

The Making
of
McCormick County

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Persecuted French Huguenots Seek Refuge: New Bordeaux Colony Founded

to Lord Egremont (Pitt's successor), who placed it before King George III. The King approved and suggested that the assurances, which he made to Gibert in April 1761, be made a part of a letter to the French Protestant leaders in France as proposed by Pastor Gautier.

In March 1763, Pastor Gibert went again to England. Time was running short. The remaining months were busy and difficult ones for him. Huguenots in France, who knew of his colonization plan and wanted to join the group, had to have a sufficient lead time for arrival in England before the boat sailed, despite mishaps and unavoidable delays. The usual routes of escape were via Holland, Switzerland and the French maritime ports. Few in France could have known of the exact sailing date from England. 1

On August 9, 1763, Pastor Jean Louis Gibert with a group of French Huguenots, moved aboard a vessel and put to sea. They were about to close their eyes forever on their native France.

Imagine mise en scene as the ship begins to spread its sails to the breeze for the voyage: the devoted group of Huguenots – the grave husband, the anxious mother, the innocent babe, as they crowd the deck to gaze for the last time upon the receding shore. The bright morning sun gilds the distant coast with all the rich and varied colors of a summer landscape. A charming softness, a peculiar beauty, hang around those lovely vales and verdant slopes. A tantalizing power is discovered, never before felt, as they feast their eyes on the distant scene. Behind those vine-clad hills, now robed in solemn grandeur, they yet behold the endeared objects of affection: beloved friends and the soil that gave them birth. All the associations of early life, the fond remembrance of childhood's home – their native hills and woods and streams – their school days – the joys of manhood, mingled with the persecutions from which they had so recently escaped, crowd their minds, and fill their hearts and eyes to overflowing. The fond shore is soon lost to sight, and now there is nothing for the eye to rest upon but the wide expanse of water, and that frail ship which holds their destiny. Now they turn themselves to the blue heavens above for Hope and offer their prayers to the Heavenly Father.

Scarcely had the hills of their native France become a dim speck upon the horizon before their troubles began. For a week they were tossed by stormy winds, and finally on August 16th they were driven into the Port of D'Artimon, ten leagues from their destined Plymouth,

England. In the port they took on supplies, having been without provisions for several days. On August 22nd they put to sea again. On the next day a storm ensued, according to the Journal of Pierre Moragne, "which soon alarmed us all even to the Captain, and we worked incessantly with buckets and with the pump to keep the water out of the Captain's cabin. We stood in the water four hours; but by the grace of God, we reached land, with great danger of ship-wreck, by a very narrow passage between two rocks."

A qui veut, rien n'est impossible! The group arrived at Plymouth on August 25th where they were lodged in buildings which formerly had housed prisoners. They remained in Plymouth until Christmas. This was only the beginning of their grueling journey that would take a year for the survivors to reach their destination and religious freedom in the Back Country of South Carolina. 2

Following is a roster of refugees compiled at Plymouth and dated November 22, 1763:

Liste des Protestants Refuge's actuellement a' Plymouth pour se rendre en Amerique dans les possessions de sa majest' George troisieme Roy de la Grande Bretagne sous la conduite & direction de Jean Louis Gibert Pasteur:

<u>Name of Male</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1. Jacques Touzeau	30	Catechiste
2. Daniel Due	31	Capitaine de Navire
3. Pre Pierre Don	25	Dr. en Medicene ou Chisurgia
4. Barthelemy Bouigue	22	Chirurgien
5. Jacques Boutiton	51	Laboureur
6. Pierre Boutiton	20	Laboureur
7. Jean Roger	45	Commercant
8. Pierre Roger	21	Laboureur
9. Jean Roger	20	Laboureur
10. Matthieu Bereau	35	Laboureur
11. Jean Bereau	32	Tonelier
12. Matthieu Bereau	23	Tonneller
13. Jacob Chardavoine	17	Marin
14. Pierre Moragne	22	Labourer
15. Paul Nino	19	Perruquier
16. Louis Villaret	26	Boulangier & cultivr. de Muriers
17. Jean Gout	19	Perruquier
18. Pierre Lioron	27	Jardinier & cultr. de Muriers
19. Jean Frisille	48	Pillote
20. Pierre Gollin	31	Marin
21. Pierre Gollin	7

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74. Pierre Reigne	36	Marin
75. Jean Castan	18	Vigneron
76. Pierre Clareau	24	Charpr.
77. Jean Bellotte	50	Fabr. d=etoffe
78. Pierre Elie Bellotte	19	Marin
79. Jean Arnaud Bellotte	3	.....
80. Theodore Guay	23	Jaedr. & Potier
81. Andre Wagnon	37	.....
82. Abram Jacob	37	Cordonr.
83. Daniel Jacob	3	.....
84. Jean Bte. Gautier	45	Tailleur
85. Theodore Gautier	7	.....
86. Samuel Bollomay	23	Cordr.
87. Jn. Bte. Delonay	45	Tisserand
88. Jn. Bte. Delonay	10	.....
89. Antonio Delonay	4	.....
90. Jacques Delonay	1	.....
91. Jn. Bte. Petit	27	Tailleur
92. Antoine Billaud	36	Vigneron
93. Nichols. Basson	23	Vigneron
* 94. Pierre Barbier	23	Marin
95. Etienne Thomas	12	Vigneron
96. N. Labrousse	1	.....
97. Pierre Langel	11	.....
98. Antne. Herport	26	Notaire
99. Francois Branton	23	Labr.
100. Jean Pierre Beillard	33	Boulr.
101. Pierre Boyer	20	Boutonnier
102. Jean Eymery	32	Relieur
103. Pre. Garrineau	26	Masson
104. Jn. Pre. Nicholas	27	Marin
105. Pierre Boutiton	50	Pasteur
106. Louis Villaret	45	Pr. les Murrs. & c
107. Ant. Jos. Labbe	34	Precepteur
108. Jn. Louis Husson	25	Charpr.
109. Pre. Nicholas Piron	26	Perruqr.
110. Francis Gerard	35	Tailleur
111. Jn. Fs. Pottevin	35	.....
112. Jn. Fs. Potevin	2	.....

