

Praise for

Living Waters

A Journey of Faith and Discovery
Connecting the Past with the Present

Judy Davis is a passionate disciple of the Kingdom of God. Her book is a compilation of various aspects of her personal journey of discovery of not only her ancestry, she is a descendant of Pocahontas, but also her understanding of God's prophetic purposes of redemption. Using her experiences as a missionary, an intercessor, and leader of a Dance and Banner Worship team she interweaves layers of her own story with references to Church and Jewish history, theology and God's purposes for the Church and the Jewish people. Judy has done her homework and has supplied the reader with many references that you can use in your own research and study. I believe this book will not only bless you but educate you as well.

Dr. Howard Morgan
Kingdom Ministries International
howardmorganministries.com

Living Waters is a journey of one person's experiences shared in particular while visiting the nation of Israel. Judy's senses come alive to paint a picture of the reality of her time spent in Israel—from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria to Galilee, and other destinations. She chose the way of a servant by coming and volunteering to do humanitarian aid work with The Joseph Storehouse. By doing so, it's as if the heavens opened up around Jerusalem while a smile looked down upon Judy with happiness and joy. This book is a real testimony of how one person's experience can impact others.

Barry and Batya Segal
Vision for Israel | The Joseph Storehouse
visionforisrael.com

I love this book! It was so special to get to know Judy and learn of her many missions trips. I know our Abba is very happy she said “yes” to His call to missions and went...not so many do. I also loved how generations past affect us and that we carry their authority with us in the present to be able to repent and restore the destiny that our Abba meant for us to walk in. *Living Waters* will encourage you. Thank you, Judy, for all you have done for the Kingdom!

Jean Mabry | Director Bezalel School
Benote Tzion & For Zion’s Sake Dance ministries
zionsake.org

Judy Davis has obtained the high mark of excellence in this powerful, captivating and dynamic book. You will be blessed as you journey with her through this wonderful presentation of passionate love of true worship of our Jewish Messiah. Her delightful accounts of her numerous mission trips abroad connected with history and the supernatural will spark a flame to find God’s purpose in your own life!

Jim Jackson, President
CBU Ministries International, Montreat, NC
cbu.org

Judy Davis is an extraordinary woman. As she struggled against false and discouraging doctrines being presented in her church, she realized that she could not and would not compromise the truth of God’s Word. She made the decision to step out of the denomination she was in and fully embrace the Charismatic Renewal sweeping Christianity. Holy Spirit fire began to flame up in her life as she yielded to the Spirit’s direction. From that step of faith she came to understand the importance of her Jewish Roots and the importance of blessing Israel. I have known Judy for many years as a steadfast woman of God and a very gifted worshipper with banners and silks. This book will be an inspiration to all, especially those who are seeking to find their place in God’s plan for their life. Please read this book—I know you will be blessed.

Dee Baxter,
Bible Teacher
President Baxter Bible Ministries, LaFayette, Ga.
baxterbibleministries.org

Generations to come will thank Judy for this brilliant work. She opens doors for readers to gain new perspectives while exploring her life experiences. Judy's insights into an important history of faith and dedication are refreshing. I highly recommend this book!

Hannele Pardain, Rev.,
cfi-usa.org

Living Waters shows Judy's love for literature as well as her passion for making a difference in the world. I had the pleasure of hosting Judy at one of my Free to Create art retreats and was able to witness her creativity and love of life first hand. Her poems strike to the heart and soul, just like her very own account of personal discovery. She weaves her poems with historical and spiritual facts in such a beautiful manner. This book is indeed a unique blend of literature and history. It is as colorful as each of Judy's trips to the different parts of the world.

Janice VanCronkhite
Artist, speaker, instructor, author
JvcArtworks.com

Judy's vulnerability in showing the struggles in understanding God's messages to us is refreshing. Her steps of faith led her to many places. In 1998 she joined us in Israel for our Integrity Music recording with Paul Wilbur and a special time of worship with Don Moen. I had the privilege of baptizing her in the Jordan River. She shares how God moved on her during that trip and how He moved her forward on her path. Her story will encourage your faith.

