

Descendants of "John Jean William of Scotland" William Gaston

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the name Huguenot was applied to members of the Protestant Reformed Church of France, historically known as the French Calvinist - <http://www.geocities.com/huguenotblad/hist-hug.htm?200729?200720>

Many memories, like faded blue jeans, are cherished but tend to have holes in unexpected places. Memories offer strange mixtures of clarity and frustrating fog. Some recollections are treasured; some we would gladly forget.

"Searching For My Past" and "The Gaston Legend" A SYNOPSIS

"We are all of us, it has been said, the children of immigrants and foreigners – even the American Indian, although he arrived a little earlier. What a man is and what he became is in part due to his heritage, and the men and women who did so appeared to emerge suddenly from limbo, although behind them were ancestors, families and former lives. Yet even as the domestic cattle of Europe evolved into the wild longhorns of Texas, so the American pioneer had the characteristics of a distinctive type and that need for change which had begun in the old countries with their decision to migrate. History is the story of people, their love, honor, faith, hope and suffering; of birth and death, of hunger, thirst and cold, of loneliness and sorrow. In putting together the history of the Gastons, I have found myself looking back again and again to origins to find and clearly see the path our ancestors traveled as pioneers and where it eventually took them. Time is short. Looking back as these countless generations that lived and died over the millennium, I wonder, as should you, will somebody in the near or far future walk softly through our past?"

"Where go the years? Down what tunnel of time are poured the precious days? We are young and the fires within us burn bright. All the world lies before us and nothing seems to great to be done, no challenges too awesome. Suddenly the days are no more, the years are gone and the time that remains is little, indeed."

"The Historical Collections Of Harrison County, Ohio" - Charles A. Hanna, Pub. 1900

John Gaston, b. about 1600, in Scotland (or France), of Huguenot decent; m. in Scotland, and had, among others, three sons: John, William, and Alexander, who emigrated to county Antrim, Ireland, about 1660 - 1668; of these probably John (whose name appears on hearth-money rate list for Ireland in 1669, is of Magheragall, county Antrim) had issue among others, several sons, some of whom remained in Ireland, and some emigrated to America, as did the sons of other brothers; of the emigrants of that generation the names of eight are known (and the children of William, son of John last named). viz., Hugh of New Jersey, Joseph of New Jersey, Joseph of Pennsylvania (probably a son of Hugh). William of Pennsylvania (probably a son of Hugh), John of New Jersey (probably a son of Hugh), James of New Jersey (probably a son of Hugh), John of Connecticut, and Alexander of Massachusetts. Of these, the last two were brothers, and are said of Marshall Gaston's account to have first landed in New Jersey, with one or more other brothers, who remained there; it is probable that they may have been brothers of Hugh and Joseph of New Jersey; they have also identified in part as brothers of William who remained at home, his residence being Caranleagh (Carnlough?), Cloughwater, county Antrim (near Ballymena),

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Ireland. In the account given below, these nine progenitors of the Gaston family in America will be designed as follows:

NOTE: Hanna identifies John Gaston of Connecticut as a brother of Alexander and "probable" brother of Hugh and Joseph of New Jersey. [Ohio Valley Genealogies, at 40]

However, John and Alexander also have been identified as brothers of the William who remained at home, and who lived near Caranleagh, Cloughwater, near Ballymena or Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

This "William who remained at home" is identified by Hanna as the son of John of Scotland and grandson of Jean "the Huguenot" Gaston. [He also is known in Gaston lore as "William of Antrim" or "The First Irish William."] If William of Antrim is the son of John of Scotland, and if John and Alexander are William's brothers, then John of CT and Alexander of MA also are sons of John Gaston of Scotland.

Hanna does not definitely identify brothers Hugh of New Jersey and Joseph of New Jersey as sons of John of Scotland, but only places them among the "emigrants of that generation," i.e., the children of John, William and Alexander of Scotland. It is possible that Hugh and Joseph are sons of William of Scotland. This would account for numerous genealogies that list Hugh's father as a "William Gaston". However, most of these genealogies go on to identify this William as William of Antrim, which seems unlikely as he was born ca. 1680-1690 and Hugh Gaston was born in 1687! (per Hanna)

Thus, if Hugh and Joseph's father was of a William Gaston, it was probably William of Scotland and not William of Antrim. Under this scenario Hugh and Joseph of NJ are first cousins of William of Antrim, John of CT and Alexander of MA (sons of John of Scotland). Under the alternate scenario, ALL five boys (Hugh and Joseph of NJ, William of Antrim, John of CT and Alexander of MA) are sons of John Gaston of Scotland. Under no scenario is Hugh (and probably Joseph) a son of his contemporary, William of Antrim. [Patrick D. Gaston said, and I also agree which includes Mary (1695) - Bill]

- A. William Gaston of Antrim (whose children emigrated to South Carolina).
- B. Hugh Gaston (1st)
- C. William Gaston (1st)
- D. Joseph Gaston of Pennsylvania (1st)
- E. James Gaston (1st)
- F. Joseph Gaston of New Jersey (1st)
- G. John Gaston of New Jersey (1st)
- H. John Gaston of Connecticut (1st)
- I. Alexander Gaston (1st)

Another of the Gastons who remained in Ireland (living at Gastontown, Killycowan, county Antrim), had a daughter, who married Gavin MacArthur; their son William, b. 1796, emigrated to America after 1818, settling in Vermont; married Malvina Stone (had issue among others: i. Chester Alan MacArthur, twenty-first President of the United States).

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I cannot prove that statement - why was the "Mac" dropped from the last name? - Bill

Chester A. Arthur - Twenty-first President of the United States (1881-1885). 1 Term - finished out the term after James Garfield was assassinated, 1 Jul 1881, by Charles Guiteau.

The son of a Baptist preacher who had emigrated from northern Ireland, Arthur was born in Fairfield, Vermont, in 5 Oct 1830, died 18 Nov 1886, New York, NY. Married Ellen Lewis Herndon, born 1837, at Culpeper Court House, VA, the only child of Elizabeth Hansbrough and William Lewis Herndon, U.S.N., d. 12 Jan 1880. He was graduated from Union College in 1848, taught school, was admitted to the bar, and practiced law in New York City. Early in the Civil War he served as Quartermaster General of the State of New York.

When Vice President Chester A. Arthur succeeded to the presidency on the death of James A. Garfield, the new president struck many as an emblem of all that was currently wrong with American politics for he was identified as a major player in a "spoils system" that had reduced the civil service to a corruption ridden vehicle for rewarding the political faithful. In the White House, however, Arthur rose above his reputation as a patronage-dispensing hack. In fact, much of the legislation designed to eliminate the very spoil system through which Arthur himself had risen was abolished in his administration.

There are many Gaston families which I have not been able to connect. For instance in the following scenario, there was a Margaret Gaston (1715) who married Robert Simonton and had issues which you may find of interest. It is not believable that the "William" cited is the "John Jean of Scotland" but perhaps "William" (1650), if a "William" at all. - Bill]

Margaret (Gaston) Simonton we believe lived in the Lancaster Co., PA, area before she married Robert as we know that one of her children, Adam was born in 1744 and this was before anyone had gone to Anson Co., or Rowan Co., North Carolina, to settle the new land. Because of records in the Wilkes Co., GA, Court House, we believe Margaret lived in Wilkes Co., GA, and died in Greene Co., GA, while visiting her children and is probably buried in the Bethany Presbyterian Church Cy in Siloam, Greene Co., GA. Found in the Atlanta, GA, archives are receipts of the distribution of Margaret Simontons assets which have prove who the children were. Shown in the Rowan Co., tax records in 1755, were a Joseph and John Gaston. They were not shown in the 1790 census. It can be considered that John and Joseph were brothers of Margaret as these names were existent in each of the Simonton families. Considering that Ann, daughter of Margaret and Robert Simonton, married a Matthew Gaston who came directly from Ireland before the marriage occurred, there was communication to the old country and this marriage was arranged. [The Theophilus Simonton Family and descendants 40 years of Research: <http://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jkh1s&id=I5492> and <http://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jkh1s&id=I5491>] Matthew, the great grandson of William Gaston of Ireland, arrived from Ireland at the Port of Charleston, South Carolina, at age 19. (1767). Matthew went directly to Rowan County North Carolina where within a month married Ann Simonton. This would indicate perhaps there had been communication between Ann Simonton's Mother, who is believed to be a Gaston, and the Gaston Family in Ireland, that Matthew's arrival in the Americas was arranged. Matthew received a land grant for 294 acres in Greene County, Georgia, as a Headright Grant in 1789.

Matthew with Thomas Simonton (his wife's brother) and 40 other Militia men helped build the Cumberland Mountain road from Virginia to Kentucky.

In 1813, Greene County, Georgia, the 8 children of Matthew and Ann Gaston gave their power of Attorney to Robert Allison of Ogelthorpe, GA, and to Thomas Todd of Rowan Co., NC, to obtain their share in the settlement of the Estates of Robert Simonton, Rowan County, North Carolina, and of Thomas Simonton, Iredell County, North Carolina.

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SOURCES:

American Descendants of William Gaston and Mary Olivet Lemon, compiled by Max Perry, 1989.

The Gaston Book, Georgia State Archives.

American Descendants of John "Jean" Gaston by Max Perry.

Thread group "183", <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/183.html>

Matthew (b. 1748 Ireland, d. 9 Dec 1799 Green, GA; buried Macedonia Cemetery, Butts, GA) m1: Ann Simonton, Rowan, NC. (Source 3 above says married in Anson, NC.) Ann Simonton was born 1746 Lancaster, PA, daughter of Robert Simonton and Margaret Benton [Gaston]. Ann died 13 Dec 1793, Green, GA. (Source 3 says Rowan, NC.) m2. 12 Dec 1793, Rebeckah Hardin b. Dec 1739, d. 23 Jun 1819; subsequently marries, 1814, John Gray b. 1784, Orange, NC.

Children, born Green, GA:

1. Robert GASTON, b. 1774 ; m. Abalena (last name unknown); d. 1829, AL.
2. Jane GASTON, b. 8 Jan 1777; m. 1796 to George REID, II; d. after 1811.
3. Margaret "Peggy" GASTON b.c.1779; m. William BARKER.
4. Ann GASTON b. 20 Nov. 1787, d. 17 Mar 1866 Colquitt, LA, m1. 1817, Amos Palmer, had issues: Matthew, Jesse Alexander, Robert Thomas, Asbury William and James P.; m2. 25 Mar 1824, James J. Darden (page 17).
5. Matthew, Jr. b. 1785; m. Mary (last name unknown); d. Butts,GA, has a D.A.R. marker on tombstone.
6. Thomas GASTON b. 1782, d. 1830; m. Elizabeth REID; d. 1830.
7. Alexander GASTON b. 1790; m. Sarah GARNER.
8. John GASTON b. 1792.

First will to be given the family of William Gaston of Antrim, who remained in Ireland, but whose children all emigrated to America and eventually settled in South Carolina.

A. William Gaston of Antrim, b. at Caranleagh, Cloughwater, county Antrim, Ireland, about 1680 - 1690; d. about 1770; married ___ Lemon; had issue:

I. John, d. 1782; m. Esther Waugh, d. 1789; emigrated to Pennsylvania, and thence removed about 1751 - 1752 to Chester District, South Carolina, settling on Fishing Creek: served as King's Justice before 1776; and as leader of the patriots of his vicinity during the British incursion, 1780 - 1781; had issue:

1. Margaret, b. Aug. 29, 1739; m. James McCreary; had issue:

- i. John, served in the Revolutionary War, and as a member of Congress
- ii. Samuel, served in the Revolutionary War; became a Baptist minister

2. Martha, b. June 11, 1741; m. her kinsman, Joseph Gaston, great-grandson of the first Irish William; had issue, among others:

i. Alexander, m. Mary Blair

3. William, b. June 5, 1743; served as a captain in the Revolutionary war; had issue:

- i. William
- ii. James

4. John, b. June 24, 1745; d. about 1806, leaving descendants, who emigrated to Illinois; had issue, among others:

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i. William

5. James, b. April 15, 1747; had issue:

i. Stephen, and several daughters who removed to Ohio about 1801 - 1802

6. Robert, b. March 11, 1749, served in the Revolutionary War; killed at the battle of Hanging Rock (S. C.), Aug. 6, 1780

7. Hugh, b. March 12, 1751; m. his cousin, Martha McLure; removed to Wilcox county, Ala., 1826, and thence to Mississippi; had issue:

i. John

ii. Ebenezer

iii. James

iv. William

v. Hugh

vi. Mary

vii. Martha

viii. Esther

ix. Margaret

8. Alexander, b. Aug. 24, 1753; killed at the battle of Hanging Rock

9. David, b. July 7, 1755; killed at the battle of Hanging Rock

10. Ebenezer, b. Sept. 15, 1757; killed at the battle of Hanging Rock

11. Esther, b. Oct. 18, 1760; m. her kinsman, Alexander Walker, son of ___ and Jane Gaston Walker (the latter a great-granddaughter of the first Irish William); had issue:

i. John Gaston

12. Joseph, b. Feb. 22, 1763; d. Oct. 10, 1836; m. Jane Brown, b. 1768; d. 1858; served in the Revolutionary War, and wounded at the battle of Hanging Rock; had issue:

i. John Brown, b. Jan 23, 1791; m. Mary Beaufort McFadden

ii. Narcissa, b. Nov. 17, 1792; m. ___ Lewis

iii. Eliza, b. Sept 29, 1794; m. ___ Neely

iv. Esther, b. Dec. 4, 1796; m. D. G. Stinson

v. Jane, b. Aug. 17, 1800; m. ___ Crawford

vi. James A. H., b. Oct. 17, 1801

vii. Robert, b. Jan. 1, 1808.

II. Elizabeth, m. John Knox; settled in South Carolina; had issue:

1. William, a minister, b. 1768

2. James, a physician; had issue, among others:

i. Jane, probably the same who married Samuel Polk of Mecklenburg county, N.C., and who became the mother of James Knox Polk, eleventh President of the United States.

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3. John
4. Hugh
5. Sarah, m. John Johnson

III. Hugh, b: (Cir 1722) d. Oct 20, 1766, a minister; emigrated to America about 1766, and died at the house of his brother, John, shortly after landing; had issue:

1. William, a physician; b. Feb. 6, 1749
2. Alecia, b. Feb. 16, 1750; d. 1825; m. ___Nelson
3. Martha, b. June 11, 1752; m. James Ross; had issue:
 - i. James, emigrated to America but returned to Ireland, and settled in Londonderry
 - ii. ___ (a daughter), m. and had issue, who settled at Baltimore
 - iii. Hugh Gaston, emigrated to America, and served in the War of 1812
 - iv. Rebecca, m. ___ Latimer, of New Jersey
4. James, b. Oct 6, 1754; had issue (eight children)
5. Mary, b. Dec. 7, 1756; d. young
6. Elizabeth, b. June 16, 1759; m. ___Rogan, a physician, of the North of Ireland
7. Thomas, emigrated to America, and settled in New York (had issue, two daughters, of whom: i. ___, m. ___ Lindsey, and settled in Orange, N.J.)
8. Mary, b. April 4, 1763, d. unkm
9. Hugh, b. April 27, 1765

IV. Mary, m. James McLure; emigrated to America, and settled in South Carolina; had issue:

1. John, served in the Revolutionary War; Killed at the battle of Hanging Rock (S. C.), Aug. 6, 1780
2. William, a physician; had issue:
 - i. Hannah, d. 1813; m. 1805, Judge William Gaston, son of Dr. Alexander Gaston
6. Mary, m. Samuel Lowry
7. ___, m. Edward Martin

V. Robert, emigrated to America, and settled on Lynch's Creek, Lancaster county, S.C.; had issue:

1. William, b. July 23, 1755; d. 1838; served in the Revolutionary War; removed to Kentucky, and thence to Walnut Hill, Marion county, Illinois; had issue, (four sons and five daughters) of whom:
 - i. Samuel, d. 1826; settled in Marion county, Ill., 1819
 - ii. William, served in the war of 1812
 - iii. John, settled in Bond county, Ill
 - iv. Robert, settled in Bond county, Ill., 1822
 - v. Margaret, m. Thomas Kell, and removed to Marion county, Ill., 1822

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2. James
3. John
4. Hugh
5. Joseph
6. Margaret, d. 1816; m. her second cousin, John McCreary
7. Martha
8. Thomas

VI. Janet, m. Charles Strong; emigrated to America, and settled in South Carolina; had issue:

1. William, served in the Revolutionary War, and killed in that service
2. Christopher
3. Letitia, m. her cousin, James Strong
4. Margaret, m. John Simonton; had issue:
 - i. Charles H.
5. Janet, m. ___ Gladney

VII. William, drowned at Kell's Ford, Chester county, S.C.; m. after his 40th year, ___ Harbison, sister of James Harbison; had issue:

1. Hugh, had issue:
 - i. William
2. William, m. ___ Beaufort; removed to Corinth, Miss., and thence to Memphis TN: had issue:
 - i. Leroy, a Presbyterian minister

VIII. Martha, m. Alexander Rosbrough; emigrated to America, and settled in South Carolina; had issue:

1. William Gaston, a minister; unm
2. Joseph, removed to Indiana about 1800
3. Alexander, a physician, m1. Mary Hemphill; m2. Janet Porter: Had issue by first wife:
 - i. Mary Martha
 - ii. William Andrew, had issue by second wife, six sons and two daughters
 - iii. Alexander M., removed to California in 1848, and became a judge at Eureka, that State
 - iv. Joseph Brown, removed to California in 1848, and thence to Salt Lake City
 - v. David, settled in Texas
 - vi. John, settled in Tennessee
 - vii. Maclin, settled in Tennessee
4. John, b. 1776; d. 1854; m. Eleanor Key; had issue, (four sons and six daughters) of whom:
 - i. John, killed in the Civil War

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ii. William, settled at Sardis, Miss

5. ___ m. Rev. J. Bowman, and settled in Tennessee

IX. Alexander, a physician, emigrated to America, and settled in New Bern, N.C., where he was killed by the British and Tories, Aug. 20, 1781; had issue:

1. Jane, m. Chief Justice John L. Taylor, of North Carolina; had issue:

i. ____, m. David E. Sumner, of Gates county, Tennessee

2. William, b. Sept 19, 1778; d. Jan. 23, 1844; served in Congress, 1813 - 1815; and as Chief Justice of North Carolina, 1834 - 1844; m. (1st) 1803, Susan Hay, daughter of John Hay; m. (2d) 1805, Hannah McLure; m. (3d) 1816, Eliza Ann Worthington, daughter of Dr. Charles Worthington of Georgetown, D.C.

