Jacob Ammonet, of Virginia
and a part
of his descendants

By
Clifton Wood Bransford
The Amnonet family is of French origin. The founder, Jacob Ammonet, his wife and four infants, with a number of other Huguenot emigrants from France, reached the colony of Virginia in 1700. His ancestry has not been traced. In 1634 Jacob, Pierre and Matthieu Ammonet were resident heads of families in Loudun, France.

Referring to the emigration of Huguenots to Holland, Dr. Foote says: “The Sieur Amonet repaired to the Hague and by his representations awakened the public to the advantages to be received by that city from the fatal policy of Louis, in driving manufacturers from his kingdom.”

The name is found variously spelled as Amonet, Ammonet, Amonnette, Ominett, Quinet, etc.

*Owensboro, Ky.
†Of the Huguenot emigrants John Ester. Cooke (Virginia, p. 369) says that their settlement “infused a stream of pure and rich blood into Virginia society.” The principal special sources of information in reference to these emigrants are Ann Maury’s Memoirs of a Huguenot Family (Fontaine), New York, 1852, 1872, 12mo, pp. 356; C. W. Baird’s Huguenot Emigration to America (New York, 1885, 2 vols.); the Cocke Family of Virginia, by James C. Southall, in Va. Mag. of Hist. and Biography, 1868-69, vols. iii-v; and Collections of the Virginia Historical Society, vol. v, Documents Relating to the Huguenot Emigration to Virginia, edited by R. A. Brock, (Richmond, 1886, 8vo, pp. xx [1], 247, 11), with genealogies of the Fontaine, Maury, Dupuy, Trabue, Marye, Chastain, Cocke, and other families. Other Huguenot families were those of Latané, Salle, Duval, Contesse, Guerrant, Morisset and David. Two societies have been organized to preserve the history of the Huguenots, the “Huguenot Society of America,” and the “Huguenot Society of Charleston,” S. C. The former has its headquarters in New York city; and a bibliography of its publications is in Report American Historical Association for 1895, pp. 1090-10.
¶Foote’s Huguenots or Reformed French Church, p. 422.
I. Jacob Ammonet\(^1\) was born in France, and in 1700, accompanied by his wife and four infants, reached Virginia. He settled at Manakin-town among those with whom he had emigrated.

In a list of the French Protestant refugees established in the Parish of King William, Henrico Co., in 1714, appears the name of Jacob Ammonet\(^1\), three sons and two daughters. This would indicate the birth of at least one child after the arrival in Va., and also that his wife was dead at this date, 1714. He was one of the vestrymen of the Parish. The name of his wife has not been ascertained. He died Oct. 5, 1725.*

Children:

II. (1) Andrew Ammonet\(^2\), m. Jean (Jane) Morisset.  
(2) Charles\(^3\), m. Diane ———. On March 26, 1734, Andrew Ammonet\(^2\) and Jane, his wife, of Goochland Co., executed a deed to Charles Ammonet\(^3\), of Henrico Co., for 186 A. on the south side of James river.—Henrico Co. Records. He had at least one child, a son, Jean\(^4\), b. Feb. 29, 1753, who had for godfathers Jean Chastain, Jr., and Andrew Ammonet\(^2\), and godmother Magdelaine Salle. In a list of the inhabitants of King William Parish, June, 1744, is the name of Charles Ominett.†  
(3) Son; (4) Daughter; and (5) Daughter.

II. Andrew Ammonet\(^2\) (Jacob\(^1\)) was born probably prior to the arrival in 1700 of his father in Virginia. He spent his first years in Henrico and Goochland counties. In June, 1744, he was living in King William Parish, and in a list of the inhabitants of that year he is returned as Andrew Ouinet. Later he lived in Chesterfield Co., where he died and where his will is recorded. It bears date Sept. 2, 1761, and he probably died soon afterward. His name is signed to the will. He gives his soul to God and his body to the earth, in certain hope of resurrection; (2) to the use of wife Jane, the plantation “whereon I now live” for her natural life, and after her death to son Charles\(^3\), and she is also to have all of his personal estate except £60 cash to be raised out of it.

†Ibid, pp. 109, 114. See also pp. 85, 86, 87, 92, 94.
for his four dauts.; (3) to son John, 97 A. of land "binding on the lines" of George Sowell and Joshua Trabue; (4) to son William, 100 A. on south side Falling creek adjoining John Royle and Robert Wooldridge; (5) to son Jacob, 100 A. adjoining Robert and Edward Wooldridge; (6) to son Andrew, 100 A. adjoining Wm. Wooldridge and John Martin; (7) sons to have neither household goods nor stock of any kind; (8) to dauts. Judith, Jane, Elizabeth and Magdalene, each £15 current money; (9) in case either Jacob or Andrew die under age or without heirs the survivor is to have the deceased's land; (10) in case any of his four dauts. die under age or without heirs of their body, the surviving sisters are to have the part or parts; ex'ors—wife and son William; wit's—George Sowell, Thomas Vanter, William Martin.—Chesterfield Co. Will Book, No. 1, pp. 327-8. His wife was Jane, daut. of P. and Elizabeth Morisset.* The names of the children herein given are taken from the will, while the dates are taken from the Parish Records.

