



National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims Virginia Branch

Fall, 2014

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Frank Walker, Speaker at the Spring Branch Meeting



New members Charles Poland, Diane Bakke, and Melanie Bayne being introduced by Registrar Anne Winn at March meeting

October 2014 Meeting

Our next semiannual meeting will be October 19, 2014 at the Bavarian Chef, Fredericksburg, VA. The response form is included in this newsletter. Responses are due by October 10.

Membership

Please welcome our new members (admitted since March 2014):

Suzanne Townsend
Barbara Joyner
Sandra Esty
Sylvia Rider
Laura Womack

Nominating Committee Needed for Branch Elections

The term of the current officers shall expire in March, 2015. Therefore, in accordance with our bylaws (Article V, Sec. 3) a nominating committee of three branch members needs to be elected at the October, 2014 meeting. Please consider serving on this important committee. You would be soliciting interest from members to serve in the next term and presenting a slate for election in March. If you have an interest in being a branch officer, serving on the nominating committee would not prevent you from being a candidate.

From the Branch Governor , Paul Walden

I hope all of our members have had an enjoyable spring and summer. We have been fortunate to have had such a relatively mild summer in Virginia. I spent some time this summer in Florida where they suffered from record heat, so we should count our blessings.

I regret that one of our members...one of our longer standing members in fact...passed this summer. Please let me know if you are aware of any other member's passing so we can remember them in the memorial service at the spring General Court.

Many of us likely belong to more than one lineage society. There are dozens of societies and a complete list is at <http://www.hereditary.us/>. Some invite new members while others first require an invitation.

I recently met someone from one of the more unique societies: Los Floridanos Society. This society is comprised

of descendants from the original Spanish colonists of Florida. Many people forget that St. Augustine is the oldest continually occupied settlements in the United States, having been settled in 1565 and remained a Spanish colony until 1763, when Britain took possession. Los Floridanos has 73 members, most of whom descend from two of the Spanish settlers who were allowed to remain during the British occupation.

The name Floridanos comes from the Spanish method of labeling its citizens during its empire. To be Floridano under their law meant you were born in La Florida, just as being labeled Castilian meant you were born in their local state of Castile.

Virginia Branch Officers for 2013-15

Governor: Paul Walden
1st Deputy Governor: Virginia Rouse
2nd Deputy Governor: Penny Chaboudy
Recording Secretary: Donna Hall
Corresponding Secretary: Owen Jacobs
Historian: Constance Paradiso
Treasurer: Courtenay Stanley
Registrar: Anne H. Winn
Elder: Lila Housden
Parliamentarian: Helen Warren

Our Speaker for the March Meeting: **Marc Wheat**

Marc is the 4th President of the Germanna Foundation since 1956, and has been member of the Board of Trustees since 1997, succeeding Sarah Aylor Lewis. Marc descends from Rev. Henrich Haeger, Germanna's colonial pastor. His descent from ten of the original forty-two colonists at Germanna makes him related to many Germanna Foundation members.

Marc has spent almost his entire career in public service, mostly in areas that focus on strengthening our families and our culture. His first job in Washington was Senior Legislative Assistant to Congressman Dennis Hastert, where he led Congressman Hastert's drive to repeal the Social Security earnings limit (later the 7th pledge in the Contract With America). Marc served as Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, & Human Resources. During his tenure there, he lectured at the European Parliament in Brussels; met with advisors to President Karzai in Kabul, Afghanistan; and helped manually eradicate a coca field in Colombia. He learned a great deal about the world after joining the U.S. Department of State under Secretary Colin Powell six weeks after 9/11, where he served as Senior Advisor for Senate Affairs.

In the 1990s, Marc was Counsel to the Energy and Commerce Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he worked principally on health care, bioethics, and bioterrorism; while Director of Tax and Budget Policy for Citizens for a Sound Economy, he succeeded in the elimination of \$8.1 billion of wasteful spending in May 1992, the largest such rescission since 1982. Marc's Porkbusters Coalition was the subject of *Adventures in Porkland*, a book by Washington Post reporter Brian Kelly and illustrated by political cartoonist Pat Oliphant. A discussion of his anti-trafficking work in Robert Goff's *Finding Karishma: Modern-Day Slavery and the New Abolition Movement*, and thanked in Francis Fukuyama's *Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution*. He is a 2006 alumnus of the Congress-Bundestag Exchange Program. Marc received his B.A. (majoring in Spanish) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1987, and his Juris Doctor in the Corporate and Securities Specialty Track at George Mason University in Virginia. He is president and board member of the German-American Heritage Foundation and its museum in Washington, DC. A member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia and the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter of the Virginia Society SAR, Marc and his wife Marie (a former Transatlantic Fellow of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt) raise their son and daughter at Germanna and in Arlington, Virginia.

