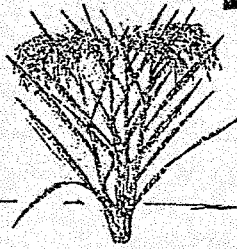


# The Rice Planter



Old St. Bartholomew Chapter, SCGS

Volume 11 Number 4 Winter 2003

Dear Members and Friends,

As the year 2003 comes to a close, we reflect on the events that have shaped our lives this past 12 months. Many have gone through trials and sadness; others have had much joy and anticipation of things yet to come. My family has had some of each. It is with regret that I am resigning from the job of Editor of the Rice Planter. My husband also is resigning. The reasons are simple yet for some will be hard to understand. I have loved doing the newsletter and seeing it grow from one of nothing more than obits to one that contains something for anyone doing genealogy who is not from Colleton County. I am proud of the changes made in each edition as of the people who have willingly contributed of their talent and family heritage. Each article, whether long or short, had its place in the scope of content. The articles Bob Williams so willingly shared, have reached so many people who are related to those he wrote about. I appreciate the kind comments and support I have received from those kind souls who have expressed to my face their pleasure. You are cherished more than you know.

Now comes the hard part in telling you why I feel I need to step down. When I volunteered for this job, the former Editor had resigned and no one wanted to take on this dinosaur! I had never seen a copy of the newsletter but I had a strong determination to contribute to this Chapter. I no longer feel my contributions are wanted or desired. I have had someone want to micro-manage my work to something they feel is more appropriate and to tell me what to do and how to do it, how much is enough, too much, and so forth. I did not ask for help or seek it out.

This year has been one of constant trials what with the flu that ran through my family earlier in the year, the computer that kept breaking until I found out it was never built correctly, the simple surgery my husband had and the complications that were to follow. This has not been the easiest of years. I am not making excuses just telling the facts.

In October, I was introduced as a nurse at the hospital who does night shifts and must like it. Let me set the record straight here once and for all. I am a Respiratory Therapist who loves the work I do, the patients I am privileged to take care of. My patients range in age from those just entering the world to those leaving the world and all others in between. I do nights for a valid reason which is very personal and privileged. Imagine working 3 nights in a week, not always together, taking call one to two nights that same week and then tell me how much free time you have? Yet, I have tried my best to get a newsletter out around this schedule and also around my husband's schedule as he now works two full-time jobs for Clemson. He is in a period of transition until help can be hired. He will be traveling more in other states and gone from home for longer periods of time. Why am I telling you this? Read on.

I have had nothing but criticism from some in the Chapter on the newsletter. The criticism has never been directed to me as editor as it should have been. It has quietly been talked about behind my back. I didn't know what a conversation topic the "newsletter" had become until someone decided to make sure my husband over heard it. Next came the thousand and one suggestions on how the newsletter should be done including spacing, format and so forth. The color of the paper, the content, how long articles were, the cost of the paper, staples interfering with postal regulations, decisions to put the newsletter in manila envelopes to protect it from

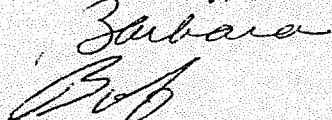
damage and to keep it flat evolved into the cost of the envelopes and we aren't going to pay for that just shorten the newsletter. Noone who made these criticisms were the editor or assistant editor of the newsletter. It was easier for us to handle stapling it as we went along. We stopped submitting a bill for the cost of the paper and envelopes. We had already made arrangements for the newsletter to be printed FREE of charge. This didn't stop the tongues from wagging. You can ask Judy when the last time I submitted a bill, if you have any doubts of this being true. All the chapter paid for was the cost of postage!!

Due to circumstances this year, the newsletter missed one month of not being sent during the month it was due. I have apologized for this. I have asked for articles to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the newsletter is to be printed. I read each article and do some editing. It then goes to Bobby who is the best at editing and saving space. We chose to use Word Perfect format as it was easier for us to use. I am sorry if you didn't like this format but as editors, this was OUR choice!

This Christmas, I was in a very unique situation in being able to go to Alabama for Christmas. It has been 11 years since I last had a Christmas with my family, being in the church I grew up in, hearing my brother sing, O Holy Night as he does each and every year, having communion with my family Christmas Eve and being able to spend time at the cemetery with my Dad and Grandparents, remembering times spent together and are now cherished memories. Making new memories to fill the corners of my heart for the coming years, when others will no longer be in living form. Before I was able to leave Walterboro, I did a friend a favor that resulted in me doing a little over 60 hours in 5 nights straight. I had planned on getting the newsletter finished on my call day, but that never happened as I was called in. I e-mailed to let those going to the meeting know the newsletter would be sent by Jan. 1. Imagine my surprise when I returned to see in the minutes where a schedule to get the newsletter out was discussed! Remember, I was not there as I was in the middle of a 5 night work schedule. This has now become very personal to me and I refuse to fight the powers that be anymore. I find no pleasure in doing the newsletter now and feel it is the right thing to do to step down and let those same folks who "know it all" go forth and do.

To those who have expressed kind words and support along the way, please accept our deepest thanks.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Barbara and Bob Franklin. Barbara's signature is in cursive and Bob's is in a more stylized, blocky cursive.

Barbara and Bob Franklin

# THE FONTAINES

by

Bob Williams

## INTRODUCTION

In 1964, the Colleton County Historical Society dedicated a historical marker north of Walterboro, South Carolina beside the south-bound lane of US 15. The marker was erected in remembrance of the Island Creek Meeting House. The inscription indicates that the site of the meeting house was deeded by John Fontaine to the Methodist Society in 1802. That was one of the last acts of John Fontaine before he left South Carolina. His brother Thomas left the Colleton area a few years prior to John's departure; sister Mary Fontaine Risher and her family remained in South Carolina - some of her children left when they became adults. Mary, Thomas, and John were grandchildren of the Reverend Francis Fontaine, Sr., a French Huguenot who arrived in Virginia in 1721. It was because of this Virginia connection reference was made to Virginia Fontaines in the title rather than American Fontaines or just simply Fontaines.

