
Here is a book for which there was a need. Few modern scholars have been attracted to the world-wide folk-movement to which the word "Huguenot" was applied as long ago as 1532. The meaning of the designation was mysterious from the start. Even the pronunciation of it is a matter of debate. Dictionaries are at variance about the origin and development of it. What is certain is that French followers of John Calvin were called Huguenots by their critics by 1560. The argument about the label's etymology perhaps someday may be settled by documentarians with a bow to the fact that the Visigoths were Arians.

Meanwhile, Dr. Reaman has done useful service by pointing out that "in the early years of the twelfth century" there was "a group called the Waldenses" attempting to "reintroduce primitive Christian fellowship and apostolic simplicity of living" in Western Europe. "Individual perfection apart from the Roman church" was the goal of those pioneer separatists. Two aspects of their activity — their prosperity as artists and craftsmen and their missionary zeal — incurred hostility. The "official clergy" and such crowned politicians as Francis I attempted to destroy the nonconformist cause, but their campaign was not successful. Neither were the Guise family and their allies effective. It remained for Louis XIV to revoke the Edict of Nantes and send 400,000 Huguenots into willing exile. The dispersion still continues, and Dr. Reaman is its present historian.

To illustrate the significance of his findings, it may be mentioned that he has shown that George Washington was born and bred in the libertarian tradition of the Huguenot fellowship. The first American ancestor of our first President was Nicholas Martiau, original patentee of Yorktown, Virginia, 1620. Among the "founding fathers" of the United States were the Adamses of Massachusetts, Paul Revere, Elias Boudinot, Francis Marion, Thomas Paine, Henry Laurens, John Sevier, John Jay, Arthur St. Clair, Philip Freneau, Alexander Hamilton and many other leading figures of French Protestant ancestry. "Emigrants seeking safety from religious persecution" were the progenitors of some of the authors of the Declaration of Independence and the subsequent Constitution. Both directly and indirectly — as for example in the case of William Mullins and his
daughter Priscilla, wife of John Alden of the *Mayflower* — Huguenot stock was involved in the revolutionary events of 1761-1789.

Dr. Reaman says: “More than a thousand Huguenot families . . . came to Pennsylvania in the emigration previous to 1755 and many more after that date.” In another place he testifies:

Allegheny County received Colonel Stephen Bayard, born in Maryland in 1743, the descendant of Lazare Bayard, the Huguenot preacher of the Netherlands, whose daughter Judith became the wife of Peter Stuyvesant. In this County settled the Larges, Dravos, the Brunots through descent from Jacques Pons, a Huguenot of Offenbach, Germany. The Rutans (Rutemps) came originally from Lorraine; Abraham Ruttan came to New York in 1680 from the Rhine Palatinate. Fayette County claims Albert Gallatin . . . The Mestrezat family was also distinguished, particularly Judge Mestrezat of Uniontown.

Of especial interest to Western Pennsylvania readers will be the supplementary pages of Dr. Reaman’s book. They contain innumerable references to the Agnew, Barr, Bonner, Boyd, Campbell, Clark, Clement, Courtney, Cushing, Draper, Durant, Ferree, Flowers, Glass, Hague, Hay and Hayes, Howell, Hubbard, Jarvis, Joyce, Lane, Linville, Marchand, Morell, Noble, Oberlin, Paca, Parat, Pierson, Pettit, Pershing, Ramsey, Renan, Santeau, Schilling, Soule, Talman, Travenger, Votaw, Weimer and other families long domiciled in this portion of the world.

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