

# "At the Sign of the Crest"

Conducted by HAZEL KRAFT EILERS

## AMONETT Coat-of-Arms

By HAZEL KRAFT EILERS



### Amonett

Jacob Amonett was a Huguenot refugee from the Protestant-Catholic Revolution in France and came to Henrico County, Manakintown, Va., in 1700 with his wife and four children, sailing on the ship "Nasseau" from London. (The Amonett name has been variously spelled as Ammonet, Amonet, Ammonett, Amnette, Ominet, Amonett, etc. The final "e" was added to it a generation ago.) Jacob Amonett was born in France about 1660-65. His ancestry has not been traced but there is every reason to believe that he was the son of Jacob Amonett of Loudun, France. A sketch of his background appeared in "The Huguenot," 1941-1943 Publication No. 11. It was written by Mrs. Effie Gwynn Seargeant of Richmond, Va.

In a list of French Protestants (Refugees) established in the Parish of King William, Henrico Co., Va., appears the name of Jacob Amonett, three sons and two daughters. This would indicate the birth of at least one child after their arrival in Virginia and also that his wife was dead at this time, 1714.

Land grants, dated 1716, were given Jacob Amonett by Alexander Spotswood: one for 88 acres and another for 186 acres.

Jacob Amonett was a prominent man in the settlement from the day of his arrival. Parish records show that he was a Vestryman of King William Parish from its organization, December 20, 1707 to July 30, 1722. He was church warden in 1710, 11, and 25. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Andre (Andrew) as vestryman, and he—like his father—was given the title of "Sieur" in the records. In the lists of Tithables of King William Parish in "The Virginia Magazine," Jacob Amonett, Sr., Jacob Amonett, Jr., Charles and Andrew are all given.

Jacob Amonett, Sr., married Judith..... about 1681. She was born, circa 1665. Her first name was unknown until the following appeared in "The Huguenot Magazine" (Year Book No. 1, 1924: "Among the heretofore unpublished and valuable records now in possession of our Society are those of the Chastain family, Pierre Chastain and Dr. Estienne Chastain were among the Founders of Manakintown.) (Dr. Chastain's wife was Marthe, born 1672 and died in Virginia, in 1725.) The children of Pierre and Magdalaine Chastain were . . . Jean . . . who married Charlotte Amonett, daughter of Jacob and Judith Amonett, etc. . . ."

Jacob and Judith Amonett had

another daughter, Magdalaine, who married Abraham Salle. (See "Huguenot Magazine," No. 1.)

Jacob Amonett, Sr., died in King William Parish on October 5, 1725. (See "Coll., Va., Hist., Soc., Vol 5, Huguenot Emigration, pgs. 29, 70, 74.) 5 children: (1) Andrew, (2) Charles, (3) Jacob, Jr., (4) Charlotte and (5) Magdalaine.

Since space is limited, only Andrew Amonett's line will be carried out here. Born about 1690 in France or Holland, he came with his parents to Henrico County, Virginia, in 1700. (Goochland county was formed from Henrico and later Chesterfield county became a part of Goochland. Andrew died in Chesterfield in 1763. His will is recorded there in W. B. #1, pg. 237, County Order Book #3, pg. 466 and mentions his 9 children by name.) He married about 1721 Jean (Janne) Morriset, b. abt. 1700 in King William Parish, Henrico Co., Va. She was the daughter of Pierre and Elizabeth Morriset. (Her will, dated Dec. 17, 1746, refers to daughter Jean, wife of Andrew Amonett and names Andrew her executor.) Jean Morriset Amonett died 1765.

Children: (1) John, b. Aug. 6, 1734 (Parish Records.) Lived in Chesterfield County, Va., where he died. His will is dated Jan. 20, 1781, recorded Mar. 7, 1783 in W. B. #3, Part 2, pgs. 373-4. Married unknown. His will mentions Rebecca Russell and her son, James, and his "heirs-at-law" as daughter Ann and son, John, Jr. (2) William, b. abt. 1736-7. Married 1763-4 Elizabeth Badgett. Both he and his wife died in 1810 in Buckingham Co., Va.