Had issue by first wife:

i. Alexander

ii. Susan, m. Robert Donaldson, of New York

Had issue by second wife:

iii. Hannah, m. Judge Mathias E. Manley, of North Carolina

Had issue by third wife:

iv. Eliza, m. ___ Graham, of Maryland

v. Catherine, d. unm.

Note: Interesting reading concerning, "William Gaston Papers Inventory (#272)" - <http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/htm/00272.html>

B. Hugh Gaston (1ST), b. in county Antrim, Ireland, 1687; d. in Bedminster township, Somerset county, N.J. (buried in Lamington graveyard), Dec. 23, 1772; m. Jennet __, b. 1698; d. Aug. 1, 1777 (buried at Lamington); took up land in Mount Bethel township, Bucks (now Northampton) county, Penn., Feb. 10, 1746, and June 20, 1751; had probably a sister, Mary, m. to James Caldwell (who emigrated to N. J. from the North of Ireland about 1732, and settled on Long Hill addition to Elizabethtown); Hugh Gaston was probably the brother of Joseph Gaston, of N.J. (1st), and the father of William and Joseph of Pennsylvania, of James and John of New Jersey, and of Margaret, who m. Nov. 8, 1750, Thomas Moffat (d. 1770), of Middlesex county, or one or more of them; also either the father or grandfather of Hugh Gaston, Jr., (below), and of his sisters, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick and Mrs. William Logan; of these:

HUGH GASTON, JR., son of Hugh Gaston (1ST), b. 1734; d. June 25, 1808; m1. Mary Sloan, b. 1742; d. Aug. 14, 1766; daughter of William and Mary Sloan, of Bedminster (?) township; m2. Mary Adams, b. 1741; d. Feb. 16, 1793; daughter of John and Agnes Adams; m3. Mary Kirkpatrick, b. in Bedminster township, Nov 23, 1761; d. July 1, 1842; daughter of David and Mary McEowan Kirkpartick (the former b. at Wattiesneach, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, Feb. 17, 1724; son of Alexander and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, who emigrated to America with his family in 1736, and m. March 31, 1748, Mary McEowan); had issue:

First marriage:

1. William, b. April 12, 1763; d. Dec. 15, 1763

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2. Joseph, b. Dec. 18, 1765; d. Aug. 14, 1777

Third marriage:

3. Samuel Kirkpatrick, a physician; m. Nancy T. Cooper, daughter of Henry Cooper, of Chester, Morris county; had issue: i. Henrietta

4. John, b. 1796; d. Feb. 17, 1800. Hugh Gaston of Bedminister, has sisters: Elizabeth, b. 1737; m. Thomas Kirkpatrick; and ____, m. Captain William Logan of Peapack; had issue among others: John

ELIZABETH GASTON, b. 1737, daughter of Hugh Gaston (1ST); m. Thomas Kirkpatrick, who settled near Liberty Corners, Bernard township, Somerset county, N.J.; had issue:

1. John, m. Anne Coriell, daughter of Elias Coriell; had issue:
 - i. Sarah, m. John Layton and settled at Plainfield
 - ii. Elizabeth, m. John King, son of John King, of Liberty Corners
 - iii. Thomas, m. Maria Hurd
 - iv. Elias, m. Jane Squier, daughter of Ludlow Squier, and settled in Plainfield
 - v. James, m1. Aletta Van Arsdale, daughter of Philip Van Arsdale; m2. Mary Stout
 - vi. Lydia, m. Stephen Woodward, son of Samuel Woodward, and removed to Chicago
 - vii. Jane, m. David Kline
 - viii. Mary, m. Tunis Van Nest
 - ix. John, d. at Newark, unm., aged thirty
 - x. Ann, m. Philip Van Arsdale, son of Peter Van Arsdale
 - xi. Hugh, m. Elizabeth King, of Belleville
2. Jane, d. unm., aged about sixth.

____ [Rebecca] GASTON, daughter to Hugh Gaston (1ST), m. Captain William Logan of Somerset county, N.J.

MARGARET GASTON, daughter of Hugh Gaston (1ST), m. 1750, Thomas Moffat, who d. 1770, Hugh Gaston serving as administrator of his estate.

C. William Gaston (1st), took up land in (Upper) Mount Bethel township, Bucks county (now Northampton) county, Penn., Feb. 20, 1751, on the same date as an entry made by Hugh (1st) above, of whom he was probably the son or possibly a brother; b. probably 1715 -1720; killed by the Indians, leaving a widow, who died before September, 1762, and five children as follows:

Note: Considering Hugh's (1687) birthyear and this person's, I do not believe they were brothers. As you will find in the report, Willaim is Hugh's son - Bill

I. John, b. May, 1740; d. Sept. 10, 1823; m. in Monmouth county, N.J., Feb. 4, 1760, Charity Cheeseman, b. March 13, 1734; d. Feb. 15, 1821 (both buried at Mingo graveyard, Union township, Washington county, Penn.; Charity Gaston being the daughter of Joseph Cheeseman of Upper Freehold (now Millstone) township Monmouth

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county, N.J., who d. 1783; and probably a descendant of the William Cheeseman who settled at Middletown Monmouth county, 1667); removed from Monmouth county, N.J., after 1767, to Mount Bethel township, Northampton county, Penn., where he took up 275 acres of land in Feb. 1772; served a major in the Revolutionary War; removed, about 1780 - 1782, to Rostraver township, Westmoreland county, Penn., and thence, about 1790, to Peters (now Union) township, Washington county, his wife's sister, Elizabeth Cheeseman, accompanying them; had issue:

1. William, b. July 15, 1761; removed to Ohio

2. Joseph, b. April 25, 1763; d. Nov. 21, 1821; removed to Abbeyville District, S.C.; served as captain and major of the Savannah Regiment in the Revolutionary War, 1782; m. Martha Hutton, and thence, about 1807, removed to Butler county, Ohio; had issue:

i. Rebecca, b. Feb. 20, 1784; m. John Kerr

ii. Ann, b. Dec. 16, 1785

iii. Margaret, b. March 17, 1788; m. Ezekiel McConnell

iv. John, b. June 17, 1790

v. Mary, b. Sept. 23, 1792

vi. William, b. April 20, 1795

vii. Joseph, b. Oct. 9, 1796

viii. Matta Ann, b. Feb. 6, 1799; m. William Hayden

ix. Lydia, b. July 22, 1801; m. Ebenezer Wilson

x. Lucinda, b. May 9, 1804; m. Daniel Symmes

xi. Eliza, b. Feb. 16, 1807; m. Benjamin Symmes

3. John, b. Jan. 7, 1765

4. Samuel, b. Feb. 18, 1767; d. in infancy

5. James, b. Feb. 18, 1767; d. April 13, 1813; m. Mary Estep, b. Oct. 10, 1773, daughter of Robert and Dorcas Estep; removed to Hamilton county, Ohio; had issue:

i. Nancy, b. March 25, 1794; m. ___ Spencer

ii. Dorcas, b. Aug. 19, 1796; m. David Figley, and settled in Scott county, Iowa

iii. Charity, b. Dec. 1, 1798; m. Enoch King, and settled in Clark county, Ohio

iv. Joseph, a minister; b. March 25, 1801, d. Dec. 6, 1834; settled in Carroll county, Ohio

v. Maria, b. April 6, 1803; d. Oct. 20, 1803

vi. Martha, b. Jan. 20, 1805; m. Enoch King (his second wife), and settled in Clark county, Ohio

vii. Rachel, b. March 18, 1807; d. Oct. 7, 1862; m. William S. Manfull, and settled in Steubenville, Ohio

viii. James Estep, a minister; b. April 14, 1809; d. at Des Moines, Iowa, 1888 - 1889; removed from Warren, Trumbull county, Ohio, about 1850, to Monmouth, Ill., and thence to Davenport. Iowa, later settling at Des Moines [had issue: Thomas Kirk; William Henry; Mary; Joseph James; John; Sarah Kirk]

ix. Robert, b. July 25, 1811

6. Samuel, b. Oct. 10, 1772; d. Feb. 21, 1853; m. Margaret Penny, of Allegheny county, Penn. b. 1776; d. Aug. 14, 1841; had issue:

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i. John, b. 1800; m. Patience Morrison

ii. Charity, b. 1802; m. Robert Donaldson

iii. Margaret, b. 1803; m. Thomas Perry; removed to near Burlington, Iowa, 1844

iv. Nancy, b. 1805; m. William Peppard, and removed to Ohio about 1837

v. William, b. 1807; d. 1880; m. Eliza Morrison

vi. Sarah, b. 1808; d. 1875; m. Dr. James Estep - afterwards a Baptist minister - d. Feb. 26, 1861; son of Robert and Dorcas Estep, who came from New Jersey [had issue: six children, among whom: Harrison settled in Marion Ind.; James settled in Marion, Ind.; Josiah Morgan, b. Feb. 19, 1829; d. at Cadiz, Ohio, May 5, 1888; m. 1857, Amanda J. Crabb]

vii. Eliza, b. 1810; m. Samuel Morgan

viii. Joseph Smith, b. 1811; d. 1870; m. Jane Hindman; d. 1879; had issue, among others, Samuel, b. 1831; m1. Martha A. McClure; m2. Amanda M. Way

ix. Samuel, b. 1814; d. unm., 1839

7. Elizabeth, b. May 8, 1778; d. Feb. 28, 1858

8. Margaret, m. Samuel McClain, a native of New Jersey; settled in Nottingham township, Washington county, Penn., where they died without issue:

II. William, b. 1742 - 1748; d. in Upper Mount Bethel township, Northampton county, Penn., April - May 1801; m. Elizabeth ____; had issue: 1. Alexander, m. Huldah ____; resided at Richmond, Lower Mount Bethel township, until after 1811; 2. William; 3. Charles; 4. Margaret, m. before 1806, Elisha Everitt; 5. Elizabeth, m. 1806 - 1807, Simeon Hart

III. Hugh, b. 1743 - 1748; served in the Revolutionary War from Mount Bethel township; resided in Allegheny county, Penn., in 1795

IV. Jennet, b. 1744 - 1748; m. Moses Phenix

V. James, b. 1748 - 1755; lived in Mount Bethel township in 1773.

D. Joseph Gaston of Pennsylvania (1st), probably a brother of William Gaston (1st) and perhaps a son of Hugh Gaston (1st), d. in Mount Bethel township, Northampton county, Penn., Oct. 1775, where he had taken up land in January, 1765; served as King's Justice from 1766 to 1775; m. Isabel ____, d. after 1775; had issue: five children, Hugh, James, Elizabeth, John, and Alexander, who were probably those given below, although it is possible these are not the same [Joseph Gaston's will names his "trusty friends, Hugh Gaston of East Jersey, Samuel Rea, and Major John Gaston of Mount Bethel township"; designated Major John Gaston in executors' deed made in 1779 as his executors, and makes provisions for giving his five children an education.]

Note: As the report reflects, Joseph was a son of Hugh - Bill

I. Hugh, b. Jan. 18, 1764; d. in Columbiana county, Ohio, June 24, 1839; lived in Bedminister township, Somerset

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county, N.J., 1787; removed to Washington county, Lycoming county about 1795 - 1799, and thence to western Pennsylvania and Ohio; m. March 14, 1789, Grace Gaston, his cousin, b. Nov. 25, 1764; d. March 14, 1838; daughter of Robert (II. below) and Rosanna Cooper Gaston; had issue:

1. Joseph, b. Dec 24, 1789; m. Elizabeth Conkle [had issue: Samuel, Hamilton, Martin, Watson, Hugh, Jacob, Elizabeth]
2. James, b. Jan. 20, 1793; d. March 13, 1872; m. Elizabeth Kilgore, sister to Daniel Kilgore, of Cadiz, Ohio; [had issue: William Kilgore, m1. Martha Graham; m2. Andora Waage; Hugh F., m. Elizabeth Stokes; Nancy m. Stewart B. Shotwell, of Cadiz, Ohio; Mary, m. her father's cousin, James W. Gaston, son of James Gaston, brother to Hugh (3d); Elizabeth m. Joseph Lyons; Philander m1. Lucinda Conkle; m2. Charity Moore; Narcissa, m. Albert Brockway; Daniel O., d. unm; Eleanor Jane, m. John Geeting; John, d. unm.]
3. Robert, b. Feb. 23, 1794; d. June 4, 1801
4. Elizabeth, b. Sept. 7, 1797; d. Jan. 14, 1816
5. Hugh, b. April 9, 1804; d. March 27, 1854 [had issue: Hamilton, Martha, Elizabeth, Mary]

II. James, d. in Smith township, Washington county, Penn., May - June, 1813, where he had settled about 1788, having removed from Lower Mount Bethel township, Northampton county, m. Jane ___ (she m2. ___ Stewart); had issue:

1. William, d. unm., in Brooke county, WV., 1830
2. Mary, m. ___ Anderson
3. Jane, m. ___ Gordon
4. Eleanor, m. ___ Moore
5. James W., m. his cousin, Mary Gaston, daughter of James Gaston, brother to Hugh (D,I,#2) above.
6. John
7. _____, m. Mr. Moore [had issue. William].

The name of the mother of Hugh and James Gaston last given was Simanton, (probably a sister of the Robert Simanton, who settled in Bedminister township, Somerset county, N.J., before 1754; whose land at that date adjoined the land of Hugh Gaston; and who removed to Pennsylvania and d. in Mount Bethel township, Northampton county, 1786, leaving children: James, Ephraim, Robert, Peter, Benjamin, Margaret, Nelson, Jean Britton, and Esther Ross, of whom James and Peter settled in Washington county, Penn. The Simantons were closely connected with the family of Ephraim McDowell, who d. in Bedminister township, 1763, leaving among other children, five sons, John, Matthew, Ephraim, Peter, and Benjamin).