We hope to include an article on one of our pilgrim ancestors in each article. The stories we share of our ancestors are fascinating reading. Please forward any articles to me for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Our Pilgrim Ancestors

Andre Rembert, arrived in South Carolina prior to 1690

Submitted by Paul Walden

In the early years of the Reformation, many French were inspired by the Protestant writings of John Calvin in the 1530s. The movement spread rapidly throughout France and by 1562, there were approximately two million Huguenots in France. However, they were subject to persecution: a notorious example was the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre, which ran from 24 August to 3 October, 1572, when approximately 10,000 were massacred across France. Conditions improved with the Edict of Nantes in 1598 which granted them equality and political freedom. However, continued civil unrest resulted in Protestantism being declared illegal by King Louis XIV in 1685 with the Edict of Fontainebleau. This resulted in a mass emigration of the Huguenots to other countries including Switzerland, the Netherlands, Brazil and of course America. It is estimated that a quarter million Huguenots left France during this period. Many settled in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and South Carolina.

In 1685 several hundred arrived in what was then Charles Town (now Charleston), South Carolina. In Charleston, the French Huguenot Church still is an active parish, having been established in 1687. One of these early emigrants to South Carolina was my eighth great-grandfather, Andre Rembert, born in Pont en Royan, France in 1660 and arrived in South Carolina sometime before 1690 and died in what is now Jamestown, SC in 1736. He and his wife had seven children. The Rembert descendants now number in the thousands and are well documented in a book "Remberts By Way of South Carolina" compiled in 1979 by Sallie Rembert. I was fortunate to meet a distant cousin who was kind enough to give me two copies of this book, one of which I donated to the Daughters of the American Revolution library. Andre's great grandson Abijah Rembert, provided supplies to the American forces during the Revolutionary War. The Rembert family donated land for one of the first Methodist churches in the US in 1836. The church, located in Lee County, SC, still stands.



Huguenot Church, Charleston, SC

In Memoriam: Rose Mary Stiarwalt Maxfield (1918-2014)

Rose Mary Maxfield, age 96, of Wharton, Texas and formerly Washington, D. C., died Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at The Heights of Tomball nursing center following a brief illness. She was born March 23, 1918, in Shelbyville, Illinois, daughter of the late Claude Fielding and Nina Eugenia Whitlock Stiarwalt. Ms. Maxfield had been a member of the Virginia Branch, NSSDP, since 1988.

After growing up in Shelbyville and graduating from the University of Illinois, Mary married Orville Eldred (Lee) Maxfield on June 6, 1941, in Champaign, Illinois. Mary was a legal secretary for the U. S. Treasury Department, retiring in 1973. She enjoyed reading, genealogy, needlework, traveling, music, Shakespeare, and the arts. She was preceded in death by her brother Eugene and her parents and husband.

A funeral service was held Monday, July 28, 2014, at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Wharton, The Rev. John Soard officiating. Memorial donations may be made to Meals on Wheels, c/o Wharton County Junior College, 911 E. Boling Highway, Wharton, TX 77488.

Survivors include daughters Pat Blair and husband Jeffrey of Wharton, Connie Maxfield of Spring, TX, and Marilyn Weisbruch and husband Kelly of Austin. Grandchildren are Alexandra Cole and husband Zach of Virginia; Elizabeth Honeycutt and husband Dr. Greg, of Spring, TX; and Suzanne Birkholz and husband Jonathan of Katy, TX. Great-grandchildren are Liam, Aidan, and Ailish Cole, Katherine Honeycutt, and Rose Birkholz.





**Virginia Branch, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims
Fall Meeting Call: 19 October 2014**

Our meeting will begin at 11:30 am on October 19, 2014, at the Bavarian Chef, 200 Lafayette Boulevard, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Please complete the below information and submit to our First Deputy Branch Governor so that she receives it by October 10, 2014:

The luncheon is \$25 per person.

Member Name: _____

Number of guests in addition to member: _____

Amount enclosed: (\$25 per person): _____

Please mail to:

Please remember to mail your response early enough so that it is received by October 10