



Huguenots - www.huguenotsociety.org.uk

Who were the Huguenots?

The name given in the 16th century to the Protestants in France, particularly by their enemies.

The Protestant Reformation in the early 16th Century: its greatest protagonists were the German Martin Luther and the Frenchman Jean Calvin. In France Calvinism penetrated all ranks of society, especially those of the literate craftsmen in the towns and of the nobility.

There were eight civil wars in France between 1562 and 1598 - the Wars of Religion. In 1589 the Protestant Henri de Bourbon, King of Navarre, inherited the French throne and in 1593 converted to Catholicism to try to end civil war. He issued the Edict of Nantes in 1598 which gave the Huguenots widespread religious liberty.

However, under his grandson, Louis XIV, the Huguenots' privileges were gradually eroded. In 1685 Louis revoked the Edict of Nantes, exiled all Protestant pastors but forbade the laity to leave France. However, about 200,000 Huguenots left France, settling in non-Catholic Europe - the Netherlands, Germany, especially Prussia, Switzerland, Scandinavia, and even as far as Russia. The Dutch East India Company sent a few hundred to the Cape to develop the vineyards in southern Africa. About 50,000 came to England, and perhaps about 10,000 moving on to Ireland. So many inhabitants of these islands have Huguenot blood in their veins.

The Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland (created 1885) to promote the publication and spread of knowledge about the history of French Protestant migration.

Is My Family Huguenot?

You may use the Huguenot Library to do your own research.

The Huguenot Library is currently housed with UCL Special Collections at The National Archives. Appointments must be made at least two weeks in advance. Please contact the Librarian for details at: library@huguenotsociety.org.uk

Visiting the Library. The Library is open to readers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, by appointment only. There is little information in the Library records after 1800 as most of the Huguenot churches had closed by then.

It is essential therefore before making an enquiry to work back to the early nineteenth century using civil registration, parish records or other sources.

Family History

The Society's indexed publications contain hundreds of names of members of Huguenot congregations and communities. You can search for an ancestor via the microfiche index for the first 59 volumes of the Quarto Series, via individual volume indexes, or via the search function on the CD-ROM digitized versions of the Quarto Series. The CD-ROM can be purchased from the Administrative Officer, or online (see Publications page).

Huguenot Families 1-20 can be found under Supplementary Series.

CD-ROM Quarto Series. Those you may find particularly useful. See online for others.

CD-ROM 3: Double CD ROM

Denization & Naturalisation:

Vol. X - Lists of Aliens Resident in London, Henry VIII to James I, Parts I, II and III and Index.

Vol. LVII - Returns of strangers in the metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639

Vol. VIII - Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization for Aliens in England, 1509-1603.

Vol. XVIII - Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization in England and Ireland, 1603-1700.

Vol. XXVII - Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization in England and Ireland, 1701-1800.

Vol. XXXV - A Supplement to Dr WA Shaw's Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization in Vols. XVIII and XXVII

CD-ROM Supplementary Series: Single CD ROM.

Huguenot Families 1-20.

Huguenot Families was a half-yearly publication of the Huguenot Society, which dealt with genealogy and family history. It was, until recently, only available in printed form and only to subscribing Fellows of the Huguenot Society. All 20 editions are now available on a single CD-ROM and to Fellows and non-Fellows alike.

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Please note that all Huguenot Society publications and CD-ROM offered for sale on the Parish Chest site have the prefix HUG.

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