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Guytons Galore

FROM FRENCH HUGUENOTS
TO OREGON PIONEERS

By Helen Guyton Rees

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FOREWORD

Every person in the world has ancestors who were alive in 345 B.C., 480 A.D., 1720, 1850, and 1901. That is a consuming thought. The fact that we may not know anything at all about a great-grandfather does not alter the fact that we have one; that he lived a very real life in his time and place; and that if we never learn about the past and the part our ancestors played in it, it is our loss and hampers our understanding of ourselves.

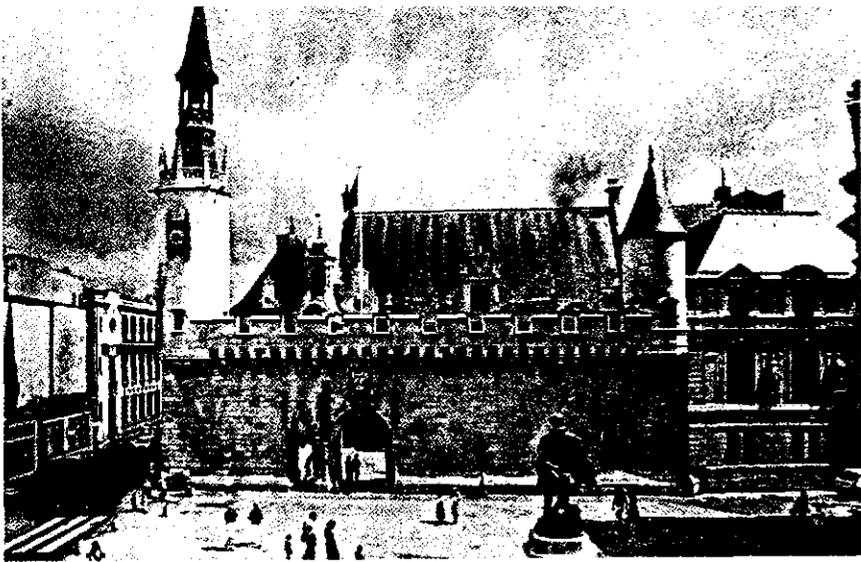
Whether or not it is possible to trace the Guyton line directly to the beginning of the name may not be as significant as to know what the name has represented down the ages. We've gathered scattered bits of information about the name and its history during its evolution from Gion, Guions, Goyon, Guyon, and finally Guiton in France and Guyton in America.

The history of Guions goes back to a remote period and may have sprung from ancient nobility in France. In the year 600 Normandie on the Seine was the place where a Chateau, La Roche-Guyon, was erected. As late as 1937 a descendant of that line was still in possession of the Chateau.

One historical account refers to the family at Mont St. Michel in 1075 with the title "de la Roche-Guyon". Another branch appears at Luzon, St. Lio and Niort which is near Mauze en Aunis, the presumed birth place of Louis Guion, Ecuyer.

Around 1225 Hughes Goyon is called "Guion" having become Seigneur de la Roche-Guyon at his father's death. The name Guion is found in records of the Ancient Nobility of France, in which only those ranked from Ecuyer (Squire) and up were entitled by birth to a coat of arms. A Gervais Guion was titled 'ecuyer' in 1461.

There were Guitons in the area around the seaport of La Rochelle in 1500. The teachings of John Calvin were followed by those soon to be called "Huguenots" according to their



En Aunis La Rochelle, France: Courtyard and statue honoring "The Courageous Jean Guiton, Hero of the 1628 siege of the City".



Statue honoring Jean Guiton.

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ancient slogan "Foy d'un Huguenot". They demanded the right to be masters of their own consciences.

These Huguenots lived in harmony with their Catholic neighbors, sometimes worshiping in the same churches (at different hours). As their numbers grew, they erected numerous "temples" or houses of worship.

When the persecution of Protestants first swept across France, La Rochelle was reasonably free from danger, but the day came when the power of the Pope over the Catholic King brought the demand of his councilors that only the Catholic Faith was to be followed.

The Huguenots resisted, or ignored the demands. In 1528 a siege was laid about La Rochelle, which was not lifted until 25,000 out of a population of 30,000 perished of hunger. Today a statue stands in the main square of La Rochelle erected in honor of "the heroic Mayor Jean Guiton".

