

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES





Reproduction of miniature of STEPHEN DE BLOIS when he was about 30 years old. He was born in Oxford, England, in 1735. The miniature was given by the will of Rebecca E. Hunter to her cousin William B. De Blois and passed from him to his son Edward A. De Blois, now of Long Beach, California.

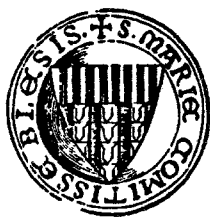


# TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

DEBLOIS - LUCAS

BY

FRANK B. FOX



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## PREFACE

This book contains the facts, gathered by the writer and his wife Lillian DeBlois Fox from many sources in the United States, England, and France, concerning the lives, ancestors, and descendants of two of her ancestors, Stephen Deblois and Augustus Lucas. Augustus Lucas was a Huguenot who fled from France about 1700 and settled in Newport, R. I. Stephen Deblois, grandson of a Huguenot, settled in Newport about 1767.

In Newport Historical Society collections there is a box of DeBlois papers containing a large number of letters written by and to members of the family. Some of these deal only with day-to-day business transactions, but many make very interesting reading. Selections from these papers, here printed for the first time, bring out some previously unknown facts, not only about the DeBlois family, but also about conditions existing in Newport at the period of the Revolution.

*New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 67, page 6, had an article by A. W. H. Eaton on the DeBlois family of Boston, which showed that Stephen Deblois of Boston, uncle of Stephen of Newport, was a son of Lewis, or Louis, Deblois of Oxford, England; but traced the family no further back. It has now been found that Louis de Blois, son of Jean de Blois of Roumazières in Saintonge, a small province on the southwest coast of France, was among the Huguenot refugees in England. The registers of St. Clement's parish, Oxford, spell the name Lewis; but it is not known whether he used Louis or Lewis, after arriving in England. His descendants have the English spelling.

Mr. Lewis DeBlois of Chappaqua, New York, a descendant of Stephen of Boston, has had research made in England and has furnished the writer with the results of that search.

In order to learn about the family in France, many books, chiefly in Harvard Library, Boston Public Library, New York Public Library, Brown University Library, and Providence Athenaeum, have been consulted. Because the de Blois family was noble and, from the 9th to the 14th centuries, of sufficient importance to be historic, the books have much information about them.

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The branch of the family living in the province of Saintonge in the 17th century first appeared there about 1500 and became Protestant early in the 16th century, and the name appears in numerous publications about the Huguenots.

Upon recommendation of Mr. Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library, and Mr. Frederick S. Stewart, Director of the American Library in Paris, Monsieur Abel Doysié of Paris was employed for research work in France. M. Doysié was during many years Principal Research Assistant for France, Library of Congress, and also connected with the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He is now (1949) *Chargé de Mission par la Commission d'Histoire de l'Occupation et de la Libération de la France*. As a result of his research, it became possible to write a pedigree directly connecting the family in Saintonge with the ancient Counts de Blois; but owing to the fact that few vital records of the 17th century are now in existence, M. Doysié was unable to learn who was the father of Jean of Roumazières, father of Louis, and proof of their ancestry has to depend on evidence that there was only one de Blois family in Saintonge in the 17th century.

DeBlois has never been a common name. It was derived from the County of Blois. The ancient Counts de Blois, the last of whom died in 1220, used no surnames. The title was acquired by a branch of the Chatillon family in 1230 when Hugues de Chatillon married Marie, Countess de Blois; but de Blois was not used as a surname until a younger son of a later Count Hugues de Blois who died in 1307 adopted it. From then on it was used by all descendants. In France the name was de Blois; early generations in America wrote it Deblois and later ones DeBlois.

The Chatillon de Blois family, in turn, became extinct in the legitimate male line about 1459, leaving to carry on the name only the descendants of two illegitimate sons of Count Jean de Blois who died in 1391. These two sons, who lived in the Netherlands, married women of noble birth, and their descendants were prominent in the affairs of Holland for many years; but, according to a recent letter from Vicomte Renée de Blois of Paris, the family in Holland is extinct in the male line, although the name is preserved by female descendants. There are now in France several branches of the family bearing titles of Comte or Vicomte, derived from their



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ancestor François-Julien de Blois, to whom the King granted the title in 1774.

It appears that there has been no one named de Blois living in Saintonge since early in the 18th century. The tendency for the name to disappear has been evident in this country, as it seems there are now here fewer lineal male descendants of Lewis of Oxford than there were at the time of the Revolution.

The DeBlois research in Newport brought out the fact that Jane Brown, who married Stephen Deblois in Newport in 1779, was a descendant of Augustus Lucas. He has been mentioned in many histories and genealogies, such as the Chad Brown Memorial, the Russell Family Genealogy, and the Eliot Genealogy; but much that has been written about him is proved erroneous by his ancient Bible which Mrs. Fox found in the Bible collection in Rhode Island Historical Society. His entries of births, marriages, and deaths therein are here printed for the first time, the parts written in French being translated.

M. Abel Doysié found in the French Archives some interesting facts about Augustus Lucas, but was unable to get anything definite about his ancestry. There were two reasons for this lack of success: first, "Lucas" unlike "de Blois" was a common name in France, there being many Lucas families, and second, Augustus was bourgeois and not noble. In France it is difficult to trace a non noble family back of, or even into, the 17th century. Parish registers go back only to the 16th century, and very few are now in existence earlier than the 18th, and there were no public records of such things as deeds, wills, and marriage contracts. On the other hand, noble families carefully preserved their family papers in order to prove their nobility for the purpose of securing their privileges, such as freedom from taxes or gaining admission to military schools, noble orders, etc. When called upon to prove nobility, they had to present these papers to the proper officials. The National Archives contain many of these papers or copies of them.

Although there are now few descendants of Stephen Deblois of Newport bearing the name DeBlois, there are many descendants in female lines. All of his descendants that the writer has been able to find are given herein.

There are no descendants of Augustus Lucas in the male line, since that ended with the death in infancy of his grandson Augustus

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Lucas; but many in female lines, including, in addition to the DeBlois family, the members of the Russell family shown in the Russell Genealogy by J. R. Bartlett. As Augustus Lucas's grandson Augustus Johnston had many children, it is likely that there are numerous descendants. No search has been made in that line.

The writer is greatly indebted to his neighbor, Richard LeBaron Bowen, authoritative writer of history and genealogy, for his advice and encouragement; and to Lewis DeBlois of Chappaqua for his contributions of much valuable information. Thanks are due also to Herbert O. Brigham, Librarian of Newport Historical Society, and his staff for their assistance in research work in Newport.

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Rehoboth, Mass.

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## *Two Huguenot Families*

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### Chapter I

#### THE COUNTS DE BLOIS

THE House of Blois, from the time of Robert the Strong, one of their progenitors, who died in 866, to the end of the 12th century, was one of the most powerful in France. During much of that time, their lands hemmed in the Royal Realm on the west, south, and east, and the Counts de Blois were more powerful than the King of France. A complete story of the family would cover much of the history of France and more than is generally realized of that of England, because English writers in many cases mentioned the Counts de Blois by their given names only, such as Count Odo (Eudes) or Theobald (Thibault), or called them by one of their other titles, such as Count de Champagne or Chartres. On the other hand, many English writers call King Stephen of England Count de Blois, which he never was, because he was the fourth son of the Count de Blois.

For the present article on the ancient Counts de Blois, the writer has taken the story as it appears in *l'Art de Vérifier les Dates*, etc., Paris, 1818, Vol. XI, pages 348, et seq., with some additions from other sources.

"The origin of Robert the Strong is obscure. Richer, a monk of Saint Remi, makes him a descendant of Witikind, a German. Charles the Bald conferred upon him the title of Duke, and made him governor of the country between the Seine and the Loire. His Dukedom was only a military lieutenancy, but, with the movement which placed everything on an hereditary basis, it became not only a sort of State, but the most important in Gaul." [Funck-Bretano: *The Earliest Times*, New York, 1927, page 410.]

Robert also had the title Count de Blois, which according to Duchesne, *Histoire de la Maison de Chastillon*, Paris, 1621, came down

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to him from his grandfather Guillaume, Count de Blois, who was killed about 834 in the quarrel of Louis Debonaire, Emperor and King of France, against Lothaire, his son. Robert was called a second Machabée because of the valor with which he fought the Normans who were ravaging France. After many victories over them, he lost his life in a battle against these barbarians 25 July, 866.

Robert left sons Eudes and Robert who were Kings of France, one after the other, and a daughter Richilde, Countess de Blois, who married Thibault, a Norman. This Norman is said to have been a relative of Rollon who became Robert I, Duke of Normandy. He is called Gerlon by some writers. *L'Art de Vérifier les Dates* says Thibault and Gerlon were the same.

King Robert was the father of Hugh the Great and grandfather of Hugh Capet.

Thibault, after having made many ravages in France, was given the County of Tours by Kings Louis and Carloman by treaty. Later he acquired Chartres from the famous Hasting, a Dane, at his own price, by persuading him that the Emperor was planning his assassination. Hasting fled from France.

I. Thibault, son of Thibault and Richilde, called the Old, because he lived to be near one hundred, and the Tricker, because of the ruses he used, and de Montague from the land of the Laonnais given him by Hugh the Great, appears to have been the first to take the title Count de Blois and de Chartres. In 943 Thibault married Leutgarde, widow of Guillaume Longépée, daughter of Herbert II, Count de Vermandois. Thibault, holding King Louis d'Outremer a prisoner, received the City of Laon as ransom. Thibault left many children of whom the principal were Eudes, who follows; Thibault, who was killed in battle in 962; Hugues, Archbishop of Bourges; Emme wife of Guillaume II, Count de Poitiers.

II. 978. Eudes, second Count de Blois, de Chartres, de Tours, de Beauvais, de Meaux, and de Provins, was justified in signing himself "Comes Ditissimus" (very rich Count). He married Berthe, elder daughter of Conrad, King of Burgundy, and of Mathilde or Mahaut de France, sister of King Lothaire. He had six children; Thibault, Eudes, and others.



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III. Thibault II, third Count de Blois, de Chartres, etc., succeeded in 995. He left no children.

IV. 1004. Eudes II succeeded his brother Thibault II as Count de Blois, de Chartres, and de Tours. Eudes had the same passion as Thibault I for extending his estates. This led to many wars. Richard II, Duke of Normandy, was one of the first with whom he quarreled. The Duke, finding himself too feeble against him, called the Danes to his aid; but King Robert, fearing such troublesome visitors, intervened and brought about a reconciliation.

In 1019, Etienne, Count de Champagne and de Brie, dying without issue, Eudes, his nearest relative, took possession of his estates in spite of King Robert, who wished to re-unite them to his domain. Eudes fought with Robert over the City of Sens, but in 1034 made a treaty with him dividing the city. He did this in order to be free in a more important war. This was for the succession of the Kingdom of Burgundy. He marched into Burgundy, which he conquered as far as Mont-Jura. His ambition increased by success, he next sought the crown of Lorraine, but was killed in battle. His head having been cut off, his body was not identified for a long time, and it was only on account of a wart which he had in a secret part and which was indicated by his wife, that he was recognized. Thus vanished the vast projects of this prince, who had hoped to obtain the crown of Italy which was offered to him by some nobles of that country if he secured those of Burgundy and Lorraine.

V. 1037. Thibault III, second son of Eudes II, was, in common with his brother Etienne II, Count de Blois, de Champagne, de Chartres, and de Tours.

1047 or 1048. On the death of Thibault, Etienne took possession of his estates to the prejudice of his nephew Eudes. Eudes retired near William, Duke of Normandy, later King of England. Eudes married William's sister, Adele, the Countess d'Aumale.

"The King of France tried to raise rebellion against the guardians of the young Duke William (William II). He was, however, unable to do much because of the growth of the House of Blois which had taken to itself Champagne." [Kitchin: *History of France*, Vol. I, page 208.]

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"1095. Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, and William d'Eu, with many others, attempted to deprive King William II of his kingdom and life and to make Stephen d'Aumale, the son of his aunt, King in his place, but without success." [Florence of Worcester: *Chronicles*, page 200.] If this attempt had succeeded, England would have had a King Stephen of the House of Blois before that Stephen who became King in 1135.

VI. Etienne left Hugues, who became Count de Champagne, and Etienne, also called Henri, who became Count de Blois and de Chartres.

Etienne, during the life of his father, was Count de Meaux and de Brie. Having made war against King Phillippe I, he was captured and imprisoned; but through the intervention of his father, was released on promise of fidelity, which he faithfully kept. He fought many battles for the King, particularly one in which he defeated many nobles who had conspired to dethrone Phillippe. Etienne became so powerful that he was said to have as many castles as there are days in the year.

1081. Etienne married Alix, or Adele, daughter of William I, King of England. He was one of the first nobles to crusade in the Holy Land. He set out in September, 1096, with Robert of Normandy and Robert Count of Flanders and went to Italy, where he passed the winter. Having arrived the following year in Constantinople, he was received with marked distinction by the Emperor Alexis, who offered more than once to receive one of his sons at his Court with a promise to raise him to one of the first dignities of the Court.

Etienne and the other Crusaders of his division, having joined the body of the Christian army which preceded them, took part in the conquest, 20 June, 1097, of the City of Nicée. The conduct of Etienne at the siege of this place merited him the honor of being established by all the princes, chief of the war council, to direct all military operations. He was not slow to justify this choice by the victory of the Crusaders, the first of July following, over the Turks, who, in spite of superior numbers, were entirely beaten. Etienne then marched with the Christian army to the siege of Antioch, where he sustained for a time the reputation of valor and prudence which he had established; but annoyed by the length and fatigue

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of the expedition, he retired under pretext of a malady, just two days before the capture of the place, 1 June, 1098, taking with him 4000 men.

On the way to Constantinople he met Emperor Alexis going with 100,000 men to the aid of the Crusaders, who were then besieged, in their turn, in Antioch. Etienne exaggerated so much the strength of the besiegers and the extremity of the besieged, that Alexis turned back, in the persuasion he would arrive too late to help.

On his arrival in France, Etienne was met with such scorn that he was filled with confusion. There was nothing but murmurs, railleries, and sarcasm against him. His wife, Princess of the blood as she was, took part in it and continued to reproach him for cowardice. This general cry determined him to return in 1101 to efface the shame of his desertion.

He went with the Count of Bourgoyne and other nobles. Being joined by Raymond, Count of Toulouse, after passing the Bosphorus, their army counted 4000 horsemen and a larger number of foot soldiers; but they were defeated and reduced to almost nothing in Asia by the Turks. Etienne and Raymond led the debris of their army to Constantinople, from which Etienne embarked for the Holy Land, where at the battle of Rames, he was captured. He was carried to Ascalon, where the barbarians killed him.

Etienne had six sons and three daughters: Guillaume, who, disinherited by the artifices of his mother who did not love him, married the heiress of the House of Sulli, of which he took the name and became the stem of the House of Sulli-Champagne; Thibault, who follows; Etienne, Count de Mortain and de Boulogne, who became King Stephen of England in 1135, after the death of his uncle King Henry I; Henri, at first a monk of Clunis, later Bishop of Winchester; Humbert who died young; and Phillipe, Bishop of Chalons. One wonders whether any of these sons would have risen higher if their father had accepted the offer of Emperor Alexis to raise one of them to high dignity in his Court.

VII. 1102. Thibault, called the Great, became seventh Count de Blois, de Chartres, and de Brie. He studied with his brother Etienne (Stephen) under Professor Geoffroi who afterwards was Abbé at Croyland.

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1119. Thibault accompanied Pope Callist to the Council at Rheims, and afterwards the Count entertained him at one of his castles. Nevertheless, the King of France complained at this Council that Thibault, in scorn of an excommunication against him by the Papal delegate, kept the Count de Nevers in prison. It appears that Thibault knew so well how to defend himself that the Pope thought best not to judge the matter.

Thibault fought in many wars between the King and the King's vassals, sometimes on the side of the King, sometimes against him; but in 1124 he, with most of the great nobles, marched with King Louis VI against the Emperor. For such was the difference that one made then between the wars of the King against his vassals and the wars against a foreigner, that in the first, each felt free to aid him or refuse him according to his interests; but in the other all believed themselves obliged to unite their efforts against the enemy of the State.

1135. King Louis le Gros, being irritated by the liaisons of Thibault with his uncle King Henry I of England, marched into Chartrain and burned two of Thibault's castles. Thibault was included in the peace made between the two monarchs.

In the same year, when Etienne, Count de Boulogne, took possession of the throne of England, Thibault, the elder brother, went to make himself master of Normandy at the invitation of some nobles of that land. Mathilde, daughter of Henry I, King of England, and wife of Geoffroy, Count d'Anjou, rushed to dispute the Duchy. Geoffroy followed and made more ravages than conquests. Stephen (Etienne), being come to Normandy in 1137, engaged his brother to retire on promises of a pension of 2000 marcs of silver. As Wendover (Bohn, Vol. I, page 486) tells of this meeting: "Theobald his brother, complained that Stephen, the younger brother, had unjustly taken possession of the crown of England; but the King agreed to pay 2000 marks per annum and so the brothers separated on good terms."

Bishop Henry of Winchester had much to do with the success of his brother Stephen in acquiring the throne; but later being offended in a violent quarrel between his brother and the clergy, espoused the cause of Matilda for a time. Stephen was defeated and taken prisoner in a battle at Lincoln in 1141. Before long, Bishop Henry became offended at Matilda's rejection of his advice

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and took up arms against her. Her brother and chief defender was captured, and Matilda was obliged to exchange King Stephen for her brother. Stephen soon recovered the throne.

1141. While Stephen was still imprisoned, the Norman nobles, who were resolved not to obey Matilda or her spouse Geoffroy, sent the Archbishop of Rouen as deputy to Thibault to offer him the Duchy of Normandy and the Realm of England, as if they could equally dispose of the one and the other; Thibault informed the Count d'Anjou of the offers and by that induced him to cede to him the City of Tours.

Thibault accompanied Louis VII on his voyage to Aquitaine to marry the heiress of that Duchy.

William X, Duke of Aquitaine, for the purpose of atoning for his sins, went on a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James in Spain, where he died in 1137. Before starting, the Duke made his only daughter, Eleanor, the sole heiress of his dominions and placed her under guardianship of King Louis VI on condition that she should be married to the King's son Louis le Jeune. Louis VI gladly accepted this offer as it brought to his son and heir almost all France south of the Loire. Louis VI died the day before the marriage.

As will be seen later, Eleanor was closely connected with the history of the House of Blois. In fact, she became an ancestress of all descendants of Thibault, eighth Count de Blois. She also became an ancestress of almost all Americans who can rightly claim a descent from English Royalty. More than that, Eleanor changed the whole course of English and French history over a long period of time.

All the authors of the time speak in praise of Count Thibault the Great. He finished the monastery of Clairvaux and founded several abbeys. His memory is particularly cherished in the city of Troyes, which owes to him its first establishments, its manufactures, and its commerce. It was he who, for the accommodation of the manufacturers of the city, divided the Seine into 1000 ramifications which carried the water into all the workshops.

By Mathilde, his wife, Thibault had four sons and six daughters:

VIII. Henri, Count de Champagne and de Brie; Thibault le Bon, who became eighth Count de Blois and de Chartres; Etienne,

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Count de Sancerre in Berri; Guillaume, who became Cardinal at Rheims; Alix, who married Louis VII "le Jeune," and others.

In 1142 "King Louis VII plunged into a quarrel with the Pope over naming an Archbishop. To this quarrel are due all his mis-haps; hence sprang the second Crusade; hence the divorce; hence the claims of Henry of England. For as this dispute went on, Thibault the Great thought well to fish in troubled waters and sided with the Pope; the angry King attacked his lands, took Vitry by storm, and burned down the Paris Church with some hundreds of poor folk in it. The King's conscience smote him after this horrid act, and he made peace with the Pope on condition that he should do penance by a Crusade." [Kitchin, Vol. I, page 268.]

1147. King Louis and Queen Eleanor "took the Cross" and started with a great army for Palestine. In 1148 the French army was completely defeated near Laodicea. After the defeat, Louis returned to camp. "The arrival of this Prince took off a good deal of the consternation and had like to have made the Queen die of joy, who had already mourned him, supposing him dead. Louis and Eleanor with about 50 nobles left the remnants of his army and went by boat to Antioch where he was received by Raymond of Poitiers, Prince of Antioch, the Queen's uncle, with all the honors due to Royal Majesty and the King of France. . . . The Queen was a Princess very well made, full of wit and charms, she pleased the Prince of Antioch, and this Prince knew likewise that he was agreeable to her. The King, to hinder things from proceeding any further, left Antioch, and was forced to make use of stratagem to get away the Queen and oblige her to follow him." [Gabriel Daniel: *History of France*, Eng. Trans. 1726, pages 390-393.] They arrived in France in 1149.

"The King had always been dissatisfied with Queen Eleanor ever since what happened at Antioch. He resolved from that time to be divorced upon the account of affinity. Abbé Suger had dissuaded him from it; but as soon as he was dead, 1152, the King resumed his former resolution." [Daniel, page 394.]

Many legends grew about Queen Eleanor, such as charges of improper relations with a Saracen slave of great beauty; with Raymond of Poictier, the handsomest man of her time; and with Saladin himself. In 1148 Saladin was eleven years old.

Although the King gave her alleged immorality as a reason for

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his consent to the divorce, it was Eleanor who demanded it. Her decision has generally been ascribed to her love for Henry; but in his book *Mont-St.-Michel and Chartres*, Henry Adams, who called Eleanor the greatest of all Frenchwomen, said, "Whatever else Eleanor loved, she certainly loved rule." Up until 1152, Eleanor had ruled not only Aquitaine, but, being stronger than the weak Louis, France as well. On the death of Abbé Suger, the King fell under the influence of Saint Bernard and imposed monastic rule on the Court. The Queen is said to have remarked that she thought she had married a King, but found she had married a monk. Eleanor not only lost her power in France, but was forbidden to visit her own Aquitaine. Bernard and the King made two attempts to seize the Duchy, but found the Aquitanians too strong for them.

In March, 1152, the Council of Beaugency declared the marriage null and void. "The divorce was obtained by false oaths by some of Eleanor's relatives. Eleanor sent by secret messenger; announced herself free and stimulated the spirit of the Duke to marriage; said the false repudiation resulted from her own inclination." [Gervase of Canterbury; Stubbs, Vol. I, page 149.]

"Question of consanguinity of Eleanor and Louis not very clear. Certainly more remote than that of Eleanor and Henry who certainly were within the forbidden degrees. Bishop Hugh of Lincoln said Fall of the House of Angevin was the punishment on her children for her mortal sin, meaning the divorce. Eleanor had trouble reaching Aquitaine. She was young and beautiful; her personal charms were more than equalled by those of two great Duchies of Aquitaine and Gascony." [Norgate: *England Under Angevin Kings*, Vol. I, page 392.]

"While she was returning, Thibault le Bon received her at his castle at Blois. She was very well treated; but perceiving that the Count de Blois wished to force her to marry him, fled in the night and escaped to Tours. Geoffroy d'Anjou also made an attempt to waylay her.

Eleanor had brought the King Aquitaine in dowry and, as they had no son, he was under the necessity of returning it to her again. The loss of Guyenne and so many fine dominions beyond the Loire (more than half the possessions of the French Crown) was a mortal wound to France from which she did not recover for several ages." [Daniel, page 404.]

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Eleanor no doubt foresaw that her marriage to Henry could result in her becoming Queen of England. Henry's mother, Matilda, had been fighting King Stephen for nineteen years, and the additional weight of Eleanor's power as Duchess of Aquitaine was more than enough to turn the scales against Stephen. When Henry sailed to England with thirty-six ships furnished him by Eleanor from her fleet, which was then the greatest in Europe, Stephen quickly realized that it was useless to fight any longer and made a peace by a treaty under which he remained King during his life; but Henry was to succeed him. Thus it can be said that Eleanor ended what chances the House of Blois had to retain the English throne. It is interesting to note that Count Thibault de Blois, who sought to marry Eleanor, was, like Henry d'Anjou, a great grandson of William the Conqueror.

Eleanor probably did not foresee that her life with Henry would be a constant struggle for power, as Henry attempted to rule Aquitaine rather than allow Eleanor or her sons to have any real power there. The English invented the well-known legend of the Fair Rosamond to account for the trouble between Henry and Eleanor. It was said that Rosamond was the favorite mistress of Henry, who secreted her in a labyrinth at his palace at Woodstock, where she was discovered and poisoned by Eleanor. It was true that by Rosamond Clifford, Henry had two sons who became William Longsword, Earl of Salisbury, and Geoffroy, Bishop of Lincoln. But the birth of the two sons and Rosamond's profession as a nun took place in the two years succeeding Henry's marriage, and Rosamond lived as a nun for twenty years thereafter. [Strickland: *Queens of England*, Vol. I, page 318.]

The real trouble between the royal pair came from the attempts of Eleanor and her four sons to control Aquitaine. The sons rebelled against their father the King several times, but were defeated in battle, and in 1173 Henry imprisoned Eleanor in Woodstock Castle. In 1189 Richard, eldest son of Henry and Eleanor, in alliance with King Philip of France, defeated Henry in a battle near Lemans. Upon Henry's death a few days thereafter, Richard became King Richard I, called Coeur de Lion. His first act was to order his mother released with "permission to manage affairs in the kingdom according to her own pleasure, and the nobles were instructed to obey her in every respect." [Wendover, Vol. II,



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page 77.] Eleanor ruled England for the remainder of Richard's life, from 1189 to 1199, as he visited England only twice during that time and then only for short periods.

Although King Richard I and King Philip of France fought together against Henry II of England and went together on the third Crusade, they became bitter enemies. Philip started home from Palestine first and Richard, starting home some time after, was captured and became prisoner of the Emperor of Germany. Queen Eleanor, in her efforts to secure King Richard's release, was greatly assisted by three members of the House of Blois, Cardinal Guillaume de Blois of Rheims, and the Counts de Blois and de Champagne. While Richard was in prison, he wrote a long poem bewailing his lot and calling on his sisters of Blois and Champagne for help. The Countesses de Blois and de Champagne were Richard's half sisters, as they were daughters of Queen Eleanor by King Louis VII. King Philip was son of Alix de Blois, third wife of Louis VII, and nephew of Cardinal Guillaume and made them regents of the kingdom when he started on the Crusade. The power of the de Blois at this time is shown by their ability to secure safe passage for King Richard in spite of King Philip's great desire to prevent his return to his domains. Philip showed his feelings, when he heard of Richard's escape, by warning his nobles to be on their guard, saying, "The Devil is loose again."

Leaving the story of Queen Eleanor as it relates to the de Blois and returning to the history of the de Blois family, we find that Kitchin, Vol. I, page 281, said: "Louis VI was the practical man, the hard fighter, determined at all costs to be the undisputed master of the country around Paris from the Oise to the Loire, and to free himself from the grasp of the House of Blois." He did not succeed in this, and his son Louis VII, having lost more than half his possessions by the divorce, was under the necessity of securing the friendship of the Counts of Blois and Champagne, otherwise, he would have been helpless against the King of England. He accomplished this by more peaceful means than those tried by his father, that is to say, by three marriages.

"In 1160, Constance, King Louis's second wife, died. The King and his whole realm were exceedingly sad thereat; but afterwards, comforted by his Barons, he somewhat forgot his deep sorrow and (15 days after the poor lady's death) wedded Alice, daughter of

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Theobald of Blois, a noted beauty of the Court. She in 1165 bore him a son (as yet he had none but daughters) to the great joy of all France." [Kitchin: *History of France*, page 277.] This son became Philip Augustus.

1161. Count Henry I of Champagne married Marie, elder daughter of Louis and Eleanor, and about 1164 Count Thibault de Blois married Alix, younger daughter of Louis and Eleanor. By these three marriages King Louis became both brother-in-law and father-in-law of the two Counts. The two Counts took part in the many wars between Louis VII and Henry II of England.

Before setting out on the third Crusade, King Philip of France committed the tuition of his son Louis and the regency of the Kingdom to the Queen, his mother, Adelaida (Alix) of Blois, and William Cardinal Archbishop of Rheims, his uncle, Adelaida's brother. [Daniel: *History of France*, page 412.] On this Crusade Count Thibault de Blois and his brother, Count Louis de Sancerre, were killed at the siege of Acre in 1191, while their nephew, Count Henry of Champagne, was named King of Jerusalem by King Richard, his uncle.

By his wife Alix, Thibault had three sons who died without issue; Louis, Count de Blois and de Chartres; Marguerite, who married for her third husband Gauthier II, Seigneur d'Avesnes; and Alix, religieuse.

IX. 1191. Louis, son of Thibault, succeeded as ninth Count de Blois. In 1199 he went on a Crusade from which he did not return, as he was killed at the battle of Adrianople in 1205.

Louis had married Catherine, elder daughter of Raoul, Count de Clermont, by whom he had Thibault VI, Count de Blois, de Chartres, and de Clermont; Raoul de Blois, who died young; and Jeanne de Blois.