III. Elizabeth

IV. John, probably settled in Indiana

V. Alexander, a physician, b. July 22, 1769; d. July 9, 1825; possibly the Alexander whose name appears in

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connection with that of John Gaston (son of William, 1st) as a taxpayer in Rostraver township, Westmoreland county, Penn. (that part now contained in Washington township, Fayette county), in 1783, when his household contained five persons; settled with his mother in Canton township, Washington county, about 1792; m. Rachel Perry, b. Sept. 1, 1773; d. Sept. 14, 1833; daughter of John and Jane McMillan Perry, who removed from West Nottingham township, Chester county, Penn., to Washington county, about 1787 - 1799, settling in Buffalo township in 1799, and removing thence to Belmont county, Ohio, about 1800 (John, b. 1752; d. 1825; served in the Revolutionary War; Jane, b. 1744; d. 1819); removed to Brooke county, WV., thence, about 1800, to near St. Clairsville, Ohio; and from there to Morristown, Ohio, 1811; had issue:

1. John Perry, b. April 24, 1793
2. Jane, b. April 10, 1795; d. Nov. 4, 1796
3. Robert, b. Jan. 17, 1797; d. Sept. 27, 1834; m. Martha McClure
4. Ephraim: a physician; b. June 26, 1799; d. May 30, 1868; m1. Mary Wilson; m2. Agnes Vance
5. Mary, b. May 20, 1801; d. Dec. 20, 1846; m. ___ Tracy, and settled at McConnellsville, Ohio
6. Charity, b. at St. Clairsville, July 27, 1803; d. 1887; m. John Lippincott, of Morristown
7. Joseph, b. May 14, 1805; d. July 9, 1833; m. Nancy Fowler; viii. Alexander, b. Aug. 4, 1807
8. Matthew, b. July 9, 1809; d. March 17, 1878; m. Drusilla Bute; settled at Plattsmouth, Nebraska
9. Isaac, b. Sept 16, 1811; d. at Colonna, Iowa, April 30, 1881
10. James, b. Nov. 1, 1813

One account of Alexander Gaston (b. 1769) states that he was the son of Ephraim Gaston, who was the son of Ebenezer Gaston, who emigrated from Ireland to America in company with his brother, Matthew (d. unm.); and that Alexander Gaston had a brother Joseph, who settled in southern Indiana; and another brother who settled in West Virginia. This account probably assumes Joseph, son of John, who married in South Carolina and settled in Butler county, Ohio, to have been the brother of Alexander.

E. JAMES GASTON (1st), probably a brother to John Gaston of New Jersey (1st), his name appears as a subscriber to the fund for building Allentown Church parsonage, 1758, in connection with that of John Gaston of Upper Freehold (1st, above); possibly, he may have been the son of that John - whose oldest son James, was baptized at Tennent Church, March 28, 1742. The name of James Gaston also appears as a member of the congregation of Lamington Church, in Bedminister township, Somerset county, N.J., during the pastorate of Rev. James McCreary, which terminated in 1766. A James Gaston also took up land in Mount Bethel township, Northampton county, Penn., in 1773 (probably son of William, 1st) and the name of James Gaston appears on the tax-list of Cecil township, Washington county, Penn., 1787 and 1788; and that of Rostraver township, Westmoreland county, Penn., 1789.

F. JOSEPH GASTON, of New Jersey (1st), d. in Bernard township, Somerset county, N.J., shortly after March 31, 1777; member of Baskingridge Presbyterian congregation; m. Margaret___, who survived him (probably his second wife, as a Joseph Gaston and Margaret Lines were married in Somerset county, about Nov. 2, 1772); emigrated from Ireland to New Jersey about 1720; probably a brother of Hugh Gaston (1st); had issue:

Note: The report does reflect that Joseph was a brother of Hugh Gaston (1st) – Bill

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I. Margaret, m. Andrew Kirkpatrick of Barnard township, Somerset county, N.J., son of Alexander and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick (the former of whom d. at Mine Brooke, N. J., June 3, 1758); removed to Redstone, Fayette county, Penn., had issue:

1. Alexander
2. Jennet;], m. Abner Johnson
3. Elizabeth, m. Hugh Barclay (or Bartley)
4. Margaret, m. Joseph McMartin
5. Mary
6. Sarah
7. Anne
8. Hannah

II. John, b. Nov. 10, 1730; d. Oct. 3, 1776, m1. June 27, 1758, Elizabeth Ker, b. March 19, 1738; d. May 6, 1765; daughter of William and Catherine Ker, natives of Scotland (the former b. 1700; d. July 4, 1777; buried at Lamington graveyard, Somerset county, N.J., son of Walter [1656 - 1748] and Margaret [1661 - 1734] Ker, who were exiled from Scotland about 1685, and settled at Freehold, N.J.); m2. Sarah Odgen;

Had issue by first wife:

1. Catherine, b. May 12, 1759; d. April 14, 1762
2. William, b. Jan. 13, 1761; d. Feb. 13, 1809; m. Dec. 10, 1782, Naomi Teeple, daughter of John and Margaret Teeple; had issue:

- i. John W., b. Sept. 26, 1783; d. June 19, 1859; m. 1805, Sarah Castner
- ii. Walter, d. in infancy
- iii. William, b. Sept. 26, 1787; d. in New York City, Sept. 12, 1837; resided in Savannah, Georgia
- iv. Margaret, b. Oct. 30, 1789; d. Nov. 3, 1827; m. 1819, John McCowen
- v. Joseph, b. Feb. 13, 1792; d. April 5, 1814
- vi. James, b. Jan. 8, 1795; d. March, 1820
- vii. Oliver, b. Jan 8, 1795; d. Jan. 21, 1823
- viii. Abraham, b. April 25, 1797; d. Jan 21, 1823
- ix. Hugh, b. Aug. 27, 1800; d. March 30, 1821

3. Joseph, b. Mar 29, 1763 (corrected); d. Oct 16, 1796; m. March 1, 1781, Ida Van Arsdale, b. April 28, 1762; daughter of Phillip and Margaret Stryker Van Arsdale (the former b. 1734; d. 1776; the latter b. 1741; d. 1819); had issue:

- i. Elizabeth, b. Nov. 17, 1782; d. Nov. 11, 1857
- ii. Isaac V., b. Sept. 9, 1784; d. February, 1811
- iii. John I., b. Feb. 14, 1787; d. March 23, 1846

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iv. Margaret B., b. Feb. 21, 1789; d. July 9, 1804

v. William B., b. Aug. 9, 1791

vi. Sarah E., b. Dec. 9, 1793

vii. Lydia, b. 1795; d. 1800

Had issue by second wife:

4. John m. ___Lansing, and settled in Landsingburg, N.Y.

5. Stephen, settled in New York State

6. Elizabeth, m. Elias Hodges, and settled in Colrain, Hamilton county, Ohio

7. Isaac, b. March 25, 1773; m. March 17, 1803, Anna Hedges; settled near Morristown, N.J.; had issue, among others:

i. Augustus L., b. May 15, 1806; d. 1841; settled at Reily, Butler county, Ohio, in 1828

ii. E. H., settled at Reily, Butler county, Ohio

8. Margaret, m. Smith Scudder, of Elizabethtown, N.J.; had issue (two sons) of whom,

i. Mansfield

ii. Isaac W.

III. Robert, b. Jan. 23, 1732; d. in Turbut (now Delaware) township, Northumberland county, Penn. (buried in Warrior's Run graveyard), Sept. 2, 1793; m. May 15, 1762, in Bedminister township, Somerset county, N.J., Rosanna Cooper, b. March 23, 1742; d. Jan. 14, 1817; daughter of Daniel Cooper (b. at sea during the emigration of his parents from Holland to New York, May 1, 1695; d. May 2, 1795; m. six times, 1st. April 17, 1726, to Grace Runyon, b. January, 1706; d. November 1755; lived at Piscataway; settled in Morris county, N.J., about 1732; had issue, ten children). Robert and Rosanna Cooper Gaston resided in Bernard township, Somerset county, until about 1770; then in Pequannock township, Morris county, from before 1771 to 1777, returning thence to Bedminister township, Somerset county and removing to Northumberland county about May 1792; served in the Revolution as a captain and lieutenant-colonel of New Jersey militia, and as captain in the Continental Line; had issue:

1. Joseph, b. Nov. 19, 1766; d. April 18, 1831; m. 1789, Margaret Melick, b. Dec. 22, 1767; d. Feb. 5, 1838; daughter of Aaron and Catherine Miller Moelich; had issue:

i. Robert, b. March 30, 1790; d. Sept. 22, 1854; m. April 8, 1824, Eleanor Shannon, b. 1795; d. Oct. 12, 1867 [had issue: Martha J.; Margaret M.; Solomon P.; Mary E.; Charlotte A.; Sarah Ann; Sarah]

ii. Charlotte, b. Sept 22, 1792; d. Aug. 13, 1824; m. James Durham

iii. Rosanna, b. June 7, 1795; d. Nov. 19, 1845

iv. Aaron, April 25, 1799; d. Oct. 24, 1868; m1. Sarah Ann Clarke; m2. Rosanna Camp

v. Daniel, a Presbyterian minister, who settled in Philadelphia; b. July 26, 1801; d. April 28, 1860; m. 1839, Rosa Morris, b. 1803; d. 1873

vi. Mary, b. May 14, 1804; d. July 11, 1880

vii. Anne, b. Dec. 20, 1808; m. William Sample

2. Margaret, b. Dec. 17, 1768; d. Sept. 10, 1807; m. 1785, Daniel Melick, son of Aaron and Catherine Miller Moelich, of Bedminister township; had issue:

i. Aaron

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- ii. Elizabeth
- iii. Charlotte
- iv. Rosanna
- v. John
- vi. Mary
- vii. David
- viii. William
- ix. Daniel
- x. Catherine

- 3. Mary, b. Feb. 12, 1770
- 4. Daniel, b. April 5, 1773
- 5. Anne, b. March 25, 1774
- 6. George W., b. April 2, 1777
- 7. John, b. Feb 8, 1780.

IV. Joseph, b. 1738 - 1739; d. 1803 -1804; served as paymaster of New Jersey militia from Somerset and Sussex counties, in the Revolution; named as executor of his fathers will (dated March 31, 1777); settled in Hardwick township, Sussex county, N.J., about 1783; m. ___Linn, daughter of Joseph and Martha Kirkpatrick Linn (who removed from Bernard township, Somerset county, to Hunterdon county, thence to Hardwick township, Sussex county, and later to Hardyston township, Sussex county; he b. 1725; d. 1800; she b. 1723; d. 1791); had issue:

- 1. ___, m. Dr. Elijah Everitt, b. in Kingwood township, Hunterdon county, 1770 -80; d. Jan. 11, 1850; settled in Sparta township, Sussex county
- 2. ___, m. Rev. John Boyd

V. Martha, m. ___Patterson

VI. Priscilla, m. about Sept 24, 1771, David McCain

VII. ___, m. David Chambers; had issue:

- 1. Joseph
- 2. William
- 3. John

G. JOHN GASTON, of New Jersey (1st), settled in Upper Freehold (now Millstone) township, Monmouth county, N.J., about 1741, where in 1758, he was owner of a grist mill and fueling mill; a member of Dr. William Tennent's Freehold Presbyterian congregation; subscriber in 1758 to the fund for a parsonage for Allentown Church; deeded a tract of land to his son, Hugh Gaston, in 1793; probably the son of Hugh Gaston (1st) and brother of William Gaston (1st) who was killed by the Indians (as John Gaston, Jr., the son of the latter, made his home in Upper

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Freehold township from before 1760 until after 1767, marrying there); had issue, as shown by records of Tennent Church, Freehold:

Note: Yes, John was a son of Hugh – Bill

I. Mary, baptized Dec. 9, 1739

II. James, baptized March 28, 1742; probably the same who m. April 20, 1773, Lydia Tapscott: and who contributed to the fund for repair of Cranberry Church in 1785; had issue, probably among others:

1. William, served in the Revolutionary War; m. Catherine English, daughter of Dr. James English, of New Brunswick (had issue, as shown by baptismal records of Cranberry Church:

i. Lydia Tapscott, b. Dec. 4, 1804; m. Aaron Allen

ii. John Baird, b. May 25, 1806

iii. Mary Ann, b. March 20, 1810; m. probably John Perrine, Jr.

iv. Letitia

v. Hannah

III. Hugh, baptized July 15, 1744; lived in Millstone township, Monmouth county, N.J., until after 1801

IV. Mary (2d), bap. March 8, 1747

V. Elizabeth, twin sister to Mary, bap. March 8, 1747

VI. Daniel, bap. April 3, 1749; served in the Revolutionary War; lived in Millstone township, Monmouth county, during the Revolution; had issue, among others: John, bap. April 14, 1776

VII. Catherine, bap. June 2, 1751

VIII. John, bap. Jan. 20, 1754

IX. William, bap. July 18, 1756

X. Jane, bap. March 25, 1759

H. JOHN GASTON, of Connecticut (1st), b. in county Antrim, Ireland, probably near Ballymena (or possibly, Ballymoney), 1703 -04; emigrated to America, 1720 -26, with his brother Alexander and perhaps a third brother,

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who settled in New Jersey; settled at Voluntown, Conn., 1726 -27, where he d. March 29, 1783; m. about 1735, Janet Thompson, b. in Scotland, 1711; d. at Killingly, Conn., Nov. 3, 1806; daughter of Rev. Alexander Thompson, a native of Scotland, who lived for a time at Andover, Mass., and afterwards at Stonington, Conn; had issue:

I. Margaret, b. 1734; d. Feb. 5, 1811; m. James Dickson, b. 1728; d. 1815; had issue:

1. James
2. John
3. Alexander
4. Joseph
5. Nancy, m. William Church
6. Phebe, m. Uriah Church; had issue:

i. Andrew, m. Ruth Hall [their daughter, Clara, m. 1831 Horace White of Syracuse, N.Y., and was the mother of Andrew Dickson White, b. at Homer, N.Y., Nov. 7, 1832];

- ii. Gaston
- iii. John
- iv. Vesta
- v. Nelson
- vi. Diodata

II. Alexander, b. 1739; served in the French and Indian War, and died in 1760, of disease contracted in that service.

III. John, b. at Voluntown, 1750; d. there Oct. 26, 1805; served in Connecticut Legislature; m. about 1770, Ruth Miller, b. at Plainfield, Conn., 1750; d. at Killingly, May 10, 1825; daughter of Rev. Alexander and Esther Miller (the former a Presbyterian minister, who settled at Plainfield, called to the Separatist Church at Voluntown, 1751, and imprisoned in the Windham county jail for a long time for refusing to pay the Established [Congregational] Church rates); had issue:

1. Alexander, b. Voluntown, Aug. 2, 1772; d. at Roxbury, Mass., Feb. 11, 1856; where he had settled 1838; served in the Connecticut Legislature; m1. April 1, 1803, Olive Dunlap, b. at Plainfield, 1769; d. at Killingly, Sept. 7, 1814; daughter of Joshua Dunlap; m2. April 16, 1816, Kezia Arnold, b. at Burrillville, R.I., November, 1779; d. at Roxbury, Mass., Jan. 30, 1856; daughter of Aaron and Rhoda Hunt Arnold (the former a descendant of Thomas Arnold, b. 1599); Had issue by first wife:

- i. Esther, b. 1804; d. 1860
- ii. John, b. 1806; d. 1824

Had issue by second wife:

iii. William, b. at Killingly, Oct. 3, 1820; d. Jan. 19, 1894, served as a member of the Massachusetts Legislature; as mayor of Boston; and as governor of Massachusetts; m. May 27, 1852, Louisa A. Beecher, b. at Boston, Dec. 27, 1830; daughter of Leban S. and Frances Lines Beecher, natives of New Haven -- the former a descendant of John Beecher, who emigrated probably from Kent, England, and d. at New Haven, 1637 - 38 [had issue: Sarah Howard, b. April 23, 1853; William Alexander, b. May 1, 1859; m. 1892, May D. Lockwood; and

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Theodore Beecher, b. Feb. 8, 1861; d. July 16, 1869]

2. Margaret, b. Dec. 13, 1781; d. young

I. ALEXANDER GASTON, (1st), b. 1714; m. Mary Wilson, b. 1716; emigrated to America with his brother John about 1720 - 1726; said to have third brother in New Jersey; settled at Richmond, Mass., had issue:

I. William, b. Aug. 9, 1744

II. John, b. March 3, 1746

III. Robert, b. Dec. 28, 1747

IV. Mary, b. Sept. 20, 1749

V. Janet, b. Dec. 27, 1750; m. Robert Kasson

VI. Margaret, b. Jan. 5, 1753

VII. Alexander, b. Oct. 28, 1754; had issue, among others:

1. John, b. 1746; d. at Stockbridge, Mass., Sept. 6, 1834; had issue, among others:

i. John, b. 1786; d. March, 1873

VIII. David, b. Jan. 13, 1757

IX. Thomas, b. March 16, 1759

X. Phebe, b. April, 22, 1765; m. ___ Bacon

HISTORY

Francoise: [Francoise Lewis <fklewis@sympatico.ca>]

Craig Gaston very kindly forwarded a copy of your questions to me. I hope that you will not mind if I reply in English, car je ne parle bien le français!