To quote from the London Historical Society, "nearly every dwelling in the city must have had its legends of heroism and suffering, connected with that memorable siege. The city wall so bravely defended had long since disappeared when the account was written, but at a certain spot it was remembered that from the wall, the women and children poured boiling pitch from a huge cauldron upon the assailants. During the 1800s one place commonly visited by descendants of the Huguenots was the home of Mayor Guiton.

Periodically, following that early siege, the Protestants in France were harassed and fled to Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and England. In England, their chief destination was London, though they landed in Plymouth, Barnstable, Southampton, or Gravesend.

A large proportion of the Huguenots who came to our Northeast ports in the last years of the 17th Century can be traced back to the towns and villages of the country between Loire and Gironde. Aunis may be called the birthplace of American Huguenots. It can scarcely be called a province. This district called "Tera d'Aunis" or "Pays d' Aunis", 700 miles square, was little more than a suburb of its great seaport LaRochelle, which had been a stronghold of the Protestants in France for nearly 70 years.

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In England the refugees were made welcome by people who were emerging from their own period of persecution. A subscription was taken to aid the refugees, build hospitals and churches, and to finance their passage to America. London alone had 40 refugee churches, and there were others at Plymouth, Stonehouse, Dublin, and Portarlington whose registers still exist.

It has been said that "Genealogy is History made more interesting by its human and personal element. It is like a lamp which lights up dim portraits in a long corridor, and reveals doorways into long closed rooms filled with furnishings of the past." Few pedigrees are of greater interest from a historical point of view than those of Huguenot families whose members stood apart from the ordinary because the record of their lives reveals a continued struggle against tyranny of Church and State.

The Guytons must have gone directly to England from France in the early persecutions of Protestants in the vicinity of La Rochelle. There was a John Guyton, "Freeman", in Norwich, Norfolk, England in 1635. Not proven, but one might suppose he is the father of Samuel, the first Guyton ancestor we know about in England, who was buried at St. Martin's Palace, Norwich, 1 Feb. 1697, and his wife Elizabeth who had been buried there 30 Jan. 1697. This first Samuel had a son, Samuel Jr., christened in 1668 at St. George's, Tombland, wife Margaret. Of their eleven children, John was the second, and the same John who immigrated to America; born in England in 1696. It is pretty certain that he came to America before 1719, since his name did not appear on a list of all the passengers to Baltimore, which began in 1719. However, his younger brother Benjamin was on the 1719 list. This is what we know of the Guytons who eventually cast their lot with the Colonies in the New World.

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SECTION II

Chapter 1

JOHN GUYTON I,

FIRST GUYTON RECORDED IN AMERICA

In America, John Guyton I was first listed in "taxables" in Upper Hundred Cliffs, Calvert County, Maryland, which is on a peninsula 100 miles south of Baltimore. There is now a "Calvert Cliffs" state park which probably is in the vicinity at least, of "Upper Hundred Cliffs". John I's first son Samuel's birth was registered in Baltimore in 1727. John and his brother Benjamin moved from Calvert County to Baltimore County during the 1750s and lived near each other.

Early Maryland,

(From the Diary of John Smith)

Some time after 1607 John Smith visited what was to become Maryland, he was impressed with the giant-like people known as the Susquehannocks. "Such great and well proportioned men are seldom seen, but seemed like of a honest and simple disposition. Their attire is skins of bears and wolves, some have cossacks (sic) made of bear heads and skins, that a man's head goes through the skin's neck and the ears of the bear fastened to his shoulders, the nose and teeth hanging in a chain for a jewel. Their language, it may well become their proportions, sounding from them as from a vault."

It is from these extracts from Smith's diary that we know Indians roamed over most of Baltimore-Harford county and that the Susquehannocks occupied the northern section and

the Massawomeks were found in the southern part around Bush and Gunpowder Rivers. The two tribes were often in mortal combat.

There were rivers and bays with sandy shores and overhanging trees and vines; only the sound of water eddying over the rocks or the warble of birds broke that virgin stillness.



