

# Our Forebears

From the Earliest Times to  
the End of the Year 1925



NEW YORK:  
1925



## **OUR FOREBEARS**

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"A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything to be remembered with pride by remote descendants." (Lord Macaulay).

"I am one of those who holds to the safety which grows from honest ancestors and purity of blood." (Henry Clay).

"They sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found; wherefore, were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood." (Nehemiah, Book VII of the Rebuilding of Jerusalem).

The sentiments above expressed should discover a quick and sympathetic response not merely as the subject touches at variant angles an individual interest but as it affects directly and essentially the weal of our children and of our children's children.

As was Napoleon, one may be his own ancestor, or like Sir Stephen Fox, the architect of his own fortune, hence this brief survey is designed to arouse no unbecoming pride of birth, but rather to excite a worthy spirit of emulation.

Every form of knowledge in every department of life's activities that adds however slightly to a man's mental and spiritual equipment is properly to be cultivated. The more exact and immediate the knowledge, the better does it enlarge and mature the understanding. If properly assimilated and judiciously employed, the facts here collated may teach various salutary lessons, and at the same time may tend to reveal certain prudent courses to be pursued in the conduct of our personal lives.

Throughout this record there is one outstanding and impressive feature; the services rendered by our forebears to the cause of Freedom and this Country's Political Integrity. In the Revolution of '76, Bouviers,

Lindsays, Ewings, Griffiths and Maslins participated, moved, as it would appear, solely by the spirit of devotion to Political Liberty.

In the succeeding Century, when our country was in peril of dissolution through the internecine strife of '61, a Bouvier took up arms for its preservation.

In the next Century in the cataclysmic conflict of 1914, and more particularly in 1917-1918, wherever the American forces were engaged in "making the world safe for Democracy," Bouviers again volunteered their military services which were employed in the struggle for their country's weal. It is a satisfying record, in great measure unique and at all times inspiring.

There now will be examined with relative brevity the descent through the following:

Bouvier-Vernou, and cognate branches of the male line.

Ewing-Maslin and cognate branches of the distaff.

**BOUVIER**

The "Armorial de Dauphiné" describes the family of Bouvier as an "ancient house of Fontaine near Grenoble," and proceeds to state that Antoine Bouvier lived in 1410; that François Bouvier was a counsellor in Parliament in 1553, who died in all probability between 1560 and 1565.

A daughter Dauphine Bouvier intermarried with François Reynaud of Grenoble, a celebrated lawyer in Parliament about 1620.<sup>1</sup>

Arms: "d'azur au lion d'or; au chef de même chargé de trois huchets de gueules."

I. *Georges Bouvier* was born at Grenoble in the year 1698 and married about 1719 Gasparde Agnals who predeceased him in the year 1752. Georges died in 1754.

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<sup>1</sup>François Reynaud was ennobled in 1609 and his son Pierre left a daughter who was living in 1680.

Of this union there was born a son François.<sup>1</sup>

II *François Bouvier* was born at Grenoble in the year 1721, he was married to Benoit Reppelin, born in 1730, the daughter of Jean Reppelin and Marguerite Buisson, all of Grenoble, on the 26th day of April 1753. He died in 1773. His wife, who survived him, married for a second time one Pierre Beague of Grenoble who died March 23, 1775, his widow living but one day after his death.

The *Reppelin* name is distinguished in the "Armorial of Dauphiné." It is variously spelled Repellin or Reppelin and was an ancient family of St. Egrève, near Grenoble. According to the "Armorial" Aymar and Claude de Reppelin, brothers, lived at St. Egrève and were confirmed in their no-

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<sup>1</sup>It may be observed that the given name François has since the day of François Bouvier counsellor in Parliament in the year 1553 been borne by a Bouvier in the generations succeeding.

bility among the inhabitants of St. Robert by an Act of Parliament of March 9th, 1464.

*Aymar* was one of the Seigneurs of Saffenage. He was followed in 1485 by *Jacques*, Baron of Saffenage (dispenser of relief of the Court of Saluces), and by Justel de Reppelin who took part in 1524 in the Battle of Pavia.

Aymar, above named, was a descendant of Urban de Reppelin who left him surviving in 1670 Helene de Madinat and Jean and Gaspard de Reppelin.

*Jean de Reppelin* was an equerry and first counsel of Grenoble in 1704. He was confirmed in his nobility in 1705.

Arms: "d'argent a neuf clochettes de sable 3-3-3; au lion de gueules brochant sur le tout."

Another branch bore the arms:  
"d'or au lion de sable."

The issue of the union of François Bouvier and Benoit Reppeline were the following:

*Pierre Joseph*, born May 6th, 1754;

*Claude*, born April 6th, 1755;

*François*, born June 9, 1756;

*Jeanne*, born June 21, 1757;

*André Eustache*, born May 29, 1758;

*Pierre Joseph* married Antoinnette Gautier on Nov. 6th, 1780.

*François* married Françoise Brunet, widow of Joseph Reynaud on November 6th, 1789, and lived for some years in the Commune of Collus, about 23 kilometers from Grenoble, to which city, however, they finally returned.

III. *André Eustache* married *Thérèse Mercier*, daughter of *Joseph Mercier* and *Anne Trintignan* at Pont St. Esprit, February 3rd, 1789. *Thérèse* died Nov. 9th, 1828, and *André Eustache* took for his second wife, one *Louise Perbos* on January 7th, 1829. He died May 12, 1835.