Children:

III. (1) William Ammonet, m. Elizabeth Badcret.
IV. (2) Judith, b. Sept. 20, 1730; m. John Bransford.

*There are many references to the name Morisset in the Huguenot Emigration. In the list (p. 14) of French refugees who embarked in the ship Peter and Anthony from London in 1700 for Va., are the names of Pierre Masset and Jean Morisset. In the list (p. 24) of those established at Manakin-town are the names of Jean Maricet and Pierre Massot. In the list (p. 23) of refugees who were to receive from the miller of Falling Creek mill one bushel of Indian meal per head, Feb., 1700, are the names Morisset and Morisset. In a list (p. 45) of French refugees settled at Manakin-town, Nov. 10, 1701, is the name of "Morret and his wife." In another list (p. 74) is the name of Pre Morriser (in the index Morisset), his wife, one son and three dauts. In another list (p. 115), June, 1744, is the name of Jean Morisset. On March 7, 1747, John Nash, of Amelia Co., deeds to John Morricett, of Henrico Co., 266 A. on north side of James river, being a part of the last 5000 A. surveyed for the French refugees on March 23, 1715. The will of Elizabeth Morisset, dated Dec. 17, 1735, refers to daut. Jean, wife of Andrew Ammonet.—Chesterfield Co., Va., Will Book, No. 1, p. 26.
p. 45. On Oct. 21, 1784, a Mary Ann Amonett m. Thomas Tiller in Powhatan Co., Va.

(4) John, b. Aug. 6, 1734, m. --: lived in Chesterfield Co., where he died. In his will, dated Jan. 30, 1781, he refers to himself as "of the Town of Pochaumtics and County of Chesterfield;" mentions his son John, names Rebecca Russell as principal legatee, (evidently a dau.), and also her son James: ex'trix—Rebecca Russell: wit's—William Steger, John Fowler, Wm. Horton.—Chesterfield Co. Will Book, No. 3. p. 373. Some family records say he was a sea-captain.

(5) Charles, b. March 9, 1736; m. --: farmer: on Jan. 2, 1765, he deeded to his sisters Judith, Jane, Elizabeth and Magdalene Amonet the land on Failing Creek given him by his father after the death of his mother, being the place whereon she resides, but she is not to be disturbed while she lives.—Chesterfield Co. Deed Book, No. 5. p. 309.

(6) Andrew, m. --; lived in Chesterfield Co.; on Feb. 5, 1770, Magdalene Ammonet and John Garrott and wife Elizabeth (Ammonet) deeded to Thomas Sowell 100 A., adjoining the lands of the orphans of Andrew Ammonet, John Ammonet, Jr., and Thomas Mann Randolph.—Chesterfield Co. Deed Book, No. 9. p. 30. He is said to have died in the Revolutionary War.

(7) Jane, m. John Harris. On Feb. 5, 1779, John Bransford and wife Judith, of Chesterfield Co., John Garrott and wife Elizabeth, of Manchester Parish, same Co., and Magdalene Ammonet, of same, deeded to John Harris, of King William Parish, Powhatan Co., three-fourths of an undivided tract of land which Charles Ammonet gave by deed of gift to his sisters Judith, Elizabeth, Magdalene, and Jane (since Jane Harris, dec'd).

(8) Elizabeth, m. Dec. 7, 1778, John Garrott, in Chesterfield Co. See references in the deeds in the two preceding paragraphs.*

(9) Magdalene, m. Pleasant Thurman. On July 4, 1780, Jane Ammonet, the elder, deeded to her son Pleasant Thurman, one negro and 8 cattle.—Chesterfield Co. Deed Book, No. 10. p. 9. Family records show this marriage also.

III. William Ammonet (Andrew, Jacob) was a co-executor with his mother in his father's will, 1761. His last

residence was in Buckingham Co., Va., where he and his wife died in 1810. He m. about 1763-64, Elizabeth Badgett.

Children, order conjectural:
1. James Ammonet, m. (1) Brown; (2) Nancy Toler; children by each.
2. Molly, m. Stephen Chastain; lived in Buckingham Co.; had six children.
4. Reuben, m. —— Johnson, of Cumberland Co., Va.; removed to Overton Co., Tenn.; was in the Creek War, 1813, and d. at Fort Jackson, Mississippi Territory (now in Elmore Co., Ala.); several children.
5. Thomas, m. Jane Clarkson, of Albemarle Co., Va.; nine children, and descendants in that Co.
6. Judith, m. 1812-13, Alexander Forbes, of Buckingham Co.; descendants thought to be in Davidson Co., Tenn.
8. Sally, d. unm., 1815, aged 32 years.
9. Andrew, b. in Buckingham Co., 1784; m. Nov. 20, 1816, Juliette Shepard; in 1822 removed to Lauderdale Co., Ala., where they lived in 1870; five children; descendants thought to be there.