Michael Coleman
Cofounder and former CEO of Integrity Music (1987-2011)
MikeColeman.com

LIVING WATERS

**A Journey of Faith and Discovery
Connecting the Past with the Present**

Judy Davis

Living Waters

Published by Anam Cara Publishing

Denver, Colorado

info@AnamCaraPublishing.com/AnamCaraPublishing.com

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ISBN: 978-0-9985303-4-5 (Paperback)

ISBN: 978-0-9985303-5-2 (Ebook)

Third Edition

Video still shots | Carol Trader Boone: p. 104, 107.

John Edwin Hobson: p. 108.

Title page art: “Scepter” by Janice VanCronkhite/JVCartworks.com

Editing, cover, and book design | Lightning Tree Creative Media

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ANAM CARA
PUBLISHING

Denver Colorado

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DEDICATION

To my Granddaughters,
Austyn Rose and Natalie Elizabeth

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Keren Kilgore of Lightning Tree Creative Media, who worked so diligently and patiently to help me bring this book to its highest level of quality and excellence.

To Carrie Stiles, whose work as my research assistant was so vitally important.

I am grateful to my sister, Brenda, who hosted family gatherings in my place during holidays when my banner team was performing and for joining hands with me in love and support for Israel and the Jewish people. As my only sister, you are, and always have been, a blessing beyond measure.

To my cousin, Charlotte, who supplied the meticulous documents delineating our ancestry lines all the way back to Edward III of England.

And to my sons, Jesse and John, you are God's unique gift to me, my treasure in earthen vessels, the pride and joy of my life. To my daughter-in-law, Kathryn. You became part of the Davis family tree at just the right moment in our lives. What a blessing you are. And to my granddaughters, you light up my life in too many ways to count.

Lastly, to my Heavenly Father and His Holy Spirit for leading me on this incredibly rewarding journey at long last recorded.

Judy Davis

INTRODUCTION

Living Waters is a compilation of my life experiences, ancestral connections, historical truths and insights reflecting who I am in Christ and what God purposed my life to be. It was through my participation in missions that my intimacy with Him increased along with my faith. Whether I was cleaning the teeth of children in Jamaica, witnessing on the streets of London, smuggling Bibles into China, or participating in drama presentations on the streets of Ecuador and Bolivia, missions became a fundamental part of my life.

I did not purpose to dye silks, to outfit a dance team, or choreograph dance and banner presentations before local congregations and take them into a men's prison. Neither did I plan to research my ancestry eleven generations back in time. Yet, God purposed these things for me and when He did, I changed course to walk in the center of His will for me. Now that I am in my golden years, I look back through the curtain of time and see the tapestry of my life formed by the threads of my lineage. I hope that by sharing bits and pieces of it, the Holy Spirit will enlighten, encourage, and enhance all the ways in which He is working. And to God be the glory.

I chose a sunflower as the chapter heading in my book because it symbolizes faith, worship, spiritual knowledge, and a desire to seek light and truth.

PROLOGUE

I am passionate about genealogical research. Looking into our roots helps us understand our own existence. We can use what we learn about ourselves and our past to influence our future. Our activities impact future generations just as the activities of our ancestors affected us physically and spiritually.

A chronology of my genealogy back through my family lineage to Pocahontas of America and the Huguenots of France reveals hidden threads of truth that led me to discover how God often moves when territories are reclaimed by ancestor association and acts of repentance on their behalf. The inclusion of my genealogy is a testimony to the power of invisible threads that connect us generationally, establishing the spiritual ground for kingdom work.

It is with this in mind that I have researched my ancestors' activities and the activities of others in history and recorded them in this book. At first, I did not think that my ancestors would have anything to do with my call to missions in diverse places of the world or that they would connect me to certain territories in the United States and abroad.