Of the union between *André Eustache* and

Therèsè Mercier there was born a son Michel.<sup>1</sup>

The history of our family on both the male and distaff sides reveals its active participation in the War of the American Revolution. No less than 24 Bouviers ac-

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<sup>1</sup>Extracts of the birth of André Eustache Bouvier, described as "the legitimate son of François Bouvier, merchant, and Benoit Reppelin," from the Certificate of Registry of the Civil State of the Commune of Grenoble Parish of St. Laurent, dated August 22nd, 1906.

Agreement to marry of André Eustache Bouvier and Thèrese Mercier dated January 16th, 1789, in Notarial Certificate executed and acknowledged at Pont St. Esprit January 24th, 1789.

Certificate of Marriage of André Eustache Bouvier and Thèrese Mercier February 3rd, 1789, from extract of Registry of the Civil State of the Commune of Pont St. Esprit, issued by the Clerk of the Civil Tribunal of Uzes.

Extracts of the second marriage of André Eustache Bouvier to Louise Perbos and of the birth of Michel Bouvier, as well as of the decease of Benoit Reppelin on March 25th, 1775, from the Clerk's certificates.

accompanied the French forces to America and fought for this country's independence.<sup>1</sup>

It is doubtful if any of the Bouviers specifically named in "Les Combattants Français de la Guerre Américaine" may be regarded as our direct ancestor. Nevertheless, the traditions of the family are unbroken, definite, convincing, and there indeed ap-

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<sup>1</sup>See "Les Combattants Français de la Guerre Américaine 1778-1783," published by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and issued by the 58th Congress, Second Session, Senate Document No. 77 at page 373).

While there is no specific reference therein to an André Eustache Bouvier, there are, however, references to François, page 184, Pierre, pages 217, 232, and Claude, pages 274-282.

Of the Claudes one was of the "Regiment de Soissonnais," two Battalions whereof embarked at Brest on the 6th day of April, 1780, with the Count de Rochambeau with whom it participated in the principal operations of the enemy down to the siege of Yorktown.

*Joseph Bouvier* was of the Navy aboard the ship *Hector* (1781-1782) under the general command of the Comte d'Estaing. Joseph appears to have come from Saint-Malo.

pears to exist no room for doubt that André Eustache Bouvier fought for American Independence under Captain Savournin of the Regiment Grenoble (Artillery).

At the siege of Yorktown there were four regiments under the command of Rochambeau to which, among others, was added the Regiment Grenoble of Captain Savournin. At this time André Eustache Bouvier of Grenoble was 22 years of age, just in his fighting prime.

Rochambeau's army, or most of it, had returned by 1783 to France and included therein,—so family tradition declares,—was André Eustache. It was not until 6 years thereafter and at the age of 31 years that he married.

These facts, insofar as the dates of marriage, birth and military emprises are concerned, unequivocally confirm the family tradition. Nor must it be permitted to escape that Eustache Bouvier was born at Grenoble, that Savournin's regiment was of

Grenoble, and that Eustache was of military age, recruited from a city strongly in sympathy with America's struggle for freedom.

IV. *Michel Bouvier*, son of André Eustache Bouvier and Thérèse Mercier, was born at Pont St. Esprit on the 2nd day of March, 1792. He died in Philadelphia on the 9th day of June, 1874, a man of large wealth and distinguished social and civic influence. The obituaries at the time of his demise filled all of the leading newspapers of Philadelphia.

One eulogy in particular signed "Senex" should be stressed. It commences with a quotation from Lamartine:

"Ces contemporains de nos âmes,  
Ces mains qu'enchainait notre main,  
Ces frères, ces amis, ces femmes,  
Nous abandonnent en chemin."

and in part reads:

"Some weeks have passed since the friends of Mr. Michel Bouvier laid his body in the tomb with such expression of

feeling as showed how strong a hold had the social virtues of the deceased taken upon their affections.

Mr. Bouvier's various excellent qualities have been made the theme of most gratifying eulogy; so that additional commendation, unless connected with some specialty of his character or life, might be deemed superogatory.

I knew Mr. Bouvier for many years, and shared in his social intercourse, and had means of estimating his love and practice of charity. I mean his performance of those good acts which are the exponents of the true principles of charity—those contributions to the needy which express a deep and abiding love of man, springing from a love of God.

But there are points in Mr. Bouvier's life and in his experience which seem to deserve a little more attention than they have received from his eulogists.

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Mr. Bouvier, in dying, left for disposition, what would, when he was a young man, have been regarded as a palatial fortune. Yet he commenced his career with none of that patrimony which too often is the cause of early death or miserable old age.

Mr. Bouvier commenced business with the grand capital of integrity, industry, economy, enterprise and perseverance. These were remarkable ingredients in his character as a business man. And he possessed and strengthened by exercise a strong sense of right. Rallying under one difficulty he acquired faith in his ability to enter upon undertakings which involved greater risk and demanded augmented knowledge of men and business.

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Mr. Bouvier diminished the harassings of business with the undisturbed peace of domestic intercourse, and had a pride in acknowledging that whatever of

success followed well laid plans of trade, all that succeeded was sweetened if not increased by the cordial home participation in its benefits and generally in its means.

Mr. Bouvier, though active and punctual, not alone in his extensive business engagements, but in social and charitable intercourse, found yet his highest enjoyment in the family circle. His house was the home of his heart. He loved the paths of commerce, and of social companionship, but with him they were all connected with home.