The first Fontaines to arrive in the New World were French Catholics who settled in what is now Canada during the 1600's. Along with their descendants they are referred to as the Canadian Fontaines. It is believed that in the latter part of the seventeenth century some of them sailed down the Mississippi and settled in the area of modern Mobile, Alabama. Which would probably make them the first American Fontaines, a term sometimes used in reference to Francis and his siblings who settled in eastern Virginia during the early 1700's. (It is believed that the Canadian branch and the Virginia branch are not related.) A John Fontaine was one of the settlers of Purrysburg a Swiss settlement founded near the Savannah River in the 1730's.

Purrysburg was located in what is now Jasper County, South Carolina. Another Fontaine is said to have been a stow away who jumped ship at Savannah, Georgia in the 1750's. Canadian, American, or Virginian, at one time most of them had been French Fontaines.

Fontaine is French for "fountain." Some Fontaines would anglicanize their names to Fountain. For those not too familiar with United States history, our nation has had misunderstandings with France prior to the year 2003. During some of these spats, some of our ancestors did not want French sounding names so surnames were changed. Further, the Virginia Fontaines were of noble descent, they were de la Fontaines, "de la" indicating nobility. Francis Fontaine, Sr's grandfather stopped using "de la." It is said that the elder Fontaine dropped the phrase which indicated that he was a nobleman for reasons of humility. One historian believes the grandfather quit using "de la" because he became a business man and French nobles were not supposed to be involved in business. Besides his apparent involvement in the business community, James Fontaine was also a minister. The Reverend Fontaine was married twice; his eleven children included two sons named Peter and two boys named James.

The younger James is very important to us today because besides being a man of God like his father and brothers, he was a writer and on 26 March 1722 when he was sixty-four years old, began writing a book titled *Memoirs of a Huguenot Family*. The book was hand written and 244 pages long. James made two copies, one copy for his children in Europe, and one copy for his



children in America. Both copies were completed 21 June 1722. James passed away six years later. For anyone researching their Colleton County, South Carolina ancestors *Memoirs of a Huguenot Family* is a valuable reference. It is included in a list of references to prepare this article:

*Memoirs of a Huguenot Family*: completed by the Reverend James Fontaine in 1722 this autobiography can be found by computer users on the internet. Probably the better edition is the one compiled by Ann Maury, a direct descendant (great great granddaughter) in 1853. Maury's book also includes the "Journal of John Fontaine," a number of letters written in the 1700's by James' Virginia descendants, and an appendix that includes a number of interesting documents. Maury's edition has been made available in reprint by Clearfield Publishing Company, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.

*Huguenot Emigration to Virginia*: This book is not a narrative but composed of documents relating to the Huguenot emigration to Virginia and was completed by R. A. Brock for the Virginia Historical Society in 1886. Brock also included an "Appendix of Genealogies" which includes the Fontaines and Maurys. There are some errors in this listing of our Fontaine ancestors but it is eye opening because one gets the impression of not reviewing a family's genealogy but studying our nation's early history. This has also been made available in reprint by Clearfield.

*Ancestry and Descendants of Jesse Smith of Charleston District, South Carolina and Lowndes County, Mississippi*, by Alice Amis Hodges, Pendleton, S.C., 1978. This self published work consists of only 22 pages. Jesse Smith was a grandson of Mary Fontaine

Risher and great grandson of the Reverend Francis Fontaine, Sr.

*Henry Stokes of Colleton County*: by Dr. J. J. Stokes of Atlanta, Georgia, self published. On Pages 170-173, there is perhaps a brief history of the Fontaines.

*Our Family Story*: by Eleanor Williams Bradley, 2002, Gateway Press, 454 pages. This book includes a chapter about the Fontaines. Mrs. Bradley who resides in Canada, visited Colleton County in April 2002 and donated a copy of her book to the Colleton County Library and the Old Saint Bartholomew Genealogical Chapter, SCGS.

Various editions of the newsletter of The Fontaine/Maury Society have been referred to in preparing this article.

A gentleman who was a big help in learning about the Fontaines was the late Fred Fontaine of Montgomery, Alabama who passed away on 1 April 2001.

Fred was the librarian of The Fontaine/Maury Society and maintained the society's web site. Fred provided two listings of the descendants of the Reverend Francis Fontaine.

## EUROPE

Before computers there was a lot of material available to those researching the Fontaines; the advent of computers has made even more information available, some questionable. For example, on one web site, someone claimed he had traced the surname to several hundred years before the birth of Christ. More reliable researchers have traced the line to the fifteenth century A. D. (the 1400's). when Jean de la Fontaine married Guyonne de Monthibault. Jean de la

Fontaine

and his descendants were Catholics until about the year 1535 when great great great grandson Jean (John) became a Protestant. Several years afterwards he married and returned to his paternal estate in the French province of Maine where he retired.

Retirement did not protect Jean from controversy concerning his religious beliefs. In 1563, ruffians broke into the Fontaine home, killed Jean, his wife, and a servant. One hundred sixty years later, Jean's great grandson the Reverend James Fontaine wrote in his memoirs, "Oh, my children! let us never forget that the blood of martyrs flows in our veins! And may God of His infinite mercy grant that it may enliven our faith, so that we may prove not unworthy scions from so noble a stock." Generally, most Fontaine genealogies indicates that Jean's oldest son was also killed, but James wrote that he was uncertain what happened to the oldest child.

Three children did escape to Rochelle including Jacques (James), the grandfather of Reverend James Fontaine. Jacques, 1550 to 1633, married twice. No children were born during the second marriage; only three born during the first marriage reached maturity. One of these was named James Fontaine.

This James Fontaine, 1603 to 1666, like his father married twice. James' first wife was Miss Thompson. They had six children before her death in 1640. A year later, James married his second wife, Marie Chaillon (Her son wrote that Marie was 63 years old when she passed away, about the time he earned his college degree.) Five children were born during the second marriage including on 7 April 1658, the future author of *Memoirs of a Huguenot Family*, James

Fontaine.