1- comment et par où notre ancêtre est parti de France? Les sorties du pays étaient limitées pendant la guerre entre l'Angleterre et la France....

I do not believe this presents a major problem because the Gaston Legends, in addition to our research, suggest strongly that "Jean Gaston" -- if indeed there was only a single patriarch -- left France between 1645 and 1661, an era when Huguenots were not under great persecution and France was not openly at war with England. During this period,

'Without being sympathetic towards [the Huguenots], the public authorities respected the religious liberty guaranteed by the Edict of Nantes. Richelieu judged that the scope of that edict should not be widened, nor should the liberties there granted be curtailed, and even Protestant

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historians pay tribute to his moderation. Louis XIV being a minor at his accession, his mother, Anne of Austria, began her regency by promising to the Protestants the enjoyment of their liberties. Mazarin abstained from disturbing them. "Si le petit troupeau broute de mauvaises herbes," ceci a dit, "il ne s'écarte pas".

.....

'In 1649 the Royal Council, dealing with certain complaints of the Huguenots, declared that those of the "pseudo-reformed" (prétendue réformée) religion should not be disturbed in the practice of their worship, and ordered the reopening of some of their temples which had been closed. Thus the Protestant minister Jurieu could write that the years between the Rising of the Fronde and the Peace of the Pyrenees were among the happiest within the memory of his creed.' (Catholic Encyclopedia, 1911 Edn.)

It would thus not be surprising if a Huguenot were able to slip out of France during this period of relative good feeling -- either through one of the Atlantic ports or perhaps via Flanders and then to the Low Countries. In any event we know that a Huguenot named Louis Gaston is recorded at Lisburn, Northern Ireland, as early as 1658. Lisburn was one of the major centers of Huguenot settlement in Ulster. Eleven years later, in 1669, a John Gaston is listed on the hearth tax rolls of Magheragall Parish, a mere 3 km from Lisburn. According to legend in the New England branch of the Gaston family, the initial settlement in Ireland took place between 1663 and 1667. So the legends are substantially in accord with the facts as we know them.

2- Pourquoi aller en Ecosse plutôt qu'en Angleterre? Quelles étaient les relations en ces dates entre la France et l'Ecosse?

Both the Huguenots and Scottish protestants adhered to the "reformed" tradition: Calvinist in theology and Presbyterian in governance. As a matter of fact, John Knox, father of Scottish protestantism, lived with Calvin in Geneva for four years before returning to Scotland in 1560.

The English Church briefly adopted the presbyterian system under Puritan rule (1647-1660), but after the Restoration in May 1660, Charles II moved swiftly to re-establish the episcopal system of governance by appointed bishops. However, the implementation of prelacy met with great difficulty in Scotland, which had been presbyterian in outlook for a full century as opposed to England's mere 13-year flirtation. Thus, after 1660, England would have been hostile to the Huguenots' Calvinist/Presbyterian brand of protestantism, while Scotland remained receptive to the Huguenots in terms of both theology and church governance.

3- En quelle ville d'Écosse était-il allé?

We do not know. A "George Gawstoun" is listed on the parish records of Edinburgh in 1596, but this seems too early for the Gaston emigration. In fact we are increasingly doubtful that our ancestor ever set foot in Scotland. Migration directly to Northern Ireland could make more

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sense, as discussed below.

4- S'est-il marié là-bas ou en France? A-t-il émigré avec sa femme où son épouse était-elle écossaise?

Again, according to legends in the New England branch of the family, "Jean Gaston" was 40 years old and unmarried when he fled France. He supposedly married a Scottish woman and had three sons -- John, William and Alexander -- all born in Scotland. I have serious doubts about this, chiefly because there were scores of Gastons already living in the Belfast area by the early 1700s. >If< "Jean Gaston" emigrated around 1660 (as I suspect) and >if< he did not marry until he reached the British Isles, then his children would not have started propagating until 1675-80; a very short period in which to produce an entire Belfast neighborhood ("Gastontown") by 1710!

Still, I believe we need to look at the years immediately surrounding 1660 as the most probable date for the Gaston flight from France. Two very significant things happened in that year, both of which had major ramifications for French protestants.

First, Louis XIV ascended the French throne. It soon became apparent that the policy of toleration espoused by Richelieu and Mazarin was coming to an end:

'In proportion as Louis XIV got the reins of government into his own hands, the position of the Huguenots became increasingly unfavourable. After 1660 they were forbidden to hold national synods. At that time they counted 623 churches served by 723 pastors, who ministered to about 1,200,000 members. A commission, established in 1661 to inquire into the titles on which their places of worship were held, brought about the demolition of more than 100 churches, for which no warrant could be found in the provisions of the Edict of Nantes. A royal order of 1663 deprived relapsed persons — i.e. those who had returned to Protestantism after having abjured it — of the benefit of the Edict of Nantes, and condemned them to perpetual banishment.... Then, by another ordinance, parish priests were authorized to present themselves with a magistrate at the domicile of any sick person and to ask whether such person wished to die in heresy or to be converted to the true religion; the children of Protestants were declared competent to embrace Catholicism at the age of seven the Protestants soon saw themselves excluded from public office; the chambers in which the parties were equally represented were suppressed, Huguenot preaching was restrained and emigration was forbidden under pain of confiscation of property.' (Catholic Encyclopedia, 1911 Edn.) There followed the infamous "dragonnades" in which thousands of Huguenots were converted at swordpoint. (Id.)

Second, as previously noted, in the same year of 1660 the British Monarchy was restored and almost immediately began taking steps to suppress "nonconformists," i.e., unreconstructed presbyterians. This campaign was embodied in the Clarendon Code (named after the Earl of

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Clarendon, Lord Chancellor under Charles II), a series of punitive statutes aimed squarely at protestant dissenters and only incidentally at Catholics. The Code comprised the following statutes:

Corporation Act (1661) - Required all municipal officials to take Anglican communion, formally reject the Solemn League and Covenant of 1643. The effect of this act was to exclude Nonconformists from public office.

Act of Uniformity (1662) - This second statute made use of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer compulsory in religious service. Upwards of 2000 clergy refused to comply with this act, and were forced to resign their livings.

Conventicle Act (1664) - This act forbade conventicles (a meeting for unauthorized worship) of more than 5 people who were not members of the same household. The purpose was to prevent dissenting religious groups from meeting.

Five Mile Act (1665) - This final act of the Clarendon Code was aimed at Nonconformist ministers, who were forbidden from coming within 5 miles of incorporated towns or the place of their former residence. They were also forbidden to teach in schools. (Source: Wikipedia)

However, several sources attest to the fact that these punitive statutes were not enforced as strictly in Northern Ireland, where protestant settlers (of any flavor) were still needed to complete the Plantation -- and attendant dispossession of the reviled papists.

So let us suppose that "Jean Gaston" leaves France around 1660, either in anticipation of Louis XIV's accession or in reaction to that fact. He finds refuge in Scotland, whose Calvinist theology and Presbyterian governance are virtually identical to the Huguenot system he left behind. But after only a few years his religious and civil liberties are again under assault -- this time by the resurgent monarchy, which seeks to re-establish the Episcopalian system. So "Jean" (or perhaps Jean-Louis Gaston) again pulls up stakes and moves to Northern Ireland, where a colony of Huguenot weavers and artisans has taken root at Lisburn. By 1669 he, or his son, has acquired property in Magheragall Parish.

Alternatively, if "Jean Gaston" did not leave France until 1662 or 1663, then he may have headed straight for Northern Ireland since, by that date, the Clarendon Code was already making life difficult for his Presbyterian cousins in Scotland.

Pat Gaston
Overland Park, KS
USA

Descendants of "John Jean William of Scotland" William Gaston

A. Shelba Davis, September 27, 2000 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Gaston.cooper::gaston::976.html>

Robert Gaston (#A,V) and brother John (#A,I), sons of William Gaston and Olivet Lemon, may have gone to NJ first (all probably landing at Philadelphia), but they were in Lancaster Co., PA where Robert married Margaret Logan in 1756. Soon after that John moved to Chester Co., SC where he became the King's justice, hence his nickname "Justice John". His wife was Esther Waugh whom he probably married in Ireland. Within a few years, Robert moved from Lancaster Co., PA to Lancaster Dist., SC. When he purchased land on Little Lynches Creek in 1768, he was shown as "Robert Gaston, formerly of Lancaster Co., PA".

A few years later the rest of their siblings, except for Rev. Hugh (#A,III), came directly from Ireland, landing in Charleston, SC. All but Robert and brother Dr. Alexander (#A,X), who went to New Bern, NC, where he became a rebel leader and was killed by the British and Tories, settled in Chester Co., SC. Brother Rev. Hugh married and had children in Ireland. A well known Presbyterian minister and author, he came alone from Ireland and died soon after arrival. A number of years later his descendants came from Ireland, but not to SC.

After the American Revolution, the children of Robert Gaston began leaving SC, only son Thomas (#A,V,8) and daughter Margaret McCreary (#A,V,6) remained. Daughter Martha (#A,V,7) married Isaac Dye and she died c 1851 Pulaski Co., KY. Joseph (#A,V,5) never married and died Greene Co., TN. William (#A,V,1) and James (#A,V,2) first went to Christian Co., KY (the part now Trigg Co.), with James going on to Wayne Co., IL and William to Marion Co., IL after William made a stop off at Cave in the Rock, IL. Hugh went to Knox Co., KY, then Laurel Co., KY before going on to Greene Co. IN. John (#A,V,3), whose son Hugh was subject of the query, apparently went first to White Co., TN as affidavits state he came to Shelby Co., IL from "Sparty", TN about 1832, dying in Shelby Co. in 1836.

Because the NJ, CN, MA and Carolina Gastons carried the same given names, sorting them out is a headache. Wrong data published many years ago and accepted without question before being put in other publications has caused big problems.

Robert Gaston and Margaret Logan's marriage can be found in Rev. Roan's Journal at the Dauphin Co., PA Historical Society in Harrisburg. Roan served in the present day Dauphin Co. area of old Lancaster Co., PA, thus we know about where the Gastons had lived. Data from this journal was published in a NC quarterly with a picture of the page showing the Gaston-Logan marriage.

Proof of this Gaston line came from various sources - surviving deeds regarding sale of Robert Gaston's land in Lancaster Co., SC by his executors - statements made by James Gaston regarding the location of his father's farm in James' Rev. War pension papers - and, most importantly, the 600 pages of documents and affidavits from the various families in the estate of brother Joseph Gaston of Greene Co., TN. Dying intestate, it was 35 years before his estate was settled, thus there are many affidavits in which all his siblings and their death dates and places and their children repeatedly shown with one group often making an affidavit regarding another aunt or uncle, their location and their children. As for Hugh Gaston who left Shelby Co., IL, before 1861, there are 1861 affidavits showing year and place of his father's, John, death and his previous residence at "Sparty" TN and showing who his sister married, her death, and her children and stating Hugh had moved from the county.

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The estate was a headache for the probate and the Chancery court, but what a great gold mine it was for my Gastons. Took 10 years to find. I Xeroxed every scrap of paper in the Chancery Court packets as well as the small probate file.

B. Items of Interest: Jim Hawfield, September 26, 2001 – <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?rebecca::gaston::1506.html>

1. "1833 Letter from NJ to Gaston in SC"

Below is a letter written by Rebecca Latimer (#A,3,III,IV) of New Jersey (grand-daughter of Hugh Gaston and her mother was Martha Gaston who married James Ross) to Joseph Gaston (#A,I,12) of Chester County, SC, a reply to a letter written to her by Joseph Gaston in 1832.

"My esteemed friend's letter came to hand in due time. I shall commence with my grand-mother from my earliest recollection of her.

All her children were married, save Mary, her youngest daughter, and Thomas, her youngest son; Hugh having died some years previous.

My grand-mother received, at that time, the profits of a farm, formerly her father's, and about fifteen pounds, British money, from a fund for Presbyterian Clergyman's widows.

My uncle Thomas (#A,III,1) was at that time, emigrating to America. He lived in New York, for many years. Married there, and died there; leaving two daughters. One of these died, as did the mother, also; the other, now Mrs. Lindsay, of Orange, New Jersey. My aunt Mary died unmarried.

William Gaston (#A,III,1), referred to in your letter, became Surgeon in a Guinea merchant ship, and died on the coast of Africa.

Alecia (#A,III,2), the eldest daughter, married a Mr. Nelson, and died about eight years since, without issue.

Martha (#A,III,3), my mother, married James Ross a linen draper, to whom she had four children. James Ross, her eldest son, came to America, and remained nine years; he then returned to the old country, married his cousin, and has four children. He is a spirit merchant, in Londonderry, in the North of Ireland. My oldest sister, is the mother of ten or eleven children, some of whom, are settled in Baltimore.

My youngest brother, Hugh Gaston Ross, came to this country in ---, was engaged on the side of the Americans during the late war, and was safe after the Peace, but we never heard of him after 1817.

I am the youngest child, was married fifteen years ago, and bore a family, but they are all gone to rest. My

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husband held a situation in the Custom department, of the government, but growing disgusted with the Government, throw up his commission, and came to this land of liberty, where his heart had been for many years.

Stephen's mother and family are in Indiana, where we intend to remove by the first of May.

To return to my mother's family. James Gaston (#A,III,4), the child next to her, married and had eight children. Most of them, with himself, and wife, have fallen asleep.

My aunt, Mrs. Aliza, was married to Surgeon Rogan, and had eight children, of whom six were girls; one of these, died unmarried, and one married my brother James, mentioned the former part of this letter. The oldest son is an eminent physician, living in Londonderry. The eldest daughter, and the youngest son, are yet unmarried. One of her younger sons, died last November year, leaving a widow and five children, amply provided for.

*Believe me, with much esteem, your cousin,
Rebecca Latimer."*

2. The next letter is a **reply to foregoing letter written by Joseph Gaston to his cousin, Rebecca Latimer**, in New Jersey. Interspersed "notes" by "Jim" the publisher:

"I think the Rev. Hugh Gaston (#A,III) came to my father's in 1767 or 1768 when I was 3 or 4 years old. He brought with him some copies of Gaston's Collections, and gave one to my father, John (#A,I), and one to each of his four sisters, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Strong, Mrs. McClure, and Mrs. Rosborough."

(NOTE: according to my data, Rev. Hugh Gaston died October 20, 1766 during the visit to Chester County, SC. Joseph Gaston, born February 22, 1763, would have been 3 years and 8 months old. Not sure why he got his age right but not the year - Jim)

"Mrs. Knox (#A,II) has one daughter living yet, but who is quite old and infirm. She is Sarah Johnston, and has a daughter and two sons."

"Mrs. Strong (#A,VI) had one son, William, shot at her door in the Revolutionary War; one son Christopher Strong, was living a short time ago on Harpeth River, in Tennessee; one daughter, Lettie (Allecia) Strong, living near me."

"Mrs. McClure (#A,IV) had grand-children in this State by two sons and one daughter; her oldest daughter Martha married my brother, Hugh Gaston, and has a large family living in Alabama."

(NOTE: If your goal in life is to confuse amateur genealogist, marry a cousin - Jim)

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"Mrs. McClure had one son killed and one wounded in the Revolutionary War. They were an honor to their country. Captain John McClure, with thirty-two men who volunteered with him struck the first blow towards recovering our state from the British, when there was not another vestige of opposing force in the State."

(NOTE: I haven't researched this, but, if factual, it seems like an event worthy of mention in South Carolina history books - Jim)

"Mrs. Rosborough (#A,IX), I expect has one son, Dr. Alexander Rosborough, and one daughter, the widow of Rev. J. Bowman, in the state of Tennessee, and one son, John Rosborough, Clerk of the Court, in Chester District."