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And if I have said that no well regulated mind can regard mere pecuniary success as the highest reward of business exertion, I may add, to prove that devotion to, and success in business, is not incompatible with the richest domestic enjoyments, that Mr. Bouvier found the opportunity of enjoying the wealth he had acquired, in the affectionate devotion of

an accomplished wife, and in the loving obedience of numerous children, not one of whom fails to reflect the social, domestic and Christian graces in which they were reared."<sup>1</sup>

Michel Bouvier migrated to this country from Pont St. Esprit and came to Philadelphia in 1817. He married at Philadelphia May 29th, 1828, *Louise C. Vernou*, born March 29th, 1811, died October 5th, 1872, the daughter of *John Vernou* and of *Elizabeth Clifford Lindsay*, widow of Francis Savoy. Of this marriage the following children were born:

Elizabeth C. Bouvier (wife of Joseph E. Dixon), born October 9th, 1829, died May 7, 1884;

Louise A. Bouvier (a Religious of the 'Sacred Heart' for 50 years), born March 12, 1831, died April 26, 1902;

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<sup>1</sup>This obituary was written by Joseph R. Chandler, Esq., a friend of Michel Bouvier, and was after its translation into French, in printed form, privately circulated.

Emma M. Bouvier (wife of Francis A. Drexel), born May 18th, 1833, died January 20, 1883;

Zenaide S. Bouvier, born January 31, 1835, died February 7, 1914;

Alexine E. Bouvier, born July 12, 1837, died October 30, 1914;

Mary H. Bouvier, born January 8th, 1841.

John V. Bouvier, born March 25, 1843;

Josephine M. Bouvier, born 1845, died April 22, 1847;

Michel C. Bouvier (banker and broker, a member of the N. Y. Stock Exchange since 1869), born April 8th, 1847.

Joseph A. Bouvier, born April 9th, 1852, died February 12, 1856.

Prior to the marriage of Michel Bouvier to Louise C. Vernou, the former in 1823 had married Sarah Ann Pierson. The latter was born on the 4th day of March 1800, and died on the 26th day of December, 1826. The issue of this marriage was

Eustache Bouvier, born June 4, 1824, died December 2, 1886.

Therèse E. Bouvier (widow of Jonathan Patterson), born July 12, 1826, married November, 1848, died Sept. 27, 1916.

V. *John Vernou Bouvier*,<sup>1</sup> son of Michel and Louise C. Bouvier, was born at Philadelphia, on the 25th day of March, 1843.

He was a patriot who unhesitatingly offered his life for the preservation of his country.

At the age of fifteen he left St. Mary's College in Maryland and entered the James School, which was continued by William Fewsmith, in Philadelphia. At seventeen he secured a clerkship with Moore, Henzey & Co., hardware merchants, with whom he remained until the South fired on Fort Sumpter, when he promptly enlisted as a private in Company "G," Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers and thereafter

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<sup>1</sup>See postscriptum, p. 60.

became First Lieutenant, Company "E," 80th New York Infantry Volunteers.

It is shown by the records that he was enrolled April 18, 1861, at Philadelphia, and was mustered into service April 27, 1861, as a private in Company "G", Second Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers (commanded by Col. Peter Lyle), which was subsequently known as the 19th Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers, to serve three months, and that he was mustered out of service with the company as such on August 6, 1861.

It is further shown by the records that John Vernou Bouvier, while a clerk of one Captain Sanderson, acting Commissar of Subsistence, was recommended by General Wadsworth, an officer of his brigade, for an appointment as aide-de-camp. Subsequently General Patrick, provost-marshal of the Army of the Potomac, took him upon his staff in the month of March, 1862. He was not, however, received into service until mustered in as Second Lieutenant of the

80th New York Infantry Volunteers to date from April 25, 1862, whereupon he was detailed upon the staff of General Patrick (who was then in command of the Second Brigade, Third Division, Department of the Rappahannock), as an aide-de-camp.

He served as such until August 29, 1862, when he was severely wounded in the battle at Groveton, Virginia, where he was taken prisoner. He was exchanged and rejoined the staff of General Patrick at Warrenton, Virginia, on or about the 8th day of November, 1862.

He was mustered into service as First Lieutenant, 80th New York Infantry Volunteers to date March 6, 1863, and was assigned to Company "E" of the Regiment, but the records show that he was on duty as aide-de-camp on the staff of General Patrick until he was honorably discharged from the service of the United States in orders of Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac dated October 5, 1862, upon tender of

his resignation, owing to the effects of a gun-shot wound of the left lung received at the second battle of Bull Run.

It is further shown by the records that on February 20, 1869, he was commissioned Captain, United States Volunteers, by brevet to rank as such from March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services at the battles of Groveton, Virginia, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.<sup>1</sup>

For a few years after his discharge from the service he was occupied with commercial interests in New York, which he finally, however relinquished, and on the 8th day of May, 1869, he became a member of the New York Stock Exchange in the City of New York, in which organization he retained his membership until the 29th day of January, 1920, when he transferred his membership therein for the sum of \$115,-

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<sup>1</sup>Official statement furnished by the Secretary of War: F. L. Ainsworth, Brigadier General, U. S. A., Chief of Record and Pension Officer.

ooo, the then highest price at which a seat in the Exchange had ever been sold. With the sale of his seat he retired from business, having reached the age of seventy-seven years.

On the 27th day of October, 1864, he married *Caroline Maslin Ewing*, daughter of *Robert Ewing* of Philadelphia and *Caroline Maslin* of Caroline County, Maryland.

On the 27th day of October, 1925, John and Caroline celebrated the 61st anniversary of their wedding, at which time there were living their son, *John Vernou Bouvier, Jr.*, the latter's five children and four grandchildren. Of their union there were born two children.

*John Vernou Bouvier, Jr.;*

*Caroline Bouvier.* (The latter died in infancy.)

VI. *John Vernou Bouvier, Jr.*, son of *John Vernou Bouvier* and *Caroline Maslin Ewing*, was born at *Torresdale*, Philadelphia, on the 12th day of August, 1865.