X. Thibault VI, tenth Count de Blois, died in 1218 without issue. "One of the choir windows in Chartres Cathedral bears a singularly interesting inscription, 'Comes Theobaldus Dat — ad preces Comites Pticensis'. After the Barons forced King John to grant their Magna Carta, he turned on them and broke them down; they sent to France for help and offered the Crown of England to young Louis, son of Philip Augustus. The Comte du

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Perche and the Comte de Chartres went with Louis to England. Louis of France, Thibault of Chartres, and Thomas of Perche were cousins and close friends. Count Thomas lost his life at Lincoln May 20, 1217, to the deepest regret of his cousin Louis as well as of Count Thibault of Chartres, whom he charged to put up a window for him in honor of the Virgin. The window must have been ordered at once, because Thibault died April 22, 1218. Another window in the Cathedral is in honor of Count Thibault." [Henry Adams: *Mont-St.-Michele and Chartres*.] These windows are still in existence.

XI. 1218. Marguerite, elder daughter of Thibault V, succeeded with her husband, Gauthier, as Countess de Blois. Gauthier died on a Crusade.

XII. The only child of Marguerite, Marie, succeeded her mother as Countess de Blois with her husband, Hugues de Chatillon, Seigneur de Crécy, and Count de Saint-Pol in 1230. To the County of Blois she joined the Seigneuries of Avesnes and Guise with other lands that she inherited from her father, Gauthier. She died in 1241 leaving Jean, Guy, and other children.

It appears from *Armorial Générale d'Anjou*; *Armorial Chartrain*; *l'Art de Vérifier les Dates*; and Duchesne, *preuves*, page 66, that the ancient arms of the House of Blois were d'azur a une bande d'argent accomp. de 2 double cotices potencées et conter-potencées. "On a red wax seal of Henry I, Count de Champagne, son of Thibault le Grand, appears the bande and the potencées and contre-potencées." [Chifflet: *S. Bernardi*, *Genus Illustré*, page 579.]

Duchesne states: "The escutcheon of guelles, three pals de vair, chief or, are the true and primitive arms of the House of Chatillon, and the Seigneurs of this place have possessed them from all antiquity. All those of the family of Chatillon have esteemed these arms so noble and have cherished them with so much affection that of the great number of branches that it has produced, only one, Charles de Blois, has quitted them. Charles took the arms of his wife, the Duchess of Brittany. But although many others have similarly married very illustrious and rich heiresses, such as the Countesses de Nevers, de St. Pol, and de Blois, even those who have taken the surnames or even the lands of their wives, according to

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the usage of the times, have always constantly retained these arms, with this distinction, nevertheless, that the younger members have added on the chief divers brisures and differences; some charging them with lambeaux and fleur-de-lys, others with coquilles, estoiles, merlettes; others still with aiglettes, lyons, or leopards."

Duchesne proved his statements by printing copies of ancient documents with seals thereon which show that the House of Chatillon used these arms long before 1230, when one branch of the family united with the House of Blois, and that all other branches continued to use them.

A reproduction of one of these seals, that of Gaucher de Chatillon, Count of St. Pol, which was on a document dated 1206, is shown on page 15. Hugues, son of Gaucher, married Marie, Countess de Blois in 1230. The seal that she used on her will dated 1241 is shown on page 16.

Duchesne speaks of the error of some writers who have attributed the arms of Chatillon to all the Counts de Blois, ancient as well as others. Various later English writers have fallen into the same error. For example, Burke, 1884 edition, attributes the Chatillon arms to King Stephen's son William, who died in 1159 or 1160, and Papworth attributes them to "William de Bloys, Bishop of Worcester, 1218-1236, and William of Blois, Bishop of Lincoln, 1203-1206," which is doubly erroneous, as not only did not these two men belong to the family, being monks who came to England from the City of Blois and were called "of Blois," as was common at that time, as surnames had not come into common use, but these arms did not belong to the family at that time.

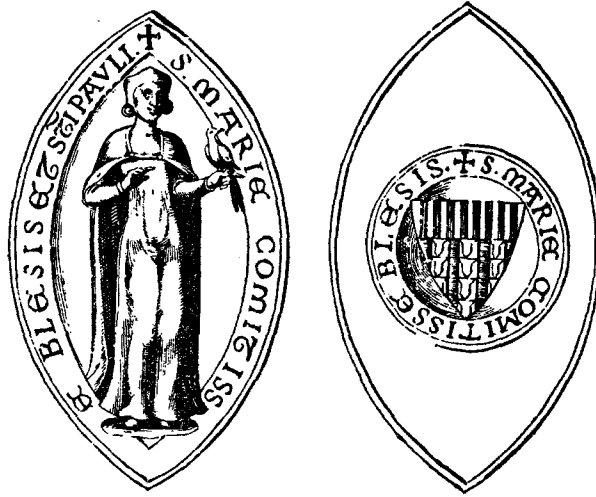
The English undoubtedly became familiar with the Chatillon de Blois arms because they were borne by members of the family in many battles against the English, and it was natural to assume that they were the arms of the ancient Counts de Blois. Count Lewis de Blois was killed at the battle of Crécy. "After the battle, the English King sent to have the numbers and conditions of the dead examined. He ordered on this business two lords and three heralds to examine their arms and two secretaries to write down all the names. Knights wore over their armor a surcoat having their arms blazoned upon it. [Froissart: *Chronicles*, First American Edition, page 83.] Froissart was secretary to Queen Phillipa of England for twenty years. About 1384, he entered the service of Count Gui

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Three-quarter size reproduction of picture in Duchesne: *Histoire de la Maison de Chastillon*, preuves, page 35, showing wax seal of Gaucher de Chastillon, Count de Saint-Paul, used on a document dated 1206. Gaucher's son Hugues married Marie, Countess de Blois, in 1230.

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Three-quarter size reproduction of picture in Duchesne, preuves, page 54, showing wax seal on the will of Marie Countess de Blois and de Saint-Paul, dated April 1241.

These two seals have the charge 3 pales vair on the shields, proving that that coat of arms was originally borne by the Chatillons and came to the de Blois family by the marriage of Hugues and Marie.

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de Blois and wrote the third volume of his Chronicles at the request and expense of the Count.

XIII. 1241. Jean succeeded his mother as Count de Blois and Seigneur d'Avesnes. 1253, he married Alix or Alpais, daughter of Jean I, Duke de Bretagne, who brought him as dowry the lands of Pontarci and de Brie-Comte-Robert. In 1268 Jean succeeded as Count de Chartres his cousin Mahaut, grand-daughter of Thibault le Bon, dead without line. Jean died 1279 leaving one child, Jeanne de Chatillon, who married in 1272 Pierre, Count d'Alençon, fifth son of King Louis IX.

XIV. 1279. Jeanne became Countess de Blois, de Chartres and de Dunois and Seigneuress d'Avesnes, de Guiche, de Conde, etc. Pierre having died in 1284, Jeanne sold the County of Chartres to King Philip le Bel. She died without issue in 1292.

XV. 1292. Hugues de Chatillon, son of Gui III, Count of Saint-Paul, succeeded, as Count de Blois and Seigneur D'Avesnes and other lands, Jeanne de Chatillon, his cousin-germane. He died about 1307, leaving by Beatrix, his wife, younger daughter of Gui de Dampierre, Count de Flandre, two sons: Gui, who follows, and Jean, called de Blois, who died without issue in 1329.

"Jean de Chatillon took the surname de Blois, retained after him by all the later members of this branch." [Duchesne, page 136.]

"Before the year 1555 it had been a recognized custom that any one of the great families of France might change his name and his arms without royal authority, a practice which was particularly useful in certain marriages. Thus, supposing the last inheritor of a family name to have been a female, on marriage, her husband could assume her name and armorial bearings, and thus perpetuate a line which otherwise (as in Great Britain) would have become extinct." [Walter Hamilton: *French Book-plates*, page 44.]

In the present case, Hugues de Chatillon assumed the title Count de Blois upon marrying Marie, Countess de Blois, and Jean, as above, took the surname de Blois; but the arms of Chatillon were retained.

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XVI. About 1307 Gui de Chatillon became Count de Blois and de Dunois and Seigneur d'Avesnes. In 1309 he married Marguerite de Valois, daughter of Charles, Count de Valois, and sister of Philip de Valois. In 1313 Gui was created Chevalier with many Nobles of the Realm by King Philip le Bel. "After the death of Charles IV (1328) the three lords, the Counts of Hainaut, Guy of Blois, Robert of Artois, who had married Philip of Valois' three sisters, had taken great pains to win the consent of the Barons; and so he was chosen King." [Kitchin, Vol. I, page 405.]

In 1336 Gui accompanied King Philip de Valois in his expeditions against the English.

The children of Gui and Marguerite, all of whom, according to Duchesne, used the surname de Blois, were Louis, Count de Blois; Charles, who became Duke de Bretagne; and Marie, wife of Raoul, Duke de Lorraine.

Charles de Blois married Jeanne, Duchess de Bretagne and became Duke, but the Duchy was claimed by Count Jean de Montfort. King Philip, Charles' uncle, and the nobles of France, including Count Louis de Blois, supported Charles, while Edward III of England sent an army to help Montfort. Thus started one of the many wars between France and England. Charles was captured in a battle in 1347 and taken to England a prisoner. His cousin Phillipa of Hainault, Queen of England, persuaded the King to agree to his ransom for 200,000 nobles, and his two sons, Jean and Gui, were to be given as hostages for the payment of this sum. Charles was never able to pay it. After the battle of Auray between the French and English, at which Charles was killed, his body was sanctified and venerated as St. Charles. Montfort sent a poursuivant-at-arms who had been in the engagement, to give news of the battle to King Edward. The King nominated him his herald and gave him the name of Windsor. This was the first institution of a Windsor Herald. [Froissart, page 153, note.]

By the terms of Peace after the battle, Montfort was to hold the Duchy of Brittany, and Charles' widow was to be Countess de Penthievre.

About 1392 the Barons and Knights of England, being angry with Montfort, proposed to Jean and Gui, who were still prisoners, to release them and restore their inheritance to them if they would hold the Duchy from the King of England and Jean would marry



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the daughter of the Duke of Lancaster; but they replied that they would have nothing to do with it and would prefer remaining in prison until death to acting otherwise than as good Frenchmen. [Froissart, page 295.]

Gui died in England. Jean was now a lone prisoner and frequently bewailed his situation with wonder, for he was sprung from the noblest blood in the world, the advantage of which he had long been deprived; for he had been thirty-five years in the power of his enemies. [Froissart, page 417.]

In 1392 the Constable of France, Oliver de Clisson, who was educated in England and had many friends there, through a messenger, proposed to Jean that he would secure his release if he would marry de Clisson's daughter. Jean agreed and was freed through the influence of the Earl of Oxford, a friend of de Clisson. Jean married de Clisson's daughter and had four sons, but not one of them had a male heir. The two daughters of Duke Charles had many descendants. A few years ago a book was published in France containing the names of the descendants of St. Charles de Blois. It was said to have 30,000 names.

XVII. 1342. Louis de Chatillon, called de Blois, succeeded Gui, his father, as Count de Blois and de Soissons, Seigneur d'Avesnes, de Guise, de Chimay, de Novion, de Landrecie, and de Trélon. He fought with Charles de Blois, his brother, in his war with the Count de Montfort for the Duchy de Bretagne and was killed at the battle of Crécy, 1346. He had married Jeanne, daughter and heiress of Jean de Hainault, Seigneur de Beaumont, de Chimay, and de Condé, and of Marguerite who had succeeded Hugues, her father, as Countess de Soissons.

He left minor children, Louis, who follows; Jean and Gui, who were under guardianship of their mother until her death in 1350, then of their uncle, Charles de Blois.

XVIII. 1361. Louis II became Count de Blois and de Dunois, Seigneur d'Avesnes, de Landrecie, de Trélon, de Novion in Thiérache, and de Chimay, by the partition he made with Jean and Gui, his brothers, of the succession of their father and mother. He died unmarried in 1372.

Jean had for his part the lands in Holland, Zealand, and Frise.

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Froissart speaks of "The lord John de Blois who had been brought up in Holland and Zealand, having fair inheritance there and speaking the language."

Gui had for his part the County of Soissons with the seigneuries of Catheu, Argies, and Clari.

XIX. 1372. Jean II, Seigneur de Gouda, de Schoonhoven, and de Thol, succeeded Louis II as Count de Blois and Seigneur d'Avesnes, etc.

"In 1372, Machteld (Mathilde), one of the claimants of the Duchy de Gueldres, formed an alliance with the rich Holland Noble, John of Blois, Lord of Schoonhoven and Gouda, Count de Blois and Avesnes, and owner of rich estates in Holland, Zealand, Hainault, and France. 'Messire Jehan de Blois had wedded wife and war at the same time,' says Froissart. War was finally settled in 1379. Machteld and John renounced their pretension to Gueldres in consideration of a pension." [Blok: *History of the Dutch People*, N. Y. 1898, Vol. II, page 3.] Jean had no children by this marriage.

"It is certain that Jean de Blois kept before his marriage with the Duchess de Gueldres a Dame named d'Imberghe, or Zimberghe, of whom he had two sons, Jean and Gui. He gave the seigneuries of Trélon to Jean and that of Hafften to Gui." [Duchesne, page 160.] It is remarkable that these two sons were the only ones to perpetuate the name de Blois as the three brothers Louis, Jean, and Gui, the last Counts de Blois, and the four grandsons of Charles de Blois, Duke of Brittany, all died without legitimate male heirs.

Count Jean de Blois died in the castle of Schoonhoven June, 1381, and was buried at Valenciennes beside his grandfather, Jean de Hainault.

"Gui, brother of Count Louis de Blois, was one of a score of French nobles who went to England as hostages for King Jean, who had been taken prisoner at the battle of Poitiers, 1356. The King of England commanded all his officers, under pain of incurring his displeasure, to behave courteously to all these lords and their attendants and to preserve the peace between them and his subjects, as they were under his special care; the King's orders were strictly obeyed in every respect, and the hostages were allowed to enjoy themselves without any danger or molestation in the city

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of London and in its neighborhood. The lords followed the chase or hawking, according to their pleasure, and rode out as they pleased to visit the ladies without any restraint, for the King was right courteous and amiable. [Gui's cousins, Jean and Gui, sons of Duke Charles, were prisoners in England during the time that he was in England; but they seem to have been considered dangerous enemies of the King and were closely confined in a castle.]

"The young Messire de Coucy was there, who took great pains to shine in his dancing and singing whenever it was his turn. He was in great favor with both the French and English; for whatever he chose to do he did well and with grace.

"In 1369 Gui de Blois, who at that time was a young squire and brother of Count Louis de Blois, obtained his liberty, for when he perceived that the King of France, for whom he was hostage, had not sought to ransom him, he made overtures to Messire de Coucy who had married one of King Edward's daughters. This treaty advanced so well between the King, his son-in-law and Gui that the latter, with the permission of his two brothers, Louis and Jean, and with the consent of the King of France, gave to the King of England the County of Soissons; which County, the King of England gave again and presented to Messire de Coucy." [Froissart, pages 133, 140, 177.]

In view of the fact that it was King Jean who was taken prisoner, and Gui was one of the hostages sent to England in order that the King might be freed to return to rule over the Kingdom of France, it would seem that, in the days of chivalry, honor would require the King to make some effort to ransom Gui during the thirteen years he was a prisoner in England. It was hardly an act of great generosity on the King's part, to consent to Gui's ransoming himself by giving up the valuable County of Soissons.

XX. 1381. Gui succeeded his brother Jean in all their possessions in France, Picardy, Hainault, Holland, and Zealand as well as in the County of Blois.

"Louis de Blois, son of Count Gui, died young. The Count and Countess were not formed to have any more children; for by indulging themselves too much in the pleasures of the table, and eating too many sweet dishes, they were become enormously fat. The Count could no longer mount his horse, but was always carried

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in a car whenever he travelled from one place to another or took the diversions of hunting or hawking. As this was well known to the nobles of France, a thought struck the Duke of Orleans which he put into effect." [Froissart, page 441.]

"At the suggestion of the Duke, his brother the King with several Dukes and other nobles visited the Count and Countess who were overjoyed to receive them, especially when the King granted Gui a tax on the County of Blois 'that shall be worth 200,000 francs.' (He never received a penny.) It soon appeared that the purpose of the visit was to induce the Count to sell the County of Blois to the Duke of Orleans. Gui was cold to the proposition; but the Duke de Bourbon and Seigneur de Coucy convinced the Countess it would be to her advantage; she would be a rich and powerful Dame, ornamented with gold, silver, and jewels. As a result, the reversion of the County was sold for 200,000 francs of gold, and when the Count died a few years later, the Countess had neither land nor gold." [Duchesne, page 174.]

"Count Gui de Blois departed this life in his hotel at Avesnes in Hainault. He was carried to Valenciennes and buried in the Church of the Franciscans. His Countess, Mary of Namur, retired to her dowry of the lands of Chimay and Beaumont and the estates went to their right heirs. The County of Blois would have devolved as the right heir to Jean de Blois, more commonly called Jean de Bretagne, if Count Gui had not sold it. Observe what mischief a lord may do to his heirs by listening to bad advice." [Froissart, page 601.]

King Louis XII, grandson of Louis, Duke of Orleans, united the County of Blois with the Crown lands. In 1635 Louis XIII gave the County to his brother Jean Baptiste Gaston. When Gaston died without male issue, Louis XIV gave it to his brother Phillippe in 1660. As will be shown later, the title Count de Blois was given in 1774 to descendants of the de Blois family.

Count Jean's son Gui, Seigneur de Hafften, married Claire de Botland and used the Botland arms with the Chatillon arms in the first quarter. Hafften was in that part of the Netherlands now Holland, and Gui became the founder of the Dutch branch of the family.

"In a church in the village of Tholen in Zeeland, one sees a beautiful tomb of Gui, bastard de Blois, and of his wife, Claire de

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Botland." [*Histoire de Pais-Bas*, Brussels, 1743.] The direct line of Seigneurs de Hafften was still in existence as late as 1842.

There is a family in Suffolk County, England, called Blois of Cockfield Hall, formerly Blois of Grundesburgh Hall. From the time at which they first definitely appear and from the place, it being that part of England to which great numbers of Dutch Protestants fled from the persecutions in the 16th century, it is quite possible that they were descendants of Gui de Blois. The absence of "de" from their name may have been due to the fact that in Holland the name became van Blois instead of de Blois.

In a letter from Mr. Lewis DeBlois of Chappaqua, New York, formerly of New York City, a descendant of the Boston branch of the family, who has been in correspondence with the Cockfield Hall family, it is said: "They claim descent from Gervase de Blois, Abbot of Westminster, and natural son of King Stephen; but their family trees they sent me go back on the Blois side only to William Blois, the first Baronet, who was knighted in 1661. Furthermore, the Rouge Croix informed me that he had found indications that the family was of Walloon origin."

In the Publications of the Huguenot Society of London appear the following items:

Vol. 10, page 304. "Return of Aliens in London 1564: Byllyngsgate Warde Saynt Botolpes Paryshe, Straungers: [among others] John de Bloys."

P. W. Kerr, Rouge Croix, reported to Mr. DeBlois: "In 1567 John de Bloys a dowchman had been a resident for six years at Cocks Keys in Billingsgate Ward of the City of London."

Vol. 1, page 196: "References to strangers wills, Norwich 1673, Guilelmus Bloys de Grundesburgh."

Vol. 12, page 74: Burials; 1727 William Bloyse, son of William of Colchester. Free Burgesses admitted Colchester 1680, William Bloyse, 1684, John Bloyse.

Vol. 1, page 58: "Among members of London Dutch Church 1650-1651, Mr. Abraham Dubloyse, a Parishoner of St. Bottolph without Byshopsgate."

There was an engraver named Abraham de Blois in Amsterdam at the commencement of the 18th century. Among other engravings were portraits of some English personages. [*Larousse: Dictionnaire.*] Some of those named above were clearly of the Blois

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of Cockfield family. The others appear to have been of Dutch descent.

There was the following family in America: —

“Blois or Bloys, Edmund of Watertown freeman 22 May 1639. His wife with son Richard came to join him in the Francis from Ipswich 1634 and this renders it probable that he was of Suffolk family. On Cambridge records, Blossie and that of the Col. Bloyse.” [Savage: *Genealogical Dictionary*, Vol. I, page 203.] Whether or not this family was related to the Blois of Cockfield family, it seems likely that they were of Dutch descent.

## Chapter II

### DE BLOIS DE TRÉLON AND DE LA CALANDE

WHEREAS the de Blois de Hafften family in Holland was started by Gui de Blois, his brother Jean was the founder of the family known as de Blois de Trélon in that part of the Netherlands now Belgium. Jean de Blois, Seigneur de Trélon, married Sophie van Dalem of the House of Arckel and used the d'Arckel arms with the Chatillon arms in the first quarter, thus showing his illegitimacy, according to Duchesne. Later members of the family used d'Arckel arms in second and third quarters and Chatillon in first and fourth. Still later, the Chatillon arms plain were used. Jean was Conseilleur of the Court of Holland in 1434.

When Jacqueline, heiress to the Counties of Holland, Zealand, and Hainaut, went to take possession of her estates, "a brilliant train of Nobles formed her body-guard. There were the bastards of her father and of her grandfather: Adrian of Bavaria, William, Lord of Schagen, Lord Everard of Hoogwoade, Lord Louis of Flushing; further, there was the bastard of Blois, Lord John of Treslong and others." [Blok: *History of the Dutch People*.]

Jean's son Louis was made Chevalier by Philippe le Bon, Duc de Bourgoyne, in the war against the Gantois, 1452.

Adrian de Blois, Chevalier, was conseiller and chambellan of the King of Castille. He died 1510. His son Adrian was Governor and Captain of Avesnes, and his grandson Charles held the same offices in 1555. [Duchesne.]

Goethals: *Dict. Gen. and Her. de Belgique*, 1849, speaking of Jean, (brother of Charles) Seigneur de Beauregard who died 1583, says: "This family calls itself honored by its descent from two illustrious families, Chatillon and d'Arckel. It owes, nevertheless, to itself and its marriages, the fortune and the consideration which it has never ceased to enjoy."

In 1567 John van Treslong was arrested. In 1568 the Duke of Alva resolved upon the immediate execution of all those nobles then in confinement. On the 1st of June, eighteen noble captives from

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among the most illustrious families in the Netherlands were beheaded in the horse market.

1572. Van der Mark sent three ships of war with about 200 men commanded by William de Treslong, who seized Briel. Pacieco, a Spanish engineer sent by the King of Spain to fortify the City, was seized by order of Treslong and immediately hanged in revenge for the death of Treslong's brother who was one of the nobles executed by Alva June 1, 1568. [Davies: *History of Holland*, 1841, pages 558, 581.]

Blok, Vol. III, page 63, gives a different version: "William of Blois-Treslong and other more or less famous pirates of the time, attacked Briel intending to plunder it and sail away; but, at the instance of Treslong, determined to stay in Briel for the purpose of holding the City for the Prince [of Orange] his patron." William was one of two of his family named in *Nederlandsche Adel*, as admirals. Other admirals have been called pirates. It depends upon the point of view.

"1577. Don John, the Spanish Governor, had, of his own authority, substituted Louis of Blois, Lord of Treslong, as Governor of Antwerp in place of the Duke of Aaschot, appointed by the States. Lord de Bours \* having gained over to the party of the States one of the regiments of Treslong, took him and the greater number of the Troops prisoner." [*History of Holland*, Vol. II, page 54.]

Jean de Treslong was named President of the Council of Holland by the Prince of Orange and by the States General until 1582, when he was made the first President of the High Council of the Hague. He died 1583.

Charles Antoine de Blois, Seigneur de Beauregard, was made Vicomte d'Arondeau by Louis XIV, 16 March, 1677. This line continued to Leon Louis Ghislain de Blois, Vicomte, born 1815.

Lines of descent of the de Blois, de Hafften, and de Trélon families are shown by Duchesne down to 1621 and by Goethals to 1849.

Jean de Blois, illegitimate son of Count Jean de Blois, and Sophie d'Arckel, had six children: Jean, Seigneur de Trélon, whose branch became extinct in 1580; another Jean, a canon; Arnould; Gui;

\* It is interesting to note that de Bours and de Blois were together in Holland in 1577, although on opposing sides, as Samuel Bours and Stephen Deblois, of Newport, were among those banished from Rhode Island in July, 1780.



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Louis, Chevalier, who took surname Trélon after the extinction of above branch; and Gerard.

It appears that the American De Blois family is descended from Arnould and not from Gerard; but, in order to show the course of research and all that has been learned about the family in France, the descendants of Gerard will be taken up first.

A line of descent given by de Magny: *Nobiliare Universel*, 1858, is as follows:

- I. Gerard, sixth son of Jean, married the heiress of Crécy
- II. Gerard who married Helen-Cuvillier
- III. Pierre, seigneur de Parfondru, married about 1480 Guillemot de Ronty
- IV. Lancelot, married Françoise Moet, Dame de Courtrizy
- V. Nicolas, seigneur de Courtrizy, exchanged for Daoust
- VI. Timothée, seigneur de Daoust and de la Saulsotte
- VII. Charles
- VIII. Louis, seigneur de la Calande
- IX. Jean Timothée who was in the navy
- X. François-Julien entered navy 1734, Captain, Chevalier de Saint-Louis.

That his services to the king were rewarded is shown by the following:

"Blois: Styles of Viscount of Courtrizy, Chavignon, Beauregard, and Arondeau, and Count de Blois (F) derived from the decrees and in the Acts, etc., since Louis XV to the descendants of François-Julien de Blois, Captain of men of war of the King, from a House of the Ancient Nobility of the County of Champagne, issue through an illegitimate son of the feudal House of Chatillon, inheritor of the County of Blois in 1242, Maintained in its nobility chevaleresque and of ancient extraction by decrees of 28 August 1664 and 8 June 1668." [Rumigny: *The Titled Nobility of Europe*, 1914.]

Descendants of François-Julien now living in France have the titles Comte and Vicomte.

De Magny continued the line: Present elder branch:

"XI. Aimar-Joseph-Emmanuel-Raphael de Blois de la Calande, Chevalier, Seigneur de Lannay, Chevalier de Saint-Louis and of the Legion of Honor. Born 7 Nov. 1760. Admitted very young to the Royal Military School on proof of Nobility, he entered the navy in 1776, was made an ensign in 1778 and fought in this grade

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

in the American war, where he found himself in five combats and three military expeditions. Became Lieutenant of a Man of War in 1786. He married 29 Jan. 1787. During the Revolution he made every effort to go into the Netherlands to fight in the army of the Princes but was prevented and retired to Blois, where he died 7 Sept. 1852.

"XI. Joseph-François-Bernard-Gabriel de Blois de la Calande, called the Chevalier de Blois, ancient Captain of a Frigate, born 2 Dec. 1764. He entered the Royal Military School. He left it in 1780 to enter the navy; he fought in the American war and was named Lieutenant of a Man of War in 1788. Having rejoined, during the revolution, the army of the Princes, he fought in the campaign of 1792 and after the dissolution of this army, he took refuge in Holland, where the branch of the family which had been established for a long time, gave him asylum and a most cordial reception. Thus these two branches of the family, long separated, met again. On his return from the emigration he married in 1801."

This branch of the family has been called by different names from the seigneuries they owned, but in modern times appears in books on the French nobility as de Blois de la Calande.

Among De Blois papers in Box F, Newport Historical Society, is a letter from George Deblois of Boston to Stephen Deblois of Newport, dated October 22, 1789, as follows:

"I had the Honor to receive an invitation with Lydia to dine on board the French Com'srs ship but Lydia being very subject to sea-sickness and being very busy opening my goods prevented our attendance. My cousin Betsy was there, also the Capt. and his wife — tho there is not yet any reconciliation between the families.

"I believe I omitted to inform you that we have a French cousin on board the Fleet. He is first Lieut. of a seventy-four and Major of one of the squadrons. He is a very agreeable man and visits at all our houses frequently especially at my uncles. He spells his name D'Blois — his family Arms the same as ours — is a married man. He says he is the oldest of the male line now in France — that many branches of the family are in Holland. He dines everywhere with Comadore Viscount Pontevers who is very fond of him, that we are from one of the Royal familys of France — tho many ages past & is of very little consequence to us at this day. Our King the President is to be in Town on Saturday. Next (24th) the

## DE BLOIS DE TRÉLON AND DE LA CALANDE

whole Town is to receive him, dress'd with their best Bib & Tucker & to be Classed accor'g to their Professions — each body with an Ensign of their order — great doings this must be! don't you wish to see it? — You must become Federal before you can participate in those privileges! I forwarded your fish last week to Providence & hope ere this it has reached you & will prove to your wishes."

"Yesterday the Pres. paid a visit to the Right Hon. Viscount de Ponteves Gien, on board the *Illustre*. He was received with all the respect due to the Supreme Magistrate of a Sovereign State." [*Independent Chronicle & Universal Advertiser*, Boston, Oct. 1789.]