"As to the family of my father, Justice John Gaston (#A,I), there were nine sons and three daughters, but most of them have gone the way of all the earth. One brother named above (Hugh), and myself, the youngest child, are all that remain. Four of our brothers lost their lives in the Revolutionary War, and I received a ball under the left eye."

(NOTE: Three of the four brothers (#A,I,8-10) killed in the war died the same day in the Battle of Hanging Rock, August 7, 1780. Their names were Robert Gaston (b. 1749), David Gaston (b. 1755), and Ebenezer Gaston (b. 1757). Joseph Gaston, who wrote this letter and is my ancestor, was injured in the face in the same battle. He was seventeen years old at the time - Jim)

"My father lived to see liberty secured for his country, but it cost him dearly; the loss of four sons and all of his property."

(NOTE: I believe Joseph's father, Justice John Gaston, died in 1782, the year before the peace treaty was signed, but, I imagine, the outcome was pretty well decided by that time. - Jim)

"There was one brother of your grand-father, Dr. Alexander Gaston (#A,IX) who settled in New Bern, North Carolina, and was killed by the British in the Revolutionary War. One son of his is yet living there, William Gaston, who is quite respectable in the profession of the law, and has been in both the State and Federal Legislatures."

"Your honored grand-father (#A,III) died within a few months after he came to this country, and is buried in the Richardson grave-yard, with my father, mother, and two sisters. He left his text-margin Bible with my father, and I yet have the largest part of it, and a number of his sermons also."

(NOTE: In case you've lost track, the "honored grand-father" is the Rev. Hugh Gaston, author of the Gaston's Collections and possible source of the debatable Gaston connection to European royalty - Jim)

"His oldest son, Dr. William Gaston (#A,III,1), came to my father's, perhaps a few years after his father's death, and shortly after left the State, and we have never known what became of him."

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(NOTE: In Rebecca Latimer's reply to this letter, she wrote "William Gaston, referred to in your letter, became Surgeon in a Guinea merchant ship, and died on the coast of Africa." - Jim)

"My companion (#A,I,12) and I have raised six children. The oldest and youngest, are sons. All have been married, but our youngest son, who looks after our farm for us. Our oldest and youngest daughters are widows. The others all live in the same County with us. We have twenty-three grand-children living and three dead."

(NOTE: His "companion" was Jane Brown Gaston (1767 - 1858). His youngest son he referred to must have been James Gaston (1801 - 1859). My data does not show he ever married. Also, my data shows an even younger son, Robert Gaston (1808 - 1810), who died in childhood. For some reason, Joseph Gaston didn't mention him in this letter. - Jim)

"Please reciprocate my kind wishes to Mr. ----- and accept the same for yourself and family. I hope you or Mr. Latimer will write me, and let me know anything you see proper, respecting your history and circumstances, which will be gratefully received.

Yours with esteem,

Joseph Gaston

Sept. 18, 1833"

C. Scott Carson, According to the DAR Patriot Index, October 28, 2001 – <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?dar::gaston::1586.html>

1. William Gaston (#A,I,3) b: 6-5-1743, d: post 1-17-1814, m. (1) Jenet Love, (2) Ann Porter. His service was Captain. A book by Bobby Gilmer Moss entitled "Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution" says William Gaston enlisted 25 September 1775 as a captain in the New Acquisition Militia. Thomas Neel (Neal) was colonel and Joseph Robinson was major of the militia.
2. It also shows William Gaston (#A,VII), b: 1735, d: 1790, m. Jane Harbison. His service was as a private. Mrs. Maxine Wormer, Editor of the Marion Co., IL Gen. & Hist. Society publications says that he was the son of "Justice John", and that he drowned at Kell's Ford in the old Chester Dist., SC.
3. I think Mrs. Wormer's information is wrong perhaps and that William #2 is the son of William Gaston and Mary Lamore, which then leads me to believe William #1 is the son of John and Esther (Waugh) Gaston.

RE: "Joseph Gaston's letter to his cousin in NJ": The following actions are what bought the wrath of Capt. Huck down on the Fishing Creek Settlement.

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In 1780, the Tory leader, Capt. Huck, destroyed Hill's ironworks, burned many homes, and the Fishing Creek "Meeting House". He also reportedly raided the homes of the "rebel" leaders at Fishing Creek, destroying crops and harassing the women and children. I don't know if the Fishing Creek Church was ever rebuilt at the original site but the old cemetery adjacent has always been known as "Burnt Meeting House", Fishing Creek, said to be near Wylie's mill.

After Charleston fell to the British on May 12, 1780 a regiment of Virginia Continentals under Col. Buford attempted to escape into NC. A detachment of British cavalry under the notorious Banastre Tarleton caught up with them north of the present city of Lancaster, SC, near the settlement of Waxhaw. The May 1780 battle butchering of the Americans who attempted to surrender became known as "Waxhaws Massacre". The news of the horrible slaughter spread rapidly throughout the Scots-Irish settlements. According to tradition, news of this reached Fishing Creek and made known at the home of John Gaston. John's wife Esther along with her sister-in-law Mary McClure left at once to help care for the wounded survivors who had been carried to the Waxhaw Meeting House.

"Justice John" John Gaston was an affluent and influential leader of his community whether the "meeting" of neighbors who assembled to discuss the current events and what might be done about them was at his house or at the Fishing Creek Meeting House is unclear. But, upon learning of the terrible massacre of their comrades, a number of the men assembled joined hands in prayer and took a solemn oath that they would never lay down their arms until the enemy troops were driven out of their land. This was in the summer (May) of 1780 that this vow was made. * Recollections of Sen. William Gaston, grandson of William and Mary McClure Gaston, as told by his descendants in Marion Co., IL.

On 24 May, John McClure and his brother Hugh led a surprise attack at Beckanhamville with 37 men and scattered a large meeting of Tories. On 26 May John McClure led an attack on a gathering of Tories at Mobley's Meeting House. These 37 men were most likely the company consisting of the McClure/Gaston/Knox cousins.

The book "Gaston's of Chester" focuses mostly on the last son of Justice John and Esther Waugh Gaston. Justice John was elderly during the War but was still pursued by Bloody Tarleton. At one time he was forced to leave his wife and family members to flee but soon returned to find his home destroyed. Esther and her youngest son, Joseph was home when Tarleton's troops entered the home to cruelly destroy all Justice John owned. Esther and Joseph hid in the surrounding bushes/woods. Joseph was later quoted as saying that he didn't know how the British troops never found them since Esther was so upset she was very noisy. Justice John was at the side of his brother Hugh when he died. Rev. Hugh left many written notes and sermons that were destroyed during the War.

The County of Gaston, NC, was named after William Gaston, son of Dr. Alexander Gaston of New Bern, NC. However, it is not clear whether William Gaston was ever a governor of NC. He served in the State Legislature, the US House of Representatives, and perhaps the Chief NC Supreme Court Justice. He did have a very impressive career and a source for information can be found: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/htm/00272.htm#N2009>

D. Jim Hawfield, September 25, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Davidson::gaston::1505.html>

"The Gaston Legend" since I was somewhat aware of parts of it from a book entitled "The Gastons of

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Chester County (SC)". My grandmother, who was a descendant of those Gastons had a copy of the book. She was interviewed by the author, who I believe was a professor at Davidson College in NC and I think his last name was Gaston, but I'm not sure.

I thought I would contribute a little by telling you about the city of Gastonia, NC, which was mentioned in the replies to the posting of the "Legend". It is indeed named after a Gaston as is Gaston County where it is located. His name is William Gaston (oh no - not another William) and he was the first Chief Supreme Court Justice of the State of North Carolina. If my data is correct, he is the grandson of William Gaston and Mary Lemon or Lemoire (they would be the great-great- great grandparents of my grandmother, I think).

The following info is from a 1970s vintage World Book Encyclopedia. Note that it might seem a little strange that a Gaston in his era was a Catholic. I have read somewhere that he converted after marrying a Catholic woman. Most Gastons I'm aware of appear to be Presbyterians.

Here's what the World Book had to say:

"Gaston, William (1778-1844), was an American Jurist and advocate of political rights for Negroes and Roman Catholics. He served with distinction as a Federalist in the North Carolina senate and in the United States House of Representatives. A Catholic, he helped persuade North Carolina to give the vote to Roman Catholics. In 1832, Gaston expressed the hope that slavery would be abolished. As a justice of the supreme court of North Carolina, he declared that free Negroes were citizens of the United States. Gaston was born at New Bern, NC, and was graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) at the head of his class"

E. Patrick Gaston, September 28, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?typewriters::gaston::1509.html>

Yeah, for a long time I thought the Gastons of NC had nothing to do with our clan, but I was WRONG. William life and career are extremely well documented and he is indeed, a descendant of "Jean". Judge Gaston's papers are in the collection of the University of NC at Chapel Hill and contain a couple typewritten summaries of Gaston family history -- although who wrote them is any body's guess, as William lived in the days before typewriters.

I believe it was William's mother who was a devout Catholic and raised her son in the tenets of the Olde Faith. I forget if you mentioned this, but William aptly was the first graduate of Georgetown Univ and there is still a bust of him somewhere in the halls of Georgetown.

F. Mike Eickmann - "Descent from royalty", October 29, 2000 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/1010.html>

Although tales of Gaston nobility persist in different family legends, when it comes right down to it, so far nobody has offered a shred of evidence as to a date or place of birth or death for Jean Gaston. The only thing we know for sure about him is that he was born in France and at some point in his life went to Scotland. There is some circumstantial historical support for his having been a Huguenot as there was a) a large Huguenot migration

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to the British Isles in the time frame Jean is supposed to have migrated and b) the large number of Presbyterians in early Gaston history and even c) a family legend of a Gaston family in SW France of a Jean Gaston going to Scotland to marry a Scotswoman.

Whether Jean may or may not have been of "noble" blood has yet to be determined. The immediate legitimate descendants of Henry IV and others are well documented, unlike Jean. Jean may or may not have married an Agnes but the one often cited as Jean's wife did exist and was a noblewoman but lived 100 yrs. before Jean was born -- again, more wishful thinking than documented reality.

I've done some study into the matter and have discovered that Gaston is indeed a name originating in the south of France. The south also has a richer Protestant history than any other region of the country. There were indeed nobles of differing ranks who were Protestants but mostly, they were the burgeoise -- tradespeople and merchants.

With the help of a French researcher, I hope to find out some sort of verifiable information in a month or so. Along with that, we are working with a possibly distant Gaston "cousin" who believes Jean to have come from a village near Bayonne on the SW French coast near Spain. Additionally, thanks to an idea from Patrick Gaston, we are contacting Gastons in Scotland and Northern Ireland to compare and confirm any information possibly relevant to Jean Gaston and his offspring.

Max Perry says he has also spoken with people who've done the work in Scotland and that this research is in the new edition of his book. I haven't seen it nor am I disputing anything he wrote. I'm just checking into this with others hoping to get something solid and verifiable. The mysterious Jean Gaston seems likely to have been an interesting character whether noble or not; its just that it would be better to have some accurate historical data to support it either way. Legends often have their basis in reality but to date, nobody has offered even one tiny bit of verifiable data. I think it is in the interests of all interested Gastons to get the whole story.

In fact, I would like to go to N. Ireland, Scotland and France anyhow even after getting the results of the research to see for myself. (Maybe I should buy a lottery ticket!) But if anyone has anything to add or ideas how to find out, other contacts in these countries, etc., I'd be glad to know.

G. Patrick Gaston (225) - "My two cents' worth", January 28, 1999 -
<http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/225.html>

This topic has been debated to death over the last couple years, notably in the threads on "Descent From Royalty," (starting at msg 225); "Searching For My Past," (starting at msg 1232); "Jean Gaston, the Huguenot," (starting at msg 1092); and, of course, this one. If anything, it's certainly a lively discussion and a welcome change of pace from the usual "looking for my great-uncle Bob" posts!

First, one has to keep in mind that there was an earlier genealogy craze in the US, around the middle of the 19th century. At that time the goal of many researchers was to prove oneself descended from royalty (or at least nobility), as blue blood got you invited into the best of social clubs.

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Second, I assume that our ancestors in general were not terribly well educated, and certainly didn't have the wonderful resources that we enjoy today, thanks mostly to the Internet. Their information probably came from the few European history books available to them.

Third, I am in complete agreement with Alex that the information at familysearch.com is only as reliable as the person who submitted it. It should NOT be taken as gospel. In some cases the same unverified legends are simply repeated again and again.

As for the Jean (Baptiste) Gaston de Foix de Tuscany d'Orleans mess, my best guess is that one of those early researchers discovered Gaston Phoebus (de Foix) in a history book. Phoebus was something of a renaissance man and wrote a number of treatises which have come down to us. He was married to Agnes de Navarre, also a literary type, whose most famous poem has to do with a chastity belt! But I digress ...

Other researchers probably discovered Phoebus' collateral descendant, Gaston de Foix (1489-1512) the French boy general who died heroically at the siege of Ravenna during the Italian Wars.

Over the years >both< of these Gastons became identified with "our" Jean, which is why we have genealogies showing Jean the Huguenot married to a woman who died 200 years before he was born. There may have been a Jean Gaston who married a woman named Agnes in Scotland, but it was most certainly not Agnes of Navarre.

With respect to those genealogies which purport to trace Jean the Huguenot back to Gaston de Foix (usually with a dotted line in place of the missing two or three generations), I have never seen any evidence in support of this link. Indeed, all the royal genealogical sites are in agreement that the Italian Thunderbolt, who died at age 22, had no children.

Then there are those who claim that Jean the Huguenot was, in reality, Gaston d'Orleans, brother and rival of Louis XIII of France. The holes in this theory have been thoroughly examined in the threads mentioned above and I won't repeat those comments except to point out that Gaston d'Orleans died peacefully at his chateau in Blois in 1660, and his children are well-documented. One of his daughters did, indeed, marry into Italian nobility, which may be the source of the "Duke of Tuscany" legends. But this was in the mid-to-late 1600s, when "our" Gastons already were populating County Antrim.

As Mitch Eickmann has pointed out, much of this confusion likely arose from the failure to recognize that "Gaston" can be either a first name or a last name. In the case of Phoebus, de Foix and d'Orleans, it seems to have been a first name. In fact, according to statistics compiled by Gerard Gaston the >>family<< name of Gaston is comparatively rare, even in France. This could be a blessing in disguise, as it helps limit the search.

Russ Perry has asked that we post our theories on the Gaston line of descent from the earliest known Gaston to Jean the Huguenot. I am unable to do so because I have no idea of Jean's ancestry, or whether "Jean" even existed. According to French genealogist Frederic Deleuze, there was a prominent Gaston family in the town of Mauvezin at the turn of the 17th century, and this family had at least one member named Jean, who I believe, was sort of a town councillor. These Gastons probably were Huguenots, as Mauvezin was known as "little Geneva" and the future Henri IV visited there frequently in his Protestant days. So the Mauvezin clan looks

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promising, but there are other French Gaston families as well.

On the Scottish side, we do have a flesh-and-blood George Gawstoun who suddenly appears in the Edinburgh parish registers in 1596 as a grown man. There are no Gastons (or any soundex equivalent) in the Scots records prior to this date. George is identified in the records as a "cordwainer" or leatherworker. He had a number of children, notably William (born 1596) and Johne (born 1599). The mother of William and Johne was Helene Bennet. Evidently Helene died about 1610 and George subsequently married a Jeane Young, with whom he had more children. By 1610 the family name is being spelled Gastoun, and by 1680 it's Gaston. This information comes from the General Register Office of Scotland (www.origins.net)

Now George may well be a red herring, but it's a fact that he and his family are the >only< Gastons/Gawstouns who are on record as being in the right place (Scotland) at the right time (1600). And there are those two sons, William and Johne -- no mention of an Alexander. And Johne was born in 1599, pretty close to "our" Jean/John's traditional birth date of 1600. Intriguing, to say the least, but certainly not definitive.

So, lots of possibilities but no proof. What Mitch Eickmann and I are now trying to do is trace the family ancestry backwards from our >known< relatives -- the Gastons of Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. Hopefully this will turn up the definitive link to Scotland and (dare we hope?) France. I should also mention Tecla Duzed of Switzerland, who has found an 1883 letter indicating that "Jean" may have been ostracized by his Catholic family.