Children: (a) James, b. 1765. Will dated Mar. 24, 1819, probated Nov. 16, 1820 in Powhatan Co., Va. (W. B. #6, pg. 77.) Married first Miss Brown, second Nancy Kerr Toler on Aug. 29, 1806. She was b. 1785, 21 yrs. of age when married. (See Powhatan Co., marriage bonds.) Children: James, Jr., William, Benjamin, Nancy J. who married her cousin Randolph Amonett, John Toler, Judith Ann, who married Frederick Rudd. Connecting families: Bass, Ahern, Houchens, Porter, Yeamans, Cudlipp, Perkins, Dinwiddie, Hobson, Baugh, Walthall, Ellington and Ritenour.

(b) Mary (Mollie), married Apr. 12, 1786 Stephen Chastain of Buckingham Co., Va. Issue of 6 children. (See "Jacob Amonett of Virginia and a Part of His Descendants" by Bransford.)

(c) William, Jr. b. Mar. 1, 1774. D. 1853 in Cumberland Co., Va. (Will dated Feb. 19, 1851, probated Mar. 28, 1853. See Cumberland Co. W. B. #12, pgs. 62, 3, 4.) Married on Nov. 24, 1807 Frances Tucker, dau. of Jesse Tucker of Cumberland Co. Issue: (1) Littleberry Tucker, (2) Nancy m. Mr. Flippen, (3) Julia m. Claibourn W. Wilburn, (4) Mary m. Mr. Phaup, (5) Elizabeth m. Mr. Phaup, (6) Frances Jane m. Mr. Murray. Littleberry Tucker Amonett m. Susan Jones on Dec. 20, 1849. He was b. Aug. 24, 1815, d. Sept. 19, 1880. She was b. Apr. 3, 1818 and d. May, 1898. Connecting families: Martin, Moss, Davis, Davidson, Platt, Coleman, Ferrell, Leys, Saunders, Latchford, Slusher, Burnette, and Lankford.

(d) Reuben, b. 1782 in Chesterfield Co., Va. Served in War of 1812. D. Sept. 24, 1814 at Ft. Jackson, Miss. (War Records.) M. Elizabeth Johnson of Cumberland Co., Va., in 1802. Moved to Overton Co., Tenn. Children: (1) Frederick, b. Sept. 4, 1804 in Byrdstown,

Tenn. D. Apr. 25, 1888 same place. M. Divine Sullivan in Jan., 1825. She was b. in Livingston, Tenn. (Literally hundreds of descendants in and around Byrdstown, Tenn. This line has been worked out very thoroughly but not enough space here.) (2) James, b. abt. 1810 in Byrdstown. D. in Celina, Tenn. M. Martha Armstrong. (Descendants in Tenn.) (3) Sally, b. abt. 1812 in Byrdstown. M. Newton Tidrow (Descendants in Tenn.) (4) Martha, b. abt. 1806 in Byrdstown. M. Mr. Haskell. (5) Virginia, b. 1808 s.p. (6) William, b. abt. 1803 s. p. D. in Celina, Tenn. in 1850.

(In Dekalb Co. Tenn. there are more Amonetts. Also in Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., Tenn. I have these lines but they are too long to carry out here.)

(e) Sally, b. 1783. D. 1815. Unm.

(f) Thomas, b. abt. 1766. D. 1863. (Will dated 1857, probated in Albemarle Co., Va., Dec. 7, 1863. M. Jane Clarkson on Dec. 11, 1806. (She was daughter of Manoah Clarkson and Lucy Pannell Clarkson of Fluvanna Co., Va.) Children: (1) James Ira, b. Aug. 1, 1810. Removed from Albemarle to Madison Parish, La., where he married Marguerite Bogue Fleetwood Apr. 14, 1846. He d. Sept. 11, 1878 in Memphis, Tenn. (In Livingston's "Lives of Eminent Americans," there is a biography of James Ira Amonett.)

Children: (1) Laura, b. Dec. 25, 1846 in Richmond Parish, La. D. in Columbia, Mo. in Sept., 1907. M. Wellington Gordon Dec. 13, 1866, who like her father was a prominent lawyer in Memphis. Connecting families: Doty, Hayden, Berry, Cobb, Dunlap, Moore, Farley, Sawyer, Hubbard, Ford, Worth, Brown, Chambliss, and Brewster.