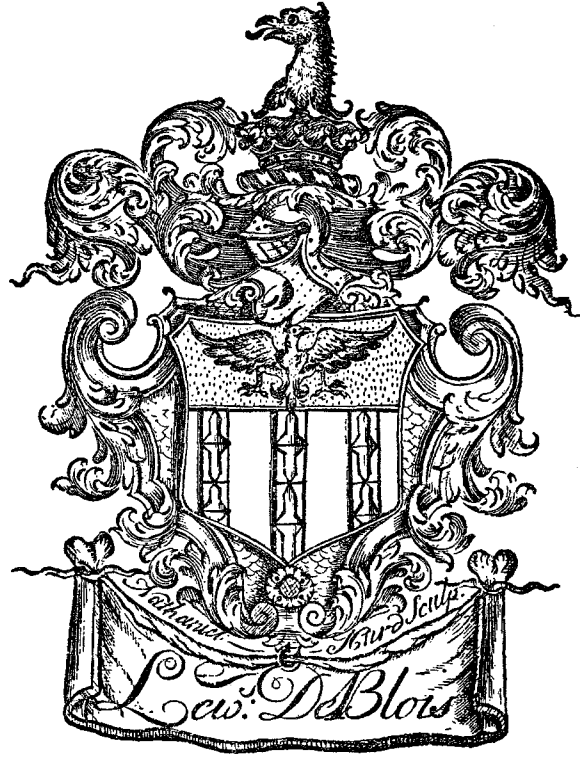
"Brigadier Jean-Baptiste-Elzear, Vicomte de Ponteves-Gien commanded the French squadron, l'*Illustre* (74) flagship, le *Leopard*, l'*Andromacque*, la *Sensible* and l'*Active* which arrived in Boston 3 Sept. 1789, and was the recipient of marked civility from the Massachusetts Cincinnati." [*Order of the Cincinnati in France*.]

As will be shown later, the French cousin was Aymar de Blois and, as he was Lieutenant of a 74, it appears that he was on l'*Illustre* (74). He was Count de Blois, as that title had been granted to his father François-Julien by the King, but evidently he did not mention that fact to the Boston family. Count Albert de Blois, great-great-grandson of Aymar, is now of the Cincinnati.

George Deblois's account of the reception for President Washington was colored by the fact that he and his family were loyal to the King of England during the Revolution; but that did not prevent them from being very friendly with the de Blois from France who had fought on the American side. It was in this month of October, 1789, when the French lieutenant was in Boston, that the Paris mob forced the King of France to leave Versailles for the Tuilleries in Paris, where he was kept until he was taken out for his execution. The lieutenant, who had fought for the Revolution in America, was against it in France. In both cases, he was being loyal to his King.

The statement in the letter, "his family arms the same as ours," shows that the lieutenant recognized the arms used by the Debloises of Boston as being the same as those belonging to his family. Lewis, father of George Deblois, had a bookplate showing the Chatillon de Blois arms, made by Nathaniel Hurd about 1749, and George's cousin George used a similar one. [Hollis French: *Jacob Hurd &*

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES



Reproduction of bookplate of Lewis DeBlois<sup>3</sup> (Stephen<sup>2</sup>, Louis<sup>1</sup>) from Charles D. Allen's *American Bookplates*, London, 1895. Allen says that this was undoubtedly the earliest of Nathaniel Hurd's work. Hollis French in *Jacob Hurd and His Sons* states that this bookplate was made about 1749.

## DE BLOIS DE TRÉLON AND DE LA CALANDE

*His Sons.*] Lewis and Gilbert, the uncle mentioned in the letter, and Stephen of Newport all used seals with the same arms, as is shown on letters in Newport Historical Society.

It seemed from a comparison of above letter with the statements of de Magny that the lieutenant, who visited Boston, was Aymar, and that is confirmed by a letter of June 2, 1947, to Lewis DeBlois of Chappaqua, New York, from Vicomte René de Blois, in which he wrote:

"Aymar de Blois was the older brother of my great-grandfather; both and a cousin served as marine officers in the war for America's Independence. His great-grandson, Albert, is now the Chief of our family; he is a former Colonel and one of the Cincinnati; he has three sons. Aymar was received as kinsman by M. de Blois of Boston and my great-grandfather, too, by M. de Blois de Hoofrwyck in Netherland during the emigration.

"The Blois in Netherland are extinct since the beginning of the XXth Century; the name survives by the female descendants. They have preserved the arms of the natural sons of Jean II Count de Blois.

"I have showed your letter to my cousin, the chief of the family. In time where the leaders of the old Europa give up the traditions, which have made her power and glory, we are very touched seeing some Americans, who have yet so many causes to be proud of themselves, remember that they descend from our ancestors; their best glory was military glory; of course, after so great victory, you, Americans, can tell like the Colonial Dames' Motto: 'Virtutes Majorum Filli Conservant'."

The arms of the de Blois de la Calande for several centuries were Argent 2 fesses gules each charged with 3 annulets or; but the family now uses the arms of their more remote ancestors the Chatillons de Blois. George's letter shows they had made the change as early as 1789.

"There was never any official regulation of arms in France. Question arises as to who was responsible for the proper use and regulation of armorial bearings . . . Seems little doubt that knowledge of elementary principles was widespread and the families managed their armorial affairs themselves." [*Genealogists' Magazine*, Vol. 7, page 283.]

In a letter received by Lewis DeBlois of Chappaqua in 1931,

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

Senator Louis de Blois of Paris wrote: "our family has got several branches in France, one in Belgia, another in Holland. We all have in our plate the three pallet varie and most of us wear at the crest the draggon displayed. This draggon, by a false interpretation of the design, has become an eagle. The three pallet varie and the draggon come from the 'Maison de Chastillon sur Marne,' from which we are all issued." Mrs. Fox has in her possession a spoon which was described in a letter from Henrietta M. Tew DeBlois, dated 13 Dec., 1882, as the last of the spoons with the coat of arms. This silver spoon, made in London in 1797, has on it a crest which appears to be an eagle erased. See *The Arms of Richard Scott* by Richard LeBaron Bowen.

The Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, on 16 Nov., 1940, accepted the DeBlois Arms, *gules three pales vair on a chief gold an eagle displayed sable?* as those of Stephen<sup>8</sup> DeBlois of Newport.

## Chapter III

### DE BLOIS DE SAINTONGE

**S**AINTONGE was a small province in Aquitaine, the Duchy which Eleanor gave to the English Crown by marrying Henry d'Anjou in 1152. France did not recover all of it until 1453, when the last resistance of the English was broken at Bordeaux, a city across the river Garonne from Saintonge. For three centuries, the political and commercial ties of this part of France had been with England and the people were of a different race from those of northern France. The name Saintonge was derived from the Santones, an ancient tribe which resided there. [*La Grande Encyclopédie.*]

The southwest of France early became strongly Protestant. Most of the nobles there adopted the reformed religion in the first part of the 16th century, among them the de Bloises, who intermarried with many of the Protestant nobility. Much of the fighting in the religious wars of the 16th century took place in and near Saintonge.

In December, 1946, M. Doysié received from Vicomte René de Blois of Paris a note which translated reads as follows: —

“Blois

en Saintonge

Note by M. Anatole de Bremond d'Ars  
(Archives of the Château de Kerascouet)

- I. Jean de Blois, seigneur de Trélon, married Sophie d'Arkel.
- II. Arnould, écuyer of Anne de Bretagne, married Letice ——. [*“Ecuyer”* was a title carried in ancient times by young men of the most high nobility until they were made chevalier (knighted). Larousse: *Dictionnaire.*]
- III. Guichard married Diane de Rabayne, of the seigneurs de Pons, Marquises de Pisany, of which family was the Cardinal de Rabayne in 13th century. [Rabayne, Pons, and Pisany were in Saintonge.]
- IV. Jean married 1) Ysabeau de Fontlebon and Bretagne  
2) Ysabeau de Mortagne, Dame de St. Germain, Courcy, Seudre, Rousillon, heiress of this

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

branch of the princes de Mortagne on the  
gironde, cadets of the vicomtes d'Aunay in  
Saintonge.

- V. Pierre, seigneur de Rousillon and St. Germain, married Catherine de la Jarrie.
- VI. a) Geoffroy, seigneur de Rousillon, companion of Henri IV, married Gabriel Coustin.  
b) Marthe married 1567 Gaston du Lau, seigneur de la Coste.
- VII. Jacques, seigneur de Rousillon, married
  - 1) Jeanne de Pons, of the princes de Pons
  - 2) in 1612 Jeanne de Culant, daughter of Isaac.
  - 3) Anne de Polignac, daughter of François, seigneur de Fontaine, in Saintonge and of Louise de Lannes de la Roche Chalais, widow of Abednago de la Roche Audry, vicomte de Bridiers.
- VIII. Henri, seigneur de Rousillon, married 7 August 1638 Esther Green de St. Marsault, daughter of Daniel, seigneur de Chatellaillon, maistre de camp, and of Marie de Blois, daughter of Louis, seigneur de Roulet (Green, English chevalier of the suite of the Black Prince married 1356 Jeanne de St. Marsault).
- IX. Henri II, seigneur de Rousillon, married 1680 Marthe de Glenetz, daughter of Helie, seigneur des Jards, and of Marthe de Fonteneau.
- X. Geoffroy, seigneur de Rousillon and Massac, married 1709 Anne Vigier, Dame de Massac, daughter of Charles, seigneur de Massac, and of Anne de St. Hermine, daughter of Joachim and of Anne de Polignac.
- XI. Charles, called Comte de Rousillon, captain of the regiment de Mailly, present at l'appel du ban de 1758 and at the assembly of the nobility of Saintonge 1789, married 1751 Marie Pandin de Marsillac de Beauregard, of the seigneurs de Tonnay Boutonne, first Baron de Saintonge.
- XII. a) fille married Green de St. Marsault, her cousin  
b) Marie Jeanne deceased at Pons 1830 married Pierre Bigot de Baulon, of whom
- XIII. François Charlotte Adelaide married 1807 Josias de Bremond d'Ars."

This pedigree has on its left-hand margin drawings of the Arms of all the wives mentioned with the exception of Catherine de la Jarrie, and in the upper left-hand corner appears the Arms of de Blois de Saintonge.



## DE BLOIS DE SAINTONGE



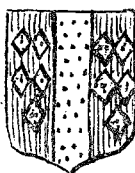
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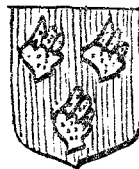
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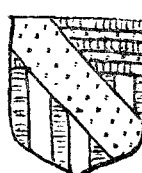
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Arms of the wives of members of the de Blois de Saintonge family which are shown on the margin of the Kerascouet pedigree.

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sophie d'Arckel      | 7. Jeanne de Culant   |
| 2. Diane de Rabayne     | 8. Anne de Polignac   |
| 3. Ysabeau de Fontlebon | 9. Ester Green        |
| 4. Ysabeau de Mortagne  | 10. Marthe de Glenetz |
| 5. Gabrielle Coustin    | 11. Anne Vigier       |
| 6. Jeanne de Pons       | 12. Marie Pandin      |

(Plates are numbered to correspond with names above)

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

We do not know why Arnould went into Brittany, but his reasons can be surmised. He was a fourth son and inherited no lands in the Netherlands. Charles de Blois, Duke of Brittany, was uncle and guardian of Arnould's grandfather, Count Jean de Blois. Duke Charles had four grandsons. If, as is most likely, Arnould went to Brittany while young, he would have found there some of those grandsons, his cousins.

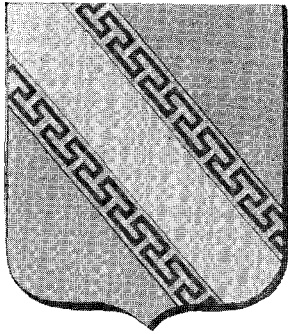
The last three Counts de Blois, Louis, Jean, and Gui, were minors when their father died in 1346. Louis became Count in 1361, indicating that he was born in 1336, as men in France were considered minors until they were 25 years old. The second son, Jean, would thus have been born between 1337 and 1345; and, allowing 33 years to a generation, his grandson Arnould would have been born 1403 to 1411. Of the four grandsons of Duke Charles, according the Duchesne, Olivier died 1433, Charles 1434, and Jean 1456. It seems that Guillaume was living in 1457. Lewis DeBlois of Chappaqua, N. Y., found an item in *Archives Historiques de la Saintonge et de l'Aunis* as follows: "Guillaume Blois, a witness 16 July 1457 in a transaction between the prior of Saint-Europe and the widow of the sgr. de Pisany." That is interesting in view of the fact that Arnould's son Guichard married a descendant of the Pisany family.

Vicomte René de Blois writes that this pedigree shows the ascendants of the grandmother of Anatole de Bremond d'Ars. That being so, Anatole, who gave René the note from the archives of the Château de Kerascouet, was the great-great-grandson of Charles de Blois, the last in the male line on the pedigree.

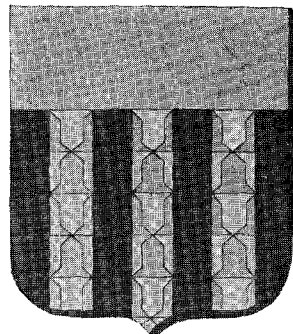
De Bremond d'Ars was an ancient and powerful family of which there are now four branches. The seat of the first branch was the Château de Saint-Brice near Cognac in Saintonge. Josias, Marquis de Bremond d'Ars, who married Françoise Charlotte Adelaïde Bigot de Baulon, was a member of that branch. In 1887 the head of the second branch was Count Anatole, Marquis de Migre, having his seat at the Château de la Porte-neuve-en-Riec (Finistère). He had a son, Anatole, born 22 July, 1872.

The elder branch of de Blois de la Calande was established in Brittany in 1700. In 1887 a member of this branch, Count Louis de Blois, had a seat at the Château de Kerascouet (Finistère) [Bachelin: *Etat Présent de la Nob. Fr.*, 1887]. Finistère is the westernmost tip of Brittany.

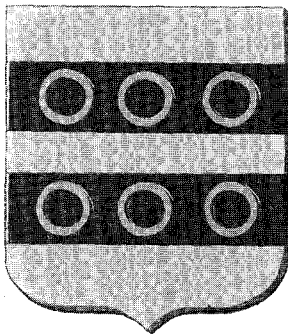




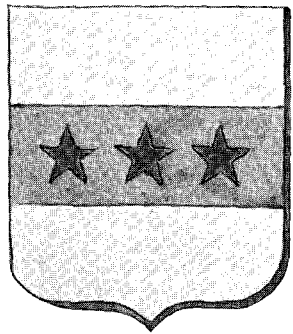
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1. Arms of Ancient Counts De Blois and Champagne.
2. Arms of Chatillon Counts De Blois used by some members of the De Blois family from 1230 to the present time.
3. De Blois de Calande arms used from 15th to 18th centuries.
4. De Blois de Saintogne arms used from 15th to 18th centuries.

## DE BLOIS DE SAINTONGE

The owners of the land, being nobles, were subject to no taxes; but they provided all the military service, and were obliged to administer law and justice within their jurisdiction. This obligation became less, as time went on, when the call to arms was abolished by Louis XIII, in 1612, and military service substituted. The privilege of the nobles was the source of much abuse, as many claimed nobility to escape taxes. Louis XIV determined to deal more effectively with the usurpation of nobility, once and for all, and ordered a "Recherche de la Noblesse" in each province. This research was started in 1666, suspended in 1674 on account of the wars, and resumed in 1696. The judgments of this research may be taken as final. In order to prove his nobility, one had to present documents, such as marriage contract, deeds, etc., going back 200 years, three to a generation, in which he and his forbears were called écuyer or chevalier. [*Genealogists' Magazine*, Vol. 7, page 229.]

That the de Blois of Saintonge proved their nobility in this research, is shown by Lainé: *Archives Gen. et Hist. de la Nob. Française*: —

"de Blois, siegneurs du Seudre, de Rousillon etc. élection de Saintes 1511-26 Mars 1700, d'arg, fasce d'azurch. trois étoiles d'or."

The élection was a tribunal charged with deciding on the privileges and exemptions claimed by nobles. René de Blois writes that above proof was carried back to 1510, the date of the marriage of Jean de Blois to Ysabeau de Mortagne. That makes it likely that the oldest document presented to the court was the marriage contract.

As the documents necessary to the proof were not matters of public record, the nobles carefully preserved their family papers. It seems that the de Blois papers were handed down from the last of the male line to his granddaughter, who married Josias de Brémond d'Ars. A few of the registers of the élections may be found in the National Archives; but, as that of the élection of Saintes is not among them, we would not have the pedigree of the de Blois of Saintonge, if it had not been preserved by descendants of the family.

Further information about the Saintonge family came in the following letter from Count Albert de Blois, chief of the family now in France, to M. Doysié:

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

"22 March 1949

Trelague  
La Tagniere #3  
(Saone et Loire)

Sir, I had promised you, as soon as I returned to the country, to peruse my family archives in order to look for the information you request. Here is the result of these researches.

The de Blois family is issued from the illustrious house of Chatillon by Jean de Blois, son of Jean de Chatillon, comte de Blois (died 1381). One of the grandsons of this Jean de Blois, Guichard de Blois, is the first who seems to have settled in Saintonge by his alliance with Diane de Rabayne from one of the oldest families of this province.

Jean de Blois, son of Guichard and Diane de Rabayne, married first Isabeau de Fontlebon and second about 1510 Isabeau de Mortagne, lady of Rousillon, the last heiress of this younger branch of the old princes of Mortagne sur Gironde.

By reason of this alliance the châteltenie of Rousillon became the name of this branch of the de Blois family settled in Saintonge.

Jean de Blois had for his son Pierre de Blois seigneur de Rousillon etc. who married Hardouine de la Jarrie.

Pierre de Blois had for his son Geoffroy de Blois seigneur de Rousillon, one of the most faithful servants of Henri de Navarre (Henri IV), who, like this prince, had embraced the party of the Reform, but, like him, came back to the Catholic religion when the King of France abjured. 1593.

Geoffroy de Blois had descendants who became extinct in 1830.

As you see I do trace one Jean de Blois, who lived at the beginning of the 16th century. Therefore it is not that of whom you speak. But the document in my possession is succinct enough. There certainly were members of this family who embraced the party of the reform. Did they emigrate later on and how were they called? It is to be presumed that the de Blois of whom you speak, and from whom your friends are descended, were related to the de Blois de Saintonge but I can tell you no more.

Please be assured of my distinguished consideration

Comte de Blois."

The Count's mention of Jean de Blois and "the de Blois of whom you speak" was in answer to M. Doysié's letter telling him that he was trying to trace the ancestry of Jean de Blois of Roumazières in

## DE BLOIS DE SAINTONGE

Saintonge whose son Louis fled to England about 1685 and became the ancestor of the DeBlois family in America.

Until the pedigree from the Château de Kerascouet was received, the writer had been unable to trace the ancestry of Pierre, seigneur Rousillon. As he was noble, and the nobility of France was a distinct caste [*The Ancestor*, No. 9, page 153, speaks of "France which in the past drew that sharp line between gentle and simple which we never saw in England"], it appeared that he must have been connected with some noble de Blois family, and it was thought that he might have been son of Pierre, seigneur de Parfondru, of the Calande branch of the family, as the dates were right, and both had the name Pierre. Research was made along that line by the writer and by M. Doysié. One thing that threw doubt on the theory was the distance between the seigneuries, Rousillon being in southwestern France and Parfondru in the north near the Belgian border, and also the fact that the two families used different arms.

In the middle ages there were two ways for nobles to acquire and maintain wealth and power or position — fighting and marriage. Duchesne, in his history of the Chatillon family, praises the Chatillons for their character and achievements, but admits that their prominence was largely due to their marriages with wealthy heiresses, such as the Countesses de Blois and de Nevers and the Duchess de Bretagne. The constant wars killed great numbers of nobles and thus created a supply of marriageable heiresses. It was the deaths of four members of the family in the Crusades that made Marie, last of the ancient de Blois family, Countess de Blois. Later on, when wars between noble families became infrequent, marriage became the chief way for younger sons who did not inherit feudal lands. A noble could not engage in gainful enterprise such as trade, manufacturing, nor in the professions without forfeiting his claim to nobility.

As we can see in the story of the de Blois family, marriage was also, in many cases, the determining factor in the matter of the residence of a family or branch of a family. At the beginning of the story, Thibault, or Gerlon, the Norman, came to Blois as a result of marrying Richilde, Countess de Blois, and it was through several marriages that the Chatillon Counts de Blois came into possession of numerous lands in the Netherlands. Froissart says

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

that when the Duchesse de Gueldre proposed marriage to Count Jean de Blois, he was glad to accept because he had always wanted lands in Holland and, therefore, had not wished to marry in France.

After Count Gui de Blois sold the County of Blois, the family owned, in France, only the seigneurie of Nouvion. By a division of their lands in the Netherlands, Gui, son of Count Jean, became progenitor of the de Blois de Hafften in Holland, and his brother Jean, of the de Blois de Trélon in what is now Belgium. Gerard, son of Jean, upon being given Nouvion in Picardy, moved into France. Marriages of his descendants caused that branch of the family to move toward the east in France.

We now see, from the pedigree, that the de Blois family was in Saintonge because Guichard de Blois married Diane de Rabayne from one of the oldest families in that province, and his son Jean, after marrying first Isabeau de Fontlebon and de Bretagne, married second Isabeau de Mortagne, Dame de Rousillon, St. Germain, Courcy and Seudre. For seven generations his descendants were seigneurs of those lands. By marriage, members of the family acquired other lands in and near Saintonge.

Printed books have considerable information about the family, gathered from the Archives of Saintes, capital of Saintonge province, which are now lost. In Haag: *La France Protestante*, 1846-58, Vol. II, page 620, appears the following:

"Blois, Bloys, de Blois, noble family of Saintonge. Arms: Arg. a fesse azur charged with 3 étoiles or. This family counted among the first of its province and made the best marriages, but figured little in history. It appears written in 1584 on the registers of the Temple of La Rochelle in the person of Louis de Blois, écuyer, sr. de Rouillet, son of Pierre, écuyer, sr. de Rousillon and of Haridouine de la Jarrie.

"Another member of the family, Jacques, married 1st, Jeanne de Pons; 2nd, Jeanne de Culant (1612); 3rd, Jeanne de Ruchard (1635); 4th, Anna de Polignac. Henri, one of his sons, married 1635 Esther Green de Saint Marsaut. The de Bloys always remained Protestant."

*Bulletins de la Société de l'histoire du Protestantisme Français*, Vol. 50, page 149:

"The seigneurie de Rousillon belonged in 1563 to the family of



## DE BLOIS DE SAINTONGE

Blois. Nicholas de Blois in 1552 had married Marie de Beaumont, daughter of Antoine de Beaumont and Antoinette d'Herigon; he was son of Pierre de Blois, seigneur de Rousillon and du Seudre. A Pierre de Blois, Sieur de Rossilhon in Xaintonge, doubtless son of Nicolas, was arrested by the parliament of Bordeaux 6 April 1569."

Haag: Vol. 1, page 648:

"Among Protestants condemned to death at Bordeaux 6 April 1569; François de Bloys, elder son of the late Maistre Nicolas de Bloys, while alive, conseiller of the King in said Court and Sieur de Senilhac in Medoc."

Eschasseriaux: *Documents Relatives à la Ville de Saintes*, 1876, page 239: "Here are some of the names of people of Saintonge of the 579 Protestants condemned to death 6 April 1569 by decree of the parliament of Bordeaux, a decree which was not executed: — Pierre de Blois, Sieur de Rousillon in Xaintonge, and his elder son. François de Bloys, elder son of late Maistre Nicolas de Bloys."

Page 306: "30 May 1579. The Maire remonstrated that it had been reported to him by the vice-seneschal that there were many gentlemen of the reformed religion, among others the Sieurs des Razes and de Rousillon who had menaced him with grand menaces. On his side, the Sieur de Rousillon (n) complained that the vice-seneschal had said many rude things to him. The Maire mistrusted something that those of the religion wished to do. (n) Nicolas de Blois, Sieur de Rousillon and de Bernassal. He had married in 1552 Marie de Beaumont. He was son of Pierre de Blois, who was living in 1535. Nicolas had a brother, Seigneur du Rouillet, who married Anne d'Asnieres, Dame de Marvillars and du Mesnil."

Haag: Vol. 5, page 360:

"Daniel Green de Saint-Marsaut, Baron de Chatilaillon, commanded in 1622 the troops of La Rochelle. In 1598 he married Marie de Blois, daughter of Louis de Blois, Seigneur de Rouillet in Aunis."

*Bulletins de la Société*, Vol. XI, page 319:

"The better Houses of the Saintonge nobility frequented the Temple of Pons. I mention the Polignacs, the Bouchard d'Aubeterre, the Beaumont, the Arnoud, the Blois, the Bonnefoy, the

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Saint-Mauris, the Gua, the Mehee, the Green de Saint-Marsaut, the Saint Legier, the Saint Mathieu, the La Court, the Rabaine, the Ballode, etc.”

Lainé: *Archives Généalogique et Hist. de la Noblesse Française*, 1829:—

“Daniel Green de Saint-Marsault m. 21 Nov. 1598 haute & puissant Dame Marie de Blois, daughter of late Louis de Blois, écuyer, Sr. de Rouillet and of Rudepierre in Aunis. Their daughter Esther Green de Saint-Marsault m. 7 Aug. 1635 haut & puissant Henry de Blois, Chevalier, Sr. de Rousillon and du Seudre, son of the haut & puissant Jacques de Blois, Chevalier, Sr. de Rousillon. Daniel Green was a descendant of an English nobleman, Bault Green, who accompanied the Duke of Lancaster to France in 1356.”

In the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, are thousands of volumes containing genealogical data collected by Judges of Arms and King's genealogists. M. Doysié found there much material relating to the northern branch of the de Blois family, but only two items concerning Saintonge:

“Medoc, François de Blois sr. de Senillac and Jean sr. de la Grange d'or fils de Nicolas, Conseiller du Parlement de Bordeaux XVI siècle. Saintonge, de Blois de Seudre, parish de Gemonzac Argent a Fasce d'azur chargé de trois étoiles d'or.”

There was never any official regulation of arms in France; but in 1696 Louis XIV ordered a general registration under which all were supposed to present the arms they were using and pay a fee of 20 livres. As this was purely fiscal and did not imply nobility nor a grant of arms, the nobles were in no hurry to register and pay a fee, and the King's officers continued the effort to collect all money possible for many years. The Arms registered are collected in the 69 volumes of the General Armorial of France in the Bibliothèque Nationale.

In this Armorial M. Doysié found Arms registered by the northern branch of the de Blois family, some as late as 1758, but none of the de Blois de Saintonge. From this he concluded that the Saintonge family had emigrated. We know of two who left Saintonge for England: Louis from Roumazières and Abraham from Aunay; and there were two others in England whose origin is unknown: Isaac who was a parishioner at St. Clements Danes

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in London, and Jean de Blois who married Elizabeth Patmore in Petit Charenton, a French Church in London, 5 January 1724. There was also one Damoiselle Lea de Blois who fled from Saintonge, abandoning land valued at 2500 livres. [Archives Nationale, TT 265.]

Documents containing genealogical information are preserved in the Provinces of France in departmental and municipal archives, and in Mayors' offices and certain Courts to which copies of civil estate registers were supposed to be sent. In the National Archives in Paris is a great mass of material collected from all parts of France. These documents are grouped according to the towns from which they came. M. Doysié searched in all cartons containing papers relating to cities and towns all over Saintonge and nearby communities; communicated with mayors, court officials, and Protestant ministers; and had search made by departmental and municipal archivists in and near Saintonge. Most of those to whom he wrote replied that they could find nothing relating to the de Blois. Those who found anything, furnished the following information:

The Mayor's office at Roumazières found no mention of de Blois and reported that existing registers there go back only to 1745.

The Departmental Archivist at Bordeaux reported the following items: "Feudal recognizances and census reports rendered to the King by Geoffrey de Blois and la R. P. François Dusollier, of the Company of Jesus, for the land and seigneuries d'Usson, in Saint-Fort (May 1612).

"Nicolas de Bloys was given the office of Conseiller 19 April 1544.

"The parish registers of St. Sulpice and Gamayrac (Gironde) mention the marriage of Jean de Bloy, écuyer, ancient captain of infantry, and Marie de Massip, 1723."

From biographical notes in a book on the parlement of Bordeaux: "Marriage of Marie, daughter of Jacques Benoist de Lagebaston, to François de Blois, seigneur de Senillac and other places. It was on the occasion of this marriage that M. de Lagesbaston addressed to Catherine de Medici a letter recalling his long services and soliciting, in favor of the husband to whom he was giving his daughter, the office of Lieutenant-général in the Seneschal's Court

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of Guienne. Of this marriage, 1583, two daughters were born: Marie, married in 1602, and Anne who married in 1603. In the contracts for these two marriages it was expressly stipulated the future husbands would have the holy marriage solemnized in the Church Christian and Reformed, of which they all made profession; Marie was widow, already many years, of François de Blois when she made her will at Bordeaux 2 March 1601, telling where she wished to be buried."