James would attend and complete college in France about 1680. Not long afterwards religious intolerance would once more create problems for the Fontaine family and he escaped to England with sister Elizabeth and niece Janette. From his memoirs, we learn that they, "...landed on the first day of December -English or old style 1685- at Appledore, a small town in the British Channel, below the river Taw which goes up to Barnstaple." About two months later on 6 February 1686, he married Ann Elizabeth Boursiquot at the parish church of Barnstaple. The couple had first met while still in France. While in England, James was made an ordained minister by the Protestant Synod at Tauton on 10 June 1688. Also, six of his children James, Aaron, Mary Anne, John, Peter, and Moses were born in England.

England was the Fontaine family home for over eight years until 24 December 1694 when the family arrived in Cork, Ireland. The family would eventually settle in the area of Bank Harbor. While in Ireland, James would serve as a minister, a Justice of Peace, and industrialist. The Fontaine home would be twice raided by French Privateers and James was taken prisoner during the second raid - he was freed due to the payment of ransom by his wife Anne.

Anne, is described by Irish historian Daniel O'Brien, "...to have been a self-effacing person who showed an admirably strength of mind and placidity of character..." On the other hand, O'Brien seems to have felt that James Fontaine was an argumentative individual because the historian could not understand how Fontaine could have fought with so many people and have always been in the right. James' last two

children Francis and Elizabeth were born in Ireland. Anne passed away in 1721; James passed away in 1728. Their Irish residence remained standing until the 1920's when it was torn down to rebuild other homes. Although the stone house no longer exists, James's words on paper are still with us and are a valuable tool in learning about his four children that made their home in Virginia.

## VIRGINIA

Four of the Reverend James Fontaine's children would sail to the New World and make Virginia their home. A fifth child would see service in Virginia for a few years as an officer in the British army and then return to England.

John Fontaine: He was born in 1693, and when he was 17 years old received a commission as an ensign in the British army. John kept a journal of his military service which brought him to Spain and eventually he set foot in Virginia on 28 May 1715. (John's journal entry for 14 Sept. 1716 indicates he met a Mr. Buckner. This may interest the editor of "The Rice Planter.") Three of his siblings arrived in Virginia before he left Virginia on 7 June 1719. Before leaving, he turned the deeds of land purchased over to his brother James. Once in England, John left the British army and became a watchmaker.

Peter Fontaine (1691 to July 1757): Peter married Elizabeth Fourreau on 29 March 1714. His father indicates the wedding took place with great privacy because Peter had not yet earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. What is an eye opener from the perspective of three hundred years is the fact that Elizabeth was under thirteen years of age. Peter would become an ordained minister before sailing for Virginia with his wife.

Brother John's journal indicates the Reverend Fontaine arrived in Virginia sometime in early December 1716. Elizabeth Fontaine gave birth to two children, Mary Anne who was born in 1718 and Peter, Junior born in 1720. (John Fontaine, son of Peter Fontaine, Jr. married Martha Henry. Martha's father was Patrick Henry - "Give me liberty or give me death.")

About twenty years after the death of his young wife, Peter Fontaine, Sr. married again. His second wife was E. (Elizabeth or Sarah Wade.) Five children were born during the second marriage: Moses, Sarah, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Abraham. (Moses and Abraham both married Ballards.) Peter's children born during the second marriage were about the same age as his grandchildren from the first marriage.

The Reverend Peter Fontaine served the small French Huguenot community of Mankintown, its former location is now part of the westside of modern Richmond, Virginia. He was rector of King William and Westover Parishes. Also, during 1728-29 Peter served as chaplain to the Virginia Commission which ran the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina.

James Fontaine III (born 1686): He was his father's oldest child -this writer has found little about James Fontaine III. In the older Fontaine's memoirs we learn that his son set sail to Virginia with his wife and mother-in-law, no names given. John Fontaine's journal indicates James arrived in Virginia in October 1717. On 17 July 1718, John turned over his property to James before the former returned to England. In a letter written by Mary Ann Fontaine Maury, their sister, on 2 September 1742, she states, "....my brother James. His first wife is dead, and left four daughters and two



sons. The youngest daughter, named Ann, has lived several years with my niece Mary Ann Winston, and I hope will turn out well. My brother is married again but to who or what sort of woman I cannot say. They live so far from us that we receive more intelligence from you than from him." (The letter opens, Dear Sister, one gets the impression that Mary wrote it to her brother John's wife in England.) R. A. Brock in *Huguenot Emigration to Virginia*, indicates that James' children were: Elizabeth, Lucretia, James, Jane, John, and Ann.

Mary Ann Fontaine(12 April 1690 to 30 December 1755): Mary Ann married Matthew Maury on 20 October 1716 in Dublin, Ireland. Her brother's journal indicates that Matthew arrived in Virginia in March 1718. Mary Ann's father in his memoirs, pointed out that Maury returned to Ireland and left for Virginia again in September 1719 with his wife and a son that had been born while the father was in America the first time. Brock indicates that only three children were born to the Maurys: James, Mary, and Abraham. (One has to wonder if there were other children. Eleven years separated the birth of James and Mary; only three years separated Mary and Abraham.)

Francis Fontaine(16 September 1697 to 1749): He attended Trinity College in Dublin and earned a Master of Arts degree in London, he specialized in Oriental Languages (Hebrew) and became an ordained minister. While still in England, he married a young lady of French ancestry, Mary Glanisson. Mary's family was from Jonzac in Saintonge. It is believed Frank and his wife arrived in Virginia about 1720.

Like his older brother Peter, Francis served the French community of Mankintown. He was also a professor of Oriental Languages at

the College William and Mary. Plus, he served as Chaplain to the Virginia House of Burgess.

Unfortunately, like the wives of brothers Peter and James, Francis' wife Mary passed away after coming to Virginia. Mary died about 1733 and her husband remarried about 1737. His second wife was the daughter of John Brush, the Virginia governor's gunsmith and armorer. Susanna Brush was apparently a widow, her first husband was a Mr. Barbour. Frank and Susanna Fontaine had two children, James Maury Fontaine and Judith Barbour Fontaine. (This James Fontaine was born in 1738 and passed away on 11 March 1795 in Virginia. On 14 December 1775 he married Alice Burwell in Gloucester County, Virginia. The Burwell surname is probably not well known to many people. However, those familiar with the history and traditions of the United States Marine Corps are very familiar with one of the corps legends of the twentieth century, Lewis Burwell Puller, or just plain "Chesty." Lieutenant General Chesty Puller, USMC was born in Gloucester County, Virginia.)