(2) John, b. 1816 in Albemarle Co., Va. D. 1888, 79 yrs. of age. As a young man he moved to Missouri where he lived until his death. M. Ellen Bruffy, who d. in 1862. He married a widow, Mrs. Jane Hunter Fisher in 1865. She d. Dec. 1920. Issue by 1st wife: (1) Mamie, b. Dec. 25, 1869. M. Oct. 10, 1890 Dr. Geo. H. Eversole of Caledonia, Mo. He d. Oct. 4, 1948. Children: (a) John Amonett Eversole, (b) William Geo. Eversole, (c) Edward Thompson Eversole, and (d) James Frank Eversole. Connecting families: Sutherland, Marbury, Wallace, Drew.

(3) William, d. Sept. 2, 1849 on his way to Calif. to the gold region. M. a Louisianan, name unknown. (An old letter dated 1850 reveals they had a child but name unknown.)

(4) Benjamin Frank, m. Martha Brown of Albemarle Co., Va. (Removed from Va. to La., where he lived near his brother, James Ira Amonett.) He d. 1853 in Albemarle Co., Va.

(5) Thomas, unm. Lived with his parents in Albemarle, Va., until he left for Calif., in 1849 with his brother William, "in the company of Charles Brown and others. . ." (from an old letter dated 1850.)

(6) Mary Malinda, m. Clifton Garland Sutherland. (See Woods' "History of Albemarle" for sketch.)

(7) Lucy Jane, m. William Woodson. Connecting families: Johnson, Anderson, Garland, Carter, Paxton, Hundley, Beckman, Gilliland, Thomas, Marshall, Barton,

(8) Eliza, b. Oct. 27, 1807. D. July 28, 1883. M. Nathanie Garland of Albe-



marle Co., Va., on May 17, 1827. He was b. Aug. 2, 1793, d. July 4, 1885 s. p. Served in War of 1812. Children: (a) Sarah Jane, m. Capt. John Humphries of Augusta, Co., Va. (b) William Hamner, m. Ann Shepherd. (c) Malinda Ann, (d) Susan Chastain, (e) James V. born Feb. 3, 1837, d. Feb. 14, 1911. M. Sarah Elizabeth Johnson, b. Nov. 10, 1833 in Cumberland Co., Va., on Sept. 21, 1856. (f) Elizabeth Gillora, m. John H. Goodloe. (g) Thomas Nathaniel, b. July 10, 1850. D. 1898. M. Lucille Eliza Wheeler. Connecting families: Timberlake, Ast, Berry, Maupin, Garth, Talman, Chiles, Dinwiddie, Williams, Hawk, Fife, Marshall, Bolton, Nuttycombe, Kearns, Akers, Hesson, Wallace, Childers, Snoddy, Lanier, Duval, Powell, Crabtree, Bagby, Robertson, Pollard, Shores, Hood, Ellis, Atwell, Whitfield, Jackson, Griffin, Holland, Coolidge, Humphries, Bowen, Miller, Gay, Ramsey, Quarles, Sadler, Marshall, Williams, Goodloe, Beams, Urquhart, Eades, Irvine, and Chandler.

(9) Martha, b. 1822 in Albemarle Co., Va. D. 1903 in Nelson Co., Va. M. John Henry Griffin of Nelson Co., on Dec. 21, 1842 (Albemarle C. Marriage Bonds.) He d. 1861 of pneumonia contracted while guarding a bridge. (Son of John Lindsay Griffin and Sarah Jane Hare Griffin.) Children: (a) Thomas Amonett, b. Dec. 24, 1843. D. 1908. M. Emma Sheppard of Richmond, Va. (Descendants mostly in Va.) (b) James, b. Oct. 26, 1857. D. in Texas in 1926. unm. (c) Florence Estelle, b. Dec. 4, 1845. Unm. (d) Martha Jane, b. Nov. 10, 1858. M. Otho Carter. Issue of 3 sons and 1 daughter (e) John Henry Griffin, b. Apr. 24, 1861 in Nelson Co., Va. D. May 31, 1940. M. Mary Eliza Garland (his cousin) on July 25, 1892 in Charlottesville, Albemarle Co., Va. She was b. Dec. 29, 1865, d. Oct. 24, 1929. Children: (1) Florence Gladys, m. Stephen Holland. (2) John Henry, Jr., m. Maude Claypool. (3) Grafton Garland, m. Myrtle Hampton. (4) Mabelle Phyllis, m. Edward G. Humphries. (5) Nelle Douglas, m. Rees Tate Bowen, Jr. (6) Marion Edward, m. Lila Gray. (7) Mary Elizabeth, m. William C. Miller.