Old St. John's Church in Joppa on the Gunpowder River where Joshua and Abraham Guyton subscribed for the construction of the "New Building" in the 1760's.

The winding paths of the Indians along the shore led into the deeper recesses of the forest. These trails eventually became the first roads down which pioneers rolled kegs of corn, tobacco

and other commodities to the towns that sprang up wherever the bay permitted the landing of boats. By 1692 a company of rangers was organized to police the wilderness against the roving bands of Indians. It was still a wild and sparsely settled country that John Guyton I first saw when he arrived at the settlement of Baltimore around 1718. By 1750 when John Guyton I's son John II was born, the last remnants of the Indian nations had disappeared.

Back in 1688 when William and Mary had ascended the throne of Great Britain they sent Royal Governor Lionel Copley to the provinces of Maryland to establish the Church of England firmly in the New World. St. John's Church was established in Gunpowder Hundred in 1692, when Baltimore county was divided into three parishes. The first St. John's Church, in 1695, was located on Elk Neck where the Officers Club at Edgewood now stands. The original church was a crude log building 20 x 40 feet, which served the parish a



1979—Charles, Emily and Elizabeth Rees in front of the New St. John's building, built on the site of the old St. John's.

very short time because Joppa was then growing in importance as a seaport.

By the early 1700s Joppa was booming, receiving manufactured goods from beyond the Atlantic and sending away great quantities of tobacco and corn. Joppa was established as the county seat in 1712. In laying out the town, one acre of the land called "Taylor's Choice" was set apart for a new St. John's Church. Here the prosperous planters, merchants and sea captains built a brick church. One of the oldest extant records of St. John's is dated August 7, 1750, when subscriptions were being taken for the building of "a chapel of ease in the forks of the Gunpowder". Joshua and Abraham Guyton, sons of John I subscribed.



Elizabeth and Emily Rees stand on bank of Gunpowder River beside new St. John's, 1976.

Over two hundred years later, Mrs. John F. Kennedy, First Lady, received a letter deploring the vandalizing of the old Rumsey mansion at Joppa, and said that the burial grounds of the Rumsey family and of St. John's Parish, were about

Delete 1706

to be cleared as part of the Joppatowne Development. The letter was sent to the developer, Mr. Leon Ponitz, via the curator at the White House. When told of the existence of the two burial grounds, Mr. Panitz responded enthusiastically by making available the original acre of land where St. John's Gunpowder Parish Church first stood. An additional two acres were purchased, the burying grounds preserved, and a new brick church patterned after the original one was built.

Joseph, born in 1732, second son of John I, was married to Hannah Whitaker at St. John's Dec 12, 1754. Another of the three early churches was St. George Parish, one of the oldest edifices in Baltimore County. John Guyton I was a member. It was called "Old Spucia", spelled two ways in different records, Spesucia or Specucia. Joseph was mentioned on a list of officers in 1763 and in 1770. He and his brother Nathaniel sold out and moved to South Carolina on Broad River, later called Union District, then Cherokee County, South Carolina. A Benjamin Guyton applied for a license December 13, 1753 to marry Amelia Scharf. It is not known whether the marriage took place. If it did, Amelia must have died, as Benjamin did marry Catherine "Kath" Adams at "Old Spucia" in 1765.

Children of Benjamin and Catherine Guyton listed in his will:

1. Henry, m. Margaret Underwood
2. Benjamin
3. Margaret (Foster)
4. Lydia (Trout)
5. Eleanden m. Alexander Smith.

Eliz.

They had girls, Anne and Rosana.

6. Katherine (Catherine);

*Underwood
1708 Del.*

Benjamin and his family remained in the Baltimore area.