We don't know what kind of mother Susanna was to her own children but apparently she did not treat the children of her husband's first wife very well. Mary Ann Maury in the letter she wrote to her sister-in-law on 2 September 1742 stated the following about Frank's marriages, " As for his first wife she was, I believe, a good Christian and very careful to instill good principles in her children; but she was not a fit wife for this country, so by that means, and by her ignorance of country business, my brother was almost ruined in his estate. She left one girl and three boys, and if it had pleased God to have taken them with her, it would have been a great blessing; for

this woman he has married is a mighty housewife, but a cruel woman , and she has the entire domain over her husband, so he has been induced to cast off all paternal duty to his first children." A letter written by Peter Fontaine, Sr. also, indicates that his younger brother's first children had not been well treated by their step mother.

The four step children were Francis Fontaine, Jr., Mary, John and Thomas. The latter was born about 1730 and died before he was old enough to marry. Mary was born about 1724. What little we know about her may be found in a letter written by Peter Fontaine, Junior on 8 July 1765: "My cousin Mary, oldest daughter of my uncle Francis, is so unhappy as to have married an extravagant, careless man who is quite unable to maintain her; and she now lives in the capacity of housekeeper, with a very worthy clergyman in North Carolina." Mary's brother John was born about 1726 and passed away about 1758. Like his sister, John moved from Virginia to North Carolina. He married and had two daughters both of whom died young. John lived in New Berne, N. C. and worked with his older brother Francis Fontaine, Jr.

## THE CAROLINAS AND GEORGIA

Francis Fontaine, Jr. was born about 1721 in Virginia. He was his father's oldest child. His aunt's, Mary Ann Maury, letter of September 1742, points out that Frank Fontaine, Jr. had been going to college but his father bound him to a carpenter. His younger brother, John was also going to be bound to a carpenter. By 1749, he had moved from Virginia to New Berne, North Carolina, and had three children, the eldest child had passed away. In 1750, Frank owned 640 acres of land near New Berne and several lots in town. Even though

his work as a carpenter kept him busy, he also served in the local militia. A roster of soldiers commanded by Captain Solomon Rew, taken on 10 October 1754 in New Berne Town, Craven County lists Lieutenant Francis Fontaine, Jun. as second in command. (Brother John was a corporal in the unit.) As already pointed out, Frank had three children by 1749. His wife was Jemina (Ann) Jasper.

Jemina and Frank Fontaine had the following children who reached maturity: Francis Fontaine III, Mary, John, Thomas, Peter Benjamin, Lucy, Sally, (Brock in *Huguenot Emigration to Virginia*, indicates that Peter Benjamin and Lucy were Thomas' children.) . This branch of the Fontaines probably did not reside in North Carolina much over thirty years. The American Revolution brought them to South Carolina and the general area of modern Colleton County. Francis Fontaine, Jr. and his wife may have passed away in South Carolina. All their sons are said to have served the patriot cause during the American Revolution.. Peter Benjamin Fontaine did not remain in South Carolina at the end of the war but moved to the area of Augusta, Georgia. Lucy Fontaine married Alexander Thompson, apparently they were living in Saint Bartholomew Parish after the war and would eventually move to Warren County, Georgia. (In 1775, an Alexander Thompson served in the Colleton County Regiment of Militia.) We are not sure what happened to Sally.

Sally's older brother Francis Fontaine III was serving in the Second South Carolina Regiment under Francis Marion before the British capture of Charleston - he joined the unit on 18 December 1776. After Charleston fell, Francis would serve in an irregular unit and was one of the last patriots to be killed in South Carolina during the war. Frank



had married Jemima Johnson who sold provisions to patriot troops and they had three daughters, Nancy, Mary, and Sarah. Jemima would marry Benjamin Brewton/Bruton, veteran of the American Revolution and it is believed that they moved to Georgia, then Alabama. Jemima's daughter Nancy Fontaine moved to Warren County, Georgia where she married Nathan Brewton. Nancy and Nathan would move to the vicinity of modern Claxton, Georgia (Evans County). They had at least twelve children all born in Georgia.

Georgia would also become home to Thomas Fontaine who had been born in North Carolina in 1752 and passed away in Warren County, Georgia. Thomas married Clarissa Brewton and the 1790 census indicates they were living in Saint Bartholomew Parish, S. C. (Brock incorrectly shows Clarissa's maiden name as Benton.) Their son John Maury Fontaine was born in SC in 1792. This John would become mayor of Columbus, Georgia. Thomas and his family left South Carolina around 1796 for Georgia.

After Clarissa's death, Tom married Sally Threewitts. He passed away about 1808. (Why did the Fontaine's move to the area of Warren County, Georgia? The drought of recent years may have provided the answer when man made Lake Thurmond, northwest of Augusta, Georgia, dried up and exposed the once thriving town Petersburg, Georgia. In the 1790's, Petersburg was the second or third largest town in Georgia and the thriving community attracted many new settlers to the Broad River Valley area. Those interested in learning more about Petersburg may want to read *Old Petersburg and the Broad River Valley of Georgia* by Ellis Coulter, University of Georgia Press, 1965.) Another Fontaine who may have moved to Warren County, Georgia was John.

John Fontaine is believed to have been born in 1750. We are not sure when he came to South Carolina but records indicate that a John Fountain had served in the Colleton County Regiment of militia in 1775, an indication that he was in South Carolina prior to the outbreak of war. Documents indicate that a John Fountaine (there is an "e" at the end of the surname in this case) served as a horseman in the militia during 1781 and 1782. After the war, John made his home in Saint Bartholomew Parish.

The 1790 census indicates his neighbors included brother Thomas and brother-in-law Benjamin Risher. In 1793, the state of South Carolina granted John Fontaine 64 acres of land on Jones Swamp in Saint Bartholomew Parish. Nine years later, in June 1802, John for the sum of twelve dollars, sold "one acre, one chain, and 69 links" of the land to the Methodist Society to use for a meeting house - Island Creek Meeting House.

