCE: In the Cevennes, the Memories of the violent religious fights of the 18th century are still alive

STORIES ABOUT PERSECUTION AND TREASON

At Saint-Jean-du-Gard in the Cevennes [which we visited], posters invite to a strange solidarity campaign: donation to make possible the purchase of 8,000 building stones and the restoration of the birthplace of ABRAHAM MAZEL. The foreigner asks, "who was this man and why does he get that much attention?"

The inhabitants are fairly shocked about the ignorance of the foreigner, and tell him the following: Abraham Mazel, a wool-dyer, was born in 1677, and was one of the leaders of the Protestant rebellion against Catholic oppression.

Memories of the violent religious fights which lasted in the Cevennes from 1685 to 1787 are still alive along the Gardon River. Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685, which had guaranteed the French Protestants religious liberty. Nearly 500,000 citizens, many of them from prosperous backgrounds, went into exile.

Nevertheless, in the Cevennes - the mountain range which turns towards Languedoc and the Mediterranean Sea - the Huguenot farmers, shepherds, and manufacturers refused conversion to Catholicism. As a consequence the "Sun King" ordered repression and terror. Dragoons were quartered in Huguenot homes, where the dragoons hatched their notorious plans (called "dragonnades"). They plundered the food, made nocturnal visits, harassed the Huguenot's children, and used every cruelty in order to force the Huguenot's conversion.

Many Huguenots could not stand those tortures, and gave up Protestantism. Others joined the underground and founded the first strictly organized guerilla movement: the white-shirted "Camisards" [camisard was the French peasant's loose shirt]. The Camisards fought with pitch-forks and sythes against the musketeers of the royal army. Those cruelties on both sides ended in 1707 when ROLAND, the charismatic leader of the guerillas was arrested and tried. [Roland's home is now the Musee du Desert, which we also visited].

Nevertheless, the center of the "Vallée des Camisards," St.-Jean-du-Gard offers not only sad sites such as the ruins of the former Protestant villages, or the former market places where those condemned people were tied on pyres to be tortured as the chronicle tells.

St.-Jean-du-Gard also possesses a very unusual museum where one can learn about the former wealth of the area, the plantations of chestnuts, and the cultivation of the silk worms. If one takes the steam-train from St.-Jean-du-Gard to Anduze, a journey of 14 kilometers, one can have a look at Europe's largest bamboo plantation, an exotic jungle, even though it is laid out in a strange manner.

But everywhere history recalls fanaticism, the obscure prophets, the mystic zealots of persecution and treason on the "diailles" - the trampled paths - one can walk to the valley's caves and grottoes where Protestant believers rallied around their preachers. Those places which were hard to find by their pursuers were called "desert" - after the Biblical Exodus of the Desert made by Moses. Some of those hiding places were sheltered by granite boulders, and are to be found in the wildest, but also the most hidden places in the Cevennes. Spring water gurgles down the rapids into the Gardon River. The Camisards knew well the wild and tangled "desert" and therefore had the advantage.

Sometimes, one can catch sight of settlements in the middle of the scrub oak forests. Those houses can only be rescued thanks to the people from the cities who turn them into holiday retreats. It is not uncommon when one restores the walls to discover some hidden Protestant Bible, or an escape route.

The "Musée du Désert, the Protestant stronghold, is a testimonial to the "Protestant fidelity." The birthplace of the Camisard leader Roland now serves as a museum. This house represents the central point of the "Mas Soubreyan." Mas Soubreyan is one of those small and very typical villages of the Cevennes, which is still inhabited.

The different "curriculum vitae" of Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin form the prelude to the museum. Documents prove the cruelties of the "dragonnades" and the portable pulpits [used by the Huguenot ministers] can be seen in the museum. Those pulpits were once used in the "desert." The wax figures and the reconstruction of the typical family scene around the fire place gives an impression of how a Huguenot house once looked.

There is no doubt that the most impressive part of the museum is the "Hall of Martyrs." On the ceiling one can see a 12 meter long oar which had to be used by five galley slaves [condemned Huguenot men]. More than 2,000 Protestants who refused conversion to Catholicism were sent to the French galleys, where they were incarcerated and persecuted. Big letters on the walls show the names of countries or areas which granted asylum to the [Huguenot] refugees -- Brandenburg, Denmark, Hessen, Cape of Good Hope, Surinam, Pennsylvania.

In front of the big blackboard, people from everywhere read those stories of the different destinies, and some want to search for their ancestors. It could be that the tourist who studies intensely this gallery of ancestral portraits may find out that he is related to ABRAHAM PLANTEFER who was deported to Martinique, or to JEAN VALETTE who was scalded with boiling fat before being brought to a galley.