Sons and daughters born to John I and his wife Mary: Taken from the family Bible of John I and recorded by his grandson Benjamin; (the Bible was later given to Elisha Guyton, brother of Benjamin)

1. Samuel b. November 6, 1727

In the Name of God
 I John Guyton of Harford County in the State
 of Maryland being sick of Body but of perfect mind
 and Memory do hereby declare for it that I have
 calling into mind the uncertainty of this transitory
 life do for the better settling of my worldly estate
 make the following Declaration and Testament
 In the presence of my friends and Neighbors of my
 Temporal Goods in Manner & form following
 I Give and bequeath one Cow and no more therein and
 this heirs for ever
 I Give to my Daughter Sarah Guyton I Give and
 bequeath to her in her sole and separate Use
 I Give to my Son John Guyton one Daughter Mary
 Woodhill that is to say John Joseph Nathaniel
 Jacob John Joshua one Shilling Sterling and no more
 to them and their heirs for ever
 I Give I Give and bequeath unto my well
 Beloved wife Mary Guyton my whole Estate both
 Real & Personal During her Natural life or Remainder
 and to her heirs in full Disposal and she shall have my
 Son Guyton with her my whole and sole Executor of this
 my Testament and I do hereby do hereby do hereby
 bequeath to her my hand and affixed my seal this
 Day of November 1782
 John Guyton

- ✓ 2. Joseph b. September 17, 1732
- ✓ 3. Nathaniel b. March 29, 1735
- ✓ 4. Sarah b. January 3, 1737
- ✓ 5. Abraham b. May 8, 1740
- ✓ 6. Issac b. August 19, 1742
- ✓ 7. Jacob b. November 11, 1744
- ✓ 8. Mary b. May 4, 1747
- ✓ 9. John b. September 1, 1750
- ✓ 10. Joshua b. August 18, 1757

The will of John Guyton I was dated November 17, 1782 and probated March 25, 1783. His wife Mary sold Prospect "for the sum of five pounds apiece paid to me by my sons John and Joshua Guyton, that tract of land called Prospect". Drawn up September 23, 1785 and legalized November 16, 1786. Mary was alive to sign an indenture February 13, 1805.

Roads and Development in Baltimore and Harford Counties.

When the early settlers first occupied the land near the Chesapeake Bay and some of the tributary rivers such as the Gunpowder, Bush and Susquehanna, the only way to move from place to place was by using the trails of the Indians. Some of these paths followed the banks of the rivers, while others led deep into the forest. Eventually roads were built between cities, following the well-worn trails of the Indians. By 1666 a system of roads was being planned, linking Alexandria, Virginia to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to move produce as well as maintain communications. This road, which ran through Harford county was being used by 1670. It ran from the Gunpowder River near what became Joppa, to Bush River, then to other settlements. The road connected the first communities along the coast, and provided a crude highway to the local seats of government at Baltimore and Joppa.

Even these main roads were little more than tracks through forest and swamp, leaving travelers lost in unmarked wilderness areas. An Act of Assembly in 1704 required that a road

Will of John Guyton I

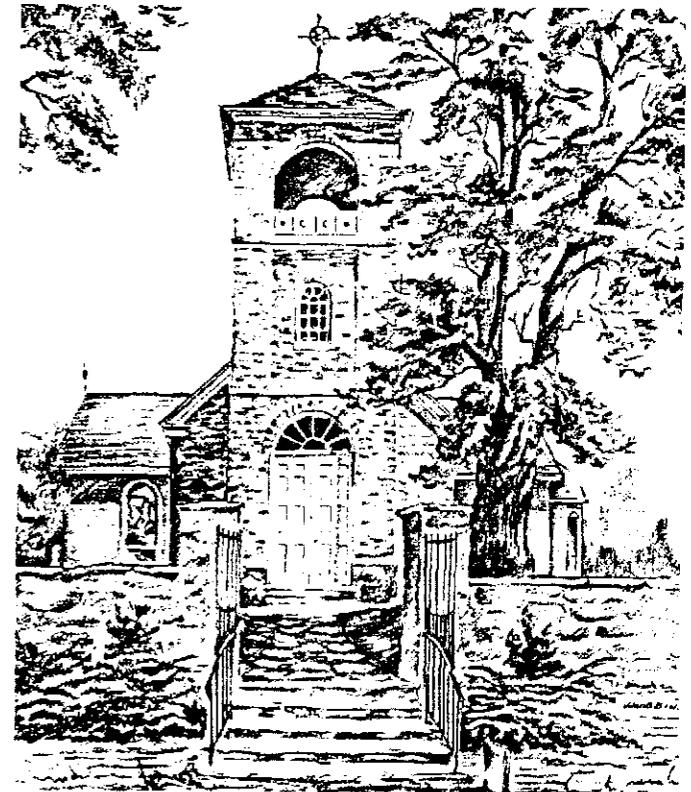
leading to a court house or church should be marked with two notches on the trees, and there should be three marks if the road led to a ferry. The hardships endured by people using these roads and the desolate territory through which they passed has been described in Harford County Land Records.