In view of the fact François was one of the Protestants condemned to death in 1569, and Catherine de Medici has been charged with responsibility for the massacre of St. Bartholomew's day, it may seem strange that she was asked to appoint him to office; but there were times when it suited her political purposes to conciliate the Protestants. One of those times was in 1580, when she met the King of Navarre, head of the Protestants, in the Château du Fleix and made the Peace of Fleix, temporarily ending the wars. Jeanne du Fleix was the mother of François de Blois, as is shown in her will, found by M. Doysié in the National Archives, dated 1585, mentioning her sons François and Jean. "The Château du Fleix was an ancient gothic château, transformed into a Protestant Temple." [*La Grande Encyclopédie*.]

"In the terms of peace at the end of the third civil war between Catholics and Protestants, 8 August 1570, there was a list of cities, designated by name, two in each of the twelve principal governments or provinces, in which or in the suburbs of which, the reformed services were allowed." [Baird: *Rise of the Huguenots in France*, Vol. II, page 365.] It appears that Pons and Saintes were the two in Saintonge.

In the National Archives M. Doysié found baptismal records from the Temple at Pons covering the periods 1575-1592 and 1648-1680. In the first period were the following:

5 January 1586 Marie Bloys daughter of Pierre Bloys and Marie Deau, Godfather, Jehan Blanchard, Godmother Jehanne Renaudet.

Gemozac: 2 February 1586; Jehanne Bloys daughter of Domenique Bloys and Phellype Habet; Godfather Jacques Bloys, Godmother Liette Rateau.

Saint-Germain du Seuldre: 25 May 1586, Renée de Blois daughter of Geoffroy de Bloys escuyer seigneur de Rousillon and Damoiselle

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Gabriel de Brusolle, Godfather Duc d'Asnieres, Godmother Renée Guygnardeau, Dame de la Feriere.

Saint-Germain de Seuldre; 14 August 1586; Marie de Bloys daughter of Geoffroy de Bloys seigneur de Rousillon and Damoiselle Gabriel de Broussolle; Godfather Habel de Bloys, Godmother Marguerite Chauvyere.

Berneulh: 18 December 1588; Ysabel Bloys daughter of Mygon de Bloys and Catherine Tymeraud; Godfather Moris Baillon, Godmother Jehanne Chaillon.

Saint-Germain du Seuldre 29 Jan. 1589; Pierre de Bloys son of Abel de Bloys and Catherine Dupuys, Godfather Germain Verdier, Godmother Guillemme Vallan.

In the period 1648 to 1680 there was no Bloys nor de Blois.

The Municipal Archivist at Bordeaux found no mention of de Blois except the facts about Nicolas which M. Doysié already knew, but sent an excerpt from the *Armorial de Bordeaux* by Pierre Meller, a translation of which reads as follows:

"Blois (de) Comtes de Rousillon (in Saintonge) seigneurs de Massac, Saint-Germain, la Seudre, Bernessard, Artigues, Maurian, (at Blanquefort), le Roulet, la Grange d'Or (at Blaignan), Senillac (at Pian). Ancient family of Saintonge. Nobility of Saint-Jeand'Angely and of Saintonge (1789). Maintained noble in 1700. Offices: Captain of Regiment of Mailly-infantry, Conseiller at the parlement de Bordeaux (1536). Marriages: de Beaumont (1552), de Lagesbaston (1583), de Mortaigne (151—), de Fleix, de Verteuil (1602), de Menou (1603), de Toulbodou? (15—), Green de Saint-Marsault (1598), d'Asnieres, Pocayre (15—), de Bremond d'Ars, des Glenais (1680), de Couraudin (1581), de Bigot (1781). Pandin de Beauregard (1711), Vigier de Massac, de Saint-Mathieu, de la Jarrie, de Guilhem, de Boutieres, Arms: Argent a fess azur charged with three étoiles or."

As it was known that Louis de Blois, son of Jean and Jeanne, born at Roumazières in Saintonge, fled to England, and it seemed that he was the ancestor of the American family, M. Doysié endeavored to find civil estate registers which would show the connection of Louis and Jean with other members of the family.

In an article on genealogical research in France published in *The Genealogists' Magazine*, London, Vol. 10, No. 15, it was said:

"The oldest parish registers of births, marriages and burials in France date back to the first half of the 16th century. Unfortu-

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nately it is rare to find parish registers dating back even to the 17th century. War, fires, floods, and the carelessness of parish priests are all responsible for the loss of many registers. The Registers of Protestants before the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 1685, and the registers of the ministers who held their assemblies in the fields are, relatively speaking, rare. They are to be found at the Mairie or in the Archives Départementale."

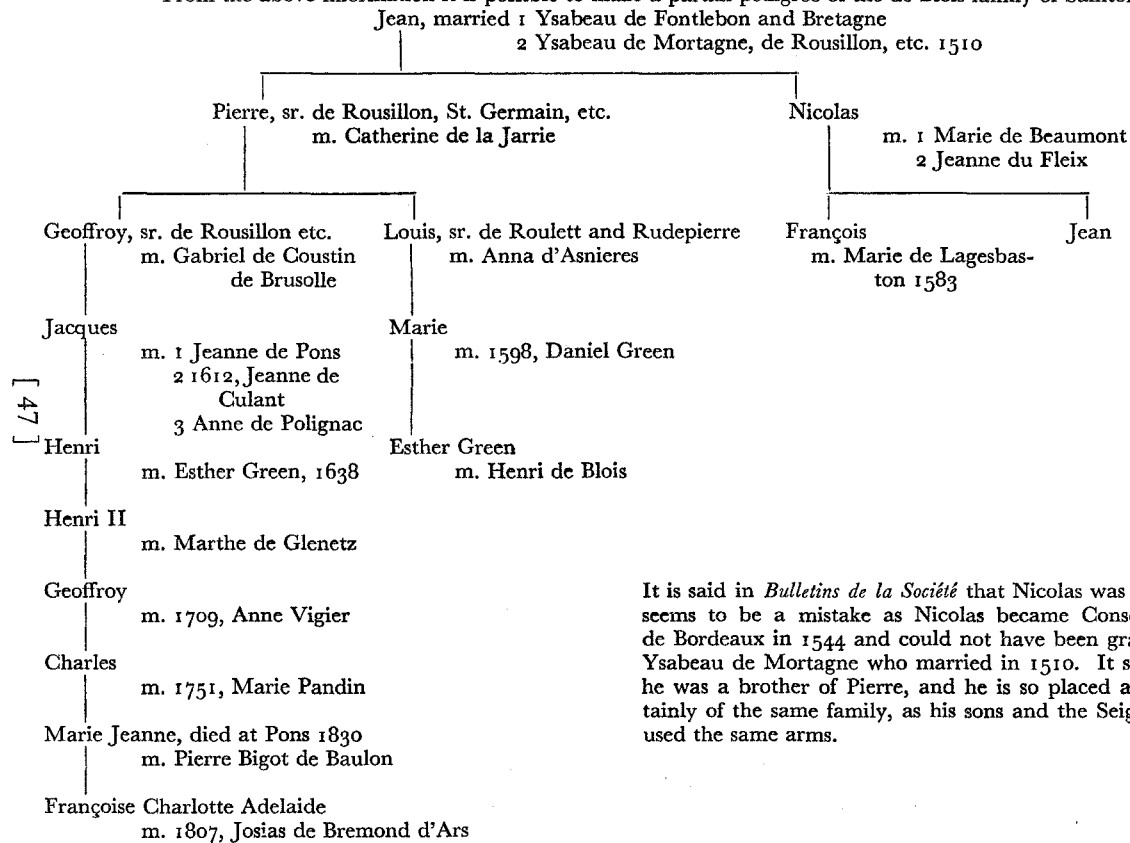
The greater part of the archives at Saintes were destroyed by fire in 1871. After considerable correspondence, M. Doysié learned that what remains of the archives is in La Rochelle in the Department of LaCharente Maritime, formerly the Province of Aunis, and the archivist of that Department informed him that he had some registers of baptisms at the Church at Saintes and suggested that he apply to the National Archivist to have them transferred to Paris for his perusal. That was done, and the registers were found to cover the periods 1570-1585 and 1599-1627. In the first period appeared the following:

7 January 1579 has been baptized Abran son of Jehan Bloix and Marye Dubriel. Godfather, Louys Goudoin, Godmother, Madeleine Droyner.  
25 December 1583 at Bussac has been baptized Jehan son of Jehan Bloys and Marie Dubriel. Godfather, Julhes Debout, Godmother, Jehanne Brideau wife of Jehan Brideau de Saint-Eutrope.

In the period 1599-1627 there was no one of the name.

M. Doysié reported that the Pons and Saintes registers were poorly written and very difficult to read. That would account for the variations in the spelling of the names. It is probable that Louis of Roumazières was born about 1665 to 1670 and that, allowing thirty years to a generation, his father Jean was born about 1635 to 1640. Existing registers do not cover that period. On the other hand, it may be that Jean and Louis were baptized by a minister in the fields as Roumazières was a considerable distance away from the Churches at Pons and Saintes. M. Doysié was unable to find any of the registers of these ministers. It is interesting to note that one of the marriages mentioned in Armorial de Bordeaux was of a de Blois and a de Verteuil 1602. Verteuil was in the neighborhood of Roumazières. Although we have no record of the baptism of Jean de Blois, it is clear that there were a number of members of the Saintonge de Blois family living at the right time to be his father.

From the above information it is possible to make a partial pedigree of the de Blois family of Saintonge: —



It is said in *Bulletins de la Société* that Nicolas was son of Pierre. This seems to be a mistake as Nicolas became Conseiler du Parlement de Bordeaux in 1544 and could not have been grandson of Jean and Ysabeau de Mortagne who married in 1510. It seems probable that he was a brother of Pierre, and he is so placed above. He was certainly of the same family, as his sons and the Seigneurs de Rousillon used the same arms.

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We have in this partial pedigree only one son given to Geoffroy, Jacques, and Henri, and no sons for the second Jean, François, and Louis. It is unreasonable to suppose there were not more sons, and the list of de Blois marriages in the *Armorial de Bordeaux* indicates that there were, as it includes the names of eight persons, who married members of the de Blois family, but do not appear on the pedigree. On the other hand, there are, to be fitted into the picture somewhere, six men in the baptismal records whose fathers we do not know:

Pierre, who had a daughter baptized 5 Jan. 1586.

Jehan, a son baptized at Saintes 1579.

Guillaume, a daughter baptized at Pons 1588.

Domenicque of Gemozac, a daughter baptized 1586, Godfather Jacques.

Mygon of Gemozac, a daughter baptized 1588.

Abel of Saint-Germain, a son baptized 1589. Godfather Geoffroy.

Geoffroy was Godfather to Abel's son and Abel was Godfather to Geoffroy's daughter. Jacques, son of Geoffroy, was Godfather to Domenicque's son. Geoffroy was seigneur of Saint-Germain. The seigneurie of Saint-Germain was in the parish of Gemozac. These facts indicate relationship of Domenicque, Mygon, and Abel with Geoffroy.

It seems almost certain that there was only one de Blois family in Saintonge in the 16th and 17th centuries and none now. At the start of his research, M. Doysié wrote that French genealogists had treated the de Bloises of Champagne [de la Calande] and those of Saintonge as two families; but it was possible there was a connection. He accordingly made an extensive search for all those of the name in all France. That research failed to show any indication that there were any of the name in Saintonge except descendants of those shown on the pedigree from the Château de Kerascouet.

The presence of persons named de Blois in Saintonge so far away from others of the name can hardly be explained except on the assumption that they were descendants of Arnould who were in that province because their ancestors had married heiresses owning lands there. That is probably why Count Albert wrote to M. Doysié: "It is to be presumed that the de Blois of whom you speak were related to the de Blois of Saintonge."

No evidence has been found that anyone named de Blois was



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living in Saintonge after 1700 except the direct descendants of Geoffroy, seigneur de Rousillon. It would seem that the seigneurs de Rousillon, being Catholic, after Geoffroy abjured the reformed religion, continued to live in Saintonge until the 19th century, while other members of the family, remaining Protestant, emigrated. Geoffroy's change of religion also explains the absence of de Blois baptisms in the Protestant Temple at Pons in the years 1648 to 1680.

The facts that the Recherche de la Noblesse, which was started in 1666 and continued to the middle of the next century, was largely a money-making scheme and therefore diligently pushed by the King's officers, and that the direct line of seigneurs de Rousillon was the only one presented to the Élection, indicates that the other branches of the family had disappeared from Saintonge by the year 1700 or soon after. Further evidence to that effect is found in the list of marriages in the Armorial de Bordeaux, as that shows no de Blois marriages after 1680 except those shown on the Kerascouet pedigree.

It seems safe to say that the Saintonge family was the only Protestant de Blois family in France. In the 87 volumes of *Bulletins de la Société de l'Histoire de Protestantisme Française* and the six volumes of *La France Protestante*, 2d edition, there are no de Bloises except those of Saintonge. The first edition published by Haag in 1856 contained much information about Protestants, but an incomplete list of names. Haag and his collaborators later undertook to make a complete list and in 1877 brought out the 2d edition in six volumes, which is a list of many thousand names. The preface states that these are all the French Protestant families prior to 1789 that the researchers had found.

There being only one de Blois family in the province of Saintonge in the 17th century, Louis de Blois, who was born in Roumazières in that province, and who fled to England about 1685, would be a member of that family.

## Chapter IV

### THE DE BLOIS FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

**L**OUIS DE BLOIS of Roumazières in Saintonge was naturalized in England in 1708.

"Many refugees hoped for a change in France that would enable them to return; but after some years, as that hope waned, they became desirous of naturalization in order to live and secure a livelihood, free from the many restrictions against aliens." [Agnew: *Protestant Exiles from France*, Sec. VII.]

There were numerous Acts naturalizing lists of French refugees. One, 6 & 7 Anne No. 43 (1708) included "Lewis DeBlois, son of John DeBlois by Jane his wife, born at Roma Siries in France." [Huguenot Society of London, Vol. 27, page 63.]

"Roma Siries — Romazières, Charente Infre." [Ibid., Vol. 35, page 63.]

As the Acts were in Latin, the French names were first translated into Latin and, when copied by English writers, from Latin into English. The French names of the above family were undoubtedly, Louis, Jean, and Jeanne. The modern Department of Charente Inférieure covers about the same territory as the ancient Province of Saintonge. The town appears under different spellings in the books, but a recent letter from the Mayor shows on the letterhead "Roumazières."

Further information about Louis, or Lewis, de Blois in England is found in the register of St. Clement's parish, Oxford, England.

Lewis De Blois of New York furnished the writer with a copy of a transcription of the St. Clement's Oxford Registers: —

- 25 Oct. 1688 Mary DuBois daughter of Lewis Dubois (Baptize)
- 17 Feb. 1689/70 William Deblois Son of Lewis Deblois (Baptized)
- 24 July 1691 John Deblois Son of Lewis Deblois (Baptized)
- 4 Nov. 1692 Martha Duboise daughter of Lewis Dubois (Baptized)
- 26 March 1695 Abraham Deblois Son of Lewis Deblois (Baptized)
- 6 March 1697 Lewis Deblois (Baptized)
- 22 June 1698 Constance DeBlois Daughter of Lewis Deblois (Baptized)
- 21 July 1700 Stephen Son of Lewis Deblois Barber (Baptized)

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18 January 1702 Francis Deblois Son of Lewis Deblois Barber Baptized  
 9 July 1704 Samuel Deblois Son of Lewis Deblois (Baptized) Barber  
 1 January 1706 Secondos \* Deblois Son of Lewis Deblois (Baptized)  
 18 February 1707 Lezee, daughter of Lewis DeBlois (Baptized)  
 26 June 1709 Jane, daughter of Lewis Deblois (Baptized)  
 16 August 1712 Elizabeth the daughter of William Doblois (Baptized)  
 Martha Deblois the wife of Lewis Deblois was buried June 24 1698  
 Affidavit returned according to ye Act of Par/<sup>mt</sup>  
 Francis the Son of Lewis Deblois Barber was buried the 3d of October  
 1708 Affid. returned &c.  
 Franey (perhaps meant Francis) the Son of Lewis de Bloye was buried  
 January 29 1704/5 Affidavit returned, &c.  
 Elizabeth ye daughter of Will<sup>m</sup> Deblois Bur. Jan. 15th 1714  
 Mr. Deblois June 1739.

This transcription was made by W. J. Hazell, Verger, who reported that the Register of Baptisms and Marriages dates from the year 1666, Burials from 1669.

Oxford City Documents, Financial and Judicial 1268-1665, by J. E. Thorod Rogers, shows no one named De Blois in lists of citizens during that period.

A very noticeable thing about the register of baptisms is that the name of the father of Lewis, baptized 6 Mar. 1697, does not appear, while the father's name is given on every other baptism. This shows plainly that it was Lewis, the father, who was baptized. It should be noted that no mention of a Lewis, son of Lewis, has been found, while we have records, outside of the register, of every son of Lewis except Samuel. Being an immigrant, Lewis would not have been baptized as an infant in England, and his reason for being baptized as an adult may have been that he could not be naturalized unless he was a communicant of a Protestant Church. [Agnew: *Protestant Exiles from France*, Sec. VII; Baird: *Huguenot Emigration to America*, Vol. II, page 173.]

In the more than fifty volumes of publications of the Huguenot Society of London — Agnew: *Protestant Exiles from France*; Poole: *Huguenots of the Dispersion*; and Cooper: *Lists of Foreign Protestants in England*, there are listed the names of many thousand French refugees in England. These names were collected from many

\* It seems probable that "Secondos" was Francis the second, as it appears that two sons named Francis were buried.

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sources, but principally from naturalization Acts and Church registers. In the naturalization lists, the only de Blois mentioned is Lewis de Blois from Roumazières. In the lists from Church registers, the only Lewis de Blois is the one from Oxford. As it was necessary for a man to be a communicant before he could be naturalized, and we find just one Lewis de Blois who was baptized and only one who was naturalized, it is a fair assumption that it was Lewis of Oxford who was naturalized. This assumption is strengthened by the fact that there was a Protestant de Blois family in Saintonge, and no evidence has been found of any such family in any other part of France. In the 87 volumes of *Bulletins de la Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français* in Boston Public Library and six volumes of *La France Protestante* by Haag which give a list of Protestant families, there are no de Bloises except those in Saintonge.

It is also to be noted that Lewis of Oxford named a son John and a daughter Jane, the names of the father and mother of Lewis of Roumazières as given in the naturalization Act.

"The country lying between the Loire and the Gironde [the provinces of Poitou and Saintonge] sent a larger proportion of Huguenot emigrants to America than any other part of France — if we may judge by the number of families whose derivation has been traced." [Baird: *Huguenot Emigration to America*, Vol. II, page 66.] There were two reasons why that should be true; the great majority of people in Saintonge adopted the Protestant faith, and the long coast line of the province is everywhere indented by bays, outlets of devious rivers, or inlets of the sea, making the facilities for escape exceptionally great.

It is true that the Dutch branch of the family became Protestant, and it appears that some of them fled across the sea from Holland to Suffolk County in England during the religious persecution by the Spaniards in the 16th century; but, in the 17th century, Holland was free and Protestant, whereas the emigration from France on account of religious persecution was in the latter part of the 17th century and particularly in 1685, which has been called the year of the depopulation of France. Great numbers fled from Saintonge in that year. As it appears that Lewis's first child was baptized in Oxford in 1688 and he died in 1739, it is probable that he was one of the many who fled from Saintonge about 1685.



1721. New York in North America. February the 16<sup>th</sup>  
was Married to my Wife Ann Hurley. We came  
over together in the last Horn men of War. Mr. Philip  
Samuelson Commander with William Bernard Capt of the  
Governor of New York.

My Daughter Sarah was Born the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1723.

My Son Gilbert was Born the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1725.

My Son Lewis was Born the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1727.

My Daughter Sarah was Married to W<sup>m</sup> Will Haller

the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1744. Her Daughter Sarah died

Age 16 years and four Months Wanting ten Day

My Son Lewis was Married to Elizabeth Jenkins

the 1<sup>st</sup> Day September 1748.

My Eldest Son Gilbert was Married to Ann Jeffs

9<sup>th</sup> July 1750. Elizabeth was Born August 1750. John

George Son of Lewis was Born 27<sup>th</sup> October 1750.

My Wife Ann DeLois's this Life 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
1762.

Stephen DeLois. Born in  
St Clements Parish (Lond) England the  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 1699.      Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> 4 August

1772 My Grand Daughter Sarah was brought to Bed 14<sup>th</sup> Daughter  
the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1772.

Entries in Bible of Stephen De Blois of Boston  
Now in possession of Lewis DeBlois of Chappaqua, New York

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"A volume of Churchwardens Accounts beginning in 1721 shows from 1723 to 1733 'Lewis Deblois' or 'Mr. Deblois' paying two or three shillings a year to the poor rate." [G. E. Meredith: *The Descendants of Hugh Amory*.]

The transcription of baptisms shows no son George, but it is certain there was one. In a Bible of Stephen Deblois of Boston, now owned by Lewis DeBlois of New York, is an entry: — "Stephen Deblois. Born in St. Clements Parrish Oxford Old England the 24th July 1699 — new Stile 4 August." In Stephen's will dated 10 August, 1777, entered 26 June, 1778, Probate Court of Suffolk County Case No. 16608, appears: "Item. I give and bequeath to my brother George Deblois in Oxford, Old England and my sister Twycroft, twenty pounds sterling each, to be paid by my executors. But if either of them dye before he or she Recive the Said Sum, then my will is that the twenty pounds each be equally divided between their children." The will also appointed "My nephew Stephen Deblois of Newport R. I." one of his executors. As Stephen mentioned only one brother, it is probable the others were dead. The youngest of them would have been over seventy-three years of age, if living in 1777.

George is also mentioned in some data secured by Miss E. G. Parker, a searcher employed by Lewis DeBlois in 1930:

From Canon Oldfields Calendar of Oxford  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sessions Rolls:

1696 Lewis Deblois witness to character of Thomas Keats.

1703 Johannes de Blois charged with assault on Giles Gardiner; but agreed between them and recognizance withdrawn.

1708 John Debloy indicted for speaking disrespectful words about the Queen. Cognizance £40 Lewis Debloy and Arthur Allen

Certificates of Communion Trinity Term 1711

One of witnesses was Wm. Deblois of St. Clements

At East Term 1767

One of witnesses was Geo. Deblois

From Oxford City Archives:

Abraham Deblois was admitted a Freeman of the City 10 Sept. 1713.

In Curwen: *Journal and Letters*, appear the following items:

Page 127 (at Oxford) May 6, 1777 Breakfasted at Mr. Deblois's by invitation

Page 128 Being attended by G. Deblois's father I walked to Christ Church College

Page 130 May 8 took farewell of G. Deblois's father and family

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

Page 399 Jan. 17, 1783 Met my former townsman and neighbor George Deblois, whom I had not seen for more than seven years.

Curwen and George<sup>3</sup> Deblois (George<sup>2</sup>, Lewis<sup>1</sup>) were both Tory refugees from Salem.

In a note book in possession of Lillian DeBlois Fox, written by John S. De Blois, grandson of Stephen of Newport, is a statement that he had learned from letters of his grandfather that his great-grandfather died in Oxford, England, Nov. 9, 1784. Stephen and George<sup>3</sup> were brothers.

There is a tradition in the family that Lewis fought with King William at the battle of the Boyne. There were French refugees in that battle; but they were former officers and soldiers of the French army, regularly enrolled in five regiments, which continued to fight with William until the peace of Ryswick, 1697. A glance at Lewis's family activities during that time would seem to explode that tradition.

Another belief of some members of the American family was that Lewis named a son Stephen for his ancestor King Stephen "de Blois"; but King Stephen had no surname. "de Blois" was added to his name by English writers centuries after his death. As to Lewis using the name Stephen, a different light is thrown by a statement in Agnew, Vol. I, page 71: "A writer in the *Edinburgh Review* suggests that in a preference for Scriptural names for their children, the French Protestants resembled the English Puritans. 'The Geoffroys, the Remys, and the Guillaumes, who had transmitted the honours of the house give place to Izaacs, Abrahams, and Samuels.' In the naturalization lists the peaceful patriarchal names of Abraham, Izaac, and Jacob are frequent — there are Abel and Stephen to whisper 'be thou faithful unto death'." Among Lewis's sons appear Abraham, Stephen, and Samuel. There was another Abraham who came from Aunay in Saintonge and had six children baptized in Le Temple in London in the years 1690-1698. Aunay and Roumazières are about eight miles apart.

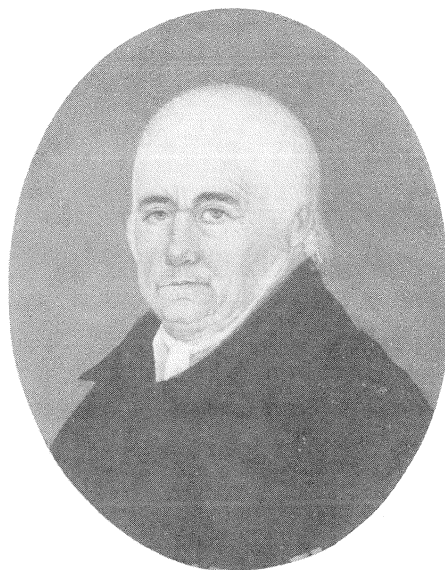
Some of the American descendants of Lewis were much disturbed when they learned he was a barber. That naturally was a little upsetting to those who believed he was a lineal descendant of a King of England, even although the barbers at that time were also the surgeons; but Lewis was a French refugee, and almost all







JANE (*Brown*) DE BLOIS



STEPHEN DE BLOIS

Reproduction of miniatures of Stephen De Blois and his wife Jane. These miniatures were given to John Scott DeBlois by the will of his cousin Rebecca E. Hunter dated 1881, and are now in the possession of Lillian DeBlois Fox.

## THE DE BLOIS FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

the refugees, having abandoned their property in France and arrived in England penniless, were obliged to take up any sort of work in order to earn their living.

A letter written about 1850 by Rev. Isaac Taylor, former Vicar of St. Matthews, Bethnal Green, stated: "The descendants of the emigrants still continue to inhabit the district, many of them still cherish the proud traditions of their ancestry; many of them, though perhaps now clad only in rags, bear the old historic names of France — names of distinguished generals and statesmen and poets and historians — names such as Vendome, Nay, Racine, Defoe, la Fontaine, Dupin, Blois, etc." [*Hug. Soc. Proceedings*, Vol. 10, page 341.]

Four descendants of Lewis came to America: his son Stephen, and Stephen, George, and Mary, children of Lewis's son George. Stephen<sup>2</sup> (Lewis<sup>1</sup>) founded the Boston branch of the family which was covered in an article by A. W. H. Eaton in *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 67, page 9.

The Newport branch of the family started with Stephen<sup>3</sup> Deblois, whose father George<sup>2</sup> Deblois (Lewis<sup>1</sup>), born in Oxford in 1710, died there Nov. 9, 1784, married Elizabeth —, died Oxford, 17 August, 1780, aged 77. His children born in Oxford were:

- I. i. Stephen
- ii. George, called "Sr." born 6 Mar. 1739/40; died June 18, 1799, Newport.
- iii. Mary, born about 1743; lived at Newport with her brother Stephen; died there unmarried.
- iv. Elizabeth who lived in Oxford and died there unmarried.

1. Stephen<sup>3</sup> Deblois (George<sup>2</sup>, Lewis<sup>1</sup>), born 1735, died at Newport 15 Feb., 1805; married first Rebecca Wickham, by whom he had a son George who died young. Married second in Trinity Church, Newport, 15 Mar., 1779, Jane Brown, b. 28 Oct., 1752, died 8 July, 1829, daughter of John<sup>5</sup> Brown and Ann (Chapman) Brown. As Jane Brown was a descendant of Augustus Lucas, further information about her will be found in the part of this book dealing with the Lucas family.

In a note book kept by John Scott<sup>5</sup> Deblois, is written: "Grandfather Deblois, I think came to this country from Oxford while quite young. I understand he came here in care of Lord How

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

and landed in Boston and there was educated and lived with his uncle and afterwards came to Newport."

Stephen, like his cousins Gilbert<sup>3</sup> Deblois and Lewis<sup>3</sup> Deblois, was for a time a merchant in Boston. In the *Boston Gazette* 9 May, 1763, Stephen advertised a stock of hardware, etc. at the Sign of the Golden Eagle, Dock Square, Boston. This was also the place of business of his cousin Lewis and, in the same advertisement, Stephen's brother George announced a similar stock of goods at his shop in Salem. Some idea of the varied assortment of goods carried by these merchants can be gathered from an advertisement in the *Boston Gazette*, 28 Sept., 1761: "To be sold by George Deblois, lately arrived from Birmingham at his shop in Salem, wholesale & retail, a large & general assortment of Cutlary, Braizery & Ironmongery Goods, All sizes brass kettles, skillets, warming pans, andions, shovel & tongs, bellows, pewter dishes, plates, basons, porrangers, bed & closetool pans, tea potts, quart potts, tankards & cans, tea and table spoons, all sort locks, hinges, thumb latches, hammers, chizels, compasses, rules, plain iron all sizes, nails tax & braids — best gun powders & flints, bird, pidgeon, duck & goose shot, bar lead, heart & club German & English steel, window glass 8 x 6, 9 x 7, 10 x 8, a great variety newest fashions, shoe & Knee buckles, sleeve buttons, coat & breast buttons, all sorts case knives & forks, pen knives, scissors, razors, hones & straps, awl hafts, best sewing shears, horn & ivory combs, awl blades, tax & spinell, darning & knitting needles, Jews harps & other Musical instruments, brass furniture for desks, London glue, wool & cotton cards, with a great variety of other goods. Black pepper, nutmegs, cloves & other spices, fine starch, bohea tea, indigo, split peas. N.B. He sells for ready money only & as cheap as is sold in Boston."