Ten generations have come and gone since the bloodline from a descendant of the Paleo Indian princess, Pocahontas, comingled with the DNA of the Huguenot, Joseph Michaux. And yet, one can clearly see from my memoirs how that connection impacted my spiritual journey. My journey took me to Holocaust Memorials on three continents and to a deeper understanding of the sufferings of the Moravian Christians, the martyrdom of Jan Hus, the persecution of my Huguenot ancestors, as well as the lasting negative effects of the Catholic-Protestant struggle. It also brought revelation regarding Constantine's influences upon those of the original faith who were Jewish disciples and 1st Century followers of Jesus.

Multiple layers of Constantinian influence still exist in Protestant and Catholic churches today, with Easter being a primary example. Constantine changed the original observance of Jesus' death and resurrection from the Jewish Feast of Passover to incorporate the pagan holiday celebrating the spring fertility rites of the ancient goddess, Ishtar.

In doing so, he moved the most sacred of Christian observances away from its Hebraic foundation of Jesus being our Passover Lamb.

Within the pages of this book, I have revealed the plight of my ancestors and the bloodshed that came from governments seeking religious and political control. With these things in mind, I write my memoirs knowing the terrible burdens some Christians face as they serve Him in diverse places of the world.

As I look back over the years, I am continually amazed at where God has led me, what He has brought me through, and what He has asked me to do for His kingdom despite my character flaws. It is my humble desire and a great privilege to share His overwhelming love, holiness, and acceptance. Instead of condemning me for my humanity, He met me at the place of my deepest need and set me down on the solid ground, and as He revealed His ongoing plan for my life, I never looked back.

It is my ultimate desire that the reader will seek out his or her own ancestral lineage and enjoy a greater understanding of family, traditions, and history.

*On the other side
Of the curtain of time
Threads woven in a
Tapestry I now call mine
Rivers of water flowing
From a God that is sewing
Threads of restoration
Mercy for the nations*

-Judy Davis



PART I

BLOOD ANCESTRY

97c



AMERICA'S HIDDEN TREASURE

*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb,
and by the word of their testimony;
and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

Revelation 12:11 KJV

Spiritual Heritage of the Huguenots

Each of you is a living thread, delineated from bloodlines going back generations. They form the tapestry that is your life.

Two of my threads are noteworthy in that my sister and I are direct descendants of Suzanne Rochet, a French Huguenot, who fled France aboard a ship in a Hogshead to escape religious persecution in the 1600s, and the Indian princess, Pocahontas, daughter of the chief of the Powhatan Tribe of America's First Nations.

My story begins with the little known account of the first attempt at colonization of America (1564), which was not by the pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, but by French Huguenots who landed at what is now Jacksonville, Florida.

I will tell the story of America's First Thanksgiving at Fort Caroline, America's First Martyrs, and I will reveal the origin of the expression "a line in the sand."

America's First Martyrs

Sixty-six years before the Pilgrims who were seeking religious freedom arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts, another group of settlers, known as the Huguenots, departed from France and arrived in modern-day Jacksonville, Florida. While the Pilgrims have become an important part of American culture, the Huguenot journey to Florida has become a forgotten part of American history.

After the many attempts to settle Florida by the Spanish, it was beginning to seem like a hopeless goal. But, as if on cue, after the failure of 1559, France, instead of Spain, had three ships on their way to Florida in February of 1562.

In the 16th Century, many in France began to embrace ideas of Reformation and break away from the teachings of Rome, choosing instead to study the Bible for themselves. The Catholic Church at that time (which was the official church of France) was greatly threatened by this move, which it interpreted as a weakening of its absolute authority over the people. As a result, the Huguenots were harassed continuously, and some even faced death rather than give up their faith.

By the middle of the 16th Century, some Huguenots, under the leadership of Gaspard de Coligny, Admiral of France, and prominent Huguenot, began to seek a way of escape from this persecuted lifestyle. In 1560, de Coligny (who was a man of great wealth) began to find favor in the court of nine-year-old King Charles IX and his influential mother, Catherine de Medici. He worked out a plan with the royal family that would allow the Huguenots to explore the New World and to eventually establish a colony there if the colonists would promise to search for the rumored silver and gold once they were there.¹

Fort Caroline and the First Thanksgiving

French Admiral Gaspard de Coligny sent Admiral Jean Ribault to North America. He landed at the mouth of a river named "Mai" (the St. Johns River of Jacksonville) in the month of May. Ribault's

¹*The Martyrs of Matanzas*, (2004). Published by Capitol Hill Prayer Partners, Herndon, VA, p. 3.

arrival also provided the first Protestant prayer offered up on North American soil. During his days on the river, the Native American Indians he encountered were friendly. He later sailed North and established a small settlement near present-day Port Royal, South Carolina, and returned to France. At that time, all of the southeastern United States was called Florida.