This Amonett material has been compiled by Mrs. R. Tate Bowen (Nelle Douglas Griffin Bowen) of 2140 N. Seventh Ave.; Laurel, Miss. Her well documented work has been condensed considerably but anyone interested in further details on collateral lines may contact her at the above address.

There is disagreement concerning the Amonett Coat-of-Arms, as two are utilized by descendants of Jacob. If you will recall, in the first paragraph we find: "Jacob Amonett was born in France about 1660-65. His ancestry has not been traced . . ." With this in mind, the confusion is understandable, as a definite connection should be established before a claim to either Armorial Bearing is accepted, but we will give the source of each.

The emblazon displayed at the beginning of this article is found in Rietstap's "Armorial General."

Amonnet - Saumur (a town in western France) (Anobli 1 juillet 1652) D'azur à deux panaches d'argent, passées en sautoir contonné de quatre étoiles d'or. Cimier - une étoile d'or. Lambrequins: d'argent et d'azur.

Translated into English and non-Heraldic terms: a blue (azure) shield charged with two silver (argent) plumes or feathers (panaches) crossed in saltire (passées en sautoir). In each of the four sections formed by the saltire (cantonné is one gold (or) star. Crest (Cimier) a gold star as on the shield. Man-

ting (Lambrequins) blue lined with silver. You will note that Rietstap does not mention the crown shown on this emblazon, but does give a crest which is not depicted here.

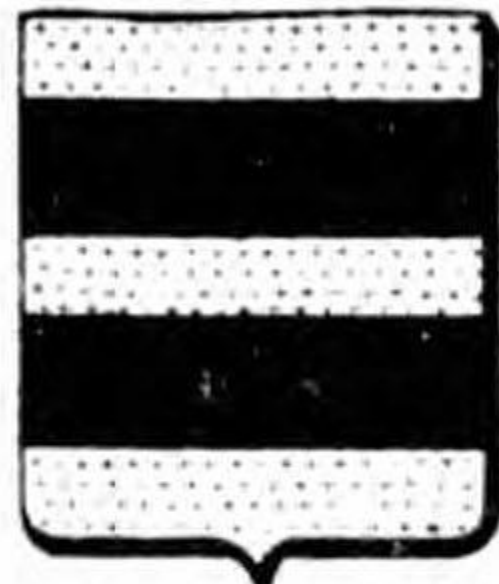
Baird's "History of the Huguenots," Vol. II, p. 51, in a footnote, states: "Jacob, Pierre et Matthieu Ammonet, chefs de famille à Loudun 1634." And again, "At Loudun the Protestants were numerous . . . numbers had fled under cover of darkness from their homes with the few effects they were able to carry. . . Multitudes fled to other lands, leaving their houses and their goods to be confiscated, severing all the ties that bound them to their country and their race. . ." (we could be reading the current newspapers!) "Of those who reached America were . . . Jacob Ammonet . . . etc., emigrants to South Carolina, Virginia and New York. Jacob Ammonet was one of the settlers of Manakintown, Virginia."

Another reference states: "Jacob Amonett, of Paris, a young Army officer under Captain Delmont, who had been very active both in France and Holland in helping the Huguenots escape . . ." "Jacob Amonett was knighted by William of Orange, his Coat-of-Arms showing that he was not only an officer in the French army, but also in the Holland army. and he followed the Prince (William of Orange) into England and helped him to secure the crown."

Rietstap gives the following Coat-of-Arms for the Ammonet family seated in Holland:

D'or à deux fascas de sable, la seconde chargé de la partie supérieure d'une fleur-de-lis de gueules.

