

## THE SETTLEMENT OF NEW BORDEAUX

A. S. SALLEY, SECRETARY OF THE HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In 1755 Governor Glen made an agreement with the Cherokee Indians at Saluda Old Town whereby the Indians relinquished to the province of South Carolina all claim to the territory which was erected into Ninety Six District in 1768, on condition that it be speedily settled by white people.

On July 25, 1761, the General Assembly passed an Act authorizing land bounties and passage money to Protestant settlers from certain specified European countries if they would come to South Carolina and settle.

On January 13, 1763, the Duke of Bedford, ambassador to France, wrote to Secretary Lord Egremont concerning French Protestants who were imprisoned on account of their religion, and forwarded to the Archbishop of Canterbury a list of their names.

On July 29, 1763, an order in Council referred a memorial of Rev. Pierre Gibert to the Lords of Trade relating to the settling of a colony of French Protestants in South Carolina. On the 18th of November following arrangements were made by the Lords of the Treasury for transporting about two hundred French Protestants to South Carolina, and on the 22nd of the same month the Lords of Trade wrote to Governor Boone, of South Carolina, instructing him how and where these Frenchmen should be settled, and enclosed a list of the one hundred and eighty-three settlers, giving their names and ages.

At a meeting of Council on April 16, 1764, Governor Boone announced the receipt of the letter "relateing to the French Protestants Lately arrived here", and desired the opinion of the Council as to how the instructions "might

be most Effectually carry'd into Execution." The members of Council were of opinion "that as the Season of the Year was now too far advanced for them to set down on Lands to plant provisions against the ensuing Crop it wou'd be proper to enquire whether they had means to Subsist themselves till the next Crop came about"

Messrs. Gibert and Boutiton, "of their ministers," were called in and asked "if they were in Circumstances to Support themselves 'till it might be in Their Power to get Provisions from their own Culture and if of themselves without assistance they were able to go immediately and set down on such Lands as might be allotted them." They answered that they could not. The Governor asked what assistance they needed and what they had been taught they might expect from this province. They replied that thay had been taught to believe that they would be supplied provisions for twelve months and twenty shillings sterling each for tools, but that, through the promises and insinuations of some people since their arrival, they were entirely divided.

The Governor told them that he and the Council would give them all the countenance and encouragement they could; directed them to assemble all of their party together and to inform them that if they expected any favors from the Governor and Council they must pay no regard to what anyone should say to them without authority of the Governor and Council.

After they had withdrawn the Governor observed to the Council that it appeared to be His Majesty's intention that these people should settle together, as should they once separate it would be difficult, if not impossible, to collect them together again, but that, as they had no means of subsistance among themselves, nor could possibly obtain it if they continued in a body, he desired the opinion of the Council whether he would or would not be justified in applying the money granted by the Crown out of the

quit rents for surveying their land to their subsistence. The Councilmen were of opinion that, as surveying was already provided for by the province, the Governor would be justified in so using what the Crown had set aside from the quit rents for surveying.

In their letter to Governor Boone the Lords of Trade had directed him to have a township of at least twenty thousand acres, "Laid out in a square Platt one Side of which to front the River having a particular Part of it not Exceeding 800 acres reserved in a Convenient Situation for the Site of a Town to consist of about 300 Tenements for Houses and Gardens with a Proper reservation for a Common and for a Glebe of three hundred acres for a minister of the Establish'd Church."

At a meeting of the Council, April 18, 1764, the French Protestants attending were called in, took the oath of allegiance and swore to the truth of their several petitions for land and bounty. After which, acreage was allotted to eighty one persons. All but twenty-two of them received 100 acres each. Rev. Mr. Gibert received 200 acres, as did Jean Bell Hay and Jean Lefay. Matthew Beraud, Jacques Labruesse, Jean Baptiste Gautier, Abram Jacob, Pierre Roque Moragne and Jean Bellott received 250 acres each; Colas Bodazeau, Jacques Langell and Jean Fresille received 300 acres each, Jean Baptiste DeLaune received 350 acres and nine others received 150 acres each. Those who received 100 acres each were evidently single adults; those who received one hundred and fifty acres were married and without children; those who received 200 acres were couples with one child and those with more than one child got fifty acres more for each child above the age of two years.