The meeting house transaction is the last indication we have of John Fontaine's whereabouts. It is believed that he may have moved to Georgia, possibly Warren County. He was married, wife Susannah's name appears on the Island Creek title deed. Her maiden name was Cockram. Their son Thomas Alexander Fontaine, would marry Sarah Risher, daughter of James Risher. Thomas passed away in Clarke County, Mississippi in 1846. It is believed that John had two daughters, Mary and Nancy, (some say there was only one daughter Mary "Nancy" Fontaine) both were married to John McCormick - not at the same time, and made Mississippi their home.

Besides the confusion about how many daughters John Fontaine had, we are not sure

how many times he was married. It is pointed out by some genealogists that before he married Susannah Cockram, he had been married to a Brewton. Needless to say the fact that there were a number of John Fontaines has created much confusion.

For example, there was another John Fontaine living in the coastal area of North Carolina at the time of the American Revolution. He served in the Hyde County, North Carolina militia and moved to Jefferson County, Georgia after the war. His sons, Israel and Ethelred, would settle in Irwin County, Georgia. One gets the impression that son William Henry Fontaine remained in North Carolina. Some family researchers indicate that John Fontaine of Hyde County, NC was a son of Francis Fontaine, Jr. What little evidence that is available gives the impression that Israel and Ethelred were not grandsons of Frank Fontaine. If they were related to any of the Virginia Fontaines, their ascendant was probably James Fontaine who arrived in America during October 1717. Genealogists also find that there are some difficult questions to resolve when researching Frank's daughter Mary.

Mary de la Fontaine's descendants are numerous, many live in modern Colleton County, SC. Born in North Carolina, we are not sure of her date of birth. In a letter written by Peter Fontaine, Sr. on 14 Feb 1750 to his brother Moses in England, , he mentioned this about Francis Fontaine, Jr., "He has two children, a boy named Francis about three years old, and a girl of fourteen months named Mary." Peter's statement has led some researchers to believe that Mary had been born in 1748; however, others point out that she was born on 24 December 1753. Possibly the child mentioned in Peter's letter passed away while still

an infant and Frank named a second daughter Mary who would marry Benjamin Risher.

Benjamin Risher and Mary Fontaine are said to have married on 20 December 1772. Their first child, a son named Francis, was born in 1773.

Ben became a member of Captain Kennedy's Militia Company in North Carolina. It is said by some family historians that Kennedy's command arrived in South Carolina after the fall of Charleston on 12 May 1780. However, it appears that Kennedy's men were at the battle of Brier Creek, a patriot disaster that took place on 2 March 1779. The rout at Brier Creek took place near modern Sylvania, Georgia.

Among those who is said to have fought there was Benjamin Brewton, also a member of Captain Kennedy's Company. Brewton would marry the widow of Francis Fontaine III whose brother John is said to have served as a horseman in the South Carolina militia during 1781 and 1782.

After the defeat at Brier Creek in 1779, John Fontaine's brother-in-law, Benjamin Risher, would eventually see service in the South Carolina militia as a horseman during 1781 and 1782. We are not sure when Mary Fontaine Risher joined her husband in South Carolina, probably after March 1779. Ben would eventually own land near Island Creek in Saint Bartholomew Parish.

Benjamin Risher is shown as a head of household residing in Saint Bartholomew Parish in the 1790, 1800, and 1810 censuses. It is believed that both Benjamin Risher and Mary Fontaine Risher passed away in 1812, Mary may have passed away in 1814. On page 526 of the book *Cemeteries of Upper Colleton*

*County, South Carolina*, by Evelyn and Gibson Bryan, listed the children of Benjamin and Mary Fontaine Risher. Three sons and eight daughters are shown. We now believe that the Rishers had at least five sons (studying the censuses. there may have been a sixth son).

The children of Benjamin and Mary Fontaine Risher:

I. Francis Risher, born, 1773. He married Elizabeth Threewitts. They may have met in Warren County, Georgia. They had at least two children, Benjamin and Mary. Francis and his family eventually settled in what is now part of modern Berkeley County, SC.

II. Mary Risher, born 1775, passed away 10 January 1850. She married three times but her only children were born during the period she was married to first husband William Smith. Mary lived near her brother Francis. Some of Mary's children moved to Mississippi.

III. Eleanor Risher, married Michael Raysor. They owned Raysor's Tavern which was near modern Colleton State Park.

IV. Benjamin Risher, Jr. married Mary Koger daughter of Captain Joseph Koger. Ben died on 10 Oct 1810 due to a fall from a horse,

V. Eliza Risher married Benjamin Hughes.

VI. James Risher, it is believed his wife was Nancy Robinson. They moved to Mississippi. Their daughter Sarah married Thomas Alexander Fontaine son of John.

VII. Harriet Risher married Abraham T. Williams, they had ten children.

VIII. John Risher married Miss Gavin. They

moved to Mississippi.

IX. Ann Risher, married William Stokes

X. Richard Risher married Mary Huff. They had 2 sons and two daughters before Richard passed away in 1827 when he was only 35 years old. Richard's grave which is near I 95 and its junction with SC 61 is the oldest known Risher grave in Colleton County.

XI. Sarah Risher married Edward Matchette, Jr. They moved to Mississippi.

XII. Susan Risher married a Mr. Grooms.

XIII. Lucy Thompson Risher married Peter Stokes.

## TODAY

As pointed out earlier, Mary Fontaine Risher has many descendants still living in the area of Colleton County, S.C. Surnames that can include her as an ascendant are Ackerman, Black, Campbell, Jacques, Key, Kinsey, Padgett, Risher, Smyly, Spell, Stokes, Strickland, Warren, Westbury, Williams, and Willis. The historical marker that was dedicated back in 1964 beside U.S. 15 is not the only reminder of the Fontaine presence in Colleton County. In 1977, a memory monument was dedicated to Benjamin Risher in the Colonel Joseph Koger Risher Cemetery in Williams, S.C. Later another memory monument was placed beside Benjamin's to honor his wife, her memorial has the following on it, "In memory of Mary de la Fontaine/Huguenot Ancestry/Wife of Benjamin Risher/Daughter of Jemina Jasper & Francis de la Fontaine, Jr./1749-1814." (Joseph Koger Risher was a grandson of Mary Fontaine Risher; the town of Williams,



S.C. was named after another grandson Thomas Williams.)

