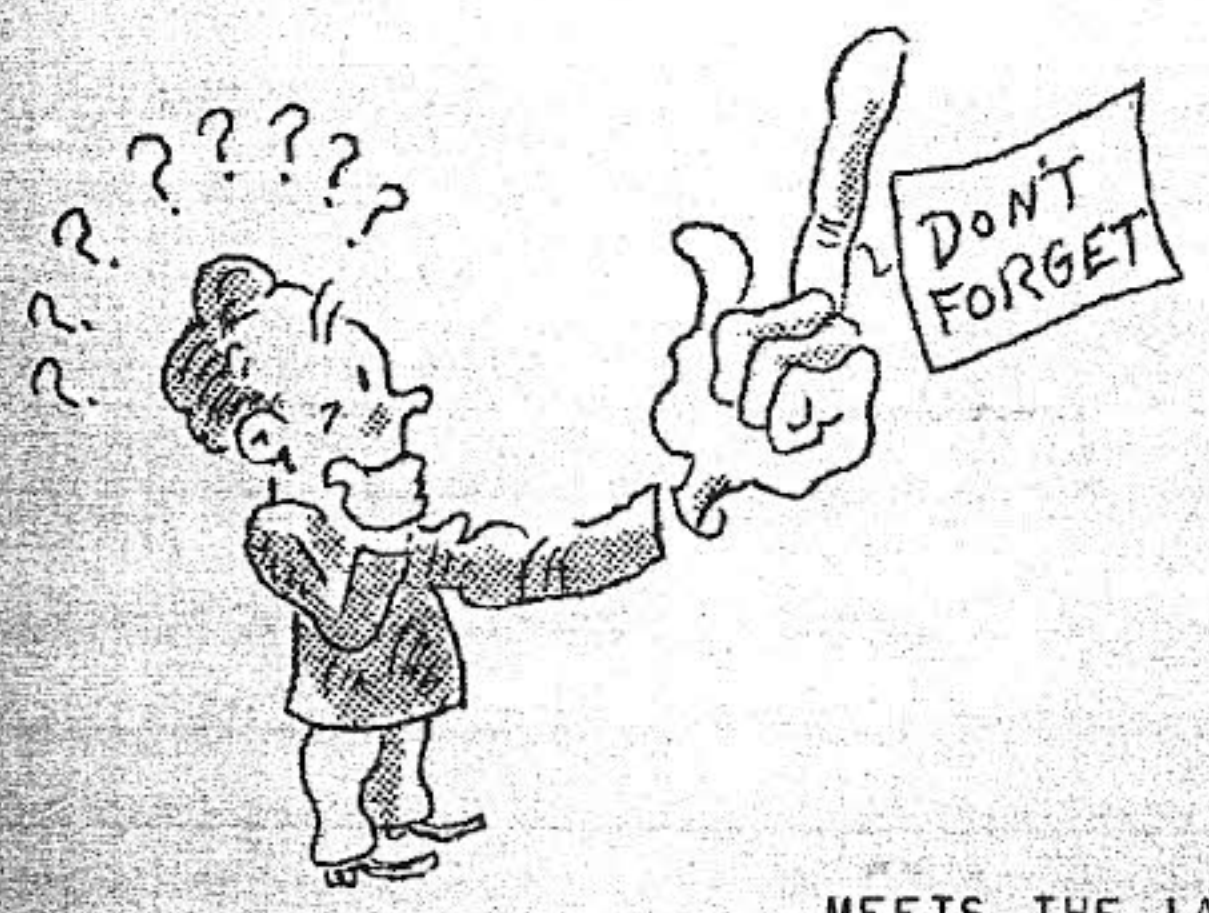
