

[Page 13 - Old Tales of Sorcery Remembered](#)

ISSUE : [Issue 30](#)

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French Catholics who had decided to become Protestant and are known as Huguenots. They eventually made up 10% of the population of France, and while they came from the entire range of social positions--from noblemen to peasants--"Protestantism in France drew its strength mainly from the urban middle class" (see Scoville, The Persecution of Huguenots and French Economic Development). The Huguenots suffered as a religious minority in France. The conflicts arose during the Reformation (16th century)--dating in France from when Lefevre d'Staples translated the Bible into French, and John Calvin (at Geneva) propelled Luther's idea of spiritual individualism into a concept of political-religious Protestant communities that (in predominantly Catholic France) threatened the central power of the monarchy. In France, Huguenot religion was heresy and all that implies. They were a prominent, visible, and economically powerful minority. Out of a variety of attempts to destroy them, convert them, or work out some compromise, came eight religious wars, including the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572--an apparently localized attack that was taken as a signal to kill Protestants first throughout Paris, and then across France. Adversity apparently strengthened the Huguenots, and their numbers grew. In 1598, Henry IV (a Protestant who chose to become a Catholic for the nation's peace) signed the Edict of Nantes, guaranteeing among other things the rights of freedom of conscience, public worship, to hold public office, to attend universities, and even to maintain armed forces to defend specified Protestant cities. Essentially, this resulted in nearly 100 years of internal peace. Details aside for now, the edict was revoked by Louis XIV in 1685, and intolerance, demands for Protestant-held lands, cries of heresy and so forth, resurfaced. It led to the high point in Huguenot emigration from France. To back up, it was six years after the Edict of Nantes, and unrelated to that edict, that in 1604 the first French settlement in Acadia was attempted on an island at the mouth of the St. Croix River. A disastrous winter was passed. In 1605 they crossed the Bay of Fundy and established permanent settlement at Port Royal in what would become Nova Scotia. We tend to think of the Acadians as French Catholic, but Naomi Griffiths (in her book *The Acadians: Creation of a People*) says they included Scotch, Basque, and Irish, both Protestant and Catholic. Again, we will not try to detail here the history of Acadians, except to say that they emerge as a people who find themselves holding enviable farm land, eventually carrying on trade with both England and France, while England and France were in varying states of aggression. With a mixture of conscience and pragmatism, the Acadians tried to hold themselves apart. They tried to give their loyalty to neither, awaiting the outcome of English-French hostilities. As we know, time ran out on them and they were dispersed by the English beginning in 1755. To return to the Huguenots: in 1685 Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes, and with it the rights and protections assured the Protestants. Even before that revocation, Huguenots had been leaving France, emigrating to countries that welcomed them: principally Ireland, Holland, England, Germany, and Switzerland. After the revocation. SEASON'S



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