He was educated at Columbia Grammar School and by private tutors, and for over a year attended schools in France. He matriculated into Columbia University, Academic Course in 1882 and graduated in 1886 with the degree of A. B., an Honor man, Phi-Beta-Kappa, winner of the Chancellor Senior Historical Essay and Valedictorian of his class.

Upon his graduation from college he entered the Law School of Columbia, and in 1887 secured in the School of Political Science the degree of A. M., and in 1888 graduated from the Law School with the degree of L. L. B. Within a few months thereafter he took his examinations and was admitted as a member of the Bar of the State of New York.

During his law school work he was entered in the office of Vanderpoel, Green & Cuming. After admission to the Bar he became managing clerk in the office of Holmes & Adams, where he re-

mained for a year. He then became managing clerk of the office of Hoadly, Lauterbach & Johnson, where he remained for nine years, four years thereof being devoted to office and the balance to trial work.

In about 1892 he took up his residence at Nutley, New Jersey, remaining there for some years, taking active part in the local civic movements and was President of the Board of Education for a period of four years. Subsequently, he resumed his residence in New York.

In 1899 he entered upon the independent practice of the law specializing in trial work and from that date to the instant time he has been acting as counsel principally for law firms and corporations.

He maintained his interest in his Alma Mater, as a member of the Standing Committee of the Law School Alumni, Vice President of the College Alumni and Chairman of its Standing Committee, and one

of the Council of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity.

On the 22nd day of July, 1918, he was commissioned Major in the Judge Advocate General's Section of the Officers Reserve Corps of the Army of the United States.

On the 7th day of December, 1918, he received the certificate of the Army War College at Washington, D. C., Lytle Brown, General Assistant Chief of Staff, Director War Plans, Division of the General Staff and the Staff Instruction Section, to the effect that he had satisfactorily completed his course of instruction for a Divisional Staff Officer (as Division Judge Advocate) conducted at the Army War College, Washington, D. C.

Major Bouvier was honorably discharged from the United States Army on the 20th day of December, 1918, in special order No. 9.

In 1919 he resumed in New York his ac-

tive practice of the law, where he was chiefly engaged as trial counsel in all the Courts of the State as well as in the Supreme Court of the United States before which he was duly admitted to practice in 1918.

Prior to receiving his commission as Major Judge-Advocate, he received certain credentials from various prominent members of the Bench and Bar.

Judge Benjamin M. Cardoza, Associate Member of the Court of Appeals, among other things wrote:

"Mr. Bouvier is one of the ablest and most brilliant lawyers in the State of New York. He is a man of wide experience, of fine training and of broad culture. To his extraordinary legal qualifications, he adds, I am informed, a knowledge of the French language. I cannot think of anyone more admirably suited for the position which he seeks. He would accept it at great personal sacrifice, and with the single purpose of patriotic service to the nation in its hour

of peril. He is the kind of a man the nation needs."

Judge Harlan F. Stone, at one time Dean of the Law School of Columbia University, later Attorney General of the United States and finally Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, among other things wrote:

"I cannot recall anyone in my professional acquaintance better qualified for the position of Major Judge-Advocate.

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He is an exceptionally skilful trial lawyer and is especially well qualified by his training and long experience for the work of trial counsel. Mr. Bouvier's standing and willingness to throw aside all other professional engagements in order to serve the country at this juncture is evidence of his patriotism and presents an opportunity which should be availed of by the government without hesitation."

Judge George L. Ingraham, then Presid-

ing Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, First Department, among other things, wrote:

"I have known Mr. Bouvier for many years and he is one of the leading members of the Bar of New York. He has tried and argued many cases before me while I was a member of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and he is a gentleman of distinguished ability and with the highest professional and private character. He has especially distinguished himself in the trial of cases in Court."

Judge John Proctor Clarke, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, First Department, succeeding Mr. Justice Ingraham, wrote in part:

"I have known Mr. Bouvier for many years, and during my seventeen years service on the bench he has appeared frequently before me both in the actual trial

of cases when I was sitting *Nisi Prius* and on appeal during the twelve years I have been upon the bench of the Appellate Division.

"He has had, to my personal knowledge, a very extensive court practice and is a man of great vigor, determination and indomitable courage, and a thoroughly equipped lawyer.

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"His patriotism and Americanism are unquestioned and I regard it an honor to be allowed to commend him to your favorable consideration."

Benjamin T. Cable, Esq., wrote in part:

"Perhaps it would not be out of the way to say—in order to clearly emphasize my own high opinion of his abilities—that if my fortune or my liberty, or my reputation were at stake, I can think of no stronger or more forceful legal personality to whom I would hasten to defend them."

When at one period his friends had ad-

vocated his appointment as a Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, John G. Milburn, Esq., in his day the recognized leader of the New York Bar, in part wrote:

"I take the liberty of commending to your favorable consideration the qualifications of Mr. John V. Bouvier, Jr., for the vacancy in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. I feel that I can properly do this from my acquaintance with him for many years and my knowledge of him and his work. Mr. Bouvier has been in prominent practice at this Bar for over twenty years, largely as counsel in the trial of cases. There are few men that have had his experience in that province of professional work. Through all these years he has shown marked ability as a lawyer and those qualities of character which have established him in the respect and esteem of the Bar. He is a man of the highest integrity."

On the 16th day of April, 1890, he married at the City of New York, *Maude Frances Sergeant*, daughter of William R. Sergeant and Edith M. Leaman, by whom he had five children:

John Vernou, III, born at New York, N. Y., May 19th, 1891.

William Sergeant, born at Nutley, New Jersey, April 28, 1893.

Edith Ewing, born at Nutley, New Jersey, October 5th, 1895.

Maude Reppelin and Michelle C., born at Nutley, New Jersey, August 4th, 1905.

