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April 21, 1983

JAUDEN?

FAMILY  
HISTORY

of the

GUERRYS and the DUNNS

SARAH M. PIPKIN

April 16, 1896

THIS HISTORY may be thought egotistical, but I adopted the first person, because most convenient for me, and especially for the sake of my immediate family.

FAMILY HISTORY  
OF THE  
GUERRYS AND THE DUNNS

I, Sarah Matilda Pipkin, nee Carter, nee Guerry, was born of Christian parents, in the County of Houston, Ga., March 14th, 1832. My father, Peter Videau Guerry, was of pure French descent, his ancestors being compelled to flee from France during the historical Huguenot persecution. The cruel Catholic King, forcing them to leave their native land on account of their Protestant Faith, after they had already endured many and grievous trials and persecutions, some even sealing their fidelity to God with their lives.

In the ship, on which my father's ancestors took passage, were many other Huguenot families - the Remberts, Michaus, Videaus, Dumays, etc., I can only remember a few names. The ship landed them upon the hospitable shores of South Carolina. They had intended landing somewhere on the coast of Virginia, but adverse winds and waves drove them farther southward. One of the sons of the Guerry family was off from home at school at the time the Edict of banishment was issued, and alas! the haste was so great they could not wait to get him with them - could only leave word for him to follow them. They never knew what became of this son - whether he perished in France - or on the sea - or managed to reach the United States at some other distant point and could

not find them. Our Exiles, finally settled in a colony, on the banks of the dear old Santee River, about 80 miles from Charleston.

The Guerrys being the most numerous, or from some other cause, the settlement was called Guerrytown. Here these much tried French folks found a peaceful home, and here they lived, labored and prospered - loved, suffered, married and died for several generations - but never intermarrying with other blood.

Our written family record, that is in my dear father's Bible, which was his father's before him, begins with the record of the birth, marriage, and death of my great grandfather and mother - James Guerry and Mary Rembert - born in 1717 and 1720, married 1738 - died 1782 and 1786. To these were born eight (8) sons. The record of only two of these brothers is given in Pa's Bible, John and Theodore. John was my Grandfather, and Theodore was the father of my father's first wife. But Pa often talked to us about these brothers, his Uncles, and I remember the name of one other, Peter. They all lived to man's estate, and some of them were married and settled at the time the terrible War of the Revolution began. My grandfather, John Guerry, born in 1751, was married 1776, to Charlotte Michau, born 1759. Theodore his brother, born 1745, was married 1785 to Martha E. Dumay, born 1762. I do not remember who the others married, but they were all French women.

Dear Children, you have read the history of the Revolution and you know there were three parties here in the colonies, as they were then called. Those who took up arms against England, and so bravely fought for their independence - The Tories, who sided with the

Mother Country - and the Neutrals, who would fight with neither the British or the Americans. As soon as War was declared, my grandfather and all of his brothers, except Peter, who was a Neutral, joined the Rebel Army.

For the greater safety of their families, the married brothers put them all together at the old Homestead, where the old father and mother were still living and the non-fighting brother remained with them.

In 1778, a son was born to John and Charlotte Jane Guerry, my grandparents, and named John after his father. The brothers came home occasionally, on brief furloughs to visit their families. The long weary years of untold privation, hardship and suffering, kept rolling by, but still the fierce struggle for home and liberty, went determinedly on. No thought of surrender, the foe must be driven from the soil, and America proclaimed the Land of the Free. October 8th, 1781, another son came to claim the loving care of the brave soldier's anxious wife, that son was my own dear father. At this time grandpa got leave of absence to visit his wife and children, and during this visit, came very near to being captured by the British. The baby was just eight days old, and my grandma still in bed. The family were about to sit down to the best war dinner the sisters could have prepared in honor of my grandfather's presence, when a party of red coats dashed up to the gate. Oh! what an awful moment of alarm and danger, but woman's ingenuity is generally equal to the occasion, specially when, as theirs, sharpened by so many threatening dangers. In those days the bedsteads were not so low as now, and foot valans were in use, so in a twinkling they

grandpa could detain him. The Tories, supposing he was grandpa, fired at him, killing him instantly, and went on their way rejoicing. Strange that he alone of the eight brothers should be killed - he was a Neutral, from a sincere though mistaken notion he would not take up arms against the Mother Country, neither would he fight his own people. The other seven fought through the war and were unhurt. A sad experience to them all, 'specially the aged parents, was the untimely death of this son.

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Gen'l. Marion's wife named my father. She called him Peter Videau. Videau was her maiden name, and Peter was a family name.

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At long last the terrible war came to a close, and the people of these colonies quieted down to the enjoyment of their dearly bought independence, amid the quiet pursuits of husbandry. The two boys, born during such stormy times, grew to manhood, the only children of my grandparents. Uncle John married in 1804, Margaret Brown, the first one of the family to marry a girl not of French blood. Peter Videau, my father, was married at Guerrytown, S. C., Jan., 1809, to Mary Elizabeth Guerry, his first cousin, daughter of Theodore and Martha Guerry. My dear father was of a genial, lovable disposition, upright and honorable, kind and charitable in all his dealings with his fellow men, devoted to his family (oh! how they loved him) but above all, faithful to his church and his God, until death. He used to tell us that when he first grew up he loved to frolic, 'specially to dance, but that after he met up with the people called Methodists, and was converted and joined that church, he ever after adhered strictly to its rules, and so brought up his children. But even in his gayest days, he meddled not with cards. (And I pause, to breathe an earnest prayer, that none of

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Dear Dr. Peeples:

Thank you very much for correspondence dated April 2nd. I shall try to be patient about claiming Gaudon blood through my Charlotte Jane Michan, who married 1776 John Querry.

I appreciate your sending comments and speculation on the above.

As to the Videau family, I have not attempted research on the line - nor do I have anything on the name except a statement made by the Compiler of the Querry Family History. I am sending a copy of that page which says Peter Videau Querry (son of John, above) was named by the wife of Francis Marion. She was a Videau, as you know.



My grandmother, Carrie (Guessey) Baldwin had brothers named John Guessey and Peter Videau Guessey. If my Guessey line had not dwindled away for lack of a male heir, I am sure we would still have "Johns and Peter Videaus"!

Charlotte Guessey (<sup>grand</sup> dau. of John and Charlotte Jane Michan Guessey) married Le Grand Guessey, her cousin, in 1831. I have not been able to prove Le Grand Guessey's line.

According to the Bible record of John Guessey and Peter Videau Guessey, Le Grand (above) was son of Le Grand Guessey, Sr.

I hope the future reveals significant details of family research which we can share.

Sincerely,

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