Unfortunately, we do not know where Mary and her husband were buried. The oldest known grave of a family member is that of her youngest son Richard Risher. Richard rests in a small cemetery just to the east of where I 95 and SC 61 intersection.

Descendants of the Reverend Francis Fontaine are eligible to join The Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin.

The organization has a web site,

1. <http://huguenot-manakin.org/> which has information on how to join.

Documents that were not included in R. A. Brock's *Huguenot Emigration to Virginia* can be found at the site.

Descendants of Jean Fontaine (John who was killed in 1563) are eligible for membership in the National Huguenot Society - the name is not listed under "F" but under "D," as de la Fontaine. Their web site is at <http://www.huguenot.netnation.com/general/>

The Huguenot Society of South Carolina also has a web site

<http://www.HuguenotSociety.org/>

One would be remiss in not mentioning the Fontaine-Maury Society which is said to have about 300 active members. The society's annual dues are only \$15 and one does not have to produce the documentation required by the other organizations.

<http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~rbr3325/fontainemauryhome.html>

Descendants of Mary's husband Benjamin Risher are eligible for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution. (Benjamin is also

said to be of Huguenot descent, Riche', but it is easier to trace his wife's ancestry.)

Outside Colleton County, little can be found about the Fontaines in New Berne, NC. The City Hall in the downtown area, once a post office, sits on two lots that are said to have been owned by Francis Fontaine, Jr. An Episcopal church, Christ Church is on the property beside city hall. In the late 1700's, most of those who had been buried in the church yard were reburied in Cedar Grove Cemetery which was on the edge of town. New Berne was a community of Swiss Palatines founded by Baron Christoph von Graffenreid in 1709. The baron's grandson Metcalf de Graffenried married Mary Maury. Mary was a granddaughter of Mary Anne Fontaine Maury of Virginia.

In Virginia, one can visit the site of Mankintowne on the west side of Richmond. In the heart of Richmond, one can visit the Matthew Fontaine Maury Monument on Monument Avenue. Maury was more of a scientist than a warrior and is known as "The Philosopher of the Seas."

<http://www.monumenthouse.com/richmond/monument/3059>

If one does visit Virginia, old Williamsburg is a must visit. The Reverend Francis Fontaine, Sr. walked its streets, was chaplain to the House of Burgess, and taught at nearby William and Mary. The Brush-Evard House was built by Francis' second father-in-law, John Brush. For Francis' Colleton County descendants the Fontaine trail can be said to begin in Williamsburg.

Williamsburg is where the Reverend Francis Fontaine Sr. taught at William and Mary; Williamsburg is where his son Francis Fontaine, Jr. began his apprenticeship as a

carpenter before going to New Berne, N. C.  
Near New Berne is where all of his children  
would be born before

coming to South Carolina and Colleton  
County. The end of the Fontaine Trail for  
some of his descendants.

An exciting web site Larry Ulmer has indexed the Press and Standard.

Visit it at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~pressandstandard/>

# Donations to Old St. Bartholomew Chapter, SCSS

Fall of 2003

## Bartholomew's Gems:

### Silver

Foster & Maria Jones

Bernie Crosby

Olivia Brissie

"Newspaper Abstracts from the  
Pickens Sentinel, 1875 – 1915" by  
Judy Chandler Ballard

### Ruby

Roland Arent Collection

Books Donated:

John Till (deceased):

Donated approximately 100 books  
plus his personal research. This will be  
known as the John Till Collection.

Judy Ballard:

"The Lincoln Conspiracy" by David  
Balsiger and Charles E. Sellier, Jr.

"The Foxfire Book" Volume 1, edited  
by Elliot Wigginton

"Searching for Your Heritage" by  
Mary Whitney, Inc.

"Taber's Cyclopedic Medical  
Dictionary" by Clarence Wilbur Taber

"World War I & European Society: A  
Sourcebook" by Marilyn Shevin-  
Coetzee and Frans Coetzee

"The Smithsonian Guide to Historic  
America" by Henry Wiencek

"My Brother, Kennenth 1904 – 1974"  
by Albert Coates

"Eleanor and Franklin" by Joseph P.  
Lash



The following names of residents (about 1817-1825) were shown on the Colleton District map from Mill's Atlas of South Carolina. A 1980 reprint of that Atlas by Southern Historical Press, included an index prepared by Mrs. Ella E. Lee Sheffield, of Texas City, Texas, from which the following list was made by R. Stets.