**VERNOU**

The family of *Vernou* is one of the most illustrious and ancient of the Province of Poitou, whence it extended to Touraine, afterwards to Guadaloupe and finally to America. It has been in existence since the year 1086 and has had many high honors and dignities conferred upon it. It contracted alliances with the most powerful families of the nobility of France, and was confirmed in its nobility of ancient extraction by two royal decrees of August 23rd, 1667, and May 29th, 1719, respectively.

Arms: "D'Azur au croissant d'argent—  
Couronne: de Marquis—Sup-  
ports; deux Griffons—  
Devise—Intacta Veneno—

This device was given to de Vernou Baron de Chancelée, Comte de Malzeard, Marquis de Bonneuil, by King Louis XIV, who nominated him a Chevalier of his Orders

by reason of his resistance to Prince Marillac at the epoch of the internal troubles in France, wherein de Vernou by his example and his influence maintained the fidelity of the Nobility of Poitou to the King.

The earliest known personage of this ancient stock is *Armand de Vernou*, Seigneur de Vernou, who founded the Church of Sainte-Marie de Vernou at Vernou near Poitiers on the 6th day of June, 1026.

Thereafter in succession we have *Geoffrey de Vernou*, equerry, who married the noble Desirée de la Tremoille in 1321, *John de Vernou*, who in 1376 was secretary to Charles V, King of France; *William de Vernou*, equerry and seigneur, who in 1423 compromised with Louis de Salle, rector of the Parish of Sainte Marie de Vernou.

The descent thereafter is unbroken.<sup>1</sup>

I. *John de Vernou*, equerry, who lived in 1450. He was the father of

II. *Bartholomey de Vernou*, equerry,

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<sup>1</sup>“Archives de la noblesse et du College Heraldique de France.”

who in 1482 received his patents of nobility from King Louis XI and married the noble Marie de Prahec, by whom he had four children: Jacques, John, Maurice, Yves.

III. *Jacques de Vernou*, equerry, seigneur de la Riviere, married in 1507 the noble Jacquette de Montalembert. They had two children, Jacques and Louise.

IV. *Jacques de Vernou II*, equerry, seigneur de la Riviere and de Bonneuil, married on February 1, 1527, the noble Radegon de Payen. They had three children, Louis, John and Polixene. John was the author of the Branch of the Seigneurs de la Fontenelle, which became extinct, however, after three generations.

V. *Louis de Vernou* equerry, seigneur de Bonneuil de la Riviere. He divided the paternal honors with his brother John in 1570 and in 1602. He married at Poitiers April 20th, 1574, the noble Jeanne Levesque. Of this marriage there was born

VI. *Louis de Vernou* II, seigneur de Bonneuil, de la Riviere, d'Artenay, etc. He married November 11th, 1606, Louise de Marans. Louis died in 1614 leaving Louis III, François, Louise and Charlotte.

VII. *Louis de Vernou* III, seigneur, etc., etc., received in 1647 from Louis XIV a letter urging his co-operation in the raising of men from the inhabitants of Poitou. He did not live after 1655. He had married the noble Marguerite de Nossay by whom he had four children, Henri, Pierre, Charlotte and Thérèse.

VIII. *Henri de Vernou*, seigneur, etc., etc., died in 1677, having married the noble Marie Anne Rolland. He left two sons, Gaston Jean Baptiste and Charles Louis.

IX. *Charles Louis de Vernou*, chevalier, seigneur de Bonneuil and de Chancelée, etc., etc., died in July, 1723, having married on December 17th, 1703, Marie Suzanne Beraudin, by whom he had three children,

Louis Charles Gabriel Christophe, Natalie (?) and Marie Paule.

X. *Louis Charles Gabriel Christophe de Vernou*, chevalier, seigneur de Bonneuil, Chancelée, etc., etc., born on the 24th day of December, 1704, married on the 22nd day of June, 1728, the noble Marie Benedictine Thomas de Chaumont. There were born of this marriage the following children: Louis Charles Auguste Victoire and Marie César Antoine.

XI. *Marie César Antoine de Vernou*, baron de Bonneuil, born on August 21st, 1735, Lieutenant of Cavalry of the Comte de Provence., married in 1769 Marie Monique de Lomeron, by whom he had a son *John de Vernou*, and the latter having migrated to America, the "College Heraldique" states that it is "ignorant of his destiny."

XII. *Jean de Vernou* (John Vernou)

We are deeply concerned with this *John de Vernou*. He came to this country and settled in Philadelphia in the 18th Century,

but upon his arrival in America, (about 1795), he appears to have dropped the "de" before his patronymic Vernou, due to the fact that he was a political refugee proscribed by the leaders of the French Revolution.

John Vernou was born in 1772 and died in Philadelphia March 11th, 1837, in his 66th year.<sup>1</sup>

He married his first wife in the year 1795.

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<sup>1</sup>In the Register of St. Augustin's Church there is the record of the baptism of John W. Vernou, "born June 7, 1803, of John Vernou and his wife Elizabeth Alexander (sic) Catholics; baptized August 7, 1803, sponsors John Vernou and Adelaide Savoy."

The inscriptions of those interred in the vault of St. Mary's Church, Philadelphia, state that Elizabeth Vernou died November 6th, 1862, in her "83rd year." This would have made her born in 1780. She married, it is said, when about 15 years of age, Francis Savoy, who was born in 1781, and who hence would be a year younger than she. This is wholly opposed to the intimate family data and tradition. It is far more probable and much closer in line with the family history if she died in her "81st" instead of her 83rd year. The date then of her birth would not be 1780, but 1782.

