

In South Caroliniana Library, University of S. C.
in the manuscripts dept. is a sketch of P. Dupont
Family of South Carolina Genealogical Sketch, 1658-
1754, from which the following items were copied:

THE DU PONT FAMILY

PRIOR TO 1739

In the introduction of his work entitled "The Early Generations of the Du Pont and Allied Families," Henry A. du Pont wrote:—

"Like many other surnames derived from natural objects or from the handiwork of man, that of Du Pont or Dupont, meaning 'of the bridge' is borne by numerous French families of wholly different origin."

In the early ages "each new bridge, when opened for travel, became a prominent and important landmark, and it was most natural that those appointed to guard or care for the structure, as well as those who happened to live or to own land in its immediate vicinity, should be designated accordingly."

Because of this Du Pont has become a common name in France and, through immigration, to some extent in America, but it carries no indication of relationship to the now great number of descendants of Pierre Samuel du Pont listed in this book or to those of Abraham du Pont (1658-1731) who founded the South Carolina branch of the family.

The most remote recorded ancestor of ~~our~~ the du Pont family was probably a Breton, of unknown given name, whose three sons left Brittany in the latter part of the sixteenth century and established themselves in Rouen, then an important center of commerce and industry and also the Norman stronghold of the Huguenots. Here the three brothers either continued to be or became staunch defenders of the Huguenot faith.

CHARLES DU PONT (1529-1614), the eldest of the brothers, was first to leave the Brittany home, probably the town of Lagonnet, near Gourin in the modern department of Morbihan and about fifty miles southeast of Brest. At that time the movement for religious reform had not developed among the people of Brittany. However, Charles du Pont, a young man, about twenty years of age, may have joined the advance reformers or sought to do so by removing elsewhere. Whatever the cause of his removal the result seems to have been successful as Charles lived and died a substantial citizen of Rouen. Not long after his migration he was joined by his younger brothers, Jehan and Pierre.

As the elder two of the brothers married sisters of the Brière family of Rouen in 1563 or 1564 and as the three brothers seem to have been present at the baptism of the sons of Jehan and Pierre in 1565 and 1566, it is certain that they were all established in Rouen before those dates. The entry of these baptisms in the "Register of Protestant Baptisms of 1564-1566" of the Rouen archives shows also that the brothers were Protestants or Huguenots as those of the reformed religion were then designated in France.

Charles du Pont's wife, Guillemette Brière, bore him two sons, both of whom as well as his wife predeceased him. At the age of seventy-one years he married Marie

Under these charters royal authority directed and maintained the important parts of government, notably the judiciary, but in general an Etablissement de Rouen was governed by royal functionaries selected in part from the inhabitants of the city which was protected from the exactions of the local seigneur, its former master. The charters of these cities varied in rights and powers granted—those most privileged were called "les bonnes villes du Roi."

The bourgeoisie of these cities enjoyed certain privileges among which was freedom to travel outside of their city, at the same time remaining under the protection of the royal courts, as distinguished from those of the local seigneurs.

The rights of a bourgeois de Rouen were considered of such importance that on September 12th, 1553, Thomas Cossart, brother of our ancestor of that name, refused to pay the tax (franc-fief) levied upon the "seigneurie" or land of the nobility purchased for him by his father on the ground that he did not belong to the nobility and that his rights and privileges as bourgeois of Rouen exempted him from the payment.

In the years following the tenth century the nobility, though distinguished on the field of battle, lost in financial resources and in power through the jealousy and encroachment of royal authority. On the other hand the bourgeoisie, starting from a position little better than that of the serfs rose in importance by the growth in manufactures, commerce and finance brought about by their own efforts encouraged by the central government.

Though many of the bourgeoisie aspired to and attained noble title, they as a body maintained a jealousy of rank not dissimilar to that of the nobility.

THE GUERRY FAMILY

The Guerry family lived at the hamlet of Caudebecquet, not far from Caudebec on the Seine river 16 miles west of Rouen. The earliest known member of this family, Guillaume Guerry, was born about 1395 and died about 1471. Of his wife Marion Féret was born Nicholas (Colin) Guerry, about 1427. Nicholas became bourgeois and merchant of Rouen prior to 1494 when he owned and lived in a house on la rue Pontaritaine, parish of St. Eloi in that city.

Richard Guerry, the son of Nicholas by his first wife Guillemine, was born about 1466 and died in 1522. He married Guillemine Nagerel, born about 1475, died between 1529 and 1553, daughter of Jacques Nagerel, bourgeois of Rouen, and Jehannette d'Augemare, also of Rouen.

Jehanne, daughter of Richard Guerry and Guillemine Nagerel, was the wife of Robert Brière, already noted.

Returning to Jehan du Pont who had thirteen children.

Of his first wife were born seven sons and three daughters. Four of those sons and two daughters died in infancy or early childhood. From his second wife came one son and two daughters.

The surviving sons were:

- I. Jonas du Pont (1566-1602), the ancestor of the Holland and English branches of the du Pont family.
- II. Abraham du Pont (1572-1640), the ancestor of the Delaware and South Carolina branches.
- III. Jehan du Pont (1576-1645), who followed the example of his brother, his father and his two uncles in that he was twice married. Though he had eleven

(See Chart
5)

(5)

THOMAS COACHMAN DU PONT *
June 2, 1811/June 23, 1848
m. Nov. 15, 1837
LAVINIA CONSTANTIA McNISH *
1813/Sept. 2, 1854

(6)

OLIVIA JULIA DU PONT
Oct. 20, 1838/Apr. 16, 1869
m.
GEORGE PENNAY

VIRGINIA McNEILL DU PONT
Feb. 15, 1840/July 4, 1841

(See Chart 32)

THOMAS SCREVEN DU PONT
Mar. 26, 1841/Mar. 23, 1877
m. Dec. 4, 1873

CAROLINE MAYO

Susan Constance
20 march 1874
1900

ANNE DU PONT
June 23, 1843/

CHARLES HENRY DU PONT
Jan. 23, 1845/Nov. 17, 1845

SUSANNAH BAKER DU PONT
Sept. 28, 1846/May 3, 1918

JAMES EGGLESTON DU PONT

*First cousins.

~~2701 Houston St.,~~
~~Charleston, S. C. 29205~~
~~June 27, 1977.~~

Rev. Robert E. H. Peeples, D. D.,
7 Moon Shell Rd.,
Hilton Head Island, S. C. 29928.

Dear Robert:—

We enjoyed very much the reception and reunion of the Lawton and Allied Families Association and seeing you and the others. Do you or Mrs. Peeples know the number of those who were there? If so, please send me these numbers.

Herewith I am sending Zerex copies of some items from a genealogical sketch pertaining to Dupont families, this sketch is on file in the manuscript dept. of S. Caroliniana Library, Univ. S. C.

In Richland County Public Library is a volume on the first, 1790, U. S. census of S. C. On page 12, from Beaufort District, is recorded Corneleus Dupont, free white males of 16 years and up, including heads of families 1, slaves 62; Chas Dupont, free white male head of family 1, females including head of family 6, slaves 95. These families, I believe, were related to Hon. Charles Henry Dupont, born Beaufort Dist. S. C. 1805, Justice, Florida Supreme Court, died in Quincy, Fla.

Perhaps you can obtain some information from the Florida Department of Archives and History.

With best wishes and affection,

from

Tommy
Thomas W. Clark.