Translated into non-Heraldic English terms: A gold (or) shield charged with two black (sable) bars (fascas), the second bar charged in the center with a red (gueules) fleur-de-lis.



Ammonet  
Holl.

#### INTERPRETATION

Plumes or feathers used in Heraldry are usually of the ostrich and signify willing obedience and serenity, "as no force alters their fashion." This refers to the fold or fall of the feather recovering itself after being ruffled by the wind.

The five pointed star is called a "mullet." This is held to be a falling or fallen star—not supposed to be fallen from its high estate, but to denote some Divine quality bestowed from above, whereby men shine in virtue, learning and works of piety like bright stars on the earth.

The bar is of the same form as

the fesse, but of lesser breadth. It is said to be suitable as a bearing for one "who sets the bar of conscience, religion and honour against angry passions and evil temptations."

The fleur-de-lis is the heraldic lily, and has a direct reference to the early French wars in which the original assumer had been engaged.

Colors are representative of the personal characteristics of the original bearer and are granted only upon merit. Blue signifies loyalty and truth; silver, sincerity and peace; gold, generosity and elevation of mind; sable, the fur lining of royal robes, constancy and nobility; and red, courage and magnanimity.

The mantling was a large scarf of cloth or leather thrown over the helmet to protect the neck from the heat of the sun, the armour from rust, and to foil the enemy's sword. A Coat-of-Arms emblazon is not complete without depicting the mantling, which is always the main color of the shield, lined with the main metal. The mantling for the Amonnet bearing is blue lined with silver; for Ammonet, black lined with gold.

#### QUERIES AND REPLIES

Please enclose 25c for this service and 6c if you wish reply sent to you personally. No replies unless query is answered by a reader.

Send your queries and watch for the replies from readers. Also co-operate with replies whenever possible. Do not expect professional service.

#1878 CLARK. Want ances. Samuel Clark of Weybridge, Vt.; drowned St. Lawrence River ca. 1810 while agent for Wm. B. and David Ogden of New York City. Corres. inv. Mrs. L. H. Marvin, 11 Hillcrest Rd., Essex Junction, Vt.

#1879 Du PRE'-RIVES. Want info. on family of Reid DuPre' (son of Louis and Hannah (Reid/Read (e) DuPre'). Issue: Priscilla m. Dr. Jehu Mathis; Mary Caroline; and the 4 youngest - Timothy, Jesse, Lewis (b. 1801 in Lexington or Newberry) and Mary Ann (b. 1804, Newberry) - were taken in care by Major Francis Boykin who was to see after the slaves left them by their maternal grandmother, Mrs. Hannah Rives (wife of Simon of Lexington Parish), by "Deed of Gift" in 1811. Corres. inv. Mrs. Frances P. McCulloch, P.O. Box 293, Huntsville, Tex.

#1880 BURNETT - LACKY/LUCKY. Want ances. William Burnett, Jr. and wife Lizzie Lackey/Lucky. William thrown from horse and killed shortly after his m. in 1836. Issue: Andrew Jackson (John) Burnett (A. J. Burnett) b. Pike or Floyd Co., Ky., Dec. 18, 1836. A. J. reared by a Buell/Buel/Buhl family of Kentucky; to Texas when 17 or 18 yrs. old. During Civil War fought in battle of Richmond, Prairieville and Prestonburg, Ky. Corres. inv., see #1879.

#1881 DYMOKE/DIMMOCK. Want ances. Rev. Thomas Dimmock, Barnstable, Mass. Freeman, Deputy 1639; Lt. and Drillmaster, 1643; ordained teaching elder of church Aug. 7, 1650; died June 4, 1658; m. Ann Harwood. Corres. inv. Carl H. Dimmock, 310 Elizabeth Ave., Crawford, N. J.

#1882 PHILLIPS - CHAPIN. Want ances. & birthplace (prob. N. H.) of Aaron Phillips (1801-1889); removed to Canada; m. 1823 Triphena Chapin (1812-1892, dau. of Gordon & Elizabeth (Whiting) Chapin. Corres. inv. Mrs. Otis A. Crosby, 1312 1/2 Balfour Road, Huntington Woods, Mich.