

A PLACE IN HISTORY



The Davant Family



This book is the record of several Huguenot refugees the names of which were found in London near the end of the 17th century. This narrative begins with the arrival of five Davants in the Colony of Georgia. These refugees were sent to America at the Trustees Expense, and were carefully selected by General Oglethorpe for their value to the new Colony. The two men of the five Davants had no chance to follow their trades as both died

the first month in the new world. John Davant, cabinet maker and Hester his wife and their young son John; also, Louis Davant, a shoemaker, and Elizabeth his wife. All arrived at Tybee on the 28th of August 1733. On the 17th day of September 1733, a son was born to Louis and Elizabeth Davant and was given the name James. Of these 6 Davants, 5 of them died before January 1735, only the youth John remained to carry on the Davant name.

Late in 1739 John Davant appears as a carpenter on Edisto Island and in the spring of 1740 he married a young widow, Isabella Watson. Records show that they had five children who grew up on Edisto Island. Around 1755, he moved with them to St. Helena's Parish and later John Davant died at Port Royall, South Carolina, in October of 1768. His four sons lived on Hilton Head Island before the Revolution. Two sons died before the war began, and the youngest son was ambushed within sight of his home and killed by the British. There are interesting records of this period in the Appendix. The two sons' descendants continued on Hilton Head until well into the nineteenth century. James Davant left first, going to Savannah, then to Penfield, Georgia from whence his several sons went to other Georgia cities. Charles Davant and one by one his three other sons, followed his eldest son to Gillisonville, South Carolina. The spread of these Davants into South Carolina and Georgia was but the beginning. The current tally of states in which this family has left traces is most impressive, and by no means limited to the southern states. The Davant Family Chronicle has become truly a part of American History.

This book deals with another Huguenot refugee, Adrian Loyer, who with his two very young sons came to Georgia "at the Trustees

expense". They arrived in Savannah on March 12, 1733/34. Adrian Loyer was the only bookkeeper listed and held important jobs, but he departed the colony for South Carolina in 1740, leaving his only remaining son, Adrian Jr. in Savannah. This son became an important merchant in Savannah, and his daughter, Isabella married Charles Davant, and their four sons have continued the Loyer name to the present.

The make-up of this book differs from the usual genealogy. It seems logical to present the descendants of James Davant, Jr. to the present; then those of Charles Davant. The female lines have been continued under the Davant father as far as they are known; the males have their own generations listed, followed by their sons' families to the present. There are no footnotes as such. In the Appendix are the records. There also are many interesting articles, letters, wills, and reminiscences. Particularly moving is the account of the abandonment of Beaufort, South Carolina. This account is attested to by one eye witness and the return to the same town by another. Gillisonville lives again in letters written in 1929 by a Davant who spent his boyhood there. There are wonderful Civil War experiences—touching, gentle and brave. History, yes. It is our personal heritage. What we have to live up to day by day. It is what makes us tick!

The compiler of these records has a keen interest in the preservation of family history. We are all involved in a race for security, and a knowledge of our background is a step toward knowing ourselves. The years spent in Charleston, South Carolina, taught the then young woman the method of unearthing records. Five years were spent in professional research there, looking up ancestors for others or doing newspaper research for various books. All this stimulated my interest in my own family. Luckily, this was at a time when several of my grandfather's generation were still alive. Since moving to Knoxville. I have given freely of my notes to many different families, and thus kept my "know how" alive. About five years ago I was asked to do a paper on any Huguenot for the South Carolina Huguenot Society's Transactions. This became two issues, and has taken the better part of four years and hundreds of letters. The material in this book has added much to the original articles. Hopefully the names of Davant and Loyer, refugees from France, to England and thence to Georgia and on to 39 states in America will continue to produce the quality of men and women this book records.

This is not to really advertise for a sale! I think the picture is a good one, a very speaking likeness - I thought you'd be interested to see the prospectus. I wish I'd known how the order blanks would appear - there are many people who would be interested in my project but with no earthly concern on the part of the book.

N.D.H.

Publication Date of this Book is planned for OCTOBER 1st, 1972.
Copies can be ordered before this date at \$10.00 per copy. After this date the price will be \$15.00 per copy.

Return This Order Blank To

MRS. HARDIN DAVANT HANAHAN

5100 KESTERWOOD ROAD

KNOXVILLE, TENN. 37918

Please send me _____ Copies, "A PLACE IN HISTORY—
THE DAVANT FAMILY" @ \$10.00 (Pre-Publication) or
\$15.00 (After Publication). *4.50 postage per book.*

Check enclosed for \$_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY AND STATE _____ ZIP _____