One feels released once out of the museum. A thunder shower had cleansed the sky. Dogs roam the rocky lane. Vines and cammomile bloom on the terraces piled high with undressed stones. That idyllic maze of houses helps a bit to forget the bitter after-taste of the museum.

Outside, the tragedies of those fights of the Camisards seem far away. But the daily news reminds us that under religious cover such cruelties are still relevant to the present.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you would like to contribute to the reconstruction of Mazel's home, send your donation in care of the Office du Tourisme de Saint-Jean-du-Gard, BP2, F30270 Saint-Jean-du-Gard, France. Telephone: 0033-66/86-32-11.

Next in our "manna from heaven" scenario, I received this letter from Mr. W. Gregory Monahan, Associate Professor of History, of LaGrande, OR 97850, who was at the University of Montpellier, on sabbatical. Through him we learn more about the French Bondurants and the Camisard War which took place after Jean Pierre left Genolhac for Switzerland and America.

19 March 1994

Dear Mrs. Warren,

I suppose it's not every day you receive a letter from France! A friend and colleague of mine [Madame Breton's brother-in-law I later learned] ROBERT POUJOL recently shared the Bondurant Family Association newsletter [#15] with me. He is a native of this region and quite an expert on its history, but he reads very little English and thought I might be able to make something of the newsletter! As I read it I was much impressed by the perseverance with which your extended family has concerned itself with its own history. That kind of dedication, I decided, merited some of my attention.

I am an American historian of France on a research sabbatical in Montpellier. I teach at a small state college in Oregon, though I do have a Master's Degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, so I know that part of the country well.

The subject of my research is the Camisard War, a rebellion by Protestant peasants against Louis XIV which lasted from the summer of 1702 to the autumn of 1704. I hope to write the first history of that conflict ever published in English, and have therefore been working hard in Montpellier and towns in the region where the rebellion took place. Genolhac was an especially important flashpoint in the rebellion, since it was the hometown of one of the more important rebel leaders, NICHOLAS JOUANY. (I don't think, by the way, that Jouany ever married or fathered children. The Reverend JOHN JOUANY mentioned in the Newsletter #15 may indeed have been related to the rebel leader, but probably not in any direct line.) [John was the Huguenot minister who came on the PETER AND ANTHONY to Virginia with Jean Pierre.]

In the course of my research, I have occasionally come across the names of various members of the Bondurant family, which was prominent in Genolhac at that time. Many members of the family remained steadfastly Catholic (apologies to all you Protestants!) and suffered a great deal from the attacks on Catholics by the Camisard rebels. ("Camisard" may seem a strange word -- it comes from "camise" or shirt -- the rebels often fought in white shirts and were in the habit of coming down from the mountains occasionally to change filthy shirts for clean ones that the people had hung out to dry.) Jouany's band was one of the most violent of the Camisard troops, and he heartily disliked the presence of Catholics in his home town. Several Catholic members of the Bondurant family made claims to the crown after the [Camisard] war to obtain compensation for property destroyed by the rebels, or by the royal troops chasing them.

One such victim was André Bondurant, the apothecary mentioned on page six of your newsletter [#15]. I came across the enclosed plea from him in the archives in Montpellier, and thought it sufficiently interesting to have it photocopied so I could send it to you. I've also enclosed a

translation of the document in case you would like to publish it in your newsletter with all, or part, of this letter. His claim for compensation totalled 2,009 French pounds, or around \$100,450 today. He ended up getting only about half that.

In addition to André, I have come across information on three other members of the family; two of them [were] Catholic, one Protestant. Suzanne Bondurant was a Catholic, a widow in the small village of Eus not far from Genolhac. In November 1702 she was attacked and rather savagely assaulted by the Camisards, losing several of her teeth, and almost dying from stab wounds inflicted by [their] pitchforks. Her attackers also tried setting fire to her house, but only managed to destroy around 45 pounds of furniture and clothing (that would amount to just over \$2,000 today). She apparently survived the attack.

Louise Bondurant, another Catholic, lived in the small village of Rieu in the parish of Chamborigaud near Genolhac. Her husband, one Pierre Seguin, was killed by Jouany's band, and their house was burned down. She applied for 155 pounds in damages, or approximately \$7,700 today.

