

Bernard De La Vette D Epernon

Pg 1/2



Born: Mar 1592 in Angoulême, Charente, Poitou-Charentes, France

Married: Alice Faudoas

Died: 25 Jul 1661 in Paris, Paris, Ile-de-France, France

Parents: Jean Louis DeLa Valetta & Margarite DeFoix Candale

Bernard de la Valette Defoix² NOGARET (Jean Louis Nogaret de la Vallette¹) was born in Angoulsine, France 18 March 1592.⁽¹²⁾ Bernard died 25 July 1661 in Paris, France, at 69 years of age.⁽¹³⁾ His body was interred after 25 July 1661 in Cadillac, France.⁽¹⁴⁾

He married three times. He married Antoinette (Anne) FAUDOAS.⁽¹⁵⁾ Antoinette was born in Serillac, Gaure, France about 1597.⁽¹⁶⁾ Antoinette was the daughter of Jean FAUDOAS II and Brandelise BOUZET. Antoinette died about 1648 in Glamorganshire, Wales.⁽¹⁷⁾ He married Marie du CAMBOUT.⁽¹⁸⁾ Marie was born in France 1614.⁽¹⁹⁾ Marie died 12 February 1690/91 in Val de Grace, France, at 76 years of age.⁽²⁰⁾ Marie was divorced from Bernard de la Valette Defoix NOGARET.⁽²¹⁾ He married Gabrielle Angelique VERNEUIL de Bourbon in France, 1638.⁽²²⁾ Gabrielle was born in France 1603.⁽²³⁾ Gabrielle died 14 April 1627 in France, at 23 years of age.⁽²⁴⁾ Gabrielle was the illegitimate daughter of King Henry IV and mistress Mademoiselle de Verneuil. She was legitimized in 1622 upon her marriage to the Duc d' la Vallette.⁽²⁵⁾

The Duc d' la Vallette was the instrument by which Cardinal Richelieu first moved to destroy the influence of the Duc d' Épernon in the French court. Duc d' la Vallette was placed in command of a wing of the French Army. In 1638, his army was defeated at the Battle of Fontarabie. Cardinal Richelieu and King Louis XIII accused him of complicity with the enemy. Richelieu had placed all of the Duke's sons in commands of elements of the French Army in hopes of ridding himself of the Duc d' Épernon's family. Having survived the Battle of Fontarabie, the Cardinal sought to destroy the Duc d' la Vallette through accusations of treason.

The Duc fled to the Netherlands to escape sure death at the hands of the Crown. His brothers were not as fortunate. His oldest brother, Count de Caumont, became ill and died shortly after his brother fled France. His youngest brother, Cardinal de la Vallette, died at the head of the King's army.

There is significant confusion and unknowns regarding our family from the time the Duc d' la Vallette (Bernard) fled France until the time his son, John, arrived with his family in Virginia in 1675. In Edna Epperson Brinkman's book, *The Story of David Epperson and his family of Albemarle County, Virginia*, page 4, the traditional story passed on from earlier generations states that Bernard escaped from France with a brother. The story states that he and his brother boarded ships for Virginia shortly after arriving in England and taking a loyalty oath to the English Crown. The problem here is timing. Edna Epperson Brinkman's book portrays Bernard escaping France with a brother and going almost immediately to America. However, later evidence indicates that it was the next generation that the family came to America. Bernard escaped France before 1638 and both of his brothers remained in France and died shortly thereafter. It was his son, John that came to America with his family in 1675.

When Bernard fled France, he was married to Marie Du Cambout, niece of the Cardinal Richlieu. This was a political marriage arranged by the Cardinal under the pretense of reconciling the families. Records indicate that he escaped from France with thirteen servants, leaving his wife and children in France. Edna Epperson Brinkman's account states that Bernard's wife and two children by his deceased first wife, Gabrielle Angelique Verneuil, remained in France and were with the Duc d'Épernon when he died in 1661.

Bernard later married Anne Fautoas. Her name is French, but it is unknown where she met and married Bernard. It is known that Bernard and Anne were in the Netherlands because their son, John, was born there in 1638. We also know that Bernard and Anne traveled from the Netherlands to Glamorganshire, Wales because she died there in 1648. Bernard's son, John, was ten years old when his mother died. When John was five years old in 1643, Bernard returned to France and died in Paris in July 1661. John's first child was born in 1657 when he was nineteen years old. He named his son Jean-Louis for his father, Bernard, the Duc d' la Vallette.

Bernard de la Valette Defoix NOGARET and Gabrielle Angelique VERNEUIL de Bourbon had the following children:

5 i. Ann-Louise DeFoix³ VALLETTE EPERNON was born 1623. Ann-Louise died 1701 at 78 years of age.

6 ii. Louis-Charles de VALLETTE DEFOIX NOGARET was born in Mets, Messin, France 14 April 1627.⁽²⁶⁾ Louis-Charles died 1658 in France, at 31 years of age.⁽²⁷⁾ He was Duc Candale.

Bernard de la Valette Defoix NOGARET and Antoinette (Anne) FAUDOAS had the following child:

+ 7 iii. John (alias Epecon) EPERNON was born 1638.



Bernard de Foix de La Valette, duc d'Épernon
(mort en 1661), lieutenant général de Guyenne



Painting of Bernard de la Valette d'Épernon attributed to Louis Testelin