

The Huguenots

~ Chronology before 1900 ~

- 1535 200 years of Huguenot emigration started when Francis I, King of France, issued an edict for the execution of heretics.
- 1621 Huguenots began arriving on the Hudson River.
- 1629 French Huguenots from LaRochelle settled Nansmond County, Virginia.
- 1654 By way of the German Palatinate, French settlers arrived on the Delaware River.
- 1662 For the next twenty years, Massachusetts received Huguenots at the Boston port from the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, France.
- 1658 Nearly half of the residents of New Harlem (New York City) were French Huguenots.
- 1667 David Demarest was the leader of the Huguenot colony who settled Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey.
- 1679 Elias Prioleau was the first pastor of the French refugees to South Carolina.
- 1685 The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in France resulted in increased Huguenot settlement in Massachusetts and South Carolina. Others came down to Carolina from Nova Scotia, New England, and New York.
- 1687 French Protestant minister Daniel Boudet, settled Springfield, Massachusetts.
- 1696 Gabriel Brenon came to Boston by way of London, England, bringing with him about forty persons from LaRochelle, France.
- 1699 Marquis de la Muce founded Manakin in Virginia.
- 1721 French families settled Hartford, Connecticut, and then Milford, Long Island.
- 1752 Huguenots who had gone first to Germany then settled Dresden, Lincoln County, Maine.
- 1785 Among the French Huguenots on the James River, religious revival started, then spread to other areas.

~ Records, Resources ~

The term "Huguenots" is reserved to the members of the French Reformed Church before the Edict of Toleration of 1787. The Huguenots were Protestants who generally followed the religious teachings of John Calvin. They were sometimes referred to as Reformed Protestants, though that term was also used for the followers of Martin Luther. Hundreds of thousands of French Huguenots fled the persecution of the Roman Catholics in France to countries in which they were able to find shelter -- Holland, Flanders, the German city states, Switzerland, Denmark, England, Ireland, South Africa. Some stayed for a generation or two and were assimilated into the society of these countries. In England they quickly became Englishmen before they and many of their descendants came to America.

It is estimated that some 10,000 Huguenots came to the British colonies. As the American Revolution began, perhaps as many as 20 percent of the early colonists were of Huguenot ancestry or were Huguenots themselves.

In seeking Huguenot ancestors, be cautious with regard to the Americanization of French names. There are generally many variations. Making a complete search of indexes is essential.

Since a great deal has been published about Huguenots, including original source material, beginning with library research can be productive.

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~ Bibliography ~

"Huguenot Migrations," in the American Society of Genealogists, *Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources* (Washington, D.C.: American Society of Genealogists, 1971), vol. 2.

Baird, Charles W. *History of the Huguenot Emigration to America*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1966.

National Huguenot Society. *Register of Huguenot Ancestors*. Washington, D.C.: the Society, 1945.
[Lists those persons who qualified as Huguenot ancestors. In addition to the members, three appendixes list others who did not qualify because they were born in the United States, were born after 28 November 1787, or for unspecified reasons.]