At a meeting of the Council April 24, 1764, Governor Boone requested the Council to take into consideration what should be done for the French Protestants, as the Commons House had again adjourned without transacting

any business. Fort Lyttelton, on Port Royal Island, was proposed as a place where they might reside until their lands could be surveyed. Lieutenant White Outerbridge, who had lately been quartered there, was sent for and asked if he thought the land near the fort was fertile enough to produce provisions the following summer, and if there was lodging room enough for the whole company. He replied in the affirmative and the Council agreed to send them to that place.

It was found that the expenses of surveying would amount to £2461:16s:10d: currency. It was also ascertained that to maintain the settlers for four months it would take 4000 pounds of flour at £180., 400 bushels of corn at £250., sixteen steers at £200., 20 bushels of salt at £10., a corn mill at £15., a canoe at £30., hooks and lines at £20., hire of four horses and a guide for the deputies to view the land they might choose to settle upon, £280., expenses of transporting the settlers to Fort Lyttelton, £232:10, making a total of £1217: 10.

Eighty years before, the Scotch colony headed by Lord Cardross had settled Stuart Town where Fort Lyttelton now stood and the ground there had long been cleared and capable of producing corn, potatoes, pumpkins, peas and other food crops, which could be harvested in about four months. It was agreed that they should be supplied with one pound of flour and one quart of corn each per day with four steers per month among them.

It was recommended to them that, as they would probably have more than they could consume, they make a store of what they could spare so that they would have more supplies to ease their situation when they reached their final place of settlement. They were also desired to select three of their number to take the horses and guide provided and go out to choose land for their settlement. In case of private disputes among them they were recommended to apply to Mr. Delagay, a Frenchman who

resided nearby—on Parris Island—but they were admonished to have no dissensions among themselves. They were desired to select five of their number to control their domestic economy in distributing provisions, overseeing their work and preserving peace and good order among them. In concluding the business of the session for the day the Governor stated that the last letter from the Provincial Agent in London seemed to intimate that the Lords of Trade expected him in England and that he purposed embarking therefor at the first favorable opportunity. The “favorable opportunity” came between the 3rd and 12th of May. On the latter date Lieutenant Governor William Bull met with the Council, took the oaths prescribed; assumed the government of the province, and issued a proclamation calling the General Assembly to meet on the 22nd of May.

Despite the admonitions of the Council to beware of dissensions in their ranks, when the Council met on May 16, 1764, Rev. Jean Louis Gibert, Rev. Jacques Boutiton and thirty-one others of the Frenchman petitioned the Council that it was “with greif that they have not been able to Conform to the Orders of his Excellency the Governor with the rest of the Colony to Port Royal because there was no appearances of their being able to Live with a Certain Number of Persons in the Colony who would be the Occasion of Continual Troubles and Suggesting and propogating Scandels and disputes which wou’d not only disgrace them in the Opinion of the Province but render them unworthy of the Protection of His Majesty and the general good will of the inhabitants which the proposed to Edify by a behaviour truly Christian that they thought instead of acting contrary to the Kings and their Lawfull Sovereigns instructions they had acted entirely according to them since it was such behaviour that induced him to support them in England and so warmly to recommend them to the Governor in Carolina

they therefore humbly beg’d and hoped for the Charity and humanity of the Lieutenant Gov<sup>r</sup>. that he wou’d extend the favour bounty of the King in manner to them as to those already gone to Port Royal & premit them on Some Plantation near Charles Town where they wou’d more easily Learn the manner of Cultivating the Land and be better Seasoned to the Climate they therefore beg’d and hoped that the Lieutenant Governor would allot them their Portion of Coppers Tools &° for the Cultivation of Silk which they intend to go upon in the Neighborhood of Charles Town and render themselves as usefull as possible to the Province that it was true they had desired his majestys Premission to settle together but some had Crept in among them with whom it was impossible to live that they must take the Liberty to say it cou’d not be the intention of the King to thwart their repugnance to join with persons who from what the saw during the voyage and other reason they thought capable of doing any action that was bad.”

The Council having already resolved not to countenance or furnish provisions to any who separated themselves from the French colony, and the petitioners having, notwithstanding the strong recommendations of the Governor and Council, neglected or refused to continue with the whole body, the Council declared that it saw no reason to alter that resolution; nor could it—consistently therewith—furnish them supplies, tools or money from the appropriation for provisions and subsistence.

