

descended from Jonas du Pont, eldest son of Jehan du Pont and his grandson, Mathias, who went to Amsterdam about 1685. Though this branch of the du Pont family had seventeen male descendants only two survived the eighteenth century and these in turn left no male issue.

ABRAHAM DU PONT (1572-1640), from whom descend the South Carolina and Delaware branches of the du Pont family, was the second son of Jehan du Pont and Guillemine Brière. He was born in the year made memorable by the massacre of Huguenots in Paris, on Saint Bartholomew's Day, at the height of religious intolerance and bigotry. During his early years he must have shared the exile of his father, Jehan, but he returned to Rouen, prior to the year 1600, where he married his first wife, Marie Auber, who died childless after twenty-six years of married life. The following year, 1627, Abraham married Marie Cossart of a leading Huguenot family.

THE COSSART FAMILY

The Cossart family descended from Thomas Cossart (about 1465-1541) and his wife Jehanne Fleury, by whom he had eleven children.

Thomas Cossart was a wealthy man and with his two sons was interested in dyes and their use in dying yarns and cloth. For the elder son, also Thomas, he purchased the seigneurie de Franqueville and for the younger, Jehan, the seigneurie de Boscbestre. However, the sons did not seek ennoblement, in fact Thomas refused to pay "franc-fief," the tax levied on the noble owner of a feudal estate, on the ground that he did not belong to the nobility and was exempted because of his rights and privileges as "bourgeois de Rouen." The Cossart brothers were born Catholics but Thomas abandoned the Church and joined the Huguenot party, while Jehan, who was born about 1500, adhered to the religion of his fathers throughout his life.

On December 9, 1529, Jehan married Jacqueline Puchot, who was born about 1511, daughter of Nicholas Puchot and Alizon Féré. Jehan Cossart became a man of wealth adding to the already large fortune of his father. He died in Rouen, at advanced age, in 1585. He and his wife had twelve children, seven of them sons of whom three forsook the religion of their father and mother and became Huguenots.

Jacques Cossart, the third son, born 1538, was our ancestor and became the head of the Huguenot branch of the Cossart family in Rouen. He and his younger brother Jehan visited Nice in southern France in 1572, probably to escape the religious intolerances of that year.

On April 22, 1577, Jacques Cossart married Marguerite Toustain (1559-1638), daughter of Laurent Toustain. With their children they escaped from Rouen in 1591 and settled in Caen until they were able to return in 1594.

Jacques, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, became a man of property and wealth. He died at Rouen March 7, 1609, father of fourteen children, five sons and nine daughters. Marie Cossart, the eighth daughter, born July 5, 1597, died December 2, 1648, was our ancestress who married Abraham du Pont February 10, 1627.

THE TWO SONS OF JEAN DU PONT AND MARIE DU BUSC

1. Abraham du Pont III (1658-1731) who went to London in 1681 and became naturalized as a British subject in 1693 with the intention of emigrating to America which he did shortly thereafter. He belonged to the French Huguenot church in New York early in 1695 and became a citizen of South Carolina in March 1696. He was the founder of the existing South Carolina branch of the du Pont family, having married (1697) Anne Faucheraud (1678-1756) who was born at Porte des Barques, Saintonge, France, and went to South Carolina in 1688. *(ancestor of S.C. DuPonts)*

2. JEAN DU PONT II (1662-1731) lived with his father and mother, Jean du Pont I and Marie du Busc, in Rouen. Though there is no record of his abjuration he undoubtedly took the steps necessary at that time to enable him to remain in the city of his birth. *(ancestor of Del. DuPonts)*

He married at Rouen, June 14, 1693, Marie de la Porte (1674-1759).

Rest relates to Del. DuPonts.

*Connecting link
Del. &
S.C.
DuPonts*

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