Adams (2)	Coburn	Goodin	Linah	Prescot	Stephens
Alison	Cookfield	Goree	Linder	Price (2)	Stevenson
Ancrum	Crews (3)	Green	Linew	Prier	Stewart
Appleberry (2)	Crosby	Griffith	Linsey	Priestes	Stode (2)
Ash	Croskey (2)		Liston (3)	Prine	Stokes (3)
Ashe	Culiatt	Hain	Lownds (2)	Pringle	Stonyer
	Cunningham	Hamelton			Strain
Bacon		Harbeson	Manigolt	Radcliff (2)	Strong
Bailey	Dacostar	Harley	Marchant	Ramsey	Stuts
Baker	Dandridge	Harlock	Markley	Rantowle	Swift
Baker, Capt.	Davison (3)	Harrison	Marrs	Raysor	Swinton
Bearing	Dent	Hayward (2)	Martin	Reeve (2)	
Beily	Dorsey	Henton (2)	Matthew	Rice (3)	Thomas
Bellinger (2)	Drayton	Herndon (2)	May (2)	Riddlespurger	Thompson
Bennet	Dubois	Herns	McBurney	Riggs	Tounet
Benton	Durr	Heyward (2)	McCloud	Rivers (2)	Tucker
Blake	Durris	Hightower	McIlheanny	Rizer	Tunno
Boatright		Hiott	McPherson	Robinson	
Boon	Eberson	Hues	McQueen	Roper	Ulmer (2)
Bossua	Edding	Huff	Middleton	Rose	Utsay (2)
Bowles	Edings	Hunter (2)	Miles (2)	Rowand (2)	
Branch (2)	Edins	Hutson	Miliken	Rowland (2)	Valentine
Brian	Elliot (3)		Miller	Rumph	
Bridges(2)	England	Inabuck	Minal	Rumph, Col.	Wainwright
Brien	Fell	Inglis	Miner	Rumpshil	Walers
Brisbain	Fenwick	Ion	Minus (3)	Runtowle	Walker (3)
Brookson	Ferguson		Mitchel		Wallace
Brown	Feribee	Jaques	Morgin	Sanders (2)	Walsh
Bull	Fields	Jenkins (4)	Morris (2)	Savage	Waring (5)
Bunches	Firth	Jerome	Morrison (2)	Schmidt	Warley (4)
Burnet	Fishburn (2)	Johnson	Murray (4)	Seabrook	Warren
Burney	Flaxe	Johnston (3)		Sherdan	Washington (2)
Byrd (2)	Flin	Jones	Nicholes	Sherdon	Watts
	Folk	Jongh, D.	North (2)	Simmons (2)	Webb
Cahill	Ford (2)	Kennedy		Simms	Whaley
Campbell	Fraser (3)	Kenoway	Osborne	Singleton (2)	White (3)
Cannady		King		Slan	Whitlock
Caroll	Gardner	Koger (2)	Padget (2)	Smilie	Wilkey
Carr	Gates		Parker	Smith (4)	Wilkison
Carter (2)	George	Ladson, C.B.	Patrick	Smith, T.R.	Williams
Champman	Gerardeau	Lanning	Pattison	Smoke (2)	Williman
Chandler	Gibbs	Laroch	Pendarvis	Smyth (3)	Wilson (2)
Chapnis	Ginny	Lee (2)	Perry (4)	Smyth, T.R.	Winningham
Chisolm (2)	Givhan (2)	Legare (2)	Pinckney	Smyth, Thos.	
Clark	Glover (4)	Lemacks	Pine	Snowden	Young
Clayton	Glover, Dr.	Lensly	Pirce (3)	Spell (2)	Yon
Clements	Godfrey	Light	Postel (2)	Stealy	Youngblood (2)

List of Company I of the South Carolina 11<sup>th</sup> infantry comes from pages 469 - 470 of "Memoirs of the War of Secession" from the original manuscripts of Brigadier-General Johnson Hagood. The book was published in 1910 by the State Co., Columbia, SC.  
This information and commentary after was provided by Dr. David W. Hiott.

### COMPANY I, 11<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT

Campbell, W. L.	Captain
Loyless, Edward B.	Lieutenant
Dandridge, Rich'd J.	Lieutenant
Campbell, Robert	Lieutenant
Reilly, Jno. C.	Lieutenant
Spell, Eldred	Sergeant
Langdale, Jas. S. H.	Sergeant
Smoke, Andrew J.	Sergeant
Sanders, Joseph	Sergeant
Beach, Henry T.	Sergeant
Linder, Thomas R.	Sergeant
Grant, Joseph	Sergeant
Pelham, Jas. E.	Corporal
Sanders, Griffin G. (Saunders correct name)	Corporal
Breland, Chas. J.	Corporal
Tant, Spartan G.	Corporal
Williams, Jas. E.	Corporal
Schmidt, Martin	Corporal

### PRIVATEES.

Avant, Jno. W.	Beach, Richard B.	Carter, Isham
Avant, Lewis B.	Beach, Clem	Crosby, Steven
Anderson, Chas.	Bishop, Henry	Crosby, Jno. D.
Adams, James	Campbell, Daniel P.	Crosby, Henry
Adams, Henry B.	Craven, John	Crosby, John
Buchanan, Jas. B.	Craven, Alex J.	Crosby, Gooding
Bailey, Jas. B.	Craven, Thomas	Crosby, Abram
Benton, Joshua	Craven, James E.	Compton, Thadeus
Bazzle, John	Craven, Martin	Davis, Charles C.
Bazzle, Steven	Craven, George	Dawdy, James C.
Bazzle, William	Carter, Joseph	Dewitt, James A.
Beach, Joseph	Carter, Henry A.	
Beach, L. B.	Carter, Richard	
Beach, Lones	Carter, Reuben	

## **Privates continued:**

Felder, David A.  
Gassett, James A.  
Griffin, James S.  
Hiott, Lawrence P.  
Hiott, Daniel  
Hiott, Nathaniel  
Hiott, Thomas  
Hiott, Peter  
Hiott, Wilson  
Hiott, Lucius  
Hiott, Jno. M.  
Hiott, John  
Hiott, Joseph  
Hiott, Benj.  
Hiott, Samuel  
Hiott, Malachi M.  
Hiott, Edward  
Hutson, Joseph H.  
Harris, William  
Hughes, Nathan  
Herndon, Henry C.  
Herndon, Clem  
Higgins, [Hagan] William  
Higgins, [Hagan] T. H.  
Higgins, [Hagan] Morbis D.  
Hickman, W. Rhett  
Johnson, Julius  
Kinard, Isaac  
Lemacks, Silas  
Larisey, Richard  
Lane, Edward  
Lane, Albert  
Mc Millan, Jas. N.  
Murray, Andrew  
Miller, Henry  
Martin, William  
Martin, Stephen  
Martin, Solomon  
Martin, A. Hausford  
Mitchum, Jesse  
Morris, Thomas  
Noble, James  
Noble, William

O'Brien, Wm.  
Sanders, James  
Sanders, Lawrence  
Sanders, William  
Smith, Charles  
Smith, John  
Spell, William  
Simmons, Jno. M.  
Simmons, William  
Smoke, Henry  
Sauls, John  
Sauls, James  
Sauls, Charles  
Sauls, George  
Sauls, Peter  
Strickland, Henry H.  
Sullivan, Daniel  
Sullivan, George  
Sullivan, Huggins  
Tant, Olin  
Valentine, Henry  
Valentine, Joseph  
Walker, Richard D.  
Willis, John  
Way, George  
Wiggins, William  
Wiggins, Simeon  
Witsell, Emanuel  
Warner, Henry  
Warren, Daniel  
Warren, Perry  
Warren, Joseph  
Warren, Malachi  
Wasson, George  
Warren, Richard  
Yewley, James  
Osborne, Geo. E.  
Pelham, [Pellum] Oswald G.  
Parker, James  
Robertson, Jno. C.  
Robertson, Lewis  
Ritter, Richard



The unit was called "The Colleton Guards" and "Colleton Rifles" before its incorporation into the C. S. A. army. It was described by someone, writing years later to the Walterboro newspaper, as the "brag unit" of Colleton.