In 1564, one of Ribault's officers, Rene Laudonnière, was sent back from France with 300 men and four women. They built Fort Caroline six miles up the St. Johns River. Again, the Indians welcomed the returning Frenchmen who survived with the help of Timucuan Indians' grains, fruit, and wild game. With this apparent success, Laudonnière called for music and a feast on June 30, 1564, to celebrate their good fortune. Of this celebration, he wrote: "We sang a psalm of Thanksgiving unto God, beseeching Him that it would please His Grace to continue His accustomed goodness toward us." This was 57 years before the better known Thanksgiving celebration at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Laudonnière retrieved two Spanish sailors thought to have been shipwrecked with Fontaneda from the Indians in 1564.

The following year, Admiral Ribault sailed again with seven more ships to reinforce the French colony. Meanwhile, back in Catholic Spain, the news of the French Huguenots establishing a colony in Spanish Florida was not received well. To the Spanish, the Huguenots were Protestant Lutherans though they were followers of John Calvin. Spanish King Philip II reversed his position on not settling Florida, and Pedro Menendez de Aviles was sent to the same area to destroy the "heretical" Frenchmen.

Menendez arrived shortly after the French ships of Ribault with Spain's largest force yet: 1,504 men in 19 ships. The French were not expecting a naval battle, so Menendez chose to challenge the French immediately. Not prepared to do battle, Admiral Ribault immediately got under sail, but a storm wrecked his fleet at sea. Menendez then chose not to attack, sailed south to St. Augustine, and marched back over the land to capture the French at Fort Caroline, taking them completely by surprise. He renamed it San Mateo, which is now Jacksonville.

At Fort Caroline, about 60 women and children were spared. Laudonnière and 40 or 50 others managed to escape and went back to France.²

Cross This Line and You Die!

Menendez returned to St. Augustine pleased with his efforts at Fort Caroline but not yet fully satisfied with his mission. His primary goal had yet to be achieved: to find and kill Jean Ribault, the leader of the Huguenot community. Now aware that Ribault and 300 of his men had sailed southward down the coast, Menendez's next step was clear: continue to search until those men were found and dealt with.

Soon after they had left Fort Caroline, Ribault's men (who were sailing in three ships) encountered the same storm that had been raging at Fort Caroline. This ferocious hurricane was huge, howling for days up and down the Florida coast. After battling this storm for several days, all three ships were eventually destroyed in the ocean waters. As the men swam to safety on the shore, they ended up stranded on a strip of sand about fifteen miles south of St. Augustine where they waited for help while they tried to evade Menendez's search party.

On September 27, Captain Menendez got the news he was waiting for from local Indians: Ribault and his men had been shipwrecked to the south and were marching up the coast, almost 500 men in two groups, toward Fort Caroline. Menendez then set out with 50 of his men to find and get rid of them. Two days later, on September 29, the Spanish met the first group of French Huguenots on the sands of Matanzas, which means "slaughters." It was there that this group had stopped, unable to traverse the deep, running waters of this inlet.

²Wilkinson, J. (n.d.). "Influence of France on Florida." An article on general history of the French presence, 1562-1763. Retrieved from <http://www.keyshistory.org/FL-Fla-Fr.html>.

