

A REPORT

My search for DuBourdieu in South Carolina has not been highly successful although a bit productive. The "Ravenel List" names two Huguenots of early Carolina days who proved worth investigating. Descendants of each should be interested in my forthcoming book because it contains much about both and their offspring. So far as I have learned no relationship between these two has been established so far as pre-America days are concerned.

Jacques De Bourdeaux of Grenoble, France, was number 38 of the Ravenel List. His descendants are many, among whom are Rev. Robert Peeples, president of the Lawton and Allied Families Association, and Mrs. Wessie Rentz Hendricks of Coral Gables, Florida. These helped me considerably in my search for data about South Carolina DuBourdieu, much of which will be found in my chapter on "DuBourdieu in America," along with mention of the assistance from each. Help also was received from John H. Schneider of New Brunswick, N.J., Mrs. Martha Burns of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina, Mrs. Gertrude Bull of Georgetown, S.C., and Author Julian S. Bolick of Clinton, S.C.

Samuel Dubourdieu of Vitre, France, is number 57 of the list. Definitely, he is a member of my branch of the family, and a whole chapter of my narrative discusses his immediate relatives and contains some most interesting excerpts from their letters to his brother Pierre, who remained in France. A grand-uncle of his was a famous painter (Pieter DuBordieu) and I have a photograph of his painting of his daughter (as I believe) which hangs in the Art Institute of Chicago.

No male-line descendants of Samuel remain, so far as I have been able to learn, but there are many persons descended from Col. Anthony White, whose daughter Mary married a Joseph DuBourdieu in 1746. Her husband was sole executor of her brother's estate. Related to these are Mrs. Laura Porcher White of Charleston, S.C., and Anne White of Spartansberg, S.C. They and Mrs. Joshua Ward of Pawley's Island, S.C., wrote me helpful letters.

Near the Santee River, where Samuel settled, is Dubordieu Beach, which from the spelling must have belonged to him or his descendants. It is a beautiful spot with much folklore and is described in considerable part by Julian S. Bolick in his book RETURN OF THE GRAY MAN. Buy it for enjoyable reading.

In regard to my book, which I have now decided to name BABY ON HER BACK, OR THE HUGUENOT FAMILY DUBOURDIEU, I was all set to have it printed privately when two faculty members of McCormick Theological Seminary urged me to seek a commercial publisher. Librarian Calvin Schmitt wrote me: "It is a fascinating story ... with good momentum. I think it has value as a resource on the Huguenots because of the documentation. ... members of the American Theological Library Association would be interested in having a copy. ..." Head of the history department, Dr. Thomas A. Schafer, wrote: "I found it particularly interesting for the way in which you have woven together the story of your family and the accounts of your own experiences in unearthing the information ... the work reads like a detective account. ... Your presentation is very personal even when dealing with historical events."

Currently I am corresponding with commercial publishers, which is where the matter stands at this moment.

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Wm. J. DuBourdieu

Please accept this  
report as my way of  
saying "Thank you"  
for your assistance.  
Wm. J. DuBourdieu