My best guess at present is that Jean the Huguenot came from a French family of the petit noblesse or haute bourgeoisie. If the former, he may have learned a trade (like leather working?) in the course of military service. His Calvinist convictions must have been extremely strong if he chose exile in Scotland over the more prosperous and civilized Low Countries, or Germany. Or Scotland may simply have been more convenient -- just a boat ride away.

I believe that Jean's sons arrived in Northern Ireland as "Undertakers" during the Plantation -- the colonization program sponsored by James I to get rid of those pesky Papists and fill Ireland with loyal subjects of the Crown. In order to get a piece of (formerly Catholic) land you had to "undertake" to improve it somehow, not unlike the American homesteaders. Many of these "Undertakers" came from the ranks of poverty-stricken Scots.

H. Patrick Gaston, August 31, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?a.k.a.:gaston::1461.html>

For more than a year now, Mitch Eickmann, Brett Ankrom and I have been engaged in a cooperative effort to track down the elusive Gaston Patriarch a/k/a/ "Jean the Huguenot." In addition to corresponding with various members of this Forum, we have retained the services of professional genealogists in France and Ireland; pored over as many old documents as we could get our hands on; made contact with several European Gastons who share our interest; and visited hundreds of Web sites dealing with European royal genealogy.

Our quest is motivated by the fact that "Jean" and his immediate descendants left precious little in the way of documentation for future generations to build on. Virtually everything we know about the Patriarch has been handed down through oral tradition, which we call the "Gaston Legend". Over the centuries it appears that this oral tradition was corrupted, to some extent, by the efforts of earlier researchers who attempted to identify the Patriarch

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with various well-known figures in French history. Apparently, the goal of these "folk genealogists" was to prove the Gastons' royal blood, a commodity highly valued in 19th-century America. The situation is further confused by the tendency of the early Gastons to use the same four or five given names (William, John, Samuel, Hugh, Alexander) generation after generation. However, the frequent occurrence of these names could be an important clue in distinguishing "our" Gastons from other lines.

In any event, by comparing the various iterations of the Gaston Legend with known historical data, we believe that we have identified those elements of the Gaston Legend which are **PROBABLY true** (i.e., those traditions which have survived in virtually all branches of the family and are consistent with historical fact); those which are **POSSIBLY true** (i.e., held by some branches of the family and not inconsistent with historical fact) and those which are **PROBABLY FALSE** (i.e., contrary to historical fact and probably representing the invention of earlier researchers.) We submit the following analysis for your review and comment.

ELEMENTS OF THE GASTON LEGEND WHICH ARE PROBABLY TRUE:

1. The Patriarch's name was "Jean Gaston"
2. The Patriarch was born in France about 1600.
3. The Patriarch fled France as a result of religious persecution. (See note below)
4. At the time of his departure from France, the Patriarch was a Huguenot (the name given French Protestants but it is certainly true, that not all Protestants were French).
5. The Patriarch emigrated to Scotland and married a Scottish woman.
6. In Scotland, the Patriarch fathered three sons: John, William and Alexander (although some traditions say there was only one son, John).
7. These sons, or their descendants, emigrated from Scotland to County Antrim, Northern Ireland ca. 1640-1680.
8. The children of John, William and Alexander (i.e., the Patriarch's grandchildren) began emigrating ca. 1715 to British North America.

ELEMENTS OF THE GASTON LEGEND WHICH ARE POSSIBLY TRUE

9. The Patriarch was 40 years old when he left France.
10. The Patriarch's family was Catholic, and supported him financially for a time after he settled in Scotland.
11. The Patriarch was somehow connected to Foix nobility, or was a member of the haute bourgeoisie.
12. The Patriarch's Scottish wife was named Agnes or "Agnes Navarre" (although we believe this is an erroneous and anachronistic reference to Gaston III Phoebus of Foix (1331-1391) and his wife, Agnes of Navarre (b. 1335).)

ELEMENTS OF THE GASTON LEGEND WHICH ARE PROBABLY FALSE

13. The Patriarch's wife, Agnes, was burned as a witch. (We believe this is an erroneous reference to Agnes SAMPSON, a well-known Scottish "witch" who was burned at the stake in 1592 after being implicated in an alleged

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plot to assassinate King James VI)

14. The Patriarch, or his father, was the Duke of Orleans. (We believe this is an erroneous reference to Gaston Jean Baptiste (1608-1660), duc d'Orleans and brother of Louis XIII. This has become a very strong tradition in some branches of the family, arising almost certainly from a desire for the prestige associated with "royal descent". We regard the "Duke of Orleans" tradition as untrue for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that Gaston d'Orleans led the French forces against the Huguenots at La Rochelle).

15. The Patriarch, or his father, was the "Count de Renti." (We believe this is an erroneous reference to Gaston Jean Baptiste (1611-1649), Baron of Renti. Gaston de Renti was a devout Catholic, author of devotional literature, and a member of the Company of the Most Blessed Sacrament -- a secret society dedicated to stamping out Protestantism. De Renti is, therefore, a most unlikely Huguenot.)

16. The Patriarch was, or was a descendant of, Gaston de Foix (1489-1512). (This is another very strong tradition in some branches of the family. Of course, if the Patriarch was born ca. 1600 he could not have been Gaston de Foix. It is possible that the Patriarch was a >descendant< of Gaston de Foix, but all genealogical sources we have consulted are in agreement that de Foix died without children.)

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

17. Some Gaston lines exhibit a hereditary condition known as Dupuyten's Contracture, in which the ring and little fingers of one hand are fixed in a bent position.

18. Some Gaston lines exhibit a hereditary overlap of the upper two front teeth.

Note: The time in which the "Patriarch" left France may give us the best idea of how many generations there are between "Jean" and William of Cloughwater. Starting in 1535, Huguenots were restricted/persecuted due to their faith. There are many dates, in history, that intensified Huguenot migration:

1535 Edict banning all heretics in France

1545 Jean de Maynier, orders massacres at Merindol and Cabrieres

1561 Royal edict authorizes imprisonment and confiscation of property upon all who attend "heretical" public or private worship service

1562 Massacre of Huguenots at Vassy starts First Civil War

Aug 24, 1572 Massacre of St. Bartholomew's---Henri IV's wedding day

1594 Henri IV becomes King of France---converts to Catholicism

May 14, 1610 Henri IV assassinated.

1620 Sieges of Montauban and Montpellier

1626 Siege of La Rochelle begins(lasts 1 year).

1632 Louis XIII bans all Huguenots from Canada.

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These are just a few of the high points that would have influenced Huguenots to leave France. There were numerous battles and smaller massacres that would have impacted people more personally.

Last month (June 25, 2003) Mitch Eickmann and I visited Mauvezin. We also spent a couple of pleasant hours with Olivier Cazaux (the guy who posted the Mavezin Gaston stuff on the Mormon website) at his apartment in Auch.

Mauvezin is a charming community of 1500 people, although as French country towns go it is not as historically interesting as the nearby towns of Lectoure, Larressingle and (my favorite) Condom. To give you some idea of the place, the city clerk of Mauvezin was pleased to hand us the key to the municipal archives -- contained in a single glass-fronted bookcase -- after which he went to lunch, leaving his office wide open.

In the archives we discovered two prominent Jean Gastons of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. First was Jehan Gaston (note the old spelling), Sieur de Gerbaut. We were unable to determine immediately if "Gerbaut" was a village or an estate. Jehan was a city councilor of Mauvezin from 1594 to 1597, when the town essentially seceded from France because the locals were upset that King Henri IV had embraced Catholicism. The dispute was patched up in 1597 and the independent city-state of Mauvezin passed into history. (This information comes from our "research assistants," the Little Old Ladies of Mauvezin, who were a font of local lore)

According to the cadastre (land register) of 1612, the Sieur de Gerbaut owned 11 properties in and about the town, including a chateau and a vineyard. We offered to abandon our hereditary claim to the chateau if they would give back the vineyard. Didn't work.

The 1612 cadastre also lists the holdings of Jean Gaston, who may have been a nephew of Jehan. He also owned several properties.

There is a 1603 baptismal record somehow involving Jehan (Sieur de Gerbaut) but even the LOL's couldn't decipher all of that ancient handwriting.

No "smoking gun" yet regarding a Gaston who emigrated to Scotland, but we made a lot of friends and obtained many promises of help. One of those promises already has come to fruition in the form of an article on Les Gaston de Mauvezin, written by genealogist Chistian Susmilch and due to be published in the newsletter of the Gers Genealogical Society. Happy to send you a copy if you wish (warning: it's in French). Christian, with whom we spent an afternoon, has put out an appeal for any and all info on the ancienne Gastons.

At the provincial archives in Auch, we came across more information including a Gaston coat-of-arms predating 1850. Because these are Gersoise arms and Mauvezin is in the province of Gers, we believe them to be authentic. They're also quite strange: A black birdcage on a white background with a solid black "chief". That's it. The birdcage is an extremely rare device in heraldry, and the simplicity of the arms indicates they are quite old.

The Huguenot church of Mauvezin still stands, three blocks away from the Catholic Church. The Chemin de Gaston ("Gaston Road") still crosses main street in the north part of town. The 18th-century Gaston Chateau is still

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there, and according to the LOL's the current owners are "very nice, even though they're English."

The castle was pulled down in 1621 by Louis XII, who feared it would become a Huguenot stronghold. The site has been converted into a "promenade" and park, although the lower walls remain.

Gers is primarily an agricultural province -- reminds me of Iowa, except Iowa doesn't have a 16th-century church steeple on every hilltop. Mauvezin is in the heart of foie gras country, and a local shop carried not only the traditional foie gras d'oie (goose), but also foie gras made from duck (local specialty), pig, rabbit, turkey and wild boar. For those who love good food and plenty of it, the whole region is a paradise.

The town's principal claims to fame are its covered marketplace dating from the 14th century, and the 13th-century belltower on the Catholic Church. Still, Mauvezin is not exactly a tourist haven. The local tourist office is a one-woman operation (posters: 10 Euros). When we came back the next day to buy more posters, the office was closed because she called in sick!

All in all it was a delightful time. The locals were warm, eager to help, and somewhat amazed that we would travel all the way to Mauvezin in search of Les Gaston. We plan to return as soon as we are able.

We did not actually meet any Gastons on our expedition, as we were told that none remained in Mauvezin. However, when I jokingly asked Mme. Junyer (the local genealogical authority) whether it was true that all the Gastons were incredibly good-looking, she replied: "Oh, yes, anyone will tell you that the Gastons were the handsomest family in Mauvezin. I knew the last of the line, and he carried himself like a king!" She was dead serious.

Following are the results of some 10 hours of research. The original "Hugh Gaston Family History" is set off in quotation marks, with my comments following each paragraph. I submit it for what it's worth.

"In 1767 Rev. Hugh Gaston came to this country, and brought to each of his sisters the following Concordance and Collection of the Gaston family: Duke of Navarre or Count de Renti, with his son Duke of Orleans, emigrated from France to Scotland on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in the reign of Louis XIV on account of their religion."

The edict of Nantes was revoked 10/22/1685. At this time (1685) the Duke of Orleans was Philippe (1640-1701), younger brother of Louis XIV (1639-1715). Philippe's father was Louis XIII, not the "Duke of Navarre" or "Count de Renti." His mother was Anne of Austria. In 1661 he married Princess Henrietta of England (1644-1670) followed in 1671 by Princess Charlotte Elizabeth of Bavaria (1652-1722). Seven children, all born in France, including the future queens of Spain and Sardinia. Further, Rev. Hugh's "Concordance" is not the same thing as his Gaston family history -- the first indication that this story was cobbled together long after Rev. Hugh's time.

"They belonged to the Bourbon family. Soon after their arrival in Scotland, Count de Renti or Duke of Navarre died. His son, Duke of Orleans, remained in Scotland, and, when about forty years old, married a Miss Olive of Scotland, a lady of renowned ability and beauty."

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Okay, so let's be conservative and assume this "Duke of Orleans" was 37 in 1685. He turned 40 in 1688 and married Miss Olive.

"When only twenty-four years old, she died, leaving two sons, John and William."

Again let's be conservative and say that Olive was 21 when she married the "Duke of Orleans". She dies three years later (let's say 1691), after bearing him two sons (let's say born in 1690 and 1691). But how to explain the fact that the Gastons already have been in Northern Ireland since at least 1669?

"After her death, which he deeply deplored and mourned, always speaking of her with a great deal of pride, he became concerned in all State Civils(?) - finally in 1652 he was banished and his property confiscated."

FINALLY in 1652? What happened to 1685? How could the Duke of Orleans, prior to 1652, be mourning the death of a woman he married sometime after 1685? In fact this paragraph is a clear reference to Gaston d'Orleans, who was banished for the last time in 1652. The Amzi Williford Gaston pamphlet contains virtually the same language, which refers to Gaston d'Orleans as being "incessantly concerned in all state cabals."

"When a perfect calm succeeded the tumults of the Fronde, his son, William, received in 1670 the title of Grand Duke of Tuscany, which continued in his family until the death of his nephew, Gion Gaston de Medici, who died July 9th, 1737, and the dynasty of that family became extinct."

Most of this paragraph relates to the family of Gaston d'Orleans, who >was< a supporter of the Second Fronde. However, it was not "William Gaston" but Cosimo III, son of Ferdinand II de Medici, who became Grand Duke of Tuscany in 1670. Cosimo >did< marry Gaston d'Orleans' daughter, Marguerite Louise de Orleans (1645-1721) in 1661. They had three children: Fernandino (1663-1713); Anna Maria Ludovica (1667-1743) and Gian (Gion/Giovanni) Gaston (1671-1737).

Cosimo III died in 1723, whereupon his son, Giovanni Gaston de Tuscany, acceded to the title. Giovanni >did< die in 1737 and apparently left no heirs, so that much of the story is true. See <http://www.dcs.hull.ac.uk/cgi-bin/gedlkup/n=royal?royal10201>. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Giovanni "permitted the country to be governed by his unscrupulous chamberlain, Giuliano Dami. When he died the Medici dynasty ended." In addition, the Tuscan nobility were nothing if not Catholic. In fact the Catholic Ency takes Cosimo III (son-in-law of Gaston d'Orleans, and Giovanni Gaston's father) to task for "proceeding against heretics with undue severity."

"His second son, John, or Gaston de Foix, Duke of Newcons, married when only 18, Agnes, daughter of Phillippe III, King of Navarre. He was the heroic member of the family."

"Duke of Newcons". No such title. Probably a reference to Gaston de Foix, duke of NEMOURS, (1489-1512), the Boy General. Interestingly, de Foix apparently >was< King of Navarre for a brief time (1504-12). See <http://www.quid.fr/WEB/REGIONS/FR/Q023190.HTM>. No known wife, mistress or children. Also remember that the first word of this paragraph, "His," supposedly refers to a Duke of Orleans who supposedly married a woman named Olive around 1688. That was 176 years after the death of Gaston de Foix.

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With the reference to "Agnes" we are back even farther to Gaston III Phoebus, Count of Foix and Prince of Bearn (1331-1391). Phoebus was, indeed, married at age 18 (1349) to Agnes of Navarre (b. 1335), who was, indeed, the daughter of Philip III, Count d' Evreux and King of Navarre through his wife, Juana (Jeanne) of France. See <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1150/ajp.html>. Phoebus had three children: Gratien and Yvain (illegitimate), and Gaston, who was KILLED BY HIS FATHER after being suspected of plotting against him.

"Owing to the great beauty of his person, he was called Phoebus, and was noted for his knightly love of liberty and military splendor."

Another reference to Gaston III Phoebus (1331-1391). Remember that the "John Gaston de Foix" we are talking about is supposedly the son of the "Duke of Orleans" and was born in 1690 or 1691, more than 300 years after Phoebus lived.

"Gaston de Foix ran a militant career in arms, and fell at the Battle of Ruvenna, full of honors. On his tombstone was engraved: 'The farther of his people and the deliverer of his country'."

Don't know about the inscription, but now we have gone from G. Phoebus back to G. de Foix, who lived 100 years after Phoebus.

"To Gion de Medici, (Gaston de Foix)-1429-1512- and Agnes, were born three sons, Gion de Medici, Medici Comeo, and William. Medici Comeo and Gion de Medici died in Scotland. William married Miss Olivet Lemon, of Scotland, and, in after years, migrated to the North of Ireland and settled in Cambeigh, Cloughwater."