In 1764 Stephen removed his store to Dedham on account of the smallpox epidemic in Boston, but soon after went to Newport, where, 9 Dec., 1767, he married Rebecca Wickham. His Newport store was in the building still (1949) standing on the southwest corner of Spring and Gidley Streets.

15 June, 1770, Stephen showed his Tory leanings by being a member of an Association to prevent riots in Newport. [*Bull. Memoirs of Rhode Island*, Vol. II, page 59.] At about the same time, two of Stephen's relatives, Gilbert Deblois and his brother-in-law William Wallis, were on the Jury which acquitted Captain

## THE DE BLOIS FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

Thomas Preston on the indictments charging him with being present at, aiding and abetting the murder of Samuel Maverick, Samuel Gray, Crispus Attucks, James Caldwell and Patrick Carr. [*Publications of Colonial Society of Massachusetts*, Vol. 5, page 82.]

"Sept. 27, 1775, Voted that Stephen Deblois be admitted member upon right late of Joseph Sylvester." [*Annals of Redwood Library*, page 59.]

"July 15, 1776. Last Thursday & Friday 26 Tories were taken up at Newport & required to sign the Test prescribed by the Assembly. All but two refused.

Gov. Wanton	Saml Bours
Col. Jo "	Ed. Thurston
Wm. " removed	S. Goldw.
Isaac Layton	Jno. Wood
Jno. Miller	Mr. Moffat
Thomas Wickham	Akers Sisson
Dr. Hunter removed	Jno. Grelia signed
Dr. Haliburton "	Thomas Robinson Quaker
Jas. Clark	—— Goddard
Jno. Watson	Thos. Cranston
Wm. Cole	St. Ayrault
Ed. Mumford	—— Minshall signed
Jas. Honyman excused	St. Deblois."

[*The Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles*, Vol. II, page 22.]

Lewis<sup>3</sup> Deblois, his brother Gilbert, and his son George (called "Jr.") all of Boston, Stephen of Newport and his brother George (called "Sr.") of Salem were all Tories; which is not to be wondered at inasmuch as Stephen and George, Sr. were born in England, and Gilbert and Lewis were sons of immigrants; and all were merchants importing goods from England; and were Church of England men and therefore "more expected to be Tories" as was said by Peter Fry, witness for George Deblois before a Parliamentary Commission.

In April, 1775, George, Sr. fled from Salem to Halifax. In 1776, Gilbert and Lewis fled first to Halifax and soon after to London. George, Jr. went to Halifax in 1776 and from there in 1777 with George, Sr. to New York. The two Georges later returned to

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

Halifax. Stephen stayed in Newport until 1779, when he left for New York with the British troops.

In 1777 these five men formed a co-partnership which continued to 1783. In Box F. DeBlois Papers, Newport Historical Society, are many letters which passed between the partners during this time. Some of them are here printed. Owing to the uncertainty of letters reaching their destination, it was the practise to send several copies. It will be noted that some letters contain copies of letters addressed to different members of the family. Whoever received a letter was expected to pass it along to the others. It will also be noted that the address appears at the bottom of the letters.

Newport May 3, 1778

Dear George:

I have been for some time expecting letters from you in hopes the goods were arrived with you but am disappointed. The inclosed from G. D. Lady forward at first opportunity. Business is at an end with me, have not sold 50 pds worth since last wrote you. The Terms offered the Americans I fear will have no effect & should there a settlement take place it will not answer our purpose to be longer concerned in the English goods. Trade on the paper Currency must take place for which cannot procure Bills & the depreciation will be so great that a man wont know how to keep pace with it & on the other hand if we are to remain in the present situation the demand for goods will be very small. At present find the few French goods that've been sold at Vendue have not fetcht within 50% the Cost & Charges, so that woolens will be a glut here next Fall. The last 3 bales you sent me are unopened, am sorry ordered any for the Fall. I shall now countermand my former orders & and think it will be prudent for you to do the same. I think if our spring goods does not come out, after selling at each place that we can, twill be best to Collect all together & put em into one Store at the place we think may be safest & sell them on the best terms we can & push off for England. should we pretend to stay here after the Troops go off, may depend on it that our property will be taken from us & and on the other hand if a settlement should take place the paper currency will be our ruin so that my opinion is we had better be preparing in time to bring our business to a Close, let me know your opinion as also Georges if with you, that we may write our friends in England soon as possible on this subject. if George & you are of my mind pray do it immediately & write em to know whether we cannot get a liveing in England, some way or another. I think to purchase a vessell here & keep ready in case any attempts are made on this Island to proceed for Halifax or your place (on hearing from you) if our spring

## THE DE BLOIS FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

goods comes out I fear shall have but poor encouragement, for in two months more I think there wont be scarcely any of the Inhabitants left on the Island. Lord North's Speech & the late Acts has made all hands conclude that Great Britain Cannot subdue America Especially if a Warr with France & Spain takes place. it being a matter of uncertainty whether an Opty for N. York if is goeing Immediately therefor cannot add.

Remain Dear George

Yours Affectionately

Stephen Deblois.

This letter had no address; but was probably written to his brother George, Sr. Both Georges were then in New York. Stephen's prophecy that their property would be taken from them if the troops left Newport was fulfilled, as the property in Newport was confiscated when Stephen left with the troops in 1779; but he was unduly pessimistic about business, as the company did a large business as long as the war lasted, although they did have losses from the capture of ships by both sides in the war.

According to Stephen's statement, many Tories left Newport while the British troops were still there. That many left during the war is indicated by the decrease in population of Newport from June 1774, when it was 9208, to June 1782, when it was 5531. [Census of 1774 and *Newport Historical Magazine*, Vol. 4, page 80.]

London 18 Sept. 1778.

Dear Cousin:

Your two favors of the 15th June & 17th July is come to hand by the Mercury packet Capt. Dillon who arrived from New York at Falm. a few days ago. You mention to have wrote the Company ye 25 May & 1st June, neither of which letters are as yet come to hand, the last letters rec'd from you are of ye 10th & 13th April last, the remittances now made by the Mercury to Mr. Hayley are very acceptable & Pleasing to him. I am very sensible the great disappointment you & we have met with in the failure of the Martha, we are doing what we can here to recover our Interest in said Martha. I have but little hopes of success, tho if we have justice done us we shall recover back our Interest, as no fraud was intended, nothing shall be wanting here on our part, for the recovery of our property in said vessel . . . I am sorry the seat of War is so near you, hope that sh'd Count de Estaings pay you a visit, he will pay dear for his impudence. I cannot but think he will know better than to get hem'd up in your port. I conclude he is gone to Boston where Lord Howe & Adm Byron will follow block him up. . . . We daily expect another arrival from

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

your port & New York with the agreeable news of Adm Byron having Joyn'd Lord Howe & they pursuing the French Fleet, which if they fall in with I doubt not they'l give a good account of. I have forwarded your account to Joseph A. soon as I receive his balance will pay your father the 10 pds you order. I will get the watch finished & send when a good opport'y offers. The Bacon, beef, seeds &c. I will forward if I can find any vessel bound to New York or your port. No more goods will be sent whilst the risque remains of having them seized. You seem to blame us for not sending the fall goods you ordered. . . Mr. Hayley nor any other Merchant in England will ship goods while the restraining Act is in force its said this Act will be repealed this next sitting of Parliament, if so we may be safe in shipping what may be wanted for next Spring but if said Act is to continue in force, the risque of another seizure is more than the profits we can have in the sales should they arrive safe, for there is no insuring them from seizure . . . We were very unlucky in respect to the goods on board the sloop Hawk from New York to Philadelphia which is a total loss, as no insurance was made on her . . . I am under much concern for fear Admr. Byron wont join Lord Howe in season to pursue the Frech fleet. But we will hope for the best. We are as much in the dark as what Government designs to do in the American affairs as you are. much depends I think on the success of Lord Howes Fleet against Count de Estaings. if we are successful I think the war against the Americans will be carried on next Spring quite different from what has hitherto been pursued, which is to be by destroying the Sea Port Towns on the different Rivers &c.

If we are unsuccessful in America this year the Parliament will give up to the Americans & we Torys are ruined & must seek out for new habitations for there will be no peace for us in America. God Grant this may not be the case with us.

No French war declared yet tho there is many Privateers fitted out from this Kingdom against the French & many valuable prizes brought in daily. Admiral Keppel has been in pursuit of the French Fleet near a month past but has not come up with them yet. we momentarily expect to hear he has met with them & able to give a very good account of them. I heard very lately from Oxford, your friends there are all very well . . . If you should be obliged to leave Newport & the Georges New York I think all hands best go to Halifax where we will soon follow you, for there is no living here without a deal of money, which is our misfortune not to be in possession of.

Yours Affec.

L. D.

Mr. Stephen Deblois  
Merchant in Newport.



## THE DE BLOIS FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

The efforts of the partners to recover for losses on the "Martha" and the "Hawk" are shown in the following references [*Historical Collections Essex Institute*, Vol. XLIII, page 289]:

"In July 1783 Parliament appointed a Commission to make an impartial & diligent inquiry into the losses and services of the King's faithful subjects who had suffered during the last unhappy dissension in America."

Page 302. "Evidence on the claim of George Deblois, the elder, late of Salem, now of Halifax, Merchant. Claimt. Geo. Deblois being sworn, says that he is a native of England, came to America in 1761 & settled at Salem as a merchant, continued there till Apr. 1775, always sided with the Government of G. B. etc. by these acts had become so obnoxious that he was obliged to fly from Salem, meant to go to Boston, but found it impossible, obliged to embark himself & family for Halifax April 1775. Loss of Merchandise left at Salem £438.11.5½; Furniture 66.16.3.

"The co-partnership of Gilbt, Lewis, Stephen, George Snr. & George Jnr. Deblois, Merchants. at N. York Shipt on Board the Martha from London in Feby. 27, '78 a cargo of English Goods to the value of £6,731.12.10. Sterling, which ship & cargo was taken by the Shannon Sc., Geo. Collin & carried into Halifax & there condemned under the Prohibitory Act. Cargo was insured in London. Insurers returned prem. to the amount of £1300 Str. which he believes is the whole yet recovered. A claim for the whole has been lodged in London by one of the partners — Gilbert

"Debts. — states amnt. of Book debts & notes still due from persons in the United States £1,138.9. 10½ Mass'ts M. This Acct. contains some debts due before partnership.

"Sloop Hawk, having cargo on board belonging to the afsd Partners was cast away on point Charles on Delaware & plundered by Americans. Estimates his share at £260 Str.

"Witnesses, Peter Fry, Esq. formerly of Salem \_\_\_\_ Claimt. was a man of an exceptl. character, being a Church of Eng. man, more expected to be a Tory. Dr. John Prince, formerly of Salem."

Page 304. "Evidence on Case of George Deblois, Jnr. late of Newbury Port, Masst. Claimt. being sworn says he is native of Boston. resided in America till 1775. At beginning of troubles was settled in Newbury, Masst. \_\_\_\_ In April 1775 embarked with his

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

family for River St. Johns. Claimt. son of Lewis Deblois of Boston. Examined formerly at the Board in London.

"Property: Store at Newbury worth £100 Mass. money; Ship Martha. Claimt. one of 3 Partners concerned in the Ship Martha £1300 that & upwards has been recovered.

Furniture on Board the Hawke which he was removing to settle at Phidelphia to the amt. of £200 Sterling. Merchd. on board sd. sloop 1-5 share, about £260."

Another loss, suffered later on, was that of goods on the ship "Olive Branch." A letter dated Halifax June 14, 1796, from George Deblois to Stephen told him what he would be up against if he made claim for his loss: 1. As he was born in England, the Court of Admiralty would consider him a British subject regardless of his naturalization in the United States. 2. Trading with the Enemy Act forbade British subjects to trade with an enemy country. 3. Holland was an enemy country because it had been conquered by France and France was at war with England. 4. Stephen had ordered goods from Holland.

In a letter to the Georges in New York, dated Newport, 6 Nov. 1778, Stephen wrote:

Pray try & lay in with some Capt. of a Transport coming this way and bring me some cole . . . I am just informed by Mr. Geddes the paymaster of Gen. Bourgoynes' troops that the troops are ordered to march to Virginia & that the goods he feared would not be wanted. Nothing could be done without the Gen's orders for so doing. . . . Removal this Army & the inhabitants from this Town will make business in future go on heavily with me.

Newport July 22d 1779

Gentn.

I am favored with yours of 13th Instant. Observe had received the Money for the Draft we sent you on Messr. Gordon & Crowder; did not know at that time we sent it was necessary to have a permit from hence. Enclosed you have Gen. Prescott's permission for Twenty Hogsheads Rum, but must not be known that Capt. Drew is concerned with it, he having been refused permission, therefor when you ship it, take the Bill Lading and make the Insurance & Invoice in my name and on my account. As the other Articles ordered exceed our limits conclude to have only those Twenty Hogsheads Rum sent, for which purpose we now enclose you a further draft on Gordon & Crowder for Four Hundred

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& Fifty Dollars which I suppose will be sufficient for that purpose, if not shall be remitted to you what may be deficient by the next opportunity.

I am Gentn. for self &

Capt. James Drew

Yrs &c

Stephen Deblois

Messrs George Deblois

Senrs & Junrs

Merchants, New York.

In carrying on business with the British troops, the Debloises were doing nothing that was not done by many a professed patriot.

"Prohibitions of trade with the British army were most necessary in these states where the enemy were long encamped. Washington fairly pled with Rhode Island and New York to stop that 'abominable traffic.' But the business seems to have gone to the end of the war. Men could not be deterred from so profitable a trade by impotent legislative threats. As suggested above, the British paid gold for provisions, while the Americans paid paper; it was a hardy patriot who could resist to temptation to acquire British gold." [Van Tyne: *The Loyalists in the American Revolution*, page 205.]

The following letters show that the partners in England suggested dissolving the partnership; but that it was continued at the desire of those in America.

Newport Aug. 20, 1779

Dear Cousin:

Having already wrote you this date, I would only wish now to give you my sentiments more fully supposing your brother would wish to see what I had wrote on the subject of our present concern, as I cannot help observing a jealousy already ariseing. I would heartily wish to avoid everything which might tend ever to disturb the peace of our Family & is a great reason my not joyning in the way now proposed. . . . You are both in a land of plenty in the utmost extent of the word as to Trade & otherwise, therefor cannot realize the difficulty & obstructions it labors under here that its next to impossible to render you or our frn'd Mr. Hayley either in profits or remittances, . . . Was I settled in New York should not be under any apprehensions as should think myself and Interest safe but cannot by any means think this Island in a proper State of Defence, was even a Count D'Estaing to make another attempt & the face of our national affairs wears a different aspect to what they did sometime back. All things considered it is my hearty wishes we may continue

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in our old line. Lewis is well, Polly very ill, both joyn me in every good wish & am Dear Cousin Yours most affectionally

Stephen Deblois

Mr. Lewis Deblois  
Merchant, London.

Fulham Dec. 1, 1779

Dear George:

. . . I have been under much concern for you all, at Newport & New York, on acc't of D'Estaings Fleet, but my fears are now greatly abated & I hope you will not hear any more of that Fleet your way this year. . . . As it seems to be all your wishes to continue what future Business is done from hence in the old line just as we began, I had wrote you before and now repeat it, that I have agreed with my brother Lewis to go on so while the American Troubles last.

Yours Affectionately

Gt. Deblois

Messrs. George Deblois  
Merchants, New York.

Fulham Dec. 1, 1779.

Dear Georges:

Yesterday I had the pleasure of reciving your esteemed favors of 2th Sept. & 8 Oct. pr. packet & am very glad to hear you are all well & not made prisoners of War, which would likely have been the case had not Count D'Estaing met with such terrible storms. I hear Sr. George Collier is just arrived from your port, which he left the 3d of Nov. when, the whole Garrison, Loyal Inhabitants, Merchze, Stores &c from Newport, were all safe arrived with you wch. am very glad to hear, as our property will now be more secure & your City thereby made sufficient to repel any Force by Sea & Land that may attempt to attack it. I dont hear any further acco. of D'Estaing. Wish you had been able to have sent us a line or two by the Daphne, Frigate, but dont find any private letters come by her, so must rest till next Arrival, which expect will be soon. I hope Cousin Stephen & Family with all yours are well & got over your great Fatigue & hard Labour. believe you may rest assured that New York will not be evacuated, but be made a second Gibraltar & that Halifax, Canada & So. Carolina too (if we take it) will be all that Government mean to attend to in America, until we have sufficiently drub'd the French & Spaniards on this side of the Water. I am glad to find you had rec'd all my letters pr Fleet & May Packet as also by Mr. Dumont via Cork likewise that the Merch'ze I consigned you by the Camberwell &c turned out right. . . . Teas are still dear here so let mine lay by a little longer. The emborsed Ribbons, would have sell at cost, or how you can.

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It was a great oversight to pack Sugar Candy with the Flanders Ticks, but if washed out should think might do no great harm to them. . . . I shall not expect your Aunt D. [Ann, wife of Gilbert] till next Fall if then, so wish that letters & shoes you may have for her may be forwarded soon as possible, also the Accounts, Notes of hand &c. already wrote you about. I should think if Mr. Thomas Brattle sh'd be goeing to Boston, you might try if he would undertake to safe delivery of them, he is a Friend of ours & if he undertakes it, may depend on him. . . .

As to the privateering Scheme, unless you can interest me from three to five hundred pounds in a good Ship of 28 to 32 guns, well manned, a good sailor, that can run where it will not do to fight, w'd rather not be concerned at all, as Ships of Small Force will not answer now at the beginning of a war. I don't think of anything more to add save my Love to all your family & Comp'ts to all enquiring Friends & am with Esteem Dear Georges

(Copy)

Yours Affectionately  
Gilbert Deblois

Elysium Row, Fulham

Dear Cousin.

. . . I hope you had time to bring off all our Goods & secure your debts before the Evacuation took place, and not hurried in the distracted manner it was done in Boston, . . . .

Mr. Stephen Deblois  
(Copy)

Your Affectionate Cousin  
Gilbert Deblois.

It is not to be wondered at that the Deblois partners in New York considered a privateering scheme. Many Tory merchants in New York fitted out privateers to prey on American ships.

"In the six and a half months after Sept. 1778, 150 prizes came in. Seldom a day passed in which no prize came in. As early as March 1779, the value of the captured vessels and cargos amounted to £600,000." [Wertenbaker: *Father Knickerbocker Rebels*, 1948. Page 209.]

Fulham 31 Dec. 1779

Gentlemen

. . . I am sorry for the Evacuation of Newport w'ch will doubtless be a disadvantage to us all, . . . I'm much obliged to you for Forwarding Mrs. Deblois's Letters & Shoes to Boston; you'll be kind enough to let her know pr. first opp'y that I received all her letters by Mr. Duncan & Dr. Barry by the two Cartel Ships arrived here; her last date being 21st

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Nov. & that we are all well here. She advises receiving the black Callamanco Slippers pr. Rev. Mr. Weeks; but says no letter came with them; do you remember who s'd slippers came by to you; in her letter of 20th Sept. says "she had just seen Capt. White, last of Newport, who is confined in prison, that he told her he had seen Mr. Step'n deblois, who informed him, that he had received late letters for her from me & that there was something for her; said White told her he did not chuse to ask for favors." I suppose he meant that he should have been willing to take charge of anything; had he requested it, that she would have been glad to have got whatever there was for her. In hers of 30th Oct. says "What can be the Reason the Mr. Deblois's don't chuse to send any little matters to us, there never could have been a better opp'y than by the last Flag.\* Mr. Thos. A. Coffin & Mr. T. Sheaffe sent their Mothers many things by a Prisoner Mr. Brenton, who was allowed to be in the City & knew us all; it does trouble me much to see many Persons getting things & we neglected."

In hers of Nov'r 21 says "She is surprised she cant get any of you to send any little Articles she writes for as other People get what they want from their friends there, w'ch frequently offer, that Cousin Stephen missed a very good opportunity by not leaving something with Thos. Wickham, who could have sent them with great safety & pleasure." I think on the whole she may have reason to complain & without either of you neglecting her, perhaps her Letters to you for Articles she was in want of have miscarried & never reached her hands, should be glad however you'l send her what she writes for from time to time when opp'y offers that you find other People sending by, giving me a particular Acco't of what you send at foot of your letters for which attentions, I shall be greatly obliged to you, as find your Aunt has not the Courage to undertake a voyage, so dont expect her here. . . .

In your late letters you mention that Mrs. Deblois wrote you that she thought it would be Impossible for you to send her anything more, as the last things by the Cartel were all seized by the Committee, how she can reconcile this Acco't with her late Complaints I know not, you'l

\* The "Cartel," sometimes called the "Flag" from the flag of truce, was a ship employed for the exchange of prisoners. It was against the rules to send merchandise in these ships; but the rules appear to have been frequently violated. That the Debloises were making use of the "Flag" between Newport and New York is shown in Minutes & Extracts from papers taken in the "Flag," Newport Superior Court, September, 1782:

"2 St. Deblois to John Bours with a bundle of Goods & Credit for a Bill of Exchange.

10 From St. Deblois to D. Vaughan, asking the receipt of a Box of Butter, appeared to be nothing more at present.

18 An invoice of Goods packed by John Bours, of George Deblois & Co.

22 An Account of silks & linens on the joint account & risque of St. Deblois & Norris.

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therefor write her by first opp'y. I am with Complem'ts of the Season  
& Love to all your Familys

Messrs Stephen & George	Gent'n
Deblois Sen'r & Jun.	Your Affectionate Cousin
	Gilbert Deblois

In a letter from Fulham 7 Feb. 1781, Gilbert made suggestions to the Georges, Sen'r & Jr. as to what goods they should handle, saying among other things:

Women buy superfluities such as elegant blond ruffles, gauze caps, ribbons, silks etc. etc. which the women will have while their poor husbands are able to raise a guinea or a dollar. As our American women have not as yet been drawn into the Field of Battle to bear arms against us, surely your Commander in Chief will not be so hard hearted as to deprive them of a little finery (the pride of their life) without which they think their lives scarce worth preserving.

Soon after the date of above letter, George Deblois Sen'r left New York for Halifax and George Jnr. followed him in 1782.

Dear Stephen:

Halifax Sept. 16, 1782

This serves to inform you of my safe arrival here after a passage of thirteen days; the fourth day after leaving you, we fell in with a rebel ship of 22 guns, which we of the packet only engaged for an hour & a half; tho without any material damage on either side; our escaping was owing to the two men of war (our convoy) being near to us, otherwise we should have been taken without much difficulty as the enemy was double our force in every respect — had the men of war pursued the method they might have done, the Rebel ship would have been brought in here without much trouble; however we arrived in safety. . . . As the following articles are scarce & very high here I should be glad you would purchase for my Bro. Geo. & self for our family use, charging our separate acc'ts — viz. 56 p. coffee, 40 p. chocolate & what of the loaf sugar you can spare. I forgot to mention for you to divide the wine put into my ten galln cask in the front cellar (of my late house) my proportion being (I think Philip said) six Gals, however should it be otherwise, you can rectifie it accordingly, dont omit sending my Bro. Geo. a quarter Cask Lisbon Wine as none here. I hope you will be able to forward my furniture by first conveyance, as I expect to have half a house, in about ten days & have no furniture to put in it & none to be borrowed or purchased here.

Mr. Wm. Taylor has more or less connection with the Masters of the transports, should any be coming here, you can mention the matter to

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

him as have no doubt of his assisting me likewise. I intended to have sent you some Table Fish, but none in this place at present that is good.

In case you have no immediate prospect disposing our Vendue, woolens, mustard etc. you had better send them here by the first conveyance as shall be able to dispose of them here this Fall & ensuing Winter.

I am Dear Cousin

Mr. Stephen Deblois Merch't  
No. 22 Broadway, New York

Affectionately Yours  
Geo. Deblois Jnr.

The end of the family co-partnership of five is described in one of many Deblois manuscripts in possession of Stephen Raymond<sup>7</sup> De Blois of Middletown, R. I.

Boston Commonwealth Mass.

Whereas I the subscriber was a copartner under the firm of Gilbert Deblois, Lewis Deblois late of London Great Britain, Stephen Deblois of Newport R. I., George Deblois, Senior, George Deblois, Junior, both late of New York which business commenced at New York & Newport in the year 1777 for mutual benefit of the above five partners — said business was pursued for several years until about 1783 during which time, the business met with many heavy losses, by captures and bad debts which rendered said concern, after all their debts & expenses were paid, without any capital; insomuch as to oblige said Partners to stop any further pursuit in said business which circumstance caused said Partners to commence business independent of said Company, or concern — and whereas no adjustment was ever made of the said Partners respective accounts & as at this time there remains only two surviving Partners of said Company, namely Stephen Deblois & George Deblois, Junior — I the subscriber being one of them, do hereby certify that I relinquish & forever give up all demands on the said Stephen Deblois, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, on account of said Company, or partnership, should any balance appear due from him to me, at any future settlement.

In Witness thereof I affix my hand and seal this 25th day of August 1800  
Acknowledged & Signed

in presence of

Geo. Cunningham  
Rebecca Deblois

George Deblois

After 1783, for several years, Stephen, George, Senior, and George, Junior carried on business as a partnership, with Lewis and Gilbert in England acting as commission men and shipping them goods.



## THE DE BLOIS FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

A letter concerning this business was written by Lewis from London: —

London 20th July 1787

Mess'rs Step'n & Geo. Deblois, Sen & Jun.  
Gent'n.

I note the difficulties you have in raising money from your Stock as mentioned in my last, if your Auctioneers cannot dispose of your Stock, you must do it yourselves at your own Houses by advertising to sell them at cost, at the same time rate them 25% under cost, in order to induce People to buy. It wont do to advertise to sell your Goods 25% under cost that notice in a Public Newspaper would ruin yours & my credit here as your newspapers are in all the Coffee Houses & perused by the Merch'ts. You might advertise you going into another branch of Business & will sell off your Goods at Cost W'ch will turn out 20% cheaper than the Importers can now afford to sell the same sorts. You must get all your Wits to work in order to raise Cash from your Goods — keeping them to dribble out from hand to mouth will be followed by sure destruction for us all. . . . I think it a very hard Case if you cannot raise 3 or £4000 out of 7 or £8000 Goods you have or ought to have with you. Its with your House whether we sink or swim. . . .

Your Notice to me of your Bro. Lewis advising you he expected *their* Sloop from Surinam. This is quite News to me, Never before heard that he and his Partner were playing Ducks & Drakes with other Persons property — very pritty fellows indeed — instead of their remitting me as they raised it from the Goods, they have been risqueing my interest where I w'd not have done it myself. They certainly have had no feeling, otherwise w'd've lightened my Distress by remitting me the money as fast as they raised it from the Sale of their Goods. If this vessel miscarries or makes a bad Voyage, the loss will eventually be mine, as neither of them had six pence in the World before I intrusted my Interest in their hands — Oh Strange unaccountable management — I have not wrote them of this matter & mean not to do it at present, — when you write him dissuade him from being further concerned in shipping as sure destruction will be the consequence of it. None of our Family were ever successful in the shipping line. My Father was once a forehanded Man and did not know how to employ his money. He was acquainted with a Jew Merch't and they both converted their loose corns in a vessell & cargo & sent her to the West Indies — she returned and made a losing voyage — they engaged in a second voyage in hopes to make good the loss of the first — they scraped every farthing together and sent her away — the vessell foundered & no Insurance on neither vessell nor cargo — the consequence all the

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

loose corns gone. The Jew turned to Laice manufacture & my Father was obliged to double his diligence & draw the long bow again.

My Bro. Gilbert & myself have sunk cash for times by being concerned in shipping as you are all well knowing too. I particularly cautioned Lewis from ever entering into shipping — I knew your good sence needed not my advice in that matter.

Since writing the foregoing I have been turning over in my mind whether or not one of you (meaning Geo. Sen. or George Jun.) can not do the Business at Halifax & the other proceed to Boston with part of the Goods, but of this matter I leave to yourselves to determine. Our unhappy situation demands every exertion, time slips away & interest is cutting deep.

I am yours affectionately  
Lewis Deblois.

George Deblois, Junior, did leave Halifax and proceed to Boston.