The man listed as "Sanders" really was a "Saunders." I know because he was my great-great grandfather: Griffin Garris Saunders. The other 3 fellows on the list, however, are probably bona fide "Sanders" men.

The William Higgins was really William B. Hagan of Smoaks, S. C. and was a great - great grandfather of Mrs. Bobbi Hiott.

There must have been some recruitment of Smoaks area men into the Walterboro unit, because some of the other names, such as Mitchum, Sauls, Smoak, as well as Higgins [Hagan], hint at a Smoaks place of origin for some. Most of the men, however, were from the Walterboro and Canadys to Mashawville area.

It is very hard to remember just when my fascination for pictures and photography began. I don't remember my parents taking pictures when I was a child, although I do remember an old folding camera that probably didn't even work. One of my older brothers had a camera and made a few pictures, but not a lot. When I was about twelve years old I ordered an inexpensive camera from a magazine advertisement. I made a few pictures with it but they did not turn out very well. I noticed a Kodak box camera (that I still have) in a local drug store and bought it. It made much better pictures if I made them outside, had sufficient light, and remembered to keep the sun behind me. Of course, this camera had no flash so its use was very limited.

When I was in the ninth grade, a class in photography was offered at Walterboro High and was taught by a local photographer. Besides classroom instruction, we also had training with the school camera, a very fine, large single lens folding bellows camera with multiple settings and focusing through the lens. By adjusting the aperture and the speed, this camera could make pictures in very little light. We also had training in using the darkroom, developing film and printing and enlarging pictures. I served on both the school newspaper staff and the annual staff and made many pictures of school events for each of them. During that year, my instructor moved from our town and another local photographer finished teaching the course. The next couple of years we didn't have any formal classes and I was put in charge of the darkroom and photography department. I enjoyed this especially because I could leave school during study hall or at other times to pick up film or other supplies. This was permissive hooky. I also built and maintained a darkroom at home in the back yard.

During college and early married life, I bought several better cameras and started using an 8 mm camera. My next favorite still camera was a "Reflecta" twin lens camera and later a "Yashica" twin lens camera. The latter made wonderful pictures, had a quality flash, a built in exposure meter, and was very good at copying old photographs. During this time, I used a photography service at our drug store for my developing and printing. Word spread about my picture copying and I was frequently asked to copy pictures for friends, relatives and customers. You have to remember that this was before copy machines and computers.

In 1984, I bought a Canon T70 camera outfit. This has been an excellent camera that I still use a lot for family reunions and other pictures. I have also been filming family reunions at first on 8 mm, then super 8, then with a GE camcorder that I still use a lot.

During the last 30 years I have obtained and copied many pictures in the Hiott, Beach, Robertson, Smith and Wood families of Colleton County. Many of the Hiott and Beach pictures are now on the Hiott and Beach "My Family" sites on the internet. My brother David has been very proficient in retouching and submitting these pictures by scanning or copying with a digital camera.

I have gotten many pictures of my ancestors and my wife's ancestors. My oldest pictured ancestor is Rev. Silas Risher. This was copied from an old tintype but I don't have a picture of his wife, Sibby Crosby Risher. An interesting fact is that we have very few pictures of male ancestors' wives. One of my favorite pictures is a color copy of my ggrandfather Joseph Stephen Beach in his confederate uniform. I also have a picture of my ggrandfather John Hezekiah Hiott (known as "Singing John") along with his brother, James Morgan Hiott in their confederate uniforms. While I search for a picture of my gggrandfather Arthur Hiott, Jr., I remember the words written by his son, Rev. D. W. Hiott - "You will notice that I am next to the youngest child by the third wife of my father, so my father must have been somewhere near 65 or 70 years old when I was born, but he lived till after I was grown and married. My father was a very strong man physically. He weighed, I should think, near 200 pounds without any surplus flesh. He had been remarkably well, never took a dose of Dr's medicine in life till near his death." It would be wonderful to someday find a picture of him.

I also served as Church Historian at First Baptist Church for many years and have collected and copied many pictures and articles for our archives there. I also filmed many events and services that are stored there.

I have had a digital camera for almost a year now and am enjoying learning to use it with my computer. The old saying "A picture is worth a thousand words" certainly is true, especially to complement all the hard work that goes into family history and genealogy.

Photography has come a long way in my lifetime so far and I'm looking forward to new advances and technology in the computer age.

John S. Hiott

10/09/03

**The Rice Planter is the quarterly publication of the Old St. Bartholomew Chapter, SCGS. Queries and items for the publication should be sent to: The Rice Planter, c/o Barbara Franklin, Editor  
175 Lakeshore Drive, Walterboro, SC 29488 or e-mail to [angelswings@lowcountry.com](mailto:angelswings@lowcountry.com). Members and non-members are encouraged to submit records and articles that would be of general interest to Colleton County residents. All other correspondence, except dues, should be addressed to Old St. Bartholomew Chapter, SCGS, Sherry Cawley, President, 116 Charles Street, Walterboro, Sc 29488.**

**Monthly meetings are being held on the second Sunday afternoon of each month at 3 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1035 Dandridge Road, Walterboro, SC (except during the months of July and August.) Dues are to be sent to Judy Ballard, Treasurer, 104 Wade Hampton Avenue, Walterboro, SC 29488-9261. Dues are \$20 Individual, \$25 Family (living at the same address) and \$15 Associate (member of another chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society.) Dues should be sent by April 1st to continue receiving the newsletter.**

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