The only Protestant member of the family I have come across was one Rose Bondurant, from the larger French town of Alès, who was arrested and questioned by the royal authorities in 1709 for taking part in an illegal Protestant assembly -- an outdoor church service. The records don't say what became of her, but she was probably fined and let go. If so, she was lucky. If she had been arrested for the same charge during the rebellion, the best she might have hoped for was a very uncomfortable prison cell in the Tower of Constance. The worst? Better not talk about it. It was a violent time, and people took their religion VERY seriously indeed.

I haven't yet visited Genolhac itself. I do know that most of its parish registers for this period are intact. If I get there, and if I get a look at those registers, I'll try to keep the Bondurants once again in mind!

Please feel free to publish all or any part of this letter which may interest you. If you do, I'd love a copy.

Greg Monahan, 2101 Jupiter Way, La Grande, OR, 97850.

Translation of André's claim:

To My Lord de Basville, Counsellor of State and Intendant of Languedoc

My Lord,

André Bondurant, most senior apothecary in Genolhac, pleads to Your Grandeur that because he has done his duty as a true Catholic, the troop of fanatics burned on 31 December 1702 his granary, pillaged his house, and destroyed entirely his apothecary shop, the damages to which have been the subject of verification and estimation by experts, and a copy of their report made before the officials of the town is herein attached.

And, My Lord, as the goods of the plaintiff consisted of drugs which he had in his shop valued at 2,009 pounds, and as, since these disorders he has ceased to work at his job lacking any drugs, his family having been reduced to begging, he seeks recourse to Your Justice under which he hopes it will please Your Grandeur to procure for him an indemnity by whatever means are convenient. The plaintiff supports the duty he has performed as a true Catholic with certificates herein attached from the nuns of the Convent of this town, of Mr. Mejnard, priest of this town, of Mr. Pradines, prior of St. Maurice. He will continue his prayers to God for the conservation of Your Illustrious Person.

NOTE BY MR. MONAHAN: There is no signature on the document, but that was not unusual for this kind of plea. Basville was the powerful royal governor (called an "intendant") of the region, the most powerful such governor in France.

In a brief note on the reverse side of André Bondurant's plea, Basville ordered confirmation of the estimate, which meant he bought into the apothecary's argument and was willing to compensate him. The money for that compensation came mostly from the sale of properties confiscated by [from?] Protestants who were arrested or left the country, and ended up in places like Georgia and North Carolina!

After I sent Madame Breton a copy of Mr. Monahan's letter, she responded that it was her copy of the Bondurant Family Association newsletter which her brother-in-law Mr. Robert Poujol had loaned to Mr. Monahan.

My response to Mr. Monahan brought an explanation which may interest you.

... As for the Bondurants, I did not find much more after I wrote you. I did discover that the parish registers for Genolhac and Chamborigaud, two towns in which many members of the family lived, are on microfilm at the Departmental Archives in Nîmes. If you decide to consult them there (much easier, if not as pretty, as the journey to Genolhac), watch out for occasional page duplication in the Genolhac registers. It comes from combining the parish and departmental copies of the register on one microfilm.

As you probably know, the priests were required by the royal government to keep two copies of their registers [of baptisms, marriages, and sepulchures], one in the parish and one for the central government. Many didn't keep two, and others, like the priest at Genolhac, didn't bother to separate them when they wrote them...

You asked why some of the records are in Montpellier rather than Nîmes. The royal intendency [governor] was headquartered in Montpellier, and any documents specifically pertaining to the intendant, such as André Bondurant's request to him for compensation, are catalogued in the large, well-appointed departmental archives of the Hérault in that city. Those archives are better housed... than the departmental archives in Nîmes, but Nîmes has a large collection of microfilmed parish registers that you might find helpful.

Another helpful source, soon to be published, is a large "Dictionnaire des camisards" by Pierre Rolland, scheduled for publication by the Presses du Languedoc later this year. It will include biographical entries on over 3,000 people who took part in the revolt passively or actively, and should, I think, be a gold mine of information for genealogists searching the Huguenot past....

A BONDURANT DIED AT FORT DELAWARE

Thanks to Mrs. Frances Dudley Meyer, 211 E. York St., Savannah, GA 31401, for a copy of the names of Confederates who died at Fort Delaware during the Civil War. Among the casualties was Private P.S. Bondurant, who died July 27, 1862.

No regiment or state of enlistment was contained in this list, which is now at the National Archives, Washington, DC 20408.

BONDURANT - DAVIS

Mr. Parker Chastaine Sams, 1301 Fox St., Findlay, OH 45840, 419/423-7625 is the descendant of LUCY BONDURANT who married JEFFERY DAVIS (1762-1801). "My family of Davises and Bondurant relations moved from Virginia into Kentucky. I am from western Kentucky, from Paquedah; however, the Davises were in Fulton and Hickman Counties, KY."