They had one son, Peter J. Vernou, born in 1800, died April 23rd, 1826. In 1802 he married Elizabeth Clifford Lindsay, widow of Francis Savoy, born December 17th, 1781, died 1801. The parents of Francis Savoy were Peter and Mary Savoy. Adelaide Savoy, one of the sponsors at the Baptism of John W. Vernou, was in all probability a sister of the deceased Francis.

The history of the brief married life of Francis Savoy and Elizabeth Lindsay was poignantly tragic and is sympathetically and poetically albeit somewhat fancifully told in a little volume printed for private circulation and entitled "*Our Grandmother's Story.*"

By his marriage in 1802 with Elizabeth Savoy (née Lindsay) John Vernou had the following children :

John W., born June 7th, 1803, died  
October 30th, 1819,

Michel Charles, born Sept. 7th, 1806,  
died Jan. 29th, 1842,

Louise Catherine, born March 29th, 1811, died October 5th, 1872.

Alexander D., born 1817, died Nov. 12, 1837,

Elizabeth, born 1818 (?), died August 2, 1842,

William G., born December 25th, 1820, died Nov. 29th, 1871,

Joseph, born in 1821, died August 8th, 1849.

**LINDSAY**

*William Alexander Lindsay* was of Irish-Scotch descent, as the patronymic clearly indicates. The history of this family by Margaret I. Lindsay entitled "The Lindsays of America" may with benefit be consulted as a general genealogical record of the Lindsays of the various states. It treats, however, more particularly of the Lindsays of Virginia, tracing their ancestry through English and Scotch sources.

William Alexander Lindsay in our intimate family history was supposed to have held during the Revolution of '76 the Commission of Colonel, but there can be found nothing to justify this belief. Among the Lindsays of *Virginia* was a Colonel Lindsay, who enjoyed both social and military distinction. He was, however, no direct kin of our family. Ann Calvert, a great granddaughter of Lord Baltimore, frequently spoken of as "Grandmère" married Colonel Lindsay in 1776 or 1777.

The record of the Pennsylvania Lindsays is to be found in Mrs. Lindsay's Book, above referred to, at page 208. She states that the early ancestor of the Lindsays of Pennsylvania was *Andrew Lindsay*, a native of Belfast, Ireland, whose wife's family name was either Lowery or Downing. They settled in Philadelphia about 1789.

The most promising records for consultation are "Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography," the Registers of Christ Church, Philadelphia, and a volume entitled "The Lindsay Family Association of America," edited by Mrs. Margaret Lindsay Atkinson. There are two articles in this book that are pertinent to our inquiries, but one more particularly at page 111 entitled "Revolutionary Soldiers of the name of Lindsay who served from Pennsylvania."

From this source we learn of *William Lindsay*, Sergeant in Captain Joseph Erwin's Company, raised in Westmoreland County, January 1, 1778.

In the *Pennsylvania Magazine* above noted mention is made in Vol. 18 at pages 494-5 of *William Lindsay*, who was the subject of a letter from Captain Lee to General Washington. This letter was included in an article of Worthington Chauncey Fox on the "Defences of Philadelphia in 1777" and therein William Lindsay is referred to as "Lieutenant."

William Alexander Lindsay must have been born about 1748 and died a year or two before the return to Philadelphia from San Domingo of his widowed daughter, Elizabeth Lindsay Savoy in about 1801.

From the best information obtainable in family lore, sequence of events and oral tradition transmitted from parent to child, William Alexander Lindsay was born about 1748, married Elizabeth Clifford about 1778 or 1779 and died about 1797.<sup>1</sup> It is quite

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<sup>1</sup>As a result of this union there was born in 1782 Elizabeth Clifford who as we have already noted married Francis Savoy of Philadelphia and after his death and in 1802 married John Vernou.

competent to identify him with *Lieutenant William Lindsay* mentioned by Captain Lee to General Washington. Doubtless young Lindsay came, through this medium, under General Washington's favorable notice. Indeed, it has ever been a cherished tradition of the Bouvier family and the subject is stressed in the little volume "Our Grandmother's Story," wherein it is recounted that upon the birth of Elizabeth, his daughter, her father going forth to Church to give thanks "Colonel (sic) Lindsay came face to face with no less a personage than General Washington himself \* \* \* and it was like him (Washington) to wish to prove it (his sympathy in joy and sorrow) on this occasion by entering the house and taking in his arms the little stranger and pronouncing over her a reverent 'God bless you'," and again "our noble minded ancestor espoused the cause of freedom and took his place near the Great Commander-in-Chief as a commissioned officer."

### CLIFFORD

This surname is of English origin and was the patronymic of Elizabeth, who was born about 1750, married William Alexander Lindsay about 1778 or 1779 and died in or about the year 1797.

The House of Clifford was one of the most distinguished in England. It made powerful alliances among the nobility and its descendants are to be found in large numbers in America, but of *Elizabeth Clifford*, information that is definite, precise and convincing is lacking.

In the Pennsylvania Magazine, to which reference has already been made, we learn in Volume 5 at page 26 in the extracts from the Journal of a Miss Sarah Eve that a Mrs. *Clifford* visited her and in the note to that Journal the Editor states that this Mrs. Clifford had a daughter *Elizabeth*. But this may perhaps be mere coincidence.

**EWING**

"Ewing is historically stated to be the Anglified form of Ewen or Ewin derived from Evanor Engham, which was in Latin Eugenius and several of the Ancient Kings of Scots bore the name of Ewen or Eugwnius, one of them having been a distinguished leader of his race in the Great Wars against the Romans."