The Lewis who was accused in the above letter of "Playing Ducks & Drakes with other persons money" was son of the Lewis who wrote the letter. The result of the voyage to Surainam is unknown. It was not mentioned in a letter received Sept. 22, 1787, by Stephen Deblois at Newport from Lewis Deblois of London; but by that time the young Lewis, who was twenty-five years old, had given further cause of worry to his father, who wrote; — "I am very much disturbed by Lewis going wife hunting instead of attending to business. Too young. Neglect of business injured me as well as himself."

July 26, 1787, Lewis wrote from London to his son George, Jnr.

I refer you to my last respects of the 19th June pr. the Garland Capt. Eldred for your port, I thank you for your attention to our old Newburyport &c concerns. I beg you to continue writing them till they pay their balances. (Lunenberg)

I am extremely sorry for the many hardships you experienced last Winter. Altho I am in the Land of Plenty I live very meanly & entertain few or none, my expenses are very small, could your House furnish me with a few thousand Pounds how happy would it make us all as it would enable me to obtain fresh Credit & get you all agoing again, but till that very desirous period arrives my hands are tied & wholly out of my power to render any of you the least service. Your worthy Uncle Gilbert goes a Passenger in the Neptune Capt. Scott who sails in a few days for Boston, his presence there being absolutely necessary. I have only to add, I pray God you may all have Health & spirits to encounter & surmount your

## THE DE BLOIS FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

present difficulties, when I doubt not we shall all remember & avoid the Shoals & Rocks that occasioned our present troubles, by steering a different course than have been done since 1783.

At the same time, Lewis sent a letter to his son-in-law George Deblois Senr. in which he said:

We are very sorry you sh'd again put Sally in a condition not to be able to write me nor her Mother, we were in hopes you had done with that old fashion expensive family business, I hope you now mean to give Sally a long respite.

In July 1787, the eighth child was born to George Senr. and his wife Sarah or Sally, the daughter of Lewis. But in spite of Lewis's advice they had two more.

## Chapter V

### STEPHEN DE BLOIS OF NEWPORT

**I**N addition to the letters between the members of the DeBlois family, there are in Newport Historical Society others which, read with various records, give a story of Stephen DeBlois during and after the Revolution. Stephen, with his family and stock of goods, went to New York with the British army in 1779 and, as a result, was banished from Rhode Island, and his property was confiscated.

"Whereas Joseph Wanton Jr. Esq. William Wanton, merchant; Joseph Durfee mariner; Lynn, mariner; John Mawdsley, merchant; Walter Chaloner, Esq., Edward Thurston, merchant; George Rome, merchant; Samuel Whitehorne, merchant; Matthew Cozzens, merchant; John Freebody, mariner; Jas. Clarke, Esq.; James Clarke, cordwainer; Richard Beals, Esq.; John Nichols, Esq.; Thomas Bannister, gentleman; Jahleel Brenton, gentleman; John Nichols, trader; Isaac Hart, Sam Hart, Moses Hart, Sam Hart, Jr., merchants; John Watson, merchant; Sam Goldthwaite, merchant; Samuel Bours, merchant; Edward Mumford, merchant; Geo. Bisset, clerk; Isaac Lawton, merchant; Stephen Deblois, merchant; Robert Ferguson, merchant, John Andres, mariner; James Nixon Jr., merchant, all of Newport have left this State, and having joined the enemies thereof, thereby not only depriving these states of their personal services, at a time when they ought to have afforded their utmost aid in defending the said states against the invasions of a cruel enemy, but manifesting an inimical disposition to the said states, and a design to aid and abet the enemies thereof in their wicked purposes."

"It was enacted that if any of them should return, they should be apprehended and transported to some place within the dominion or in the possession of the forces of the King and if any person, who shall be transported, shall voluntarily return, without liberty first had and obtained from the General Assembly, he shall on





DE BLOIS STORE

This building, still standing in 1949, was owned and used as a store by Stephen De Blois before the Revolution. After he left Newport with the British troops in 1779, for New York, the store was confiscated by the Committee. Stephen returned to Newport in 1783 and repurchased the store in 1784.

## STEPHEN DE BLOIS OF NEWPORT

conviction suffer the pains of death, without benefit of clergy." July 1780. [*Colony Records*, Vol. IX, pages 130 and 140.]

"At Public Vendue, at the dwelling house of Mr. John Lawton in Newport on Wednesday 22 day of August next, a number of lots of land, dwelling houses, stores, wharves thereon lying in Newport, which have been confiscated for and to the use of this state, viz.: — Real Estate of Stephen Deblois — The above estates will be sold for hard money, beef or flour as will best suit the purchasers. Newport July 9, 1781." [*Newport Mercury*, July 14, 1781.]

The real estate of Stephen which was sold was his store on Spring Street. While he was still in New York, but hoping to be allowed to return to Newport, he received the following letter: —

Newport Sept. 12, 1783

Stephen Deblois New York

I am sorry to enclose you so disagreeable news from Maj. Thompson, he says he has advised you to send Mrs. D. and family to Providence & they will be as safe you may rely on it at Newport & think she had rather be here than at Providence. I have advised with a number of people and there is none but what says she may come with safety. The next day after talking with Capt. Gardner about the store Capt. Handy called on me and asked whether it would not be best to try to lay in for the store. I directly suspected that Capt. Gardner & he had been talking about the matter as I never mentioned that I had any order about the store but to G. I told Handy I believed twas in a good way he then said he had been talking with G. about the matter and intended to buy it solely for you. he told H. he would take 300 dollars for the store lot etc but I did not understand G. so as I showed him part of your letter to me where you say you here that he will let you have it for the same he gave for it. He then answered he gave 201 dollars for it and had been offered 260 for which sum I may have it. If this should be a misunderstanding between us shall I give 300. Handy advised me to close the bargain but will not until I here from you.

Mrs. Dupee begs the favour of your sending a set of spinnet strings compleat.

Sam J. Thurston

That Thurston would have saved Stephen \$100 if he had taken Capt. Handy's advice and closed the deal, is shown by the following records: — "Joseph C. Clarks Gen. Treasurer to Caleb Gardner, merchant, for 201 Spanish milled dollars a lot of land being

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175 feet east and west and 40 feet north and south with a store or building thereon, easterly and northerly on highways; westerly by land late of Nath'l Coggeshall, jun. dec'd; southerly partly by land late of Philip Wilkinson dec'd, partly by land late of Wm. Burroughs, dec'd; it being the same building and lot which lately belonged to Stephen Deblois and which same lot & premises have been confiscated." [*Newport Land Records*, Book 3, page 10. Feb. 1, 1785.] March 1, 1785, Caleb Gardner sold the same premises to Stephen Deblois for 400 Spanish milled dollars. [*Ibid.*, Book 3, page 42.]

The location of the store appears from the following deed: — "Ann Robinson of Newport, widow of Robert dec'd, for \$90,  $\frac{1}{6}$  of premises containing in bredth from north to south 56 feet more or less; in length east and west 176 feet more or less; bounded easterly on Spring Street; northerly on Gidley Street; westerly on land of Hammett; southerly on land of heirs of John Castoff; being same premises formerly owned by my late father Stephen & which he occupied and improved as a store & which he purchased of Caleb Gardner." [*Land Records*, Book 15, page 464.] This store is still standing and shown opposite page 73.

In addition to confiscating the tangible property of the loyalists, the State tried to collect from their debtors all sums due them. The following letter from Sam. J. Thurston to Stephen Deblois in New York shows one such case: —

Newport April 16, 1780

Hon. Sir:

I desired Mr. S. G. to acquaint you of the Troubles I was brought into by the letter wrote me respecting Capt. Z. S. [Zebedee Story] to whom I owe all my misfortunes so that I fear that I cannot live here without forfeiting my word and honor to you to whom I under the greatest obligations too and which I shall leave no stone unturned to avoid thro the Villiany of the above person I was obliged to declare how I settled my accounts with you and which I shall be obliged to stand a Superior Court for and if given against me must pay the money that I justly and truly owe you to the States tho you've my written obligations or go to the provost which latter (tho it be my utter ruin) I shall chearfully embrace rather than pay the money so as to render it out of my power to pay you your just dues. After the letter was found out I was imprisoned for 3 or 4 hours & then was released again after their taking Lewis' small affairs from me and all went on smoothly again untill Z. S. was called on he not



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contented with wronging you himself by his base conduct for which he is despised by many here but make this plea "Gentlemen why am I thus drawn Why is not other peoples conduct looked into as well as mine their is young Thurston who every one knows had nothing a few years ago is now an assortment goods by him why is he not called in as well as me" I was called on again and was finally obliged to declare how I settled with you. If you can send me privitly (Not other ways) a Bill of the things I had of you and a clear receipt upon em as the other Bills bearing a receipt on them to this purpose rec' his note hand &c which for fear of being discovered was Oblige to destroy as my very desk was searcht. I have not had much peace of mind since you went from this. If matters are given against me I shall go to the provost and wait the event or a deliverance I have had thoughts of going to Holland If I can so as to see you in E. but I stand in needs of that Friendly Cordial advice from you which I have so often Experienced I've £ ang\* by me in cash which I may venture to say you may rest assured of some time or other. Mr. G. G. [George Gibbs] is very kind also H. H., who is very unhappy in regard to his Bill his father allows him only £299 a year which is scarcely able to maintain him in this land of extortion and oppression. Capt. H. H. [Handy] says you may have spared yourself the trouble of writing Z. S. as he believes him to be a great Villian and does not intend to pay you he is a good judge as he has had a great deal of talk with him on the subject he lives in the Grandest manner in his house

Sam J. Thurston

"Nov. 1780. Samuel Thurston prayed the General Assembly that a judgment obtained against him for 355 pounds 3 shillings 1 pence sterling with costs as being the property of Stephen Deblois of Newport, whose estate has been confiscated, may be set aside. Voted that proceedings be stayed and suspended until further order of the Assembly." [*Colony Records*, Vol. 9, page 280.] As no further record appears, it seems that Thurston succeeded in avoiding payment to the State; but Stephen did not recover his claim against the "great Villian."

"Feb. 1780. Mr. Zebedee Story of Newport represented to the General Assembly that during the time the British troops held possession of said Town he was an inhabitant thereof; that having dealings with Stephen Deblois (Who has withdrawn himself with the enemy) there was due the said Stephen Deblois upwards of 400 pounds sterling, that in consequence of his failure to deposit

\* Code.

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

420 pounds sterling in the general treasury in accordance with the resolve of the council of war, his goods have been seized, to the amount of near 500 pounds sterling to his great prejudice and prayed for relief." He was allowed to receive his goods back upon depositing 180 pounds and giving bond. [*Colony Records*, Vol. IX, pages 26-7.]

"Stephen Deblois of the City & County of Newport, merchant, Plaintiff. Zebedy Story of same City, merchant, deft. in an action of case for money due by book and upon a promise. Damage 500 pounds lawful money. The plaintiff discontinued his suit. It is therefor Considered that the said Zebede recover and have of the said Stephen his costs of suit taxed at o. 19. 9. Dec. 13, 1784." [At the Nov. Court 1784, No. 22.]

However, Stephen succeeded in some suits against his creditors. At the May Superior Court 1785, he recovered 34 pounds 19 shillings 5p from Thomas Cranston, merchant alias yeoman alias distiller, Exec. Thomas Cranston Esq. dec'd. Case for money by note, and of John Tweedy, apothecary, on note 328 pound 4 shillings 5½p.

Although the State banished him and confiscated his property because he went with the British army to New York, Stephen did not fare much better with the British in New York.

Jones in his History of New York, gives numerous instances of the oppressive & unjust measures used by English officials toward the loyalists during their occupation of New York City. Stephen Deblois of Newport, with others of his name, was a large importer of English goods, especially hardware. On the withdrawal of the Royal forces from Rhode Island, he fled to New York with what result the following letter will show:

To his excellency Sir Guy Carleton, K. B. general and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America &c.

Sir: Sensible that your Excellency has not wish that any of His Majesty's subjects in this Garrison under your protection should be oppressed, occasions me to represent to you my situation. I came from Newport, Rhode Island, with the troops at the time it was evacuated and brought with me a large quantity of merchandise, a great part of which is on hand, and in order to reduce the heavy expence I have been at in this City, removed my goods from my store last May to my dwelling house in Broadway, N. Y., which obliged me to make use of the lower part of the

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house and have only three rooms, one of which is occupied by my sister, the other a bed or keeping [sitting] room for my family. I am now ordered by the Barrack office to remove my goods to receive a billet; which is impossible for me to do without hireing some other house; not having sufficient room to hold my goods, am under the necessity of hireing a cellar, and momentarily expect a quantity of goods from So. Carolina. I have at all times most cheerfully received a billet whilst the house was not improved in this way. I most humbly request your Excellency to grant me relief and not suffer my family to be distressed, Sir

Your Excellency's most obedient and  
most Humble Servant

New York Sept. 21st, 1782

Stephen Deblois

Copy

Sir: — The enclosed is Copy of what I wished to have presented to your excellency, but was informed the method that must be pursued was to refer it to General Robertson, which was done, and I waited on him in person with it. He told me he must refer it to the Commandant, to which I have had no other reply, than on the 28th Ult., Capt. Cook of the 37th Regiment, brought me a billet, whom I informed of my situation and show'd him every room in the house, on which he waited on me to Mr. Brownrigg, who told me I might hire a store and put my goods in. On informing him I could not, he told me he should apply for a file of men to enforce the Billet. On the next morning a Mr. Gibson from the Barrack office came with a file of men and put Capt. Cook in possession of my Keeping room, and myself and family have only a bed room to retire to. I have only to expect relief from your Excellency's Clemency, of which I have not the least doubt, and shall ever remain, Sir

Your Excellency's most Obed't  
and Most Humble Servant  
Stephen Deblois

New York, Dec. 10, 1782.

“At this time, Stephen was a neighbor of General Carleton as letters to him in New York were addressed to No. 22 Broadway and the General's headquarters were at No. 1 Broadway.” [*New York City During the Revolution.*]

In 1780, Stephen wrote from New York that he feared he could never go back to Newport; but he must have begun planning to get permission to go back soon after the date of the Carleton letters as shown by the following letters:

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

George Gibbs to Stephen Deblois, New York      Newport Feb. 27, 1783,

My utmost influence with my friends will be used to obtain leave for Mrs. Deblois & family to return in the Spring and make not the least doubt that we can have our wishes complied with

George Gibbs to Stephen Deblois, New York      Mar. 26, 1783.

Your friends intend to try their influence at the Assembly in May both for you & Capt. Mawdsley.

The efforts of his friends and the result are shown by letters and by resolves of the General Assembly.

"Voted and resolved that the petition preferred by a number of the inhabitants of the Town of Newport, praying that John Mawdsley and Mr. Stephen Deblois, may be permitted to return into this state, and that they be, and hereby are, permitted to come into this state, five days next preceeding the sitting of this Assembly, at the next session, in order to have a trial on the merits of their Application to be restored to the rights of citizenship." [*Colony Records*, July, 1783.]

In a letter from Sam J. Thurston to Stephen Deblois, New York, Aug. 19, 1783:

Since closing my letter this morning I have your favor by Mr. Whithorn. Will consult your friends tomorrow and if they think it advisable, I will undertake to go to the Gov. to gain you a permit. Mrs. Philips says that Maj. Thompson advises your coming there. Mr. Whithorn & Capt. Andrews keeps themselves close. If You've an inclination to come without a permit, my house is at your service dont think any one will offer the least insult to you.

Another letter from Sam J. Thurston was addressed to Stephen Deblois at Littlerest [Peacedale], indicating that he had come into the state. This letter is undated, but appears to have been before the 1783 sitting of the General Assembly.

Hon. Sir:

I wish you much joy in obtaining your points so far have consulted your good friends they will all stand by you, you may depend upon it that they will endeavor to elect a new member thats agreeable to you. Who it will be cannot yet determine. If Capt. B. Sayer will accept he will be the man who i do assure you is behaved like a prince and has exerted himself with your petition and has been happy enough to obtain 150 signers among

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them all the principal men of the town. Doubtless you have heard of the town meeting held here — last wherein 18 freeman attended and 9 freemen Voted for to employ 2 lawyers viz: Channing & Vernon to speak against your admittance in the General Assembly. Capt. Sayer carrying with him also a protest against said meeting for to lay before the Assembly for the freemen of the town to sign he has the good fortune to get upwards of a hundred to sign that also. you may expect me over with both petition & protest. If no member is elected by tomorrow noon Messrs. G. Gibbs F. Malbone . . . Slocum . . . Malbone will be with me. If not they will come as soon as he is elected. after wishing you every possible success

I am Hon, Sr. Your devoted Hbl Servant  
S. J. Thurston

Expect there will be 60 or 80 more signers to petition protest before I shall come off with it.

It seems remarkable that so many should have favored his return in view of the fact that Stephen had so recently been banished and that many Tories had left Newport.

At the October 1783 session of the general Assembly it was voted: — “Whereas, divers inhabitants of this state preferred a petition and represented to this Assembly that Messrs. John Mawdsley and Stephen Deblois, merchants, resided in the town of Newport a number of years before the commencement of hostilities by the British troops; that they were well acquainted with the said John Mawdsley and Stephen Deblois; that their characters as merchants were irreproachable; that they remained in the town of Newport until the enemy evacuated the island, with a determination to continue and convince their fellow citizens that no just reproach could be thrown upon them; but that through compulsion and necessity, they were obliged to go to New York: that they are extremely anxious to appear before this Assembly, to give every satisfaction of their attachment to this country that can be desired, and convince the world that they have done nothing to the injury of the United States; and thereupon they prayed this Assembly to permit the said John Mawdsley and Stephen Deblois to return to Newport, and render this Assembly such accounts of their conduct as may be required and if found not unworthy, that they may be re-admitted unto the rights of citizenship; which being duly considered,

It is voted and resolved that the said petition be and hereby is re-

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

ferred unto the next session; that the first Thursday of the said session be assigned for the trial of the said petition; and that the said John Mawdsley and Stephen Deblois be and hereby are permitted to reside within this state until the said trial shall be had as aforesaid."

That Stephen went to Newport, soon after the above vote, appears from the following letter:

New York Nov. 12, 1783.

Stephen Deblois, merchant, Newport.

I arrived here on Sunday about 12 o'clock have been very busy since packing up things and getting them ready for to carry on board the Dillingham. I have engaged to take everything and the family for 11 guineas. Mrs. Deblois, Miss Polly and Nancy are all well.

Sam J. Thurston.

Am sorry to inform you that Capt. Hart is gone. Have advertised the house and have an offer of 150 pounds for it nothing yet done. am in hopes that some one will come to our terms before we embark.

150 pounds for a house No. 22 Broadway, New York, does seem rather low.

Feb. 1784, it was

"Voted and resolved that Mr. Stephen Deblois and Mr. John Freebody, both of Newport, be, and they are hereby qualified to sue and be sued hereafter, in the same manner as though they had never been disqualified."

June 1784:

"It is voted and resolved that Mr. Stephen Deblois be, and he is hereby declared to be a free citizen of this state; and as such entitled to all the right, privileges, and immunities of a citizen thereof." [Colony Records, Vol. X, pages 16 and 46.]

Stephen Deblois was a proprietor of a pew in Trinity Church, Newport, April 12, 1784. He was made a vestryman Oct. 1, 1787, in the room of Mr. Charles Wickham, deceased. He was also vestryman in 1792 and 1797. [Annals of Trinity Church.]

August 24, 1785, Matthew Robinson, Esq. of So. Kingstown, Gentm. sold for 600 pounds lawful money to Stephen Deblois a "lot in Newport with the dwelling house and buildings thereon & being in the tenure and occupation of my tenant James Blevin; bounded easterly on Thames street; southerly on a street or lane

## STEPHEN DE BLOIS OF NEWPORT

leading down to the harbor; westerly on the harbor; northerly on land in possession of Abraham Redwood, Esq.

"Also my old wharf or part of a wharf and the same is bounded at the east end by land formerly of Daniel Russell, a gangway leading down to said wharf and on land lately of Peleg Woods, dec'd. Said land and wharf further bounded northerly on land of Gregory Cozzens & Samuel Fowler, southerly partly by land of Capt. John Brown, dec'd partly by land of Sam'l Carr." In 1799, Stephen sold the wharf to James Philips for 1000 Sp. milled dollars.

The dwelling house stood on the lot next south of the "Redwood Building" which is now numbered 345 Thames street.

"Died on Friday morning the 15th in the 70th year of his age, Mr. Stephen Deblois of this town. Eminently distinguished by the exercise of every virtue and accomplishment which characterize the valuable citizen, the accurate merchant, the honest, upright man & the sincere Christian, he passed thro life greatly esteemed and respected. A widow, six children and an only sister lament with unavailing sorrow, the loss of an affectionate husband, a tender parent and a kind brother." [*Newport Mercury*, Feb. 16, 1805.]

Stephen and his wife Jane were buried under a flat tombstone in Trinity Church yard, Newport. His brother George and his sister Mary lie under the next stone.

The children of Stephen<sup>8</sup> and Jane Deblois were:

- i. Lewis, b. 23 Sept. 1781 in N. Y.; d. Sept. 1782.
- ii. Ann died Wickford 4 Jan. 1850 aet. 68; married Capt. Robert Robinson. Only child, Sarah Ann, died young.
- iii. Elizabeth, b. 8 Mar. 1783 in N. Y.; d. 19 Mar. 1783.
2. iv. Stephen, b. 10 June 1784.
- v. Elizabeth, b. 15 Oct. 1786; m. at Bristol 17 Dec. 1810, Timothy Pearce; child, Maria Marion, b. 19 Feb. 1812. Nothing more about this family has been found by the writer.
- vi. Rebecca, b. 22 Sept. 1788; d. 19 Nov. 1848; m. David Thacher. See *Thacher-Thatcher Gen.* Part xx, page 481, for their descendants.
3. vii. John, bapt. 12 Dec. 1790.
- viii. Jane, bapt. 16 Mar. 1797; d. unmarried 1882.
2. Stephen<sup>4</sup> Deblois (Stephen<sup>8</sup>, George<sup>2</sup>, Lewis<sup>1</sup>), b. 10 June 1784, d. March 1853, married Sarah E. Deane, daughter of Silas Deane.

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That he continued the business of his father is shown by an advertisement in the *Newport Mercury*:

“STEPHEN DEBLOIS

No. 16 Spring Street.

Informs his customers and others who wish to purchase on low terms, he has just received, per the Rhody and Betsy, from Liverpool, via New York, a very large and extensive assortment of Hardware Goods; also an excellent assortment of Fall & Winter Goods, amongst which are Broadcloths of all qualities; Plaons; Kerseymers; German Serges; Fearnoughts; Coatings; Swandown and Patent Cords of Newest Fashions, &c. &c. &c. All of which will be disposed of on most reasonable terms.

N.B. Those who are indebted to the estate of Stephen Deblois, deceased, are once more called on for payment. — All accounts unsettled after November next will be placed in an Attorney's hands.

Newport Aug. 12, 1806.”

For a time Stephen<sup>4</sup> Deblois was a distiller.

“After Revolutionary War there were distilleries in operation . . . Messrs. Dixon & Deblois operated a distillery on Overings wharf next below the last named (Illuminating Light Building).” J. H. Tilley: *Newport from 1700-1775*.

In an agreement dated 11 March 1818 between S. Deblois and G. Dickson on the one part and Capt. John Smith on the other, the parties of the first part were to distil a cargo of molasses at their distillery, for six cents on the number of Gallons of molasses so received, the said Smith finding good Rum Hhds for the same.

“The first steamboat to appear in Narragansett Bay was the Firefly which came from New York in 1817; but proving too clumsy to compete with the packets, remained only a short time. There was no other steamboat until the Fulton made an excursion from New York in 1821 with 80 notables aboard including John Quincy Adams. In the Summer of 1822, the Rhode Island & New York Steamboat Company was organized and steamers, the Connecticut, Capt. Elihu S. Bunker, and Fulton, Capt. Richard Law, made semi-weekly trips during the season between Provi-



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dence and New York, stopping at Newport each way. This was the beginning of permanent Steamboat traffic between Providence and New York." [Grieve: *The Sea Trade in Rhode Island*, page 512.]

That Capt. Bunker tied up at Stephen<sup>4</sup> Deblois's wharf during that first season is shown in a letter from the Captain dated Providence Mar. 24, 1823, in which he expressed great surprise that Stephen should think that he would use his wharf during the coming season and that on account of the many perplexities caused by the shallow water and the resulting complaints from passengers he would not use the wharf again if he was paid \$500. He went on to say that when he got to New York he was going to try to have changes made so that he could use coal instead of wood and in that case he would need only to tie up for a short time and the end of Long Wharf would suit his purpose.

Stephen<sup>4</sup> DeBlois's son Stephen came to a tragic end.

"Shocking affair. Stephen Deblois, Jun. died on Saturday evening last from the effects of a wound inflicted with a knife, by Samuel Tuell. The facts we learn are, that on Friday Evening the parties were in company, with several other persons, at the grocery of R. Mumford in Thames Street, when they imprudently commenced trifling, by throwing meal bags, &c. at each other, when the deceased took a handful of meal and threw it in the face of Tuell. . . . the latter immediately seized a butchers knife which was lying near him, and plunged it into the abdomen of Deblois, who lingered in great pain until the next evening, when he expired." *Newport Mercury*, Feb. 24, 1838.

The record of Tuell's trial, Supreme Court, Newport, Mar. Term, 1838, shows that he was tried for stabbing Stephen Deblois the younger in the left side of the belly, with a knife of the value of 25 cents, on the 16th day of February, 1838, from which wound DeBlois died; and that Tuell was found not guilty of murder but guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for two years from March 10, 1838.

Among some papers recently found in the house formerly of Stephen<sup>4</sup> Deblois, is a copy of a petition written by him to the General Assembly at their May Session in Newport 1840, protesting bitterly against the remission of the fine and the release from jail of Samuel Tuell, the murderer of his son.

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

Children of Stephen and Sarah (Deane) Deblois:

- i. Elizabeth Dean<sup>5</sup>, b. 1807; d. 1809
- ii. Stephen, b. 1808; d. 1838, unm.
- iii. William, b. 1809; d. 1886, unm.
- iv. James Perry, b. 1811; d. 1912
- v. Elizabeth Dean, b. 1812; d. 1841; m. 1835, Sidney Ashley; children (surname Ashley), 1. Susan Crossland<sup>6</sup>, m. William Patten; children (surname Patten), (1) Clarence<sup>7</sup>, (2) William. 2. Sarah Elizabeth, m. Marcus Baldwin. 3. Mary Matilda, m. Louis Holtz. All of Elizabeth Dean's children went to San Francisco.
- vi. Jane, b. 1813; d. 1813
- vii. George, b. 20 Oct. 1814; d. 12 Sept. 1897; m. 1st June, 1842, Emiline Allen, b. 6 Jan. 1821; d. June 1865; m. 2d Harriet ——. Children, 1. Elizabeth Ashley<sup>6</sup>, b. 10 July 1843; d. 1886; m. 1st Daniel Webster Weeden, 18 Nov. 1867; m. 2d Henry H. Sayles, 1 Jan. 1880. 2. James Perry, b. 31 Mar. 1845; d. —; m. Mary Dorcas Clark, b. —; d. 6 Aug. 1894; children, (1) Minnie Clark<sup>7</sup>, b. 27 Sept. 1866; d. —; m. Charles Lockwood; (2) Sarah R., b. 16 July 1873; d. —; m. Edwin F. Barnes, Providence; one child, Ruth Barnes<sup>8</sup>; (3) George, no children; (4) Mary Chester, b. 17 Oct. 1878. 3. Henry Dean, b. 21 Sept. 1849; d. —; m. Caroline Williams Dore. 4. Hobert Wheaton, b. 15 Aug. 1854; d. 9 Feb. 1878; unm. 5. Emerson, b. 19 Oct. 1857; d. 11 July 1931; m. 8 Mar. 1884, Ella Burdick; no children. 6. Emiline Rosamond, b. 1 May 1864; d. August 1946; m. 16 Mar. 1887, Philip A. Brown; children (surname Brown), (1) Elizabeth Anthony<sup>7</sup>, b. 1892; d. 1919; m. Lawrence A. Clark, Providence; children (surname Clark), (a) Lawrence A., Jr.<sup>8</sup>; (b) Elizabeth A.; (c) —; (2) Emiline Rosamond, b. 6 Sept. 1896.
- viii. John B., b. 1817; d. 1838; m. Martha Bailey; children, 1. John B., Jr.<sup>6</sup>, b. 1838; d. 16 Oct. 1901; m. Susan Lewis; children, (1) Frank L.<sup>7</sup>, b. 10 Feb. 1860; d. 15 Jan. 1919; m. Maud Burnett, no children. (2) Martha, b. 10 Mar. 1862; d. —. (3) Martha, b. 10 Nov. 1863; d. 1869. (4) Sarah Barker, b. 15 Sept. 1865; d. 24 May 1940.