DR. BONDURANT FONDLY REMEMBERED

Mr. A.C. Johnson, Jr., 661 Woodbine Dr., Pensacola, FL, noticed that my maiden name was the same as "a Dr. Bondurant of New Orleans who treated me as a child, many, many years ago. He was a kindly compassionate gentleman whom I remember to this day," added Mr. Johnson.

FRANCES LUCINDA BONDURANT

Mrs. Jane S. Fairburn, 314 Palmer Lane, McCormick, SC 29835, 803/391-2419 descends from FRANCES LUCINDA BONDURANT, daughter of JOHN WILLIAM(?) BONDURANT and ESTHER FLANNIGAN. Frances was born 8-6-1833 in Henry Co., VA, and married PHILIP JACKSON CARTER 6-18-1860 in Patrick Co., VA.

Frances' siblings were:

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON BONDURANT who married SALLY BELLAMY

CAROLINE BONDURANT who married HIRAM FAIR

JANE BONDURANT who married JEFF CHANEY

BETTY BONDURANT who married JOE DALTON

SALLY BONDURANT who married JAMES AGEE

JAMES BONDURANT who went to Texas.

Has anyone further information on John W. Bondurant, his parentage? He was born in Henry Co., VA, and may have been buried in VA before 1874.

EDITOR'S NOTE: John W. doesn't appear in my PAF data base; can any reader identify him and his ancestors?

WHO WERE JEAN PIERRE'S PARENTS?

Miss Denise Sallee, 935 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950 wrote: I hope you can answer a quick question for me. I am a member (fairly new) and have just begun to review material I have been collecting on the early Bondurants.

There seems to be two or more versions of who the parents of Jean Pierre, the immigrant, were. I was hoping the Association has adopted one of the stories as fact and can steer me in the right direction. If not, perhaps a brief list of recommended sources of the pre-Virginia family line would be useful. I appreciate your help.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The thorough research among French records of M. Edouard Goulan-Sigwalt of Paris, with translations by his sister Mrs. Marielle Bondurant, he uncovered proof that our immigrant Jean Pierre was the son of Jean-Pierre Bondurant, Sieur de Cougoussat, a small settlement near Chamborigaud, Gard, France, and the grandson of Dr. Pierre Bondurant of Genolhac.

Jean-Pierre's mother was Gabrielle Barjon, daughter and sister of Huguenot ministers. The Bondurant-Barjon marriage ceremony was performed by Gabrielle's brother, Pastor Guillaume

Barjon, in the Huguenot church at Barre des Cevennes, France.

The published ancestry which states that Jean-Pierre was the son of Dr. Joseph Bondurant and Elizabeth Ann Chastain is wrong.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Miss Kimberly Michele Dickey of Montgomery, AL, and Mr. Longfellow Dee Bondurant of Brewton, AL married June 18, 1994 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Jackson Dickey of Montgomery, and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey James Bondurant, Sr. of Flomaton, AL. Jim Bondurant, nephew of the groom was best man. The young couple will reside in Brewton, AL.

Thanks to Mrs. L.E. Schwaninger, 7346 E. 76th St., Tulsa, OK 74133-3505 for the clipping!

The death of Mrs. Louise Bondurant Fraley, 91, of Roanoke, VA, occurred April 25, 1994. She was the daughter of the late Charles R. and Emma Wall Bondurant. Mrs. Fraley was survived by her husband of 68 years, Mr. Howard Brooks Fraley, two daughters and sons-in-law: Betty and Alex Fenik of North Kingstown, RI, and Judith and Anthony Vogel of Fairfax, VA; and two sons and a daughter-in-law: Richard and Betty Jane Fraley of Dunedin, FL, and Randall P. Fraley, of Fayetteville, NC; a sister and brother-in-law Thelma and Harry Martin of Vinton, VA; and two brothers and sisters-in-law, Dr. Robert F. and Virginia Bondurant, of Roanoke, VA, and Maurice E. and Helen Bondurant of Newtown, PA; 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Burial took place at Mountain View Cemetery.

Mrs. Fraley's brother, Dr. Robert F. Bondurant will be our speaker at the upcoming meeting. **Our sympathy to Mrs. Fraley's loved ones.** Thanks to Mrs. Evelyn B. Bondurant, 612 Virginia Ave., Salem, VA 24153-5333 for sending this obituary for our file.

THE BONDURANT FAMILY ASSOCIATION
170 Windsor Court, Athens, GA 30606-2956

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NUMBER 24 - JULY 1994