*Arms:* The authentic ancient Ewing coat of arms consists of "arg. a chevron az. insignia with a banner gu. charged with a canton az. thereon a saltire arg. all between two mullets in chief gu. sun in splendor in base, also gu. with crest and motto *Audaciter.*"

The Ewings are of Scottish extraction and were long settled in the West of Scotland, but the branches of the family in America were of Scotch-Irish descent. The clan with which the Ewings were identified was allied with the Campbells, as opposed to the Gordons.

I. *William Ewing* was born about 1665-1670, near Sterling Castle in Scotland. He was a Catholic. He married twice. By the first marriage he had a son, *Nathaniel*, and by the second he had four sons and a daughter, William, Joshua, James, Samuel and Anne. Nathaniel and his half-brother Joshua settled in Maryland on the East side of the Susquehanna in Cecil County, near the Pennsylvania line.

II. *Nathaniel Ewing*, was born at or near Coleraine County, Londonderry, Ireland, in or about 1692. He died September 6th, 1748, having migrated to this country in 1725 with his wife Rachel Porter and their children then born. In Maryland where they subsequently settled there was born a son Alexander.

III. *Alexander Ewing*, son of Nathaniel and his wife Rachel, was born about 1731 and in 1753 married Jane Kirkpatrick. He died in Maryland in 1799, leaving a son James.

IV. *James Ewing*,<sup>1</sup> son of Alexander and of Jane, was born about 1754, and was married to Elizabeth Griffith, a daughter of Lieutenant John Griffith of the Maryland Line, on the 15th day of February, 1792. He died shortly after the birth of his son Robert in 1795, leaving his widow him surviving. She subsequently married Jesse Turner, Esq., in Kent County, Delaware, whom she also survived.

Captain James Ewing, originally of Somerset and later of Caroline County, Maryland, was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati as the records of that Society disclose.

His military record shows that he was a Lieutenant in the First Regiment of General Smallwood's Brigade, Colonel Ortho H.

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<sup>1</sup>There were two James Ewings of Maryland, one of Caroline County, the other of Somerset. The James Ewing of Somerset died without issue in 1794. James Ewing, our ancestor, although originally of Somerset, moved later to Caroline County, as was reported by his son Robert.

Williams, commanding, from May, 1778, to the end of the War, when he was mustered out a Captain.<sup>1</sup>

Through this descent his great grandson, John Vernou Bouvier, Jr., after the due procurement of waivers was duly admitted into the Order of the Cincinnati, Maryland Branch, on February 22nd, 1918.

V. *Robert Ewing*, merchant, son of James Ewing and Elizabeth Griffith (afterwards Elizabeth Turner), was born July 20, 1795. He married Caroline Maslin September 13, 1842, who was born in 1822 and died January 26, 1848. Robert Ewing died June 11th, 1868.

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<sup>1</sup>On August 12th, 1794, Peter Amundsen, Sheriff of Caroline County, conveyed to James Ewing a half acre of land near the Town of *Denton* with respect to which place the following is of significant interest:

“In the Cemetery of *Denton* \* \* \* The Catholic Cemetery is also of comparatively recent date, the earliest tombstones being inscribed to the memory of \* \* \* Elizabeth Turner, daughter of John Griffith, of Dorchester County, Maryland, born March, 3, 1770, died September 29, 1841. Her first husband

In his life Robert Ewing was a personality, a man of dignity, of distinguished presence and commanding but graceful address. Well over six feet in height but broad of shoulder and unencumbered by flesh, he presented a figure of compelling attractiveness and charm.

In 1831 his portrait painted by Sully (the artist the same year painted that of his second wife, Maria Smith), reveals a face peculiarly arrestive, a straight symmetrical nose, strong but sensitive mouth, clean shaven, warm blue eyes and a firm well-moulded chin. He wears a high stock above the edge of which appears his white collar and a coat with broad and generous lapels. The portrait is the counterfeit pre-

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was James Ewing of Caroline County, Maryland, after whose death she married Jesse Turner of Kent County, Delaware, whom she also survived. Monument erected by her son, Robert Ewing of Philadelphia. Pa."

"Historic Scenes of Maryland and the District of Columbia" by Helen W. Ridgely at page 204.

sentment executed with consummate skill of a Nineteenth Century gentleman of grace and elegance.

Early in his residence in Philadelphia Robert Ewing was recognized as a man of rich and varied culture, enjoying wide popularity and fixed social prominence. His gallery of paintings selected with judgment and discrimination, was frequently borrowed for public and quasi-private exhibitions.

His home at 1628 Walnut Street was the center of the socially elect while his hospitality was one of the marked features of Philadelphia's cultural life. Later, in the stress of disturbing finances he sold his residence to Dr. Weir Mitchell, a Philadelphia physician of recognized skill, as well as an author of moving interest and charm, and shortly thereafter disposed of most, if not practically all of his pictures.

Robert Ewing's second wife was the very beautiful Maria Smith, a toast of Philadel-

phia society, sister of Aubrey Smith, who in his day was one of the most distinguished lawyers of this country.

Of Robert Ewing, as of Sir Philip Sidney, it might well be said:

“He was the kindest friend  
The best conditioned  
The most unswerving spirit in doing  
courtesy.”

VI. *Caroline Maslin Ewing*, who was a daughter of Robert Ewing by his third wife, Caroline Maslin, was born in Philadelphia August 11th, 1844, and there married John Vernou Bouvier October 27th, 1864. She had two children: Caroline Ewing (who died in infancy) and John Vernou.

*Caroline Ewing Bouvier* enriched a singularly beautiful face and form with a spiritual nobility that made her

“Earth’s noblest thing—a woman perfected.”

She was

"A wondrous creature cleaving to the right and to the good under all change; Lovely in youthful comeliness, lovely all her life long in comeliness of heart."