The General Assembly met on the 22nd of May, in accordance with the Governor’s proclamation, and on the 1st of June received from a committee that had been “appointed to Consider the most effectual way of Providing for and settling the French protestants lately arrived in this Province, so as best to answer the Kings Intentions”, a report recommending “that a sum not exceeding Five Hundred pounds Sterling be allowed to be

paid out of the Fund appropriated for the settling of Foreign Protestants, for the settling and Support of such of the French Protestants lately arrived as shall settle in a Body pursuant to His Majesty's Gracious Intentions to be distributed amongst them by his Honour the Lieutenant Governor according to their necessities."

The report was adopted the following day and on the 5th of June, bearing the assent of the Lieutenant Governor, it was read in Council with the Lieutenant Governor's request to the Council to advise him "in what manner it would be most for the advantage" of the Frenchmen and the province to have that sum distributed among them.

On July 5, 1764, Lieutenant Governor Bull laid before the Council a complaint from some of the French colonists protesting that those who had charge of distributing provisions had stopped the rum which they had desired for the children in place of a part of the meat allowed them, and desiring him to interpose. The Lieutenant Governor reported that he had directed the people complained against to answer the complaint. Both documents being laid before the Council that body was unanimous in the opinion that the complaint was groundless and unreasonable. The Council expressed the further opinion that six of the French settlers—one woman and five men—who were complained against in the answer "should be separated and not allow'd any of the advantages granted to the Colony 'till such time as upon a proper submission and promise of better behaviour" the Council should think proper to order them to be reunited, because it appeared that some of them had involved the Frenchmen in disputes and quarrels that might tend to their utter ruin.

At a meeting of the Council on the 12th of July, 1764, the Lieutenant Governor reported that the first contingent of the Frenchmen "had set forward for their Settlement

with two Waggons but that he had been informed that they had been Stopped at the Ten mile House through the inability of the Horses to draw the Waggons forward"; that he had sent Michael Kalteisen, "an able Waggoner," to inspect the condition of the horses and if he found them unfit to proceed to discharge them and send to Orangeburgh for two good waggoners, with able horses to carry up the baggage which he had ordered, in the meantime, to be lodged in the nearest house; that he had further ordered down five more wagons to carry up the rest of the colony the next week.

At a meeting of the Council on July 13, 1764, the Lieutenant Governor stated that the first of the French colonists were to set out on Monday, the 16th; that the rest would soon follow, and that he had written a letter "which he thought proper for their regulation" and had sent a copy of it to Patrick Calhoun. It reads:

"Sir

You will receive this by the hand of m<sup>r</sup>. roger whom I have app<sup>d</sup> a Justice of the Peace to decide differences amongst his Countrymen of the Colony and given him Simpsons Justice for his guide in cases of difficulty I have directed him to Confer with some discreet Justice in his Neighbourhood in w<sup>h</sup>. I rely on your good Character to assist him according to the best of your Knowledge I have given Commiss<sup>n</sup>. of Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Due Lieu<sup>t</sup>. to M<sup>r</sup> Leown and Ensign to LeViollette that they may do militia Dutys by themselves and not be liable to misunderstandings with officers who cannot give their Order in a Language at present understood by the Colonists.

Some Persons with the Name of Commissary must be chosen by them to take care of and Issue their Provisions once a Week at the rate of 1<sup>lb</sup>. of wheat flour or 1 quart of Indian Corn a day to each Person.

You are to furnish them with 3 months Provisions



the matter can be referred to the Gov<sup>r</sup>. in Council for their further direction

You are to purchase immediately a good Cow and Calf for every 5 Persons taking Care that they are branded and marked in such a manner to prevent disputes with any English Neighbour if you buy them at reasonable Prices I will pay for them on producing a Certificate from Mr Roger of their being delivered let their Horses also be branded

A Public mill ought to be Erected as soon as Conveniently Cou'd they may by hunting (not looseing time from their Work) in Company of some rangers procure some Venison this will save their money which their Eating of Beef will Consume too fast

I have now Cap<sup>t</sup> Calhoun wrote you a long letter to give you very Particular instructions in order that this settlement be Conducted with most expedition Convenience harmony and success I rely on your Punctual attention thereto when your business is done your are to Come to town and report to me your Proceedings therein with a Platt of the Township and Town and a State of the Colony

I am

Sir

Your very hble Servant.

At a meeting of the Council on the 18th of July Lieutenant Governor Bull reported that the advancing party of the French had set out from Flud's plantation the night before in great spirits and that he expected wagons in town on that day, or the next, to carry up the rest; that the Commissary General had applied to him for more money for the French, as he had expended all that he had already received, and that he had directed that officer to present his account at the next "Council Day".