<u>Name of Female</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Marguerite Tessandier	54
2. Jean Boutiton	21
3. Marthe Armagnieu	30
4. Jeanne Roudier	20
5. Anne Latour	25
6. Suzanne Latour	20
7. Anne Coureau	50
8. Marie Bouchonau	14
9. Anne Lespine	42
10. Margte. Roger	22
11. Eliz. Gregoire	33

The group commenced going aboard their ship *Friendship*, at Plymouth, (commanded by Capt. George Perkins) on December 25, 1763. Before the vessel was out of the channel, a great storm on the 27th, the 28th, and the 29th caused the vessel to be stranded on some rocks, and forced it "to lay to, in the roadstead of Farbret," says Pierre Moragne's *Journal*, where it remained until February 14, 1764. Because of some trouble among the passengers, the ship returned to Plymouth on the 17th and remained there until February 22nd, at which time it again set sail.

After forty-seven days on water "without the sight of aught but the heaven and the waters," the French refugees began to see the shore of America on the 10th of April. After another short delay because their vessel ran aground on a bank of sand, they reached Charles Town, South Carolina, on April 12, 1764. By April 14th, they were temporarily lodged in the barracks. While awaiting the bounty of their province, they received "a hogshead of crackers (biscuits) and other liberalities" from the French Church of Charles Town. 4

The French Huguenots took the oath of allegiance at Charles Town on April 18, 1764, and prayed for bounty and land according to their family rights (100 acres for the head of the family and fifty acres for each dependent) as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Jean Louis Gibert	200
Anne Courneau Bouchonneau (Widow of Charles Bouchonneau)	150
Pierre Elie Belot	100
Jean Bellefaye	200
Joseph Bouchelon	150
Jean Baptiste Petie	150
Jean Roger	150
Pierre Reigne	150
Pierre Nicholas	150
Colas Bordajeau	300
Jean Bellot	250
Jean Baptiste De Laune	350
Jean Baptiste Gautier	250
Jean Lefaye	200
Marie Farasteau Gabau	150
Abram Jacob	250
Piere Roquemore Ayne	250

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Jacque Labruese	250
Jacques Langel	300
Jean Fresille	300
Jaque Boutiton	150
Anne Beraud Beinayme (Widow of Peter Beinayme)	150
Matthew Beraud	250
Daniel Louis Jennerett	100
Pierre Boutiton	100
Pierre Boutiton	100
Francis Bayle	100
Piere Leoron	100
Louis Villerett	100
Nicholas Basson	100
Antoine Billaw	100
Marie Magdale Belot	100
Jean Eymery	100
Marie Roger	100
Jeremiah Roger	100
Piere Roger	100
Daniel Due	100
Theodore Gay	100
Jean Don	100
Jean Cartau	100
Jean Pierre Bellier	100
Pierre Garrineau	100
Nicholas Bouchonneau	100
Charles Bouchonneau	100
Anthoine Tanasteau	100
Andre Guillebeau	100
Francois Prouvillac	100
Jean Anthony	100
Jean Bouchillon	100
Marie Bayle	100
Cecile Bayle	100
Pierre Bayle	100
Jean Priolot	100
Jean Briau	100
Pierre Cluzzeau	100
Jean Audibert	100
Susanna Roquemore	100
Roquemore Jean Pierre	100
Roquemore Anne	100
Pierre Rolland	100
Francois Gros	100
Estienne Thomas	100
Marie Thomas	100
Susanna Latou	100
Anne Latou	100
Marthe Amnieu	100
Jean Dupuy	100
Pierre Langell	100

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Jacque Langell	100
Jacob Baylard	100
Pierre Moragne	100
Matthiew Testall	100
Mathew Beraud	100
Jean Beraud du Conton	100
Pierre Pieron	100
Anny William	100
Philip Beard	100
Pierre Sudze	100
Joseph Labbe	100
Jacque Vallae	100
Jean Scervante	100

Having arrived in South Carolina too late in the spring to plant provisions for their subsistence the ensuing winter on the lands they were to eventually settle on, the Governor and Council decided to send them to Fort Lyttleton, near Port Royal, so that they could temporarily be housed in barracks there. They were allocated one pound of flour or one quart of Indian corn for each person a day, and four steers each month for the whole group. In case of private disputes or difficulties they were instructed to contact Mr. De la Gay, a Frenchman who resided on Parris Island near Fort Lyttelton.

A few of the Huguenots separated from the main group early. A tailor, his wife and two children located in Charles Town. Fourteen separated "through disgust or Quarrels" and were settled at nearby Purrysburg. And six men and their wives and children were settled elsewhere at the advice of the Council, because the wives had made a complaint which the Council thought "groundless and unreasonable": that "the People who had Charge of distributing provisions had stop'd the rum from the Children which they had desired to be allowed to them instead of a Quantity of meat allowed them."

On July 14, 1764, Lt. Governor William Bull dispatched instructions to Patrick Calhoun for establishing the Huguenot colony. He directed that the French town be situated on Little River just below the mouth of Long Cane Creek and that the town be called New Bordeaux. He gave specific details for a governing body and plans for laying out and surveying the town; further that a township containing 28,000 acres be surveyed for the refugees and called Hillsborough Township with land grants being surveyed in accordance with the land bounties granted on the 18th of April.

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