To the eyes of her husband, who was always her lover, she was like the *Amaranth*, a never fading flower, while to her son she was in the words of Coleridge "the holiest thing alive."

"Happy he  
With such a Mother! faith in womankind  
Beats with his blood, and trust in all  
things high,  
Comes easy to him; and tho' he trip and  
fall  
He shall not blind his soul with clay."

To her, with rarest truth, may be applied the words of Wordsworth:

"Shalt show us how divine a thing a woman may be made."

**MASLIN**

While the Maslin family is stated to be of English extraction it, in all probability, first appeared in Brabant. It has spread throughout the United States and its members are to be found in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio, Missouri, Colorado and California.

Arms:

Malines or Mechlin (Brabant).

On three fables gueules crest. An ass's head proper surmounting twisted wreath.

War cry "Berthout."

I. *Thomas Maslin*, its founder in America, was born about 1692, migrated here from England and settled in Kent County, Maryland, about the year 1710. He married about 1726 Jane Britain, by whom he had two sons Thomas and James, and he died shortly after the birth of James in about 1732, leaving his wife him surviving, who

later married one Pickett, by whom she had a son who became Captain Pickett and who went down with his ship at sea, at which time there is said likewise to have been lost a large fortune that the captain was bringing to this country from England.

II. *Thomas Maslin, Jr.*, born about 1727, married Ann Lamb about 1744, by whom he had three sons James, Thomas III and Francis.

In respect of these three there is an interesting tradition in the family that all joined the Revolutionary Army, went to New York, were captured, imprisoned in the old ship "Jersey" and fed on bread mixed with lime.

III. *Thomas Maslin III*, born about 1748, married about 1769 Martha Glenn and of this union there were born eleven children, to wit: Martha, Thomas, James (who was in Philadelphia in 1810), Titus, William, Rebecca, John, Ann, Joseph, Jacob and Michael Miller. He died about 1818.

IV. *Michael Miller Maslin*, born in Kent County, Maryland, about 1792, married about 1815 Eliza Sarah Mohler, by which union there were ten children, to wit: Sarah, Ann Maria, Athalia, Thomas Michael, Caroline, Titus, Edward, Alexander, Charles Henry and Virginia. He died about 1857.

V. *Caroline Maslin*, was born in Caroline County, Maryland, in the year 1822, and married Robert Ewing on September 13, 1842. She died January 26th, 1848, leaving four children, Virginia, Caroline,<sup>1</sup> Athalia and Josephine (who died in infancy).

John A. Maslin, a cousin of Michael Miller, married Elizabeth Blakiston, by whom she had five children, four daughters and a son.

In passing it may be noted that the Blakistons took part in the Revolutionary War in the person of Presley Blakiston. He was captured and imprisoned by the British and

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<sup>1</sup>See page 52 ante.

one of his ancestors was a signer of the death warrant of Charles I of England.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Book of Family Crests," 2 vols., by Henry Washburn London, Vol. 1, page 45; Vol. II, p. 21.

## GRIFFITH

We have seen that *Elizabeth Griffith* married Captain James Ewing of Caroline County, Maryland, on the 15th day of February, 1792. Elizabeth Griffith was born March 3, 1770, and died September 29, 1841, the daughter of John Griffith of Dorchester County, Maryland, who was born in 1752 and who died in 1799.

*John Griffith* was enrolled as ensign in the Bucks Company, Captain Benjamin Keene November 30, 1775; ensign 1st Maryland Battalion of the Flying Camp, June, December, 1776; 1st Lieutenant 7th Regiment Maryland Line Colonel John Gunby, December 10th, 1776, resigned March 22, 1777; March 27th, 1777, 1st Lieutenant 2nd Battalion Peter Adams, Lieutenant-Colonel, General William Smallwood's Brigade; 2nd Lieutenant Dorchester County, Maryland Militia, Colonel Robert Harrison May 20th, 1778, and August 23, 1781.

It was in virtue of his descent from

Lieutenant John Griffith that John Vernou Bouvier, Jr., was duly elected a member of the "Society of the Sons of the Revolution" in the State of New York, on the 24th day of November, 1913.

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Thus we have reached the end of the year 1925 with the honorable record unimpaired and no "blot upon the 'scutcheon'." It may well be said in humble thanksgiving that "we have kept the Faith."

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**POSTSCRIPTUM**

On the second day of January, 1926, and within the brief space of eight and forty hours after the proof of this little volume had been delivered for final printing, *John Vernou Bouvier*, son of Michel and Louise C. Bouvier, passed unto his forebears.

In its earlier pages an account all too compact has been set down of his career and the patriotism that impelled him at a relatively tender age to volunteer his services to the Union forces; but no mention was attempted of his rare ethical qualities "and all that makes the man" which were his rich possessions throughout his strong but modest life.

His honor he kept as untarnished as did Astolfo his shield, and his business and social life were indelibly marked by a rigorous

and exacting standard of high conduct from which he never for a moment departed.

His courage was invincible and his sincerity firm and transparent; never did he permit it to compromise with mental reservations. His affections, never diffuse, were deep and abiding, and the simplicity of his ordered life suffered neither change nor amendment. His charity was an all encompassing mantle, while his mind not infrequently acted as vicar of his heart.

His religious convictions were fixed and consistent, predicated on and supported by an unfailing belief in the unvarying mercy of his Creator.

For his wife he held an undying love, given back to him an hundred fold in all the tenderness, sympathy and understanding of a perfect woman.

With peculiar propriety may there be applied to him the eulogium pronounced by Garfield upon a cherished friend:

“The soil out of which such men as he are made is a good one to be born on, good to live on, good to die for and to be buried in.”