A Line in the Sand

Quoting from literature provided by the National Park Service:

Famished and weary, informed of their fort's capture, and tricked into believing the Spanish force to be much larger, the French surrendered. On September 29, they were ferried ten at a time across the inlet, fed, and led behind the dunes, where their hands were bound. About 200 feet down the beach, Menendez drew a line in the sand. At the line, Menendez gave each man an opportunity to renounce Protestantism (called the "new religion") and live, or cross the line and meet his Maker. On that day, 111 Christian men were martyred; Menendez spared only those who stated that they were of the Catholic faith, and those who played the flute, timbrel and harp. The total number of survivors was 16. Even with these two slaughters behind him, Menendez still was not satisfied, because Jean Ribault was still alive somewhere yet on the Florida coast.

Again, quoting the Park Service:

Twelve days later, Menendez heard that the second group of 350 Frenchmen had likewise halted at the inlet. Again there was a parley - this time with Ribault himself, who saw the gruesome evidence of the first massacre. [The others had been run through with pike, dagger, and sword.] Ribault returned and told his men everything. He advised surrender, for he believed, it appeared that the Spaniards would show mercy. But during the night more than half of his men fled south. The next morning, October 12, Ribault and his remaining men handed their battle flags to Menendez.

As before, the Huguenots were brought in groups of ten across the water and again the white sands were darkened with blood. That day, 134 Frenchmen lost their lives; 16 were spared.

Later, Menendez sought out those who had fled; most he took to Habana as prisoners.³

³Ballenger, S., Burk, A., Corley, L. (2004). America's Buried Treasure, The Martyrs of Matanzas, Published by Capital Hill Prayer Partners, Herndon, Va. pp. 9-10.

Fort Matanzas was designated as a National Monument by President Calvin Coolidge on October 15, 1924. It marks the spot where 500 French Colonists were slaughtered by the Spanish in 1565. Pedro Menendez gave a name to this river inlet: “Matanzas,” meaning slaughters. The island itself, now called Rattlesnake Island, was then called Basilisk.

The Redemptive Death of the Huguenots

I call it *legal ground*. For when that line in the sand was drawn, the Lord Himself drew a line in the sand against the devil’s attempt to keep America from becoming *one nation under God*.

God’s ultimate destiny and purpose for this nation is to function as one nation under God and to release the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. It will be fulfilled. No weapon against it will prosper because of this blood soaked line in the sand. This is “America’s hidden treasure.”⁴

Passenger Manifest

Among the list of passengers on board ship that landed at Fort Caroline (from Florida’s Park Service), I found the surname of *La Roche-Ferrere* among the list of passengers. My Huguenot ancestor, Suzanne Rochet, holds the same surname. According to the Powhatan County Historical Society, Suzanne Rochet’s entire given name is Suzanne Laroche Rochet. This indicates to me that Laroche was a family surname as well.

Just as amazing to me is the name Ferrere attached to LaRoache on the passenger manifest. It was a French Huguenot by the name of Armond La-Ferrere, who wrote the essay *The Huguenots, the Jews and*

⁴Excerpt from “America’s Buried Treasure,” Capital Hill Prayer Partners, Herndon, Va., June 30, 2004. pp. 1

*Me*⁵ (See Chapter Six: The Theology of the Huguenots) supplying a vital link to the Hebraic mindset of my Huguenot ancestors. His article and subsequent essay provided information fueling the flame already burning in my heart to learn more about my roots. It was Armand LaFerrere who questioned his own mysterious, Huguenot family's Philo-Semitism, their Hebraic mindset, and love for Israel and the Jewish people.

DNA

Could it be that the same DNA in a passenger willing to risk his life to escape religious persecution and colonize America has a genetic link to my ancestor who escaped France aboard a ship for the same reason?

The Sands of Time

*Hidden threads once concealed
Hidden Threads now revealed
From the Tapestry of time
Threads begin to shine
Giving forth light of a kind
That binds this history to mine*

-Judy Davis

⁵Laferrere, A. (2006). "The Huguenots, the Jews, and Me: A Tale of French Philo-Semitism." Shalem Press: AzureOnline, Autumn 5767 / 2006, no. 26. Retrieved from <http://azure.org.il/article.php?id=43>. The original article in its entirety was removed from the internet after Laferrere's death in 2013, but portions of it can still be found by looking for "The Huguenots, The Jews and Me by Armand Laferrere."