King James rewarded Lord Baltimore with a large part of the Eastern coast of North America, then in possession of England. The founding and settlement of Maryland was under the direction of succeeding Lords Baltimore. The third Lord Baltimore was Charles Calvert. He envisioned the establishment of some kind of landed aristocracy in the new territory. In 1636 instructions were given that any 2,000 or more acres of the land grant owned by one person should be established as a manor. A number of such manors were located throughout Maryland.

One 10,000 acre grant, "My Lady's Manor" in upper Harford County, is of particular interest to the Guyton family because some of the land was later owned by John I and John II, Abraham and Joshua Guyton.

Chapter 2

MY LADY'S MANOR and THE REVOLUTION



Rev. W. A. L. 21237

APPENDIX

Revolutionary Story of Margaret McCurdy Guyton

Second son of John Guyton 1, Joseph Guyton, who moved to South Carolina when he was 38, was an officer in the South Carolina Army when the British were encamped in the front yard of the McCurdy home. Margaret McCurdy was about seven years old at the time the Battle of Cowpens was about to take place. Margaret's father was with the American Army stationed beyond the English Camp. She was accustomed to go through the British lines with notes from her mother to her father, usually about the welfare of the family. She went openly, and usually passed the note to someone of her British friends to read. These men had been away from their own children two years, were accustomed to seeing American children run away or scream with fear; so when this beautiful little girl with long black curls and sparkling blue eyes came and talked to them, they were delighted with her.

Mrs. McCurdy didn't much like having the British in her front yard. But since Margaret had made friends with them—she even brought various army men to chop wood—her mother conceded that there were some advantages in them being there. They were friendly enemies, and she didn't have to worry about the Tories burning her house down a second time. She had gotten word that the British were planning a battle and wanted somehow to get word to her husband. Since she had younger children four and two years old that she could neither take with her nor leave alone, she had no choice but to send Margaret. It was a fearsome thought; what if the note she was sending fell into the British hands? What if they wouldn't allow her to go through their camp?

She explained carefully to her daughter the importance of not revealing anything to her friends camped in their front yard. Margaret got the picture, and carried out her mission with imagination and a cool head. She stopped and visited with her British friends as though she had all day. She had adopted Lord Cornwallis as her special friend, so she asked about him. He wasn't there that day, and after waiting around a while she said she supposed she'd go see her father.

He had heard her voice and when he saw her, he and Aaron Guyton, then 19, went to meet her. She followed instructions from home and asked to talk to her father alone, she could tell *no one* about the note. They went to a thicket out of sight and sound, where she took off her shoe and handed him the note. A glance told him he must get it to his commanding officer, so he tied her shoe and sent her on her way home, to relieve her mother's anxiety.

When she returned to the British camp someone remarked she didn't stay long, at which she replied with composure that her father wasn't there, either, and went on to say she didn't think much of the way armies were run—soldiers should be in camp so visitors could find them when they came. The soldiers took her childish criticism as humorous—a seven year old girl telling Lord Cornwallis how to manage his army. The word must have reached him, because the horseback rides and treats from England came even more frequently for Margaret so she wouldn't be mad at him.

Of course there was a frantic gathering of arms, ammunition and men at the American camp; the men stayed hidden in the tents in daylight in order not to be seen.

The British rode out the morning of Jan. 17, 1781 expecting there would be no more than a skirmish. They were taken by surprise at the strength of the resistance and the Americans won the battle, making Margaret McCurdy a heroine in the Cause of Liberty. Eventually, she married Aaron Guyton, son of Joseph, and became the great-great grandmother of Margaret McCabe of Virginia who got this story handed down through four generations.

"Robert McCurdy and Aaron Guyton were soldiers and Joseph Guyton contributed supplies," said Margaret McCabe.