Whew. Now wait a second. Is this the "Gion Gaston de Medici who died 7/9/1737," alleged son of William, Grand Duke of Tuscany? It sounds like the author is now equating this Gion with Jean Gaston de Foix, son of the "Duke of Orleans" and BROTHER of William who became Grand Duke of Tuscany. Of course as we have previously determined, Jean and William "Duke of Tuscany" were born around 1690. However, now we learn that Gion/Jean was ACTUALLY born in 1429. He and Agnes, who was born in 1335, have these three sons: William plus two brothers with ITALIAN MEDICI names. I can find no reference anywhere to brothers named Gion de Medici and Medici Comeo, and I'm giving up.

However, William "son of Gion" is clearly William Gaston of Antrim, who married Olivet Lemon (not to be confused with the Miss Olive who married the "Duke of Orleans," his grandpappy). William of Antrim is generally regarded as having been born about 1680 -- darned interesting since his dad and mom were born in 1429 and 1335, respectively. From here on things get relatively factual: "He had five sons and four daughters: John, the King's Justice, Rev. Hugh, (author of Concordance and Collections of the Gaston family), Dr. Alexander, Robert, and William. His daughters were: Elizabeth, Martha, Jane, and Mary. Elizabeth married Knox; Jane married Strong; Martha married Alexander Rosborough, and Mary married James McClure, grandson of old King David, commonly called good King David, of Scotland."

I am not even going to get into Good King David. But aside from this, the foregoing paragraph seems pretty consonant with what we know of William of Antrim's descendants. Query: if this info REALLY came from Rev. Hugh, would he list himself as the grandson of a guy born in 1429?

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"William Gaston and his entire family, including sons and daughters, all lived in Cloughwater until his and his wife's deaths, when in 1749, they all went to Pennsylvania and lived there till 1752, when they all came to South Carolina and settled in Chester County"

I think 1749 is a bit late for the migration of William's family. John, his son, was a King's Justice in the 1750s and I doubt this office would have been conferred upon somebody who just got off the boat.

Caveat by Bill Gaston: I also find the year 1749 to be fished from a hat since records show that William died, c. 1770, and Mary, 1752. Therefore, I don't think it was after their death. In addition, in the same breath, "From Cloughwater, County Antrim, Ireland, to Pennsylvania (about 1740/1) and thence removed about 1751 - 1752, to Chester District, South Carolina settling on Fishing Creek." [The Historical Collections Of Harrison County, Ohio; Author - Charles A. Hanna, Pub in 1900, page - 496] The first land grant to John Gaston is dated 1760; the plantation having been known as Cedar Shoals, a holding of around 1,000 acres.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Most of this account is based upon the life and family of Gaston d'Orleans (1608-1660), brother of Louis XIII of France.

2. Most of this account was not written by Rev. Hugh, who was close in time to the Gaston d'Orleans clan and would have gotten the relationships straight if d'Orleans was, indeed, his grandfather.

I. Robert B. Gaston, September 27, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Shenandoah::gaston::1508.html>

Thank you so much for the synopsis of Jean Gaston and the legends surrounding him. I've spent time at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, where I read several genealogical reports on the Gastons. Each one I read traced the family back to Jean. I find it fascinating that the stories about Jean Gaston are etched on almost all branches of the family tree. Yet there's no documentation.

The last four generations of my branch of the family cared about family history, so I've inherited a couple of hundred documents. Among them is a letter written in 1925 by William Alexander Gaston, a Boston lawyer. He responded to an inquiry from the wife of Willard Edgar Gaston of Shenandoah, Iowa. William wrote this:

"The first Jean Gaston probably had a family name that he dropped and thereafter used his middle name as a surname. What the original family name was is now wholly conjecture. Jannet Thompson, who married my first ancestor in this country, John Gaston, born 1703, used to talk of it. But the name, then unused for several generations, was considered unimportant and was forgotten."

This fact was stated by my grandfather, Alexander Gaston. He used to hear her mention the name.

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J. Patrick Gaston, September 28, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/1510.html>

Bob! Guess we'll have to move Item No. 1 of the Synopsis (name of "Jean Gaston") into the "possible" category!

Seriously, as I mentioned in my private email, this really throws our research for a loop and bears much further investigation (if that's possible). Certainly the name "Gaston" was much more common as a given name than a patronymic, but we always had considered that an >advantage< as it narrowed the field of possible ancestral families. However, if the original surname was NOT Gaston, then our efforts to trace "real" Patriarch may have hit a brick wall.

Gastons came from France. Descended from GASTON JEAN BAPTISTE, christened Duc de Anjou, later given the title Duc du Orleans by his brother, Louis XIII. Gaston was born in Fontainebleau 1607 to Henry IV and Maria de Medici. His first wife was Margaret Bourbon-Pointissier(?) and they had one daughter. Margaret died in childbirth. Gaston did not marry again for about 18 years and then married the Duchess of Lorraine whose brother the Duc of Lorraine was enemy #1 to Louis XIII. He was exiled to the Spanish Netherlands about 4 times for plotting the overthrow of his brother and that assignation of the Cardinal Richeleau. His final exile was to Scotland after he married the Duchess of Lorraine. Their children were born in Scotland (William, John (Jean), Hugh & Alexander). I think Jean (John) might have been born in France but I know the others were born in Scotland. The children later went to Ireland and then to America. They were bonded because there is a record of John (Jean) receiving his Freeman Papers in 1736 (I think. Will have to look it up) Gaston Jean Baptiste was allowed to return to France to die by his nephew Louis XIV.

K. Mitchell Eickmann, February 13, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/1098.html>

While it remains to be seen if indeed Jean Gaston is the "patriarch", research in which a number of us have participated does at least tell us something about "royal" connections Gaston families in France had-or didn't have.

In the first place, there are a variety of Gaston branches mostly centered around the south and southwest of France, there are a couple of branches further north, including one in Normandy. It has yet to be determined which of these branches might have been the immediate family of Jean Gaston or perhaps his father. There is also some reason to believe he may not have been the only Gaston to have left France at that time, or maybe not even the first this also is yet to be definitely proved or disproved.

What is clear is that in NONE of the Gaston branches is there any connection to the Kings of France, as in families like Bourbon, Valois, etc. The "noble" Gaston branches are not that many and referred to as the "petite noblesse" which means they owned some land and someone gave them a title. During the 1500s and 1600s, the "haute-bourgeoise" (well-to-do merchants, etc.) sometimes bought lands and thereby "titles" and there is, apparently, little difference in some of the petite noblesse and the haute-bourgeoise. A characteristic of the small nobles is that they are often soldiers. Gastons were apparently most often farmers or trades people although at least one branch also claims some sailors.

The bottom line is that people hoping to find blood links to Henri IV, etc., will not find them. In any case, the history of Gaston families in France is still quite interesting and worth one's attention. There should be more to

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learn in the future as well.

Mitchell Eickmann - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/1232.html>: The legend of Jean Gaston being a descendant of Gaston de Foix is an old and persistent one among Gaston descendants in the U.S. It is wholly probable that almost anyone who has tried to search available sources in the U.S. will find that information and come to the same conclusion. I was curious about this and as there were some rather large time gaps in the "Gaston de Foix to Jean Gaston to John Gaston to Hugh, William and Alexander Gaston", I decided to check some of this out myself.

In the first place, there is absolutely no place in French or other Royal genealogical sources that mention the Gaston surname at all. Royal families, including their known illegitimate children, are given for Bourbons, Valois, etc., etc. There were kings and princes of smaller principalities, such as Navarre (Boubon Kings), Burgundy, etc., but there again-no Gaston surnames. One does, however, find the first name Gaston is not at all uncommon throughout the ages. Gaston de Foix is one example. He is said to be the same as Gaston Phoebus. Again, there are no resources in France or Europe that have any descendants in the time frame we're interested in named "Jean Gaston". At the same time, apparently many people miss the important difference between Gaston the "first name" and the "family name" Gaston that is shared in France, Spain (because of the old kingdom of Navarre), England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and the U.S. there are also some Gastons (from the Spanish branch) who've gone to Argentina, Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti and Puerto Rico as well, apparently.

Interestingly enough, some of the Spanish descended Gastons also have a "royal" legend as well. There may even be something to that inasmuch as a few of the oldest Gastons in Spain did seem to have some pretty recognized social blood, cf., the Gaston de Iriarte family. However, in France we don't find that same level of "palanca".

In France, I've discovered that there were some "noble", not "royal" Gaston branches who had lands and titles mostly in the south of France. these families were Catholics. The legend of Jean Gaston being a Huguenot presents a problem with his being a part of one of those branches.

There are Protestant Gaston branches in France as well. In fact, in some cases, they were apparently successful craftsmen/ trades people who ultimately bought their way into the petite noblesse in acquiring the lands (and titles) of other landed gentry who'd fallen on hard economic times.

In any case, after several months of serious searching, we still haven't found a Jean Gaston (but there certainly are a lot of them) who was born between 1575 to 1620 who leaves for Scotland either as a single or married man.

In order to confirm exactly Jean Gaston came from, we've run into somewhat of an impasse as there are a number of directions we might pursue but in any case, records that ancient seem unlikely to render the information we're looking for. Most of our information on ol' Jean is a guess, a legend or a theory. the only way to be sure of who he was and where he came from at this point is to work backwards through indisputable, verifiable sources.

Some of us have chosen to begin with Hugh Gaston, b. 1687 in Co. Antrim. One might as well choose William of Antrim, who didn't immigrate himself but whose offspring became the "southern" migration. The legend

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that Jean was a royal seems to have its roots in a now non-existent family bible from that branch. Too bad-I'd have loved to see it. (By the way, if it still somehow out there, I'd be glad to know!!!) Anyhow, if we can positively confirm the parents of Hugh, we may likely connect him to John Gaston, who appears in a Tax record, supposedly, in Magheragall, Co. Antrim in 1669. (Magheragall is also reputed to have registered "Huguenot" births in the local parish since 1637). It would be wonderful to connect this John Gaston to one John Gaston who appears in a marriage in the mid 1600s in Scotland, according to the GROS. Should this connection be possible to make, more close study will have to take place in Scotland because John Gaston (spelled Gastoun) may be the one listed as born in 1599 in an earlier record, who also had a brother named William born 1596. More study is likely needed, however, because their father is listed as George "Gawstoune", not as Jean Gaston. It is difficult to know what to make of all this at this point, hence the further research BASED ON WHAT IS VERIFIABLE.

A very well informed Gaston from France has also been involved in some of this information gathering. He tends to discount the "royal" connection as well. There are many Gastons in France who were simply farmers and not all were Protestants.

While the story that Jean Gaston was a royal Frenchman who had to flee France must likely have some seed of reality in it, it is unlikely that the legend will survive intact in a serious historical/genealogical research. While the story is sure romantic, reality doesn't apparently fit with the legendary "facts" that have persisted over the years. That doesn't mean there is nothing to them at all, however. Gastons do have some interesting history in France and elsewhere but nothing to date allows us to positively identify our original ancestor with any kings. A more likely scenario to date is that he may have come from a family either of the petite noblesse in southern France or came from a burgeoise family who had a few sous. He may have just been a peasant in search of adventure or love according to our Gaelic cousin. We don't know-yet.

In the mean time, researching the Gastons here in the U.S. is a fascinating task and there certainly appear to be lots of characters among them as well. And if people think its hard finding stuff from Gastons in the U.S. back to the early 1700s, try going back to Europe 100-150 years earlier!

L. Mark King, April 13, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?nassertion::gaston::1235.html>

Your nassertion that none of the Gaston branches had anything to do with Royalty is wrong. Gaston IV, count of Foix and viscount of Bearn married Eleanor princess of Navarre. he talked her father into disinheriting her brother Charles. She became Queen of Navarre. Their son Gaston prince of Viana married Louis XI' sister, Eleanor. Their daughter Catherine de Foix became Queen of Navarre, countess of Foix. Her granddaughter, Jean D'albret married a Bourbon, Their son Henri IV became the first Bourbon king of France in 1589.

M. Mitchell Eickmann, April 13, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?yet.plenty::gaston::1238.html>

I would be thrilled to see your documentation connecting any of the folks you've mentioned with a Jean Gaston born anywhere between 1575 and 1620 who emigrates to Scotland and ultimately begets the Gastons who come to the U.S. via Ireland. I don't see that in anything presented on this forum yet-plenty of assumptions and speculation, but no documentation. That is all I'm looking for.

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I don't want to be a wet blanket but as for the Gaston IV and Gaston II in your previous postings, I believe "Gaston" is a first name in both cases, as it is in the case of Henry IV, Louis XIV, etc. Additionally, I've never discounted the possibility there may have been "nobles" among Jean Gaston's ancestors but I don't believe I've seen any reference of any sort that ties any of these people to the royal houses of France, Navarre or any of the other regional kingdoms. There is a difference between "royalty" and "la petite noblesse".

"Nobles" with the SURNAME Gaston do appear in several texts in France but none of them have any Protestant Jean Gaston listed in the time frame we've looked for. For example, "Dictionnaire de biographie française" by Roman D'Amat, 1982 lists 3 comtés de Foix, one named Jean Gaston who died in 1941 and the most remote a Raymond Gaston born in 1757. de Barrau's "Documents historiques et générales sur les familles du Rouergue" also shows a noble Jean Gaston born in the mid 1600s. He doesn't emigrate. Two references on French nobility "Dictionnaire des familles françaises anciennes de notables à la fin du XIX siècle" and "Dictionnaire de la noblesse" for nobles as of the end of the XVIII century show no Gastons at all.

Protestant sources such as "L'index des Cahiers du Centre de Généalogie Protestante de 1977 à 1992" and "La table du bulletin historique et littéraire de la société de l'histoire du Protestantisme française de 1852 à 1965" do provide us Gastons (some named Jean) but, again, we find no "Jean" emigrating in the time period desired. Some of these are "acquired" nobles.

La Bibliothèque Nationale and les sources des archives nationales provide us with both noble and commoner Gastons, again with no "smoking gun" linking us to the "patriarch" Jean Gaston who goes to Scotland. Gérard Gaston of S.W. France has Jean Gastons traced back into the mid 1600s but they are all farmers and Catholics. Interesting info-his family has a "legend" too about a Gaston who went to Scotland to marry but, once again, no "smoking gun". Doesn't "fit" with the legend completely but is intriguing nonetheless.

I got some information on the SURNAME Gaston from a Mr. F. Deleuze who explains that Gaston is indeed a Languedocian name that predominates in the south of France. The name is also said to be a "place" name -- a person from/of Gascony. Many people could be named "Gaston" but not all are necessarily related -- at least not directly. Just like there were a lot of Smythes in old days but not all "Smith"s are related. Foix, Gascony and Navarre are places where boundaries and histories overlap. Which branch with LAST NAME do we descend from? That is, in my opinion, still to be determined.

Note: Ville Gastonie (Gastony) (Gascone), France, is believed to lay somewhere between Normandy and Brittany as a frontier if listed on a map and would be a port city near Lorient and Auray. Found also in Gaston County, North Carolina named after William Gaston is a town names "Gastonia".

heraldica.org/topics/france/roygenea.htm is a place you can find a lot of the royal/noble names you mention but I think you will find the names of spouses/children don't match your theory in some cases. Even if all of your names and connections were correct, we still don't have "the smoking gun" linking these people to a Jean Gaston that fits with the Scottish/Irish/American migrations "we" descend from -- AT LEAST FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN. I will most gladly accept any proof you can offer as I am more than willing to be proven wrong.

Let me be clear on this, I'm not trying to put down any of your assumptions -- indeed they were the basis from which I started doing my own search along with Patrick Gaston, Gérard Gaston and others. All "American" sources tend to support the things you've written about the connections between these folks and Jean Gaston "the

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patriarch". Unfortunately, on the European side, there is nothing, nada, rien, nichts to support the "legend" of Jean Gaston as we know it.

The research starting from verifiable ancestors in N. Ireland will hopefully lead us back in a DOCUMENTED way to confirm whatever "truth" actually turns up. It would be nice to confirm the "legends" but I'm open to see what verifiable history has to offer as well.

N. Mark King, April 13, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/1241.html>

I just checked out familysearch.com. Jean Gaston de Foix was born abt. 1600, His wife Agnes Navaree died in 1650 in Melrose, Roxburghshire, Scotland. Her father was a Phillip Navarre. Earlier someone from Irmo SC had him as being the son of Gaston II, the count of Narbonne, in Languedoc. Some researchers have his mother as being an Anna of Navarre, others an Olive with no last name.