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- ix. Gilbert, b. —; d. —; m. 1st, Sarah Gardner, b. —; d. 10 April 1855; children, 1. William B.<sup>6</sup>, b. —; d. 7 Mar. 1896; m. Mary Elizabeth Brown; children, (1) Henrietta May<sup>7</sup>, b. —; m. Benjamin Gardner, 28 June 1902, Milton, Mass.; (2) William, b. —; m. Ethel Rogers Littlefield, 14 Nov. 1905; child, Louise Ethelyn<sup>8</sup>, b. 2 June 1912; m. 14 May, 1931, Arthur Albert Albro, Jr.; (3) Harold Richmond, b. 22 June 1890; d. 17 Aug. 1932; m. 6 Aug. 1932. 2. Sarah, b. —; m. Harry Myers of San Francisco. 3. Silas, probably went to San Francisco. Gilbert m. 2d, 29 Aug. 1858, Martha Bluck; children, by second wife 4. Mary<sup>6</sup>, b. 12 April 1860; d. —; m. 5 Sept. 1877, William F. Worthington of Seekonk; 5. Martha, b. 30 April 1862; d. 17 May 1862; 6. Martha Alice, b. 27 Jan. 1867.

Gilbert bought a farm in Seekonk, Mass., in 1869. In a letter dated Mar. 3, 1870, to his brother Henry D. at Newport, he said he wanted two more cows and had looked at one he could buy for \$70. Later he sent the following letter: —

“Seaconk, Mass June 28, 1870

Dear Brother

... Henery I wish you would take the pew off me and send me a cow for it as i do not want it any more ...

Gilbert DeBlois”

A paper in possession of Mrs. S. Raymond DeBlois gives the answer:

Newport July 12, 1870

\$

Received of H. D. DeBlois and John B. DeBlois one cow in full pay for my one third part of Pew No. 3 Trinity Church.

Gilbert DeBlois

- x. Henry Dean, b. 1822-23; d. Dec. 1913; m. Mary Jane Kelly, b. —, Lowell, Mass.; d. 28 June 1881; children, 1. Henry Dean<sup>6</sup>, Jr., b. 21 Oct. 1858; d. 16 Aug. 1900; m. 7 April 1879, Sarah Helen Hazard, b. 29 July 1858; d. 15 Dec. 1882; children, (1) Seth, b. 29 Mar. 1883; d. 20 April 1942; m. 28 Dec. 1904; no children; (2) Stephen

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Raymond, b. 17 Aug. 1889; m. 1st Mazie J. Spear; no children; 2d Frances Kerr; no children. 2. Frank E., b. 19 Apr. 1860; d. 2 Mar. 1869. 3. Andrew J., b. 5 Oct. 1863; d. 18 May 1928; m. Ella Foster Openshaw, 18 Feb. 1914; no children. 4. Sarah E., b. 23 June 1870; d. 1 Sept. 1871. 5. Stephen, b. 17 July 1872; d. 18 Nov. 1893.

Henry D. DeBlois was a 33d degree Mason, having acquired this title upon the death of his father, many years ago. He was born in the old house at corner of Brewer & Spring Streets; at one time an amusement proprietor & exhibited Siamese Twins in one of his stores on Bellevue Avenue; Alderman, 1869 to 1882; Vestryman at Trinity Church. Some remember him as a cigar maker; before this, he was a photographer, daguerreotyper, real estate owner. Died at his home 107 Prospect Hill Street. [*Newport Mercury*, 6 Dec. 1913.]

That he was ready to back his opinion with money is shown by the following:

Newport R. I. October 2, 1876

The sum of Four Thousand Dollars is placed in the hands of Anthony Sherman, Esq. by J. N. A. Griswold and Henry D. DeBlois. If Hayes is elected President of the United States, said Sherman is to pay said sum to said J. N. A. Griswold or his legal representatives. If Tilden is elected President of the United States, said Sherman is to pay said sum to the said DeBlois or his legal representatives. In case of death of either Hayes or Tilden prior to the day of the election in November next, one half of said sum is to be paid each to said DeBlois and said Griswold. All questions upon this document are left to said Sherman to decide.

J. N. A. Griswold, pr. Samuel R. Honey Atty  
H. D. DeBlois

I acknowledge receipt of said sum of Four Thousand Dollars and accept the foregoing trust.

A. S. Sherman.

- xi. Silas Dean, b. 1823; d. 10 May 1891; m. 2 April, 1841, Sarah Tew, b. 5 Aug. 1823; d. 26 Oct. 1890; children, 1. Stephen<sup>6</sup>, b. 1845; d. 1865. 2. Harry Lee, b. 28 Feb. 1859; d. 1 Nov. 1940; m. 1st —; 2d Mattie Slocum, b. 2 June 1900.
- xii. Sarah E. Dean, b. 4 Jan. 1829; d. 30 Sept. 1904; m. 14 Apr. 1849, Gorton Anderson, b. 13 Feb. 1826; d. 29 Nov. 1913; children (surname Anderson), 1. Maria

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Coggeshall<sup>6</sup>, b. 19 Jan. 1850; d. 9 May 1859. 2. Gorton, b. 27 Oct. 1851; d. 1852. 3. Stephen. 4. Leverett. 5. Charlotte Sweetland, b. —; m. Rodman Cornell; child, Ruth Burd Cornell. 6. Frank, b. 23 Jan. 1862; d. 5 Sept. 1886. 7. Mary. 8. Vernon, b. 7 Mar. 1865; d. —; m. Mary Northrop, b. 1875; d. 1926.

xiii. Mary A. Dean, b. —; d. —; m. 17 Apr. 1844, William H. Bailey; no children.

3. John<sup>4</sup> DeBlois (Stephen<sup>3</sup>, George<sup>2</sup>, Lewis<sup>1</sup>), bapt. 12 Dec. 1790 at Trinity Church, Newport; d. Oct. 1834; m. 2 July 1815, Sarah Cookson Scott, bapt. 1 May 1794; d. 30 Mar. 1835.

As Sarah Cookson Scott's ancestry has been traced back to King Henry II of England [Richard LeBaron Bowen: *The Arms of Richard Scott* and von Redlich: *Some Descendants of Charlemagne*], the descent of the American DeBlois family from the Counts de Blois, indicated hereinbefore, would give the children of John and Sarah a unique ancestry; that is, a descent on the DeBlois side from Queen Eleanor and Louis VII of France and, on the Scott side, a descent from the same Queen Eleanor and Henry II of England; but probably those children would have been willing to exchange a royal ancestry for a better start in life, as their father died insolvent, and they were left orphans at an early age. [*Newport Probate Records*, Vol. X, page 545.]

John<sup>4</sup> Deblois attended the new Academy at Wickford, perhaps on account of the friendship of the Deblois and Elam families indicated in the following communication in the *Newport Mercury* of Jan. 12, 1778: —

Editor of Mercury — Death of Samuel Elam. From Stephen's records of N. Y. Chamber of Commerce, we learn that Samuel Elam was born in Leeds, Yorkshire in 1750. Letters in my possession mention Emanuel & Elam the father. Lewis Deblois writes from London Aug. 26, 1777 to his cousin Stephen in Newport that Samuel Elam had died in June, leaving in Leeds, as executors, Emanuel & Samuel Elam. Sept. 20 same year Gilbert & Lewis Deblois write from London to George Deblois merchant of New York introducing Mr. Samuel Elam who goes passenger in the fleet bound for your port & carries with him a few bales of coarse woolen for sale. The bearer of letter of introduction was undoubtedly referred to as inheritor of Vaocluse.

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Samuel Elam was elected first President of the Washington Academy founded at Wickford in 1800. Updike: *History of Narragansett Church*, Vol. I, page 405. In a letter from D. E. Updike at Wickford Mar. 1, 1803, to Stephen Deblois, Newport, appears "Your son John is well. Mr. Baker says he is attentive to his latin studies."

There are a number of letters in Newport Historical Society showing close friendship of the Updike and Deblois families. In one from Daniel Updike, Wickford, Oct. 2, 1805 to Stephen<sup>4</sup> Deblois: "your sister Miss Nancy and Rebecca arrived at Wickford last night. Sorry Miss Jane had not come up and seen Eliza. Am sending a bag of meal. Hope to procure some Rye meal and good cider soon. We did not proceed with the lottery last night — Nicholas Brown was unable to attend the Trustees Meeting and as friend and patron of the Academy advised putting off the drawing."

"The existence of the new Academy at Wickford with its 70 students having no place of public worship to attend, was made the ground of an appeal to Christians of all denominations in the State for funds to complete the Church. There is in existence a subscription paper with the original signatures of generous contributors to this object such as John Innis Clark, Ann Allan, D. Vinton, George Benson, Thomas L. Halsy and Jabez Bowen of Providence and George Gibbs, Chris. Champlin, Benjamin Gardner, Stephen Deblois, Francis Brinley and J. B. Gilpin of Newport." *Hist. of Narragansett Church*, Vol. II, page 372.

Among Updike papers in Rhode Island Historical Society is the following original draft:

Lodwick Updike, Jun. Esq.

Newport Aug. 9, 1803

Sir:

Please pay the Minister, Wardens or any of the Vestry of St. Pauls in North Kingston for the use of said Church Twenty Dollars & place the same to account of

\$20

Sir,

Your Humble Servant  
Stephen Deblois

Presumably because the home was broken up when the parents died, very few papers relating to John have been preserved. There is one letter dated 3 Nov. 1807 from George Deblois, Jr. to Stephen<sup>4</sup> Deblois at Newport in which he tells of trying to find a job for

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John with some Boston merchant and says: — "this Town is not at this day a very desirable place for youth as many extravagancies are now become fashionable among that class, more than people who live out of this place have an idea of & a lad must possess great virtue to escape the snares & temptations which await him."

On the other hand, many Scott heirlooms were preserved by Sarah DeBlois' younger sister, Mary (Scott) Hunter; passed from her to her daughter Rebecca and, by the will of Rebecca, were returned to the DeBlois side of the family. That will also contained bequests: — "to cousin John S. DeBlois the two old miniatures of his grandmother and grandfather; to Mrs. Jane [DeBlois] Scott the miniature of her grandfather when a boy; to William DeBlois the miniature of his grandfather when about 30 years old." As John S. DeBlois' grandparents on the Scott side died young, it is apparent from a glance at the miniatures that they must have been of his grandparents Stephen and Jane [Brown] DeBlois. These two miniatures are now in the possession of Lillian DeBlois Fox.

John and Sarah (Scott) DeBlois had children:

4. i. John Scott<sup>5</sup>, b. 25 Nov. 1816.
- ii. Jane, b. 8 Feb. 1818; d. 6 Oct. 1882; m. Seth Scott, Providence.
- iii. Mary, b. 9 Feb. 1819, died same day.
- iv. George Lewis, b. 24 Sept. 1823; d. at San Diego, Cal. Jan. 13, 1874.
5. v. Edward Thacher, b. 23 Nov. 1825.
- vi. William Brown, b. 15 Jan. 1830; d. at Wethersfield, Conn., 3 Aug. 1912; m. Martha Coleman; children, 1. Hettie Griswold<sup>6</sup>; m. Lewis Crane; children (surname Crane), (1) Frances Marion<sup>7</sup>, b. Mar. 3, 1896; m. Emery R. Collette, June 9, 1923; (2) Lewis DeBlois, b. Oct. 15, 1899; m. Ethel Murray. 2. Edward Arthur, b. Wethersfield, Nov. 22, 1864; m. Aug. 20, 1908, Edna Myrtle Wellcome, b. Monticello, Minn., Aug. 12, 1878; children, (1) Cevilla<sup>7</sup>, b. Los Angeles, July 14, 1909; m. Thomas Russell Homer, Nov. 28, 1936; children, George Edward Homer, b. June 11, 1939; Linda Louise Homer, b. Aug. 18, 1945; (2) Edna, b. Hartford, Conn., Sept. 1, 1911; m. Mar. 9, 1934, George

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Elliott Brissey; (3) Marian, b. Brawley, Cal., June 16, 1914; m. Dec. 9, 1937, William Lester McWood; children, Diane Gloria McWood, b. Dec. 4, 1938; Gladys Marian McWood, b. Jan. 17, 1942; (4) Ethelyn Wellcome, b. Brawley, Nov. 14, 1915; m. Aug. 20, 1939, James George Carl; child, Edward De Blois Carl, b. Jan. 22, 1946.

vii. Stephen, b. 30 Mar. 1832; d. 26 Aug. 1832.

viii. Susan Wickham, b. 31 Aug. 1833; d. 22 May 1834.

4. Captain John Scott<sup>5</sup> DeBlois (John<sup>4</sup>, Stephen<sup>3</sup>, George<sup>2</sup>, Lewis<sup>1</sup>), b. 25 Nov. 1816; d. at Newport 29 Nov. 1885; m. 2 Oct. 1845, Henrietta M. Tew; they had no children.

John Scott DeBlois ran away to sea while a boy. On his return from his first voyage, he was given 16 silver dollars by the Captain of the ship. John took these to a silversmith on Long Wharf, Newport, and had them made into a ladle, which he gave to his mother. This ladle marked "Nichols — pure coin — Newport R. I." is now in possession of his grandniece, Lillian DeBlois Fox. He commenced a whaling career at the age of seventeen, as assistant to the ship's cooper. By 1850, he had become Master of a ship, the "Ann Alexander." This ship was destroyed by a fighting whale in 1851. His story of the loss of the ship; the rescue of the men, after drifting nine days, by the ship "Nantucket," Capt. Gibbs; and Capt. DeBlois' trials in working his way home, was printed in the *Newport Mercury*, a copy of which is preserved in Newport Historical Society. The story became known to many American school boys, as it was told in school readers of the time; but London *Punch* of Dec. 6, 1851, seemed to have doubts of its truth, as it printed a poem of thirteen stanzas headed "The Wonderful Whalers," describing the fight with the whale and the destruction of the ship, but ending:

Deblois and his unshrinking crew  
Survive to tell the tale.  
Strong are those daring fellows,  
Doubtless the harpoon to throw;  
And — to judge by what they tell us —  
Stronger still to draw the bow.



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About five months after the disaster, the ship "Rebecca Simms," of New Bedford, took a whale which had in it two harpoons that were identified as having come from the "Ann Alexander." His head was frightfully wounded, and imbedded in it were pieces of ship's timbers. Some teeth from this whale are now in Mrs. Fox's possession.

Capt. DeBlois had put all his money into a private venture on this voyage and, not having any insurance, lost everything and arrived home penniless; but undaunted and encouraged by his wife, he made three more voyages in ships built for him. On his voyage of 1856 to 1859, he was accompanied by his wife. Her very interesting diary of this voyage is in Mrs. Fox's possession. A copy, published in *Newport Mercury*, is in Newport Historical Society.

Capt. DeBlois had no schooling, but learned to read and write while at sea. In a letter to Henrietta M. Tew, before their marriage, he said that he was paying the mate to teach him, but asked her not to let his young brothers see his letters, as he was ashamed of his spelling. A great number of letters written by him at sea are in Mrs. Fox's possession. His last three voyages were very successful, and he was able to retire in 1863 with what the newspapers of the time called a fortune.

5. Edward Thacher<sup>5</sup> DeBlois (John<sup>4</sup>, Stephen<sup>3</sup>, George<sup>2</sup>, Lewis<sup>1</sup>), b. at Newport 23 Nov. 1825; d. at Portsmouth 6 Nov. 1887; m. 24 May 1842, Mary Ann Tallman, b. 2 Sept. 1828; d. 26 Aug. 1911, daughter of Jonathan and Mary Tallman. He was apprenticed to William Cook, blacksmith, at Portsmouth and thereafter made his home in that Town. Later, he followed his elder brother in going after oil; but he got it from a smaller producer — menhaden. He was engaged in the fish-oil business in Portsmouth until the menhaden mysteriously disappeared from Rhode Island waters. After that, he had a factory in Bristol, Maine. He was State Senator from Portsmouth from 1879 to 1885. Children of Edward Thacher and Mary Ann DeBlois:

1. John Edward<sup>6</sup>, b. 16 Mar. 1848; d. at Taunton, 4 Oct. 1905; m. Nov. 1874, Emma Jane Choice Goff, b. at Rehoboth 24 April 1849; d. at Taunton 29 Nov. 1932. Children: (1) Hattie Mason<sup>7</sup>, b. 11 Oct. 1875; d. 11 Sept.

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1877; (2) Sarah\* Lillian, b. 27 April, 1882; m. 26 Feb. 1908, Frank B. Fox, b. 27 Jan. 1876, son of William Henry and Anna Maria (Anthony) Fox.

2. Charles L., b. 3 Oct. 1852; d. 24 Aug. 1855.

\* On marriage, dropped name Sarah and took DeBlois as middle name.

## Chapter VI

### AUGUSTUS LUCAS

AUGUSTUS LUCAS was a Huguenot who fled from France sometime between 1699 and 1704 and settled in Newport. Unlike the great majority of refugees, who abandoned all their property and arrived penniless in foreign countries, he succeeded in escaping with two infant daughters and considerable wealth. The finding of his Bible in the collection of old Bibles in Rhode Island Historical Society led to research that brought to light the facts set forth herein. After Mr. Lucas' death, the Bible was owned by his son-in-law Matthew Robinson, Esq. of South Kingstown.

"There is a full inventory of Mr. Robinson's library filed in connection with the settlement of his estate. It contained many French books which his father-in-law Augustus Lucas had brought with him from his native land, among them, a Huguenot Bible. Matthew Robinson died at South Kingstown Oct. 1795 at the advanced age of 86 without issue." [Updike: *The Narragansett Church*, 2d Ed. II, page 14.]

The inventory also lists many pictures, among them one of the family Coat of Arms, 12c; a likeness of R. Robinson & wife \$2; and a likeness of Mr. Lucas 5c. Presumably the Coat of Arms belonged to Mr. Lucas, as he registered his Arms with the Judge of Arms in France in 1699.

"Mr. Lucas likewise came to this country and settled in Newport. He hired an estate of Robert Gardner for his residence, brought with him a graft of the celebrated Gardner pear, and reared it in his garden. About the time the pear began to bear, Mr. Gardner took possession of his estate, and, the pear remaining, it obtained the name of the Gardner pear, by which it still goes, instead of the Lucas pear. An elegant folio Bible which belonged to Mr. Lucas is now in the possession of some of his descendants in the neighborhood. Mr. Lucas possessed wealth and distinction in his own country." [Hannah T. Lee: *Huguenots in France and America*, 1852.]

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In 1925, the Bible was presented to Rhode Island Historical Society by Emily J. Anthony. How it came into her possession is unknown to the writer.

In the Bible there is page of family entries made by Pierre Basset in Marennes, France, dated from 1677 to 1682, and two pages written by Augustus Lucas beginning with his marriage at Saint-Malo in 1696, and later entries made by some of his descendants. Search in America failed to show any connection between the Basset and Lucas families or how it happened that a Bible, owned by Pierre Basset in 1682 at Marennes in southwest France, was in possession of Augustus Lucas in 1696 at St. Malo in Brittany. However, the research by M. Doysié brought out the facts that Augustus Lucas came originally from LaRochele which was near Marennes, and that the Basset and Lucas Families, being neighbors and Protestants, were probably friends. As Pierre Basset fled from France about 1686, abandoning all his property, it may be supposed that, before leaving, he gave the Bible to Lucas.

The following is a translation of the first page of entries in the Bible: —

“Baptismal Papers of the Infants of  
Pierre Basset & Anne Chaigneau his wife

On the 19th November 1677

Is born between 9 and 10 hours of the evening the first infant issued of our marriage (celebrated in the reformed Church of Marennes in the Province of Saintonge the 12th February last) That is to say a daughter who was baptized Sunday morning by Monsieur Crespín, minister of said Church and was presented at the baptism by Sieur Jean Basset surgeon her grandfather & Catherine Landreau and was named Catherine.

Pierre Basset.

“On the 7th November 1680

Is born a son at 9 to 10 hours of the evening Friday who was baptized the following Sunday by Monsieur Olivier Loquet one of our ministers of our reformed Church of Marennes and was presented for baptism by François Basset his uncle and Anne Marichau and was named François.

Pierre Basset.

St Mafo en Bretagne la France  
 Memorandum Juy Epouse Dame Marie  
 Le 6<sup>e</sup> Janvier 1704  
 1696 Dite Marie Eschore fille de M<sup>r</sup> Daniel  
 Le sieur de Garches  
 Elle a accouché de ma fille Jeanne Lucas  
 le 12<sup>e</sup> Octobre mesme an a quatre  
 heures du matin et les 2<sup>e</sup> jours l'enfant  
 a été baptisé par M<sup>r</sup> Valade  
 Josephini Marianne Marie de la  
 Guisnardie Jondrel. M<sup>r</sup> Jean Lucas d'ici M<sup>r</sup> de la Guisnardie  
 1704  
 Ma fille Elizabeth Lucas est née  
 le 6<sup>e</sup> fevrier 1698 a 6 heures du  
 matin et ma femme est morte le  
 12<sup>e</sup> du mesme mois a 10 heures du soir  
 d'une fièvre violente avec douleur de  
 reins l'enfant fut baptisé 2<sup>e</sup> jour  
 6<sup>e</sup> fevrier par M<sup>r</sup> Jean de la Guisnardie  
 Marianne ma femme Elizabeth la febre  
 Newport a Rhode Island Nouvelle Angleterre  
 Memorandum Juy Epouse en secondes nocces ma femme  
 Barthelemy Eliot le 21<sup>e</sup> septembre 1704 a Bristol  
 et nous avons été mariés par M<sup>r</sup> Jean Sparrowhawk  
 ministre de Bristol  
 Ma fille Augustus Lucas est née le 12<sup>e</sup> August  
 1706 a 5 heures 58 minutes du matin

Ma fille Bartheba Lucas Est née le 27 Avril  
 1708 Environ les 5 heures du Soir. This Birth was  
 witnessed by Mathew & Joseph de la Roche & the above 24<sup>th</sup> of August 1708  
 Ma chere femme Bartheba Lucas Est morte le  
 24<sup>e</sup> Juin à 5  $\frac{3}{4}$  heures du matin qui fut un  
 Jourdy 1714

## LES LIVRES APOCRYPHES.

Rhode Island the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1724.  
 Memorandum My Indian woman Sarah was brought to  
 bed this day of a boy which I named Peter at about  
 Eleven a clock in the forenoon being Tuesday

Rhode Island 27 March 1727  
 Memorandum my little girl Sarah was born this day  
 Monday at half an hour after Eleven at night

But 16<sup>th</sup> March 1728  
 Memorandum ~~Little~~ Sarah was brought to bed this day  
 Sunday at ten a clock in the morning of a boy called  
 Paul

My mother surprised this life  
 about 11 Sunday about a clock at midnight  
 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1729  
 Witness by me Jacobus Blauclump

## AUGUSTUS LUCAS

"On the 9th November 1682

Monday 9th November 1682 is born our son Pierre at one hour after midnight and was baptized on St. Martin's day by Monsieur Loquet minister in our Church of Marennes and had for Godfather & Godmother François Beau, merchant, his great uncle and Ann Robin his grandmother and was named Pierre from my name. All of said three were born at Marennes.

Pierre Basset."

"20 Mar. 1687, Marennes: memorandum containing the names of those of the R.P.R. who have absented themselves from the realm, the state of their property, the approximate value and the debts due on said Property: . . . Pierre Basset and Anne Chaigneau. The property is estimated 500 livre, they have left vineyards in two places at la Primpeliere; land at la Morliere and two parcels of salt pits." [Archives Nationales TT Marennes.] R.P.R. stands for Religion Prétendue Reformée, the name given to the Protestant religion by King Louis.

"Doctor Pierre Basset and his wife, fugitives from Marennes. He was in New York in July 1686 when M. Daille wrote of him to Increase Mather in Boston. He seems to have been prevailed upon to remain in Boston or to return thither; for he was admitted into the colony Feb. 1, 1691 and is spoken of in 1700 as having left that City. Denization in the Province of New York was granted him Sept. 21, 1699." [Baird: *Huguenot Emigration to America*, Vol. II, page 25.]

"François Basset, Mariner, fugitive from Marennes in 1682; place of refuge, at Boston." [Arch. Nat. TT 259.] King Louis ordered his agents in foreign countries to report to him the names and places of refuge of Huguenots who had fled from France. Carton TT 259 contained the names of those so reported.

In the register of births, deaths and marriages of the Eglise Française à la Nouvelle York (Now the French Church du Saint-Esprit) are the following entries: —

"1 Sept. 1689 bapt. Suzanne daughter of François Basset and Marie Madeleine Nuquerque.

17 Apr. 1692 bapt. François son of François and Marie Madeleine Nuquerque.

2 Oct. 1700 bapt. Ester Basset daughter of Pierre Basset and Jeanne his wife."

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

The second and third pages of entries in the Bible were as follows:

“St. Malo in Bretagne in France

Memorandum, I have married Dam<sup>le</sup> Marie Le Febvre the 6th January at St. Malo 1696. Said Marie Le Febvre daughter of Mr. Daniel Le Febvre de Guernare. She gave birth to my daughter Jeanne Lucas the 13th October same year at four hours of the morning and the same day the infant has been baptized. Godfather Mr. Natale Stephanini Godmother Mad<sup>le</sup> de la Guitonnier Jendrel. This Jane Lucas died at Newport Oct. 13, 1775. My daughter Elizabeth Lucas is born the 6th of February 1698 at 6 hours of the morning and Madame my wife is dead the 12th of the same month at 10 hours of the evening of a violent fever and chest pains. The infant was baptized the said 6th February Godfather Mr. Jean Faucon Godmother my sister Elizabeth Le Febvre.

“Newport at Rhode Island New England

Memorandum I have married as my second wife Barsheba Eliot the 21st September 1704 at Bristol and we have been married by Mr. Jean Sparrowhawk minister of said Bristoll.

My son Augustus is born the 27th August 1708 about the 7 hours of the evening. This Bathsheba ye wife of Matthew Robinson departed this life in So. Kingstown Dec. 21, 1775 with ye pleurisy after 24 years languishing.

My dear wife Basheba Lucas is dead the 24th June at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$  hours of the morning which was a thursday 1714.

[All the above entries by Augustus Lucas were written in French. The deaths of Jane Lucas and Bathsheba Robinson were interpolated in English. Later entries were in English.]

“Rhode Island the 16th February 1724/5

Memorandum My Indian woman Sarah was brought to bed this day of a boy which I named Peter at about eleven a clock in the forenoon being Tuesday.

“Rhode Island 27th March 1727

Memorandum my little girl Sarah was born this day Monday at half an hour after Eleven at night.



## AUGUSTUS LUCAS

"16th March 1728

Memorandum our Sarah was brought to bed this day Sunday at ten a clock in the morning of a boy called Paul."

"My Dear mother departed this Life Sunday about 12 a clock at midnight on the 2d day of December 1739.

Written by me Augustus Beauchamp"

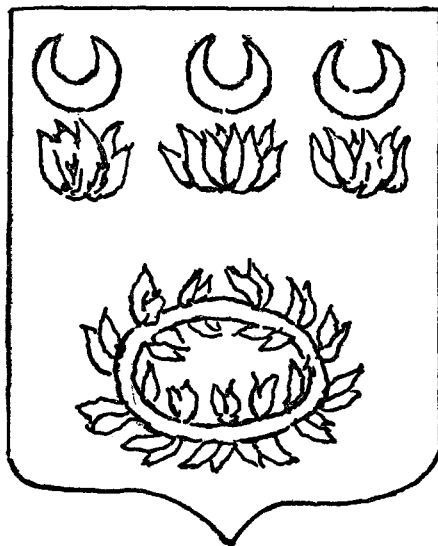
In a childish scrawl at the bottom of the page was written: "My Brother Augustus Departed this Life Ye 6th of Nov In the Year Twenty fifth year of his age."

In 1696, Louis XIV ordered a general registration of arms under charge of Pierre d'Hozier, Judge of Arms. Over 40,000 coats of arms are recorded in the 69 volumes of the manuscript General Armorial of France preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale. 34 of these volumes contain the description of the coats of arms and 35 contain their reproduction in colors. In these volumes is a drawing of the arms of Augustus Lucas and a description, dated July 3, 1699, as follows: — "Auguste Lucas, sieur du dit lieu (Saint-Malo), bourgeois et capitaine, d'argent a trois croissants d'azur ranges en chef soutenus chacun d'une flamme guelles a une couronne de laurier de sinople en pointe." [*Armorial Général, Bretagne* 11, page 433.]

"Sieur" was the equivalent of "Mr." as used in colonial times and Augustus Lucas was called Mr. Lucas in Newport. "'Bourgeois' did not convey the derogative meaning which it did afterwards; but was applied to those of wealth and position." [*The Genealogists' Magazine*] Vol. 7, p. 6. "The Armorial Général contains the register of many arms conceded to Bourgeois; but they were strictly forbidden to use a helmet or crown." [*La Grande Encyclopédie; Armoires.*]

M. Doysié wrote: "The Archivist at Rennes, to whom I had written, gives the following details: Augustin Lucas (he signs Auguste) was married in the Cathedral of Saint-Malo on January 7, 1696 by Jacob Lagous, priest, in the presence of Jean Le Prieur, Joseph Boullain sieur de la Villehingan, Georgette Geffrard dame de la Villehingan, and Bertranne Fournel damoiselle de la Guitionniere. Augustin Lucas is given as from the town of La Rochelle. Marie Le Febvre is from the Island of Guernesey. She is the

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES



In the Manuscript Division of the Bibliothèque Nationale at page 1410, Volume II Bretagne, there is a colored escutcheon showing the arms of Augustus Lucas.