"Aaron was the only soldier in the Revolutionary War that I know about who was sent home to grow up a bit. He enlisted well before he was 15 and was in for a week or so and fought in one major battle before his brother Moses enlisted and told them Aaron's age. They sent him home, but as soon as he was old enough he came back and stayed until the war was over."

Margaret McCurdy Guyton was 90 + when she died during the Civil War.

Bits and Pieces

The genealogical search included many records of interest to possible "Searchers for Roots" and their successors, though they are not assembled in direct lines. The book would never have been completed had the assembling of all bits of information in their order not been undertaken. But the records were too hard to come by to leave them gathering dust or filling waste baskets, so some of the clearest have been included in a "do it yourself" section called "Bits and Pieces". An effort has been made to present them in such a way that they were easy to sort out; some by dates, some by Church Records, and some by associated names; Have fun piecing your own Guyton Family quilt!

Records Gleaned In Our Search

St. Martin's Place, Norwich

Joseph Guyton witnessed marriage 25 Dec. 1755. Elizabeth Guyton witnessed marriage 21 Jun. 1757. Ann Guyton married to Rob. Mitchell (both widowed) 27 Jun. 1757. Sarah Guyton wife of Samuel buried 22 Sept. 1772 age 72. Samuel Guyton (widowed) buried 13 Mar. 1786 age 86.

Baptised: Elizabeth Guyton, 27 Apr. 1737. Daughter of John and Margaret

London Huguenot Society #1939-1748

Aaron Guyton—Spitalfields, Christchurch, a parish with

union of Whitechapel, Tower Division of the hundred of Ossulstone, County of Middlesex, (outside London)

The Guyton name is not in Walloons Church records at Norwich (Huguenot Soc. 1565-1832) so they probably fled directly from LaRochelle to England and did not live in Holland.

From Tombland 1707-1800

Marriages: 4 Oct. 1708 Jas. Cook—Sarah Guyton "of this parish"

Burials: 14 May 1756 Thomas Guyton;

7 Nov 1770 Mary Guyton age 82

From Norwich St Giles:

Baptisms: 19 Jan. + 21—1760 Guyton, Samuel, son of Sam. and Elizabeth.

25, 27 Jun 1762 Guyton, Sarah dau. of Sam and Eliz.

25 Nov. 1764 Guyton, John Second son of Sam. and Eliz.

Burial: 13 Mar. 1768 James Guyton age 64

Marriage: 12 Mar. 1781 Mary Guyton wit. Marr. of John Ownsworth and Francis Christian

From St. James Parish, Baltimore, Co. (Church Records in Card File)

Guyton, Abraham

m. Ann

parents of Joshua, Joseph

child buried 27 July 1794 age 6 yrs.

Guyton, Ann

confirmed 5 Sept 1795

Guyton, Benjamin

born 3 June 1788, son of *John and Frances*

Guyton, Eleanor

born 9 May 1792

Baptised 14 Oct. 1792

dau. of *John and Frances*

Guyton, Eleanor

Born 22 Dec. 1792

Daughter of *Joshua and Margaret*

Guyton, Elizabeth

Married William Stewart

Guyton, Elizabeth (not dau. of John)

Born 26 Apr. 1803

Daughter of *Joshua and Margaret*

Guyton, James

Born July 1795

Son of John and Sarah

Guyton, James

Born 28 Oct. 1796

Son of John and Elizabeth

Guyton, Jesse

Born 18 May 1801

Baptised 28 Sept. 1801

Son of John and Frances

Guyton, John

Married Elizabeth

Issue - James

Guyton, John

Married Frances

Parents of Benjamin, Eleanor, Jesse

Guyton, John Holt

Married Sarah Watkins 30 Oct. 1787, Balt. Co.

Issue - James

Guyton, Joseph

Born 17 Mar. 1789

Son of Abraham and Ann

Guyton, Joshua

Married Margaret

Parents of Sarah, Eleanor, Martha, Margaret, Elizabeth, Josiah

Guiton (sic), Joshua

Born 9 June 1787

Son of Abraham and Ann

Guyton, Josiah

Born 6 Nov. 1800

Son of John and Margaret

Guyton, Martha

Born 17 Apr. 1795

Daughter of Joshua and Margaret