IV. Judith Ammonet (Andrew, Jacob) was born Sept. 20, 1730. She is said to have been a woman of rare excellence and strength of character. She m. about 1765, John Bransford, the son of John Bransford, * emigrant. For some years they resided in Chesterfield Co., after which they removed to Buckingham Co.

Children:
1. Thomas Bransford, b. April 5, 1757; m. Nov. 3, 1789, Ann Lee Snoddy, b. Nov. 12, 1773. In 1817 he left Va., and settled in Barren Co., Ky., where he d. Jan. 24, 1853, and she d. July 20, 1847. A son Thomas Louis Bransford, was long a prominent business man of Tenn.; d. at Nashville; m.

*The Bransford family is of English origin. John Bransford emigrated to Virginia, prior to 1730 and resided for a time in Orange Co., after which he came to Richmond. He died in Chesterfield Co., where his will, dated Jan. 24, 1757, and prob. Dec. 1768, is to be found.—Will Book, No. i, p. 529. Name of wife not known. Children, all named in will: i. Elizabeth Bransford, m. Frank West, parents of Bransford West, b. Aug. 26, 1754 in Chesterfield Co., Va., who was a Sergt. in the Revolutionary War, and was pensioned, (See Pension Roll); ii. James, m. Sarah Owen, dau. of William Owen, of Henrico Co.; iii. Barbara, m. Thomas Dunn; iv. Mary, m. Louis Warrick, a Virginia physician; and v. John, m. (1) Sarah Easter, by whom he had five children, who left many descendants; (2) Judith Ammonet above. A condensed account of the family is in Dr. McFerrin’s History of Methodism in Tennessee, vol. iii, pp. 481-89.
Lucinda A. Settle, dau. of Willis and Nancy (Pickett) Settle and had among other children, Maj. John S. Bransford*, a retired banker, of Nashville, who m. Marie E., dau. of Col. Anthony W. Johnson. He has two living children: John Bransford, and Elizabeth*, who m. Francis B. Fogg, Esq., of Nashville.

(2) Francis*, b. June 30, 1768; d. Dec. 24, 1822; m. 1795, Sarah W., dau. of Frederick and Sarah (Woodson) Hatcher.

(3) Benjamin*, b. Dec. 13, 1769, in Buckingham Co., Va.; d. July 2, 1845, in Cumberland Co.; m. Lucy, dau. of Frederick and Sarah (Woodson) Hatcher.* He was a planter, and a devoted Methodist. One of his sons Benjamin Bransford*, b. Dec. 1, 1810; removed to Owensboro, Ky., where he m. June 25, 1845, Mary Eleanor, dau. of Elisha and Ann Loyd (White) Athy; was a tobacconist; and d. June 11, 1892. Of his children, Clifton Wood Bransford, the compiler, m. Virgie Lee Finley, of Lebanon, Tenn., and has three children: i. Mary Boyd Bransford; ii. Virginia Lee; iii. Benjamin Ammonet.


(6) Jacob*, b. July 15, 1775; m. Elizabeth Hobson; d. Nov. 4, 1832.

(7) Samuel*, b. Aug. 4, 1778; m. Phoebe Walton.


(9) Fatsy*, b. Dec. 18, 1782; m. Garland Brown.

(10) Robert*, b. July 5, 1786; m. (1) Jane Hill; (2) Jane Gardner; d. 1826 of yellow fever in Ala.

*The following is the Hatcher record: I. William Hatcher, b. 1614, member of the House of Burgesses from Henrico Co., engaged in Bacon’s Rebellion; m. ——, and d. 1620, leaving. II. Benjamin, of Henrico, b. 1643, who m. Elizabeth, dau. of John Greenhaugh, and had: III. Henry, who m. Susannah, dau. of Thomas Williamson, and had: IV. Frederick, who m. Jan. 13, 1726, Sarah, dau. of John Woodson. He was a wealthy planter, and had among other children: V. Sarah and Lucy above, both of whom m. Bransfords.
Jacob Ammonet of Virginia and a part of his Descendants

by

Clifton Wood Bransford

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" Benjamin-60
" Charles-56,58
" Charlotte-59
" Diane-56
" Elizabeth-57,58,60
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" Jacob-55,56,57,58,60
" James-59
" Jane-57,58
" John-57,58
" Judith-57,58,59
" Magdalene-57,58
" Mary Ann-57,59
" Mathieu-59
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" Patsy-60
" Pierre-55
" Reuben-59
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" Sally-59
" Samuel-60
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" Mary Eleanor-60
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" Benjamin-60
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" Judith-58
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" Thomas-59
" " Louis-59
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" Henry-50
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