M. Doysié made a tracing and colored it as in the original. Above is a black-and-white tracing of M. Doysié's drawing.

*These arms have been registered by the Committee of Heraldry of New England Historic Genealogical Society.*

## AUGUSTUS LUCAS

widow of Jean Hardy sieur de la Touche. She abjured before the Bishop of Saint-Malo Dec. 14, 1685."

No other mention of Augustus Lucas was found by the Archivist nor by M. Doysié. In Arch. Nat. TT 236 there is a statement of those of the R.P.R. (Protestants) who left the Province of Brittany after 1681. No Lucas is included in this statement nor in that concerning the Huguenot prisoners at Rennes and other places, 1680-1700, in Arch. Nat. TT 263.

In the National Archives, M. Doysié found some items about persons named Lucas in La Rochelle and vicinity: in Court records in La Rochelle, there were suits against Antoine Lucas, merchant, in 1654 and 1664; a Lucas, Christian name not given, was at a Protestant Synod held at Marennes in 1674; in a report of liquidation of property abandoned by those of the R.P.R. in La Rochelle, Marennes and other places appeared:

"Pierre Basset, estimate of value of property 800 livres

Marguerite Lucas, estimate 6000 livres.";

and a list at La Rochelle of contributions for Protestant ministers, 1679, included: —

du sieur Lucas horloger	10 sols
du sieur Lucas the elder	15 sols
du sieur Lucas the younger	15 sols
du sieur Daniel Lucas	15 sols
du sieur Chagneau	15 sols
de Elizabeth Lucas fille	7 sols."

In answer to a query whether the statement that Augustus Lucas was bourgeois and captain meant that he was a sea captain inasmuch as only nobles could be captains in the army or navy, M. Doysié replied: "You are quite right to think that Auguste Lucas was a sea captain. I suppose that he went out of France on his own boat. His catholicism [marriage in a Catholic Cathedral] was evidently pretended to allow him to keep his property until his departure. His case was frequent, hence the King's declaration of Feb. 11, 1699, forbidding all his subjects who have abjured the Religion Prétendue Réformée to go out of the kingdom without permission.

"Whether A. Lucas was a privateer might perhaps be ascertained from the records of the navy at Paris, La Rochelle and Rennes; but a

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

rather lengthy research with no certitude of result would probably be necessary." The last paragraph was in answer to a letter stating that it was said that, between 1692 and 1696, French corsairs with headquarters at Saint-Malo seized many hundred English vessels, and it would make an interesting story if Augustus Lucas acquired his wealth by seizing English ships as, later, his son-in-law Capt. John Brown owned several privateers which preyed on French ships.

The first thing we definitely know about Augustus Lucas in America is that, on the 21st of September 1704, he was married at Bristol, Rhode Island, to his second wife Barsheba (or Bathsheba) Eliot, daughter of Rev. Joseph Eliot, by Rev. "Jean Sparrowhawk." No doubt Bristol was chosen as the place for the marriage as there was no Congregational Church in Newport until 1720. Rev. John Sparhawk was the minister at Bristol from 1693 until his death. His will was made 28 April 1718, the day before his death. The witnesses were N. Blagrove, Justus Lucas and Deliverance Fry. [*Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. 3, page 145.]

Augustus Lucas was a ship chandler as early as 1709. Geo. M. Richardson's Notes in Newport Historical Society mention him in a list of ship chandlers at that time. In the *Boston News Letter* of Sept. 3, 1716, was advertised: "All sorts of new Cordage from an eight and a half cable to a Spun Yarn to be sold by Mr. Augustus Lucas at Newport on Rhode Island."

"Whereas, Mr. Augustus Lucas, Paul Collins and William Barbut petitioned this Assembly in behalf of several poor people, that have imported into this Colony nine Indian slaves from South Carolina, in the sloop Charles, George Wood, Master, laying before this Assembly that the said slaves are really for the support and maintenance of the aforesaid distressed people, who are objects of charity, and have been forced by the wars in Carolina, to leave their habitations and come into this Colony for subsistence: — This Assembly, considering the premises, do remit the duty on said slaves imported, as abovesaid, to the owners thereof, and they are hereby discharged from paying the duties thereon, saving to the naval officer his fees." [Proceedings of the General Assembly 31 August, 1715.]

Perhaps one of these slaves was the Indian woman Sarah mentioned in Lucas's Bible. At any rate, he advertised Indian slaves for sale soon after the duty was remitted.

## AUGUSTUS LUCAS

Boston News Letter: — "Sept. 26, 1715. To be sold at Publick Vendue or Outcry, on Tuesday, the 4th of October next, Newport on Rhode Island, in the Great School House at two a clock in the afternoon; several Indian Women & Boys & a very likely negro man. All to be seen at the House of Mr. Augustus Lucas, at said Newport, and at the Place and Time of the Sale."

The Lucas House is still standing (1949) on the southeast corner of Mary and Division Streets on land which he bought in 1713. He also owned land in the rear of his house lot extending to School Street and bounding on the school house lot where now stands the Shiloh Chapel for colored folks. Presumably, the "Great School House" stood on that lot. Lucas's house is now occupied by colored people. Further interesting information about the house appeared in an article by Miss Susan B. Franklin in Newport Historical Society Bulletin No. 104.

Baird in *Huguenot Emigration to America* stated as follows, Vol. I, page 282: "Sr. Daniel Lucas, merchant, his wife and four infants took refuge in England in 1682. He had a small farm at Perigny. (Five kilometres from La Rochelle) Daniel Lucas, Mary, Augustus, James and Peter, children, were naturalized in England Mar. 1682. Andre Laurent, a native of La Rochelle and Marie Lucas, also native of La Rochelle, daughter of Daniel, were married in London Feb. 22, 1688."

Vol. I, page 289: — "Among fugitives from La Rochelle who became residents of New York was Auguste Lucas."

Vol. II, page 315: — Auguste Lucas, a native of La Rochelle, whose sister Marie was the wife of Andre Laurent, followed that immigrant to America after a few years, and took up his abode in Newport. Before leaving Europe, he married, at St. Malo, the daughter of Daniel Lefebvre who died soon after reaching Newport. [The Bible shows that she died in France.] His second wife was a granddaughter of John Eliot."

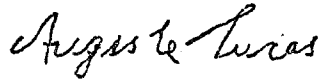
Baird seems to have confused two men of the same name. As it seemed very unlikely that a Huguenot would escape from France, become naturalized in England, return to France and flee a second time, and as the register of the French Church in New York contained the following entry: — "20 Oct. 1700. Bapt. August Laurens

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

filz de Andre Laurens et Marie Luca; parrain August Luca;  
marraine Marie Perdricau.

s, Andre Laurant  
Auguste Lucas  
Marie Moyou",

the writer communicated with Mr. Harrison Deyo, Senior Warden of the Church, and received from him a tracing of the signature of Auguste Lucas on the register which is quite different from that of Augustus Lucas in his Bible. The two signatures are reproduced here.



Signature of Auguste Lucas on the register of the French Church  
de Saint Esprit in New York.



Signature of Augustus Lucas in his Bible in Rhode Island His-  
torical Society.

The Bible itself bears evidence that the Lucas, who was naturalized in England and later went to New York, was not the man who made the Lucas entries in the Bible, as the naturalization of Daniel Lucas's family, including Augustus, in England was Mar. 8, 1682, and the Bible contains an entry made by Pierre Basset in Marennnes, France, Nov. 9, 1682.

Several writers have confused Augustus Lucas with his son, Augustus, Jr. and had the elder Lucas living in New Haven. Others, such as the *Genealogy of the Eliot Family*, have said that Augustus of Newport settled first in Connecticut, second in New York, and later in Newport.

In 1719, Augustus Lucas owned pew No. 33 in Trinity Church, Newport. He died October, 1737, aged 69. [Dr. Turner's Notes in Newport Historical Society.] His oldest daughter Jeanne or Jane married Capt. John<sup>4</sup> Brown great-grandson of Chad Brown.





Miniature of JANE (*Lucas*) BROWN  
Reproduction of picture in George S. Mason:  
"Reminiscences of Newport," De Luxe Edition



## AUGUSTUS LUCAS

Capt. John<sup>3</sup> Brown (James<sup>2</sup>, Chad<sup>1</sup>) married Elizabeth Cranston and had children: John, b. 1696, Dec. 26, Jeremiah, James, William, Robert, Peleg, Elizabeth. [Austin: *Genealogical Dictionary of R. I.*, page 259.]

There is in Newport Historical Society the following transcript made by Dr. H. E. Turner: —

“John Brown’s Bible  
in possession of George Deblois

John Brown jun. md. Miss Jane Lucas, 26 Dec. 1717 O style, she was born at St. Malo France 16 Oct. 1697, O.S. John Brown was born 26 Dec. 1696.

They had

- 1 Mary Brown, b. 28 Oct. 1718, d. 2 Feb. 1721 ag. 2 yr., 4 mo.
- 2 John Brown b. 21 Aug. 1721, d. 2 Oct. 1763 ag. 43 yr.
- 3 Jane Brown b. 23 Jan. 1724, d. 8 Apr. 1765 41 yr.
- 4 Mary Brown b. 20 Apr. 1726 d. 1792 ag. 66 yr. in York England.
- 5 Elizabeth Brown b. 22 Jan. 1728 (md. Edw. Cole)
- 6 Jeremiah Brown b. 8 Nov. 1729 d. 12 Aug. 1764 ag. 36 yr.
- 7 Abigail Brown b. 4 Apr. 1732, d. 9 Sept. 1744 ag. 12.
- 8 Ann Brown b. 18 Aug, 1733, d. 26 July 1786 (wife of Charles Handy)
- 9 Robert Brown b. 9 Apr., 1735, d. Aug. 1794.
- 10 Augustus Brown b. 2 July 1736, d. Feb. 1780 ag. 43 (W. Indies)
- 11 James Brown b. 1 Dec. 1737, d. Dec. 1758 ag. 21 (Holland)
- 12 Frances Brown b. 28 Oct. 1739 d. 13 July 1799 ag. 60 (Maryland)
- 13 Hart Brown b. 22 Aug. 1741, m. Isaac Cannon.

d. & b. above recorded copied from Bible  
of my Hon’d father John Brown

Our Hon’d Father John Brown d. 2 Jan. 1764, ag. 68 ys.  
Our Hon’d Mother Jane Brown d. 13 Oct. 1775 ag 69 ys.  
Mr. Stephen Deblois b. 10 June 1783, d. 17 Mar. 1853 ag. 69 ys.  
Sarah Ellis Deblois wife of Stephen b. 1781.  
Edward Cole d. at Winsor Conn. 5 Mar. 1793 ag. 68  
John Brown Juniors Bible gave him by his Father Capt. John Brown  
1744.

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

John Brown Jun. of Newport, was married to Miss Sarah Emmett of Newport, May 6, 1744.

1. John b. Feb. 16, 1745, d. Dec. 16, 1745 ag. 10 mo.
2. James b. Oct. 5, 1746 d. Jan. 9, 1746-7 ag. 3 mos.  
Sarah, my wife d. May 12, 1747 ag. 22 yr. 9 mo.

John Brown Jun. Married Ann Chapman, Newport Sept. 27,  
1747

they had

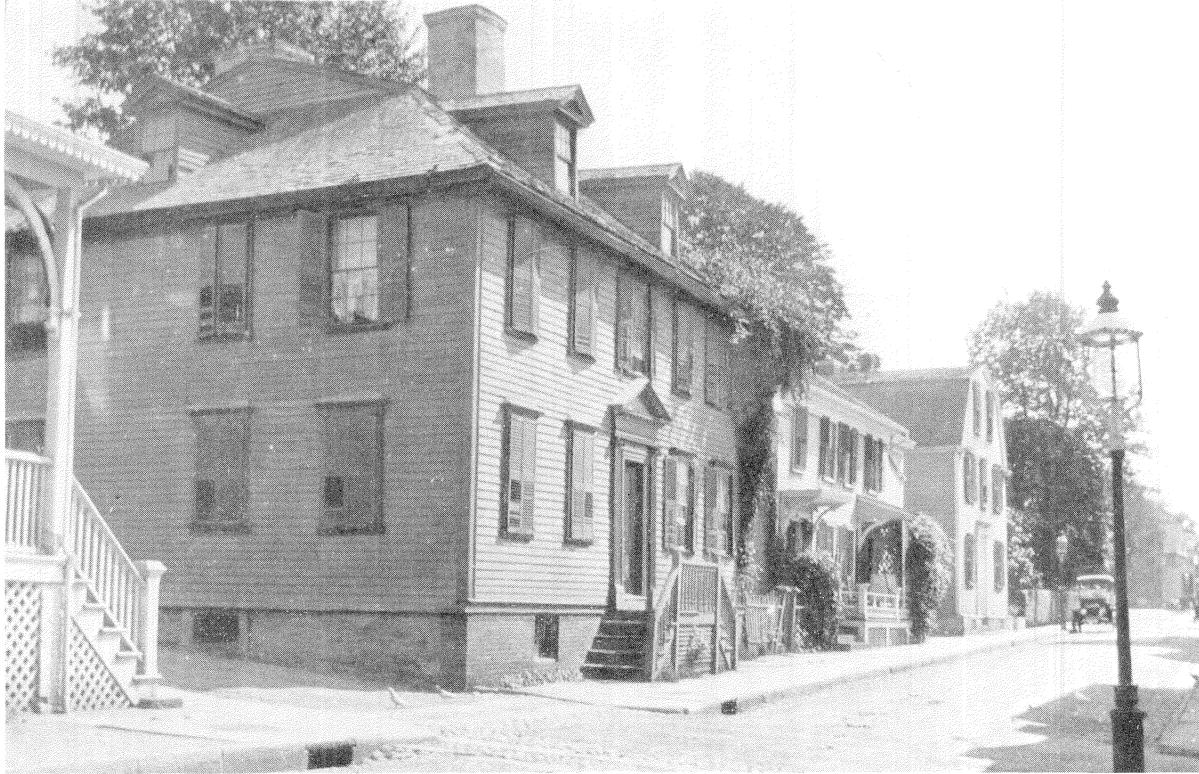
3. Sarah b. Oct. 31, 1749 d. Nov. 12, 1749
4. Abigail b. Aug. 27, 1750 d. Nov. 10, 1751
5. Jane b. Oct. 20, 1752 (married Stephen Deblois)
6. Ann b. Aug. 9, 1754 d. June 3, 1777 ag. 22 yr. 9 mo. married  
Thomas Lawton
7. John b. Sept 27, 1756
8. William b. Oct. 24, 1761."

The above entries are rather confusing until it is observed that John<sup>4</sup> Brown, who married Jane Lucas, and his son John are both called Junior.

Trinity Church records show that all the above children of John<sup>4</sup> and John<sup>5</sup> Brown were baptized within a few days of the dates of their births as given in the transcript of the Bible. George Deblois, in whose possession the Bible was, was son of the Stephen<sup>4</sup> Deblois mentioned in the Bible as born 10 June 1783. Dr. Turner, who transcribed the Bible, combined his avocation, genealogy, with his vocation, by gathering genealogical information on his professional visits, particularly by copying entries in family Bibles. Emeline Rosamond Brown, daughter of George Deblois, before her death in 1946, stated that Dr. Turner was her father's physician and that her father's second wife destroyed all documents relating to the Deblois family. That may explain the disappearance of the Bible.

In Newport Historical Society, T. C. XIV, p. 9, is the will of John<sup>4</sup> Brown, some parts being missing:

[     ] "to wife Jane Brown dwelling house where I now dwell with a lot of land garden & stable building in Newport for life, also all my household goods & furnishings in dwellinghouse also one pair of Silver Canns and all the rest of my plate (except my large silver punch bowl & silver tankard) also my chaise and chaise



*Courtesy Newport Historical Society*

Augustus Lucas house, corner Division and Mary Streets



*Courtesy Newport Historical Society*

Staircase in Augustus Lucas house, corner Division and Mary Streets

## AUGUSTUS LUCAS

house, also negro man Valentine, negro boy Caesar, mulatto woman Silvia, negro woman Bridget & her child, my gold watch & 1100 Sp. milled dollars [ ] further to my wife any two rooms in my dwelling house on my farm in South Kingstown that she shall choose for her use at any time during her life; my son Robert and his heirs shall find and provide for the use of my said wife at all times during her life that she shall please to live on said farm one good cow [ ] wife to be supported and maintained by Robert while at said farm [ ] my negro man [ ] to son Robert large silver bowl & ladle that it may be from generation to generation preserved in his family [ ] to son Augustus Brown lot of land & two dwelling houses in Newport which I purchased of Daniel Updike & 500 Sp. milled dollars. To Jane Vernon wife of Thomas Vernon of Newport 250 Sp. milled dollars & silver tankard. To Mary Beal wife of Richard Beal of Newport, merchant, my indian girl called Patience which she now has in her service. To daughter Elizabeth Cole wife of Edward Cole of Newport, gentleman, negro woman Amey & 300 Sp. milled dollars. To daughter Ann Handy wife of Charles Handy, merchant, 300 Sp. milled dollars. To daughter Frances wife of Lewis Desh[on] dwelling house [ ] Brown of Newport, merchant, deceased, 1000 sp. milled dollars also to my two granddaughters Jane & Ann Brown infant daughters of my said deceased son John Brown 500 sp. milled dollars each [ ] said legacies to four infant children John, Jane, Ann & William to be paid when of full age or that said Jane & Ann shall marrye with approbation of friend Matthew Robinson [ ] appoint Matthew Robinson Trustee [ ] . To my wife choice of as many books out of my library [ ] wife Jane, sons Jeremiah & Robert and Matthew Robinson executors [ ].”  
Dated 8 Dec. 1763; Prob. Jan. 9, 1764

This will mentions all children named in the Bible except Hart Brown who married Isaac Cannon. She may have been mentioned in a missing part of the will.

One missing part is supplied by a manuscript in possession of Lillian DeBlois Fox: —

“Item I order & give to my dear wife Jane Brown & my children the use and improvement of my two Pews in the said Church of England in Newport aforesaid one of which is a large double Pew

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

No. 2 and the other a small Pew No. 4. The above is extracted from the last Will and Testament of the late Capt. Brown of Newport." Then follows query as to who takes title under this clause.

That the executors proceeded at once to settle the estate is shown by an advertisement in *Newport Mercury*, Jan. 23, 1764: —

### TO BE SOLD.

One large Dwelling-house, shop, stable & Garden, on the East side of Thames Street, late in the possession of John Brown, Jun. deceased. Also a wharf & five Warehouses thereon next to the Ferry Wharf. Also three Dwelling-houses, two Warehouses, and the Wharf whereon they stand, situate at the lower end of the Town, Northward of Capt. Nathaniel Coggeshall's Distill House and Lot. Also one Lot of Land upon the Hill adjoining to the Street leading to Easton's Beach. All in the Town of Newport and Part of the Estate of the late Capt. Brown, deceased; For Terms apply to Jane Brown. Widow, Jeremiah Brown, Robert Brown and Matthew Robinson, Executors of the last Will & Testament of the said John Brown.

Capt. John<sup>4</sup> Brown and his brother Peleg were the owners of the privateer sloop *Revenge*, which sailed from Newport Sept. 1, 1738 the first Rhode Island privateer in King George's war. Capt. Brown, later, was part owner of sloop *Victory*, brigantine *Prince William*, the *Castor*, and the *Pollux*, the sloop *King George*, the snow *Brittania* and the sloop *Endeavor*. [Chapin: *Rhode Island Privateers 1739-1747*.]

Thomas Vernon, who married Jane, daughter of John<sup>4</sup> Brown, was a merchant of the firm of Grant & Vernon; was royal port-master of Newport from 1745 to 1775, register of the Court of Vice-admiralty twenty years, and secretary of the Redwood Library. Mr. Vernon suffered imprisonment for his principles as a Tory. His journal, while so confined, now belongs to Newport Historical Society. Thomas Vernon had a house on Division Street. He had no children and gave his property to a nephew, Samuel Vernon, tertius.

Richard Beal, Esq. who married John Brown's daughter Mary was among the Tories banished July 1780. He appears to have gone to England, as the Bible states that Mary Beal died in York, England.

## AUGUSTUS LUCAS

Edward Cole, husband of Elizabeth Brown, was in command of a Company before Louisburg in 1745 and in 1755. In 1757, he held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel under Col. H. Babcock in the expedition against Crown Point, and was subsequently in command of the regiment. He was also present at the taking of Havana, in 1762. In the Revolution, Col. Cole took sides with the Crown, and raised a company against his country. For this, his property was confiscated. He died at St. John, New Brunswick, in 1793.

Capt. Charles Handy and his wife Ann Brown had a daughter Ann who married Major Thomas Russell. Their descendants are shown in the *Russell Genealogy*, J. R. Bartlett.

John<sup>5</sup> Brown died 2 Oct. 1763. Ann Brown was granted power of administration on estate of John Brown of Newport, shop-keeper, Feb. 6, 1764. [*Newport Mercury*.]

Among de Blois mss. is a bill for groceries running from May 1764 to August 1766 headed:

"Account  
1764 Mad<sup>m</sup> Jane Brown      Dr.                      to Ann Brown"

Some of the items showing the depreciation of the currency were: —

"1 lb butter 25/	½ lb chocolate 20/	½ lb coffee 14/
1 lb sugar 14/	oz pepper 5/	½ lb tea 45/

It must have been Ann (Chapman) Brown, the widow, who was appointed and carried on the business as shop-keeper. There were two other Anns in the family; but Ann, the daughter was only ten years of age, and Ann, the sister, had married Charles Handy. Mad<sup>m</sup> Jane Brown was undoubtedly Jane (Lucas) Brown.

Ann (Chapman) Brown's daughter Jane married Stephen Deblois of Newport at Trinity Church Mar. 15, 1779.

Another De Blois mss. in possession of Lillian DeBlois Fox, shows receipt by Jane Deblois of final payments of the legacies given by John<sup>4</sup> Brown to the four children of his deceased son John: —

"Received of Matthew Robinson of South Kingstown Gent. Trustee for my wife Jane Brown and her sister Anne Brown, late Anne Lawton, dec'd and John Brown dec'd and William Brown dec'd my two brothers, the Sum of Two Thousand Dollars in silver which was partly received by our late Mother Anne Brown our Natural Guardian for us and them in several payments made by

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

said Trustee and his orders as pr. his Acct exhibited to us & also other part of said Sum by deed of conveyance of certain freehold Estates he took as security for the said sums of money Legacies given to us by our late Grandfather John Brown, late of Newport Merchant Dec'd as may appear by his last will & testament Wherein and whereby, he the said Robinson Trustee for us and our uses — Also sd sum is in full satisfaction of our late Mother's private account against said Robinson. Witness our hands and seals this sixteenth day of August A.D. 1785

Witness

Henry Thurston

(Copy)

Stephen Deblois (1s)

Thomas Wickham

Jane Deblois (1s)"

This paper, read in connection with the entries in the Brown Bible, shows that of all the children of John<sup>5</sup> Brown, only Jane Deblois was living in 1785. Ann (Brown) Lawton probably left no children. She married Thomas Lawton; but died at the age of 22 years 9 months and Trinity Church records show no child named Lawton baptized between 1762 and 1800. Likewise, John and William probably had no children. There is no mention of their marriage in the Bible or Trinity Church records and above receipt shows that they were dead before August 1785.

Augustus Lucas's second daughter Elizabeth married Capt. Isaac Beauchamp in Trinity Church, Newport, August 23, 1722. Thus the two daughters that Capt. Lucas brought from France married Captains, as Jane had married Capt. John Brown. The Beauchamps had five children: Augustus and John, born in Boston, and Isaac, Elizabeth and Mary who were baptized in Trinity Church, Newport.

Isaac Beauchamp seems to have had homes both in Newport and in Boston. In Superior Court Records in Newport in the years 1741-1744 there are five suits on accounts brought by Isaac Beauchamp, mariner, of Newport against other mariners; and in 1745 a similar suit by Isaac Beauchamp, merchant, of Boston. The *Boston Evening Post* of Jan. 17, 1743 contained this advertisement: — "To be sold, a good Brick House at the South end of Boston, being the Estate of Capt. Isaac Beauchamp of Newport, Rhode Island." Isaac Beauchamp of Newport was admitted freeman 3 May 1737.

The will of John Beauchamp of Newport, mariner, gave to



## AUGUSTUS LUCAS

"cousin John Brown Junr. son of John Brown of said Newport, merchant, my part of the house and land that fell to me by the decease of my mother and which was given her by my grandfather Mr. Augustus Lucas, deceased, by his last will and testament. All personal estate after debts & Funeral expenses to my sister Mary Beauchamp. I appoint John Brown Junr. sole executor." dated 9 Oct. 1755; Prob. Oct. 3, 1759. [Newport Hist. Soc., T. C. XIV, page 207.]

As John Beauchamp mentioned only his sister Mary and his cousin John Brown Junr. it seems that Mary was the only Beauchamp living and that if she died without posterity, there remained no descendants of Elizabeth (Lucas) Beauchamp. No record of the marriage of Mary has been found.

Augustus Lucas, Jr. of Newport was admitted freeman of the Colony May 1727. [*Records of the Colony*, Vol. 4, p. 386.] That was just after his 21st birthday, as the Bible shows that he was born 12 April 1706.

In 1730, Augustus, Jr. got into trouble with the authorities through engaging in a fight to prove he was a gentleman.

"(July 1730) Fryd., 24. This evening an insurrection was made or a mob was raised in the town, occasioned by some young men being put into gaol y<sup>e</sup> day before for siding and being engaged about a quarrel raised a few evenings before between Augustus Lucas and —— Coggeshall; y<sup>e</sup> one calling himself of y<sup>e</sup> gentleman's party and y<sup>e</sup> other being lookt upon not so. About twilight the mob began to pull down y<sup>e</sup> prison fence, so y<sup>t</sup> candle light an alarm was beat and men in arms, together w<sup>th</sup> some of y<sup>e</sup> authority with drawn swords and other weapons, watched y<sup>e</sup> prison, for it was threatened to be pulled down y<sup>t</sup> night. There was no hurt done in y<sup>e</sup> insurrection but to one man, Mr. Bassee was knockt down for dead by Richard Durfee w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> back of a cutlass. The next day y<sup>e</sup> men came under bond, and so came out of prison." [*The diary of John Comer*, R. I. Hist. Coll., Vol. VIII, p. 110.]

"Lucas. Miscellaneous. Augustus, b.c. 1707 d. Aug. 1737 ae 30 (in W.I.) N.H.T. m. 10 Mar. 1734/5 (at N.H.) Mary da. Henry & Abigail (Flagg) Canner: Children 1 Mary b. 8 Dec. 1735 N.H.V. m. James Abraham Hillhouse 2 Augustus b. (Nov. 1737) d. 22 Sept. 1738." [*New Haven Genealogical Magazine*, p. 1110.]

## TWO HUGUENOT FAMILIES

"Hillhouse. James Abraham, s. of James & Mary (Fitch), b. 12 May 1730, d. s. p. 3 Oct. 1775 æ 45; m. Mary da. Augustus & Mary (Canner) Lucas." [Ibid., p. 745.]

Thus this branch of the family became extinct.

Apparently Augustus, like his father, was a seafaring man, as he died in the West Indies.

Augustus and Bathsheba Lucas had a daughter Bathsheba, who married George Johnston in Trinity Church July 3, 1727. George Johnston died soon after and Bathsheba and her young son Augustus lived with her father in the Lucas house, corner of Division and Mary Streets, which later became the property of Augustus Johnston. [Newport Hist. Soc. Bulletin No. 104.] It thus appears that Mr. Lucas owned two houses, as one was left in his will to his daughter Elizabeth Beauchamp. It is not known what other property he owned as his will has not been found. Presumably it was among the papers taken to New York by the British and not recovered.

"Augustus Johnston was elected Attorney General of the Colony June 13, 1757. His popularity was so great that the town of Johnston was named after him. In 1765, he was appointed Stamp Master by the British Government — an office that brought him into trouble — even to being burnt in effigy on the Parade. In 1766, he was appointed Judge of the Vice-admiralty Court in South Carolina and in Charleston he resided a part of each year. He died suddenly at the age of 49 years." [Annals of Trinity Church, page 106.]

Augustus Johnston married Patience Gould Oct. 22, 1758, and had many children, one of whom, Matthew Robinson Johnston, married Anstis E. Almy, and another, Mary, married Edward Brinley.

After the death of her first husband, Bathsheba married Matthew Robinson, son of Robert Robinson, Searcher of Customs at Newport. Robert Robinson's will probated March 9, 1761 left "to eldest son Robert Robinson of ye Comtroller General's Office at ye Custom House in London, land in Yorkshire, England; and to son Matthew Robinson, Gentleman, of So. Kingstown, all real estate in America." [Newport Hist. Soc., TC XIII, page 83.]

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