At a meeting of Council, July 31, 1764, Lieutenant Governor Bull reported that in consequence of the dis-

turbances between French colonists which had caused Council to order some of them to be separated from the main body he had notified those that had been separated that they would not receive subsistence from the money granted by the province after the 1st of August, but that they might stay at the barracks, in order to save house rent, or that they might settle in the country, at such a distance from the others as not to be able to further disturb them, and that in reply he had received a remonstrance, which he presented to the Council and which is spread on the journal thereof. It is signed by Jean Baptiste Gautier and Baptiste DeLaune. They appeared to regard the action of the Lieutenant Governor and Council as an interference with rights given to them by the Lords of Trade in London, declaring that "the King did not pretend there was to be any superiority in a Land of Liberty but that every one was free". The Council took no action until the following day when the remonstrance was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Beale, Drayton and Shinner. On August 2nd the committee reported that there were then in town "about Eighteen Men women and Children who came over in the ship with the rest of the French Colonists"; that "there is a Taylor amongst them who has a Family Consisting of four Persons who will perhaps stay in Town in which Case the whole number to set forward will be but fourteen"; that they appeared to be in very indigent circumstances and that they earnestly prayed for assistance to settle on lands, as the others had done. It was recommended that "some Countenance and assistance ought to be given them that the account they send home may Corespond with the accounts sent home by the others as it will probably encourage others to come and settle in this Province—"

On the 6th of August the Lieutenant Governor gave his assent to a resolution of the General Assembly to allow

£200. currency out of the fund for settling poor Protestants in South Carolina toward settling those of the French Protestants who had separated from the main body, to be distributed among them by the Lieutenant Governor. The Council suggested that the young men should set out on foot for Purrysburgh Township and that a canoe and two Negroes should be hired to take the others and their baggage.

At a meeting of the Council on the 8th of August, the Lieutenant Governor reported that he had purchased of Mr. Davis, for 250 acres, his tract of land at "the Long Canes which was for the Town for the French Colonists—"

At a meeting of the Council on the 14th of August, the Lieutenant Governor reported that it was necessary that some tools should be given to the last colony of French Protestants, as the sum given by the General Assembly for settling them was barely sufficient to settle them on their lands. He proposed that £48:3:9 should be taken from the £500. sterling that had been granted by the General Assembly toward settling the colony at Long Canes, especially as all the tools given by the government in England had been sent to Long Canes. The Council agreed and the Lieutenant Governor issued an order on the Commissary General for that sum.

At a Council meeting on October 11, 1764, Michael, or Melchior, Smith presented an account of himself and six others for their seven wagons employed by Smith in transporting the baggage of the French to Long Canes to the amount of £896. The Council deducted £56. as an overcharge, to which Smith assented and gave a receipt in full for the balance.

A Council meeting of October 17, 1764, was attended by Patrick Calhoun who reported on the progress and status of the French Protestants. He produced a plan of the town as run out by him, and also the titles to a tract of 150 acres of land which he had purchased from

James Davis for the site of the town. He stated that two divisions of the colonists had arrived at the settlement on the 5th and 7th of August last and immediately placed their arms, baggage, etc., in the buildings on Davis's ground; that he had spent eight days after their arrival in surveying out lots in the town; that the Frenchmen had spent considerable time arguing about where to locate the fort, but that they had at last agreed upon a place and had since been engaged in clearing the ground and cutting timber for their houses; that they had six already set up, and frames ready to set up fourteen more; that on the 20th of September he had begun surveying the outlines of the township and had inclosed about 26,000 acres, making allowance for 2000 for former surveys; that from the 25th of September to the 5th of October he had laid off the half acre lots in the lower part of the town. He also reported that Mr. Roger, who had been ill, had started to accompany him to Charles Town to take his family up, but had had a relapse on the road and had died. Mr. Calhoun presented two accounts for necessities which he had supplied the French, totaling £308:16:8 which was thought reasonable and paid, as was the sum of £250. for James Davis for the land which he had sold to Calhoun for the town.

At a meeting of the Council on January 30, 1765, Lieutenant Governor Bull presented a letter which he had received from Patrick Calhoun "acquainting him that the french Colonists were recovered from one disposition which had lately a good deal affected them and that he had built a Canoe for them which they found of great use—"

The following certificate of survey was furnished to the Council by Patrick Calhoun:

"South Carolina,

Pursuant, to an order to me directed by the Honb<sup>le</sup>, William Bull, Esq<sup>r</sup>; Lieut<sup>t</sup>, Gov<sup>r</sup>, &c. dated the 14<sup>th</sup>, Day

of July 1764, I have measured & laid out for the use of French Protestants a Tract or Parcle of Land Contain- ing 26,000, acres To be Called & known by the Name of Hills-Borough-Town-Ship, & the Town New-Bourdeaux. with an allowance of 2,000, acres for former Surveys, The Area Containing 28,000, Acres, Situate on the two main forks of the Long Cane Creek, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles Extant off Savannah River, 40, (computed) miles above Augusta, & about 9 miles South-ward of Fort Boone. the Shape & marks thereof is Represented by the above Plan

Certified the 23<sup>d</sup>, Day of Feb<sup>r</sup>, Anno. Dom. 1765. Pr,  
Pat: Calhoun D,S,"

The marginal notes are not only interesting but possess much historical value.

At the top is:

"The Area 28,000. Acres  
French Collony Land, 26,000 acres  
allowance for Former Surveys 2000,D°—

On the Margin is:

"Hillsborough—T. Ship.

Where the Longcane & the N.W.Fork meets is a Tract of 800, acres, which Contains The Town of New-Bourdeaux. The Vine-yeards Glebe Land & Commons. The marked Plantations are former Surveys & named by the owners. The Noted Creeks & Branches is shown by their Names on which are marked 5 mill setes, The Doted lines marked with miles are the Town-ship Roads, the others are pathes to Difrant places. The Yellow colloured marked V. are Valluable Lands. G are good Lands also—M are middeling land & may be proper for any European grain & vine yeards &c B & scrub-oaks is Bad land. the Soil but mean yet may be profitable for Timber—&c. The whole Town-ship, may be said to abound with Hills

Springs & Vallies (altho in General plain enough for Tillige) with plenty of wild Game such as Deer, Turkeys &c In the Learg Creeks are plenty of Fish, viz; Rock, shade, perch, Cate, Troute &c—

at the lower End of y<sup>e</sup> glebe Land is a good Fish Dam Formerly made by the Indians & since Repared by y<sup>e</sup> white people (Built of stones.)"

The year 1765 found the French settlers in a position to plant. Corn, indigo, hemp, flax, wheat and tobacco were all crops that were being planted in that section of the province at that time and the new arrivals fell into the ways of their neighbors.

A few years later the provincial government brought Louis du Mesnil de St.Pierre from France to direct these people in the making of wine, but other crops were made in a season while grape vines took several years to begin producing. As a consequence, there was little for St. Pierre to do in winemaking and he was given a lieutenant's commission in one of the independent companies of the British service, on duty at Fort Charlotte. In 1784 a volume by him on winemaking was published in London.

The Frenchmen of the New Bordeaux settlement generally participated in the Revolution on the side of the American cause. The French names were usually mis-spelled on contemporaneous records, so that it is difficult to identify the names—many of which were misspelled—on the list sent to Governor Boone in 1763 with the names—many of which were also misspelled—on the records of the militiamen of South Carolina in the Revolution. On the Boone list there were 91 men who, if alive at the time of the war, would have been capable of bearing arms. A liberal portion of those had undoubtedly died or gone elsewhere between 1765 and 1775. Notwithstanding the difficulty of locating French names on the records of the Revolution because of incorrect spelling on the Boone list of 1763 and on the records of the Revolution, I have



been able to identify seventeen of the men and boys who settled at New Bordeaux in 1764 as aiding in establishing American independence.

Matthew Beraud was a captain under Major Andrew Williamson, of the Ninety Six Regiment, at the siege of Ninety Six in September, 1775, and while still serving in that capacity on the 9th of October, 1779, was killed at the siege of Savannah. Joseph Bouchillon attained the rank of captain in 1779 or 1780. Jean Castine was captain in Hammond's regiment. Others who served their State were Jean Anthony, Jean Audibert, Charles Bouchineau, Jean Bellot, Pierre Bellot, Pierre Boyer, Jean Boyer, Jacques Baylard, André Guillebeau, Antoine Gabeau, Pierre Moragne, Benjamin Petit, Pierre Roger, Pierre Suder.

Many of the descendants of these Frenchmen are loyal and honorable citizens of South Carolina today, and it is gratifying to those of us who take a pride in the history of this State and the achievements of its people that the Huguenot Society of South Carolina has seen fit to revive interest in the establishment of the French colony here by the erection of this monument.

*Order to me... the 14th July 1764. I have...*