To come to where I am in my search for the roots of Jean Gaston and his wife Agnes Navarre I have made several assumptions. An article written by Mrs. Goldwire where she traces William and Mary Oliver Lemon Gaston of Antrim, Ulster to the Gastons of S.C., N.C. and N.J. I think. William was known as the 'first Irish William'. She states that he came from one of three sons of the Huguenot Jean. Then she claims Jean is of descent of Jean de Foix, who came from Duke of Nemours d. 1512. But mostly she is interested in Gaston de Foix's mother's Valois pedigree that can be traced back to Otto of Saxony in the 800s. If she would go on familysearch to Louis XIV's tree she would have found a longer pedigree for Gaston de Foix's grandmother Eleanor of Navarre that goes back to the 500s. I assumed that Gaston de Foix had children, someone on GenForum said he did not. But the count of Narbonne Gaston II did have a son Jean in 1600. I have 1915 newspaper clipping from Oklahoma where my great great grandmother's daughter claims the Gaston's where from the Duke of Tuscany, a cousin to a great bourbon King St. Louis[sic]. I am trying to piece this together now using mostly familysearch.com. From reading the Huguenot Wars I think the Protestants were mostly in Narbonne, Foix, Gex, Rochelle. A Gaston provided the guard for John Calvin and the church in Geneva. There they probably met the Scots. One of Jean Gaston's sons, John, married a Knox in Glasgow in 1678. It is on familysearch.com. I also remember that Henri IV forced his Protestant sister to marry the Duke of Lorraine. Later one of her children married into the Medici.

O. Patrick Gaston, February 08, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?GROS::gaston::1092.html>

The General Record Office of Scotland [GROS] has no documentation of a 17th-century Jean or John Gaston with three sons named John, William and Alexander. There is a Johne Gaustoune who married Jeane Wackinshaw in 1655, but this seems a bit late for "our" Jean. Additionally, no children of the marriage are listed through 1700.

However, a "George Gawstoun" does appear in the Scottish records, when he pops up as the father of William Gawstoun, born 1596. George also had a son Johne, born 1599. The mother of William and Johne apparently was Helene Bennet. It further appears Helene died in 1610, whereupon grieving widower George married Jeane Young >>two weeks later<< and sired another passel of kids with Jeane. By 1610 George was spelling his last name as "Gastoun", which seems to have been the preferred spelling throughout the remainder of the 17th century.

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It is important to note that no Gastons, or any Soundex equivalents, appear in the Scots records prior to 1596. George simply appears out of thin air as a grown man, father of wee Willie. Moreover, George's clan are the >>only<< Gastons/Gastounes in the Scottish records until 1626, when a Geils Gastoun marries a Johnne Wat.

Of course Georges is a fairly common French name, and "Gawstoun" could easily be a phonetic spelling of the French pronunciation of "Gaston" -- gah-STONE. Say "Gawstoun" out loud a couple times and you'll see what I mean. Is it possible that the legendary Jean Gaston, born ca. 1600 in France, was actually Johnne Gaston, born 1599 in Scotland of French parents? (If the family came from France, Johnne's real name may well have been Jean but it was anglicized for the baptismal records.)

Is Georges Gastoun the "true" patriarch of the Gaston clan? Why would a Huguenot move to Scotland in the 1590s, when the Edict of Nantes was still in force? Anybody else have a George(s) in their family legends? Am I going completely nuts?

P. Kay A. Burnside, February 27, 2001- <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Richaleau::gaston::1138.html>

But Louis XIII converted to Catholicism when he married Anne. The control of the Cardinal Richaleau was the main cause of the trouble with Gaston and his brother. Gaston's grandmother financed his attempts to overthrow Louis XIII and plots to assassinate the Cardinal. She was a strong Protestant and her children were raised in that faith. That is why they are listed as Huguenots.

Q. Patrick Gaston, February 28, 2001 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/1140.html>

Kay, I don't know where you are getting your information. The paternal grandmother of Louis XIII and Gaston d'Orleans' was Jeanne d'Albret, Queen of Navarre. Their maternal grandmother was Johanna of Austria. Although Jeanne was Protestant and Johanna was Catholic, neither of these ladies was in a position to influence the grandkids because they both died in the 1570s. Louis was born in 1601 and Gaston in 1608.

Perhaps you are thinking of Marie de Medicis (1573-1642), wife of Henri IV and mother of both Louis XIII and Gaston d'Orleans. She was indeed a schemer and managed to stay in power until 1617, when Louis XIII forcibly removed her as regent. But she was also a staunch Catholic.

One of Marie's first goals upon becoming regent following Henri IV's assassination in 1610 was to reverse his anti-Habsburg foreign policy and forge an alliance with Catholic Spain. She did this by betrothing her son Louis XIII to the Infanta Anna, daughter of King Philip III of Spain, and her daughter, Princess Elizabeth of France, to the future King Philip IV of Spain. As you noted, Marie also was the patron of Richelieu, the Catholic cardinal whose campaign to destroy the political power of the Huguenots culminated in the siege of La Rochelle (1628).

She later fell out with Richelieu and Louis over their policy of toleration for the (now subjugated) Huguenots. She spent part of her exile in England, where "she was, as a Catholic, an object of suspicion to the Protestants of that country."

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In a nutshell, if Marie was a friend of the French Protestants, they sure didn't need any enemies. She was, if anything, an ultra-Catholic determined to align France with Spain and to cut the Huguenots no slack whatsoever.

Sources:

The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th Edn. (2001)

The Catholic Encyclopedia (1911)

Various websites on French history

R. Mark King, April 13, 2001- <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Ravenna::gaston::1233.html>

Gaston de foix d.1512 in Ravenna, Italy can not be confused with Gaston Phoebus who died in the 1390s. Our family claims the Gastons of Antrim descended from the Duke of Tuscany, a cousin to a great Bourbon King, Louis XIII or XIV. Using familysearch.com I entered the last name of Navarre, country France, and at file #65 found Louis XIV's tree. I think Jean Gaston's wife Agnes Navarre may have been the granddaughter of Francesco, Marie de medici's father. These tales get mangled in the retelling over time. I assumed that Jean Gaston was the son of Gaston II count of Narbonne. This would have put Jean and Agnes in the same social circle. I would like to find an on-line source for Royal genealogy where I could check out the Medici family.

S. A family chart, with picture: "Henri IV, King of France 1589-1610" - <http://www.genealogics.org/getperson.php?personID=I00000065&tree=LEO>

Note: Keep in mind however, the title "Duc d'Orleans" was not really hereditary -- in that era it simply designated the next-in-line for the French throne. As the younger brother of Louis XIII, Gaston was next-in-line and was STILL technically next-in-line following XIII's death until XIII's son, Louis XIV, ascended the throne. At that point Philippe, younger brother of Louis XIV, became the Duc d'Orleans.

T. Patrick Gaston, March 19, 2007 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/2435.html>

In reviewing the pioneering work of Dr. Patrick Smyth-Wood, who attempted to trace the origins of the Northern Irish Gastons back in the 1960s, I came across something I had not noticed before, and it hit me like a shillelagh upside the head.

Dr. Smyth-Wood was a retired physician and amateur genealogist who undertook his investigation at the behest of some Irish Gastons. His letters were kindly made available to me by Gaston descendant Dorothy Stout. The good doctor eventually gave up the search after hitting a brick wall, but along the way it appears he made an astounding discovery: In fact, there were >three< adult Gaston males living in County Antrim in 1669, not just one.

As many readers of this Forum are aware, it has long been known that a "John Gaston of Magheragall" is listed on the 1669 Antrim hearthmoney rolls. This was a tax imposed upon heads-of-households based upon how many fireplaces they had. Magheragall Parish, where John Gaston lived, is in the extreme south of County Antrim --

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about two miles from Lisburn, which was a noted Huguenot refugee colony. (Another Gaston, Louis, is recorded in Lisburn as early as 1658, but he does not appear on the hearth rolls -- suggesting that he died before 1669.)

But on the same hearthmoney rolls, Smyth-Wood also found a Thomas Gaston, living in the Barony of Cary, Ramoan Parish, Nobilly. All of these political subdivisions -- barony, parish and town -- check out as being in the extreme north of County Antrim near present-day Ballycastle. As a matter of fact you can find 1669 Thomas on this site: <http://www.antrimhistory.net/content.php?cid=132> , which also contains a good explanation of the Hearthmoney Tax. Ramoan parish is the first one listed; scroll down to Nobilly.

Finally there is Robert Gaston, listed on the rolls as a resident of Tuam (Toome) barony, Ahogill Parish, Galgorm Parks. I located this area just west of present-day Ballymena, roughly in the middle of County Antrim.

So in 1669 we have three documented Gaston males living in County Antrim: John way down south near Lisburn; Robert about 20 miles to the north, near Ballymena; and Thomas another 20 miles north, near Ballycastle on the coast.

Why am I excited by all this? Well, remember the legends say that Jean Gaston the Huguenot had three sons, all of whom left Scotland and settled in Northern Ireland in the early 1660s. The names of these sons are traditionally given as John, William and Alexander.

But what are the chances that the names of two of these sons (the ones whose descendants stayed in Ulster) became confused over the centuries? What are the chances that 1669 John of Magheragall, Thomas of Ramoan and Robert of Ahogill, WERE, INDEED, THE LONG-SOUGHT SONS OF JEAN THE HUGUENOT? And if not, where else could they have come from -- "Gaston" clearly being a French name?

So here's a working hypothesis: (a) Huguenot has three sons who move to Ulster. They are named John, Robert and Thomas. (b) Most if not all American Gastons descend from John of Magheragall. (c) Since these brothers were widely scattered by 17th-cent standards, John's descendants eventually forgot the names of Uncles Robert and Thomas. Decades passed and, due to all the confusion, in John's line the names of his sons were applied to his brothers as well.

This would further suggest that: (d) The 37 present Gaston households in Ballymena descend mostly from Robert of Ahogill. (e) The 5 Gaston households in Ballycastle no doubt descend from Thomas of Ramoan. (f) The 6 Gaston households in Lisburn descend from John of Magheragall, and (g) The 17 Gaston households in Belfast are probably a combination. [Source: <http://www.thephonebook.bt.com/>]

While we're on the subject, let's go waaaay out on a limb and speculate that 1658 (Jean-)Louis of Lisburn was The Huguenot himself. By the time he dies around 1668, his sons are grown and have established themselves.

Finally, Dr. Smyth-Wood's research suggests to me that, contrary to some legends in the New England Branch, "Gaston" was indeed the original family name and not a pseudonym. Reason: If John, Thomas and Robert were only one generation removed from The Huguenot himself, it stands to reason they would revert to the "original" family name once the reason for the pseudonym (e.g., fear of discovery) had disappeared. By 1669 the Antrim

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protestants had nothing to fear from the French Catholics. Actually, England would end up treating them worse than the French ever did.

T. Patrick Gaston, September 29, 2011 - <http://genforum.genealogy.com/gaston/messages/2828.html>

THE DESCENT FROM ROYALTY: CASE CLOSED?

Over the years, there has been much discussion on this Forum regarding the Gastons' supposed "descent from royalty." The notion that we Gastons are intimately linked to the 17th century Bourbons -- the French royal family -- apparently was spawned by the spurious "Rev. Hugh Genealogy" which started making the rounds in the early 1900s. While the genealogy is a mishmash of different eras and historical figures -- including a marriage between people who lived 300 years apart -- the central figure appears to be Jean Baptiste Gaston (1608-1660), duke of Orleans and brother of King Louis XIII of France.

In a nutshell, the story goes that a "Duke of Orleans" fled to Scotland with his father, the "Duke of Navarre," after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685). Orleans married a Miss Olive, and they had two sons: John and William. John then travels back in time and marries Agnes of Navarre, who lived in the 1300s. At some point he becomes Gion Gaston de Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany (!) after which things get >really< strange. John/Gion and Agnes of Navarre have three Italian Medici sons: Gion Jr., Comeo and William. The first two die in Scotland. William, who is either John/Gion's son or his brother, moves to Northern Ireland, marries (another) Miss Olive and settles in Caranleigh, Cloughwater. Along the way, the story is interspersed with real events from the life of Gaston d'Orleans.

Of course that's just a sketch; to see my take on the tale in all its tangled grandeur, check out Post #1378. However, two things stand out: First, from a historical standpoint the story cannot possibly be true; second, it cannot have been written by Rev. Hugh Gaston (1723-1766) because the "William de Medici" who settled in Caranleigh is a clear reference to William Gaston of Antrim, patriarch of the Dixie Branch of the family. This William was not only the father of Rev. Hugh, but also of Justice John and his siblings, who settled in South Carolina in the 1750s. If Rev. Hugh, Justice John and the rest were actually Medicis, one imagines they would have told somebody about it. But it seems that not a single one of their descendants ever claimed Medici heritage, at least until the "Rev. Hugh Genealogy" showed up.

Even so, the idea that royal blood runs through our Gaston veins continues to be a seductive one.

Fortunately or not (depending on your viewpoint) it appears DNA science has now pounded the final nail in the Bourbon coffin. The Bourbons belonged to haplogroup G. The Gaston DNA Project currently has the test results of 24 different Gastons who trace their ancestry to the Ulster Scots of 17th-century Ireland, and >all< of them belong to a haplogroup known as R1b1a2.

We know the Bourbon values because, in 2010, the DNA of Louis XVI of France was extracted from a bloody cloth which had been preserved by the Revolutionaries as a memento of his 1793 beheading. And what does Louis XVI have to do with the Gastons?

Well -- as mentioned earlier, the "Rev. Hugh Genealogy" seems to revolve around Gaston d'Orleans; in fact, the entire work can be seen as an extremely garbled version of his life, with a couple other famous Gastons thrown in for good measure. This Gaston d'Orleans was the son of King Henri IV of France. Louis XVI was the 3rd-great grandson of Henri IV. Since both Gaston and Louis were direct descendants of Henri, they both inherited Henri's y-DNA (which is passed down in the direct male line).

Because both men ultimately got their y-DNA from the same source, they almost certainly belonged to the same y-DNA category, or haplogroup. So if Louis XVI belonged to haplogroup G, you can safely bet the farm that Gaston d'Orleans also belonged to haplogroup G. The values don't change much from generation to generation. This is proven by the fact that >all< the Gastons in our sample who trace their

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ancestry to the Ulster Scots have strikingly similar DNA profiles, despite the fact that, in many cases, our common ancestor lived 300+ years ago. Conversely, Henri IV and Louis XVI were born only 201 years apart.

The inescapable conclusion is that Gastons of Ulster Scots ancestry (and that includes most of us in North America) are definitely not related to Gaston d'Orleans, or any other Bourbon in Henri IV's line. There's not a single Gaston in our project who's anywhere close to Bourbon values.

However, just because most of us are R1b1a2, that doesn't mean the analysis is over. So far, subtle differences have shown up that appear to distinguish the descendants of Hugh Gaston of Peapack (1688-1772) from those of Justice John Gaston (1703-1782) and his SC siblings. If we had more participants from other Gaston lines, we might be able to establish similar "family groups" with unique DNA patterns. But these small intrafamily differences aren't enough to push any Gaston branch into another haplogroup -- particularly one as genetically distant as the Bourbon "G". If you would like information about joining the Gaston DNA project, feel free to shoot me an email or just reply to this post.

For the record, here are the DYS (DNA Y-Chromosome Segment) values for Louis XVI, compared with the most common Gaston values for the same "markers." Although scientists evidently were able to determine Louis' score on only 16 markers, the difference is still huge; in fact, the "Ulster Gastons" match Louis on only 1 of the 15 common markers.

In the list below, the DYS "marker" is identified first, then Louis' score, then the Gaston modal score.

DYS393: 14/13
DYS390: 22/24
DYS19: 15/14
DYS391: 10/11
DYS385A: 13/11
DYS385B: 18/14
DYS439: 12/13
DYS389I: 12/13
DYS392: 11/13
DYS389II: 30/29
DYS458: 21/17
DYS456: 15/16
DYS437: 15/15
DYS438: 10/12
GATA H4: 12/11
GATA C4: 21/Not Tested

What the heck, I'd rather be a Gaston than a Bourbon ... never liked the stuff anyhow. I much prefer Scotch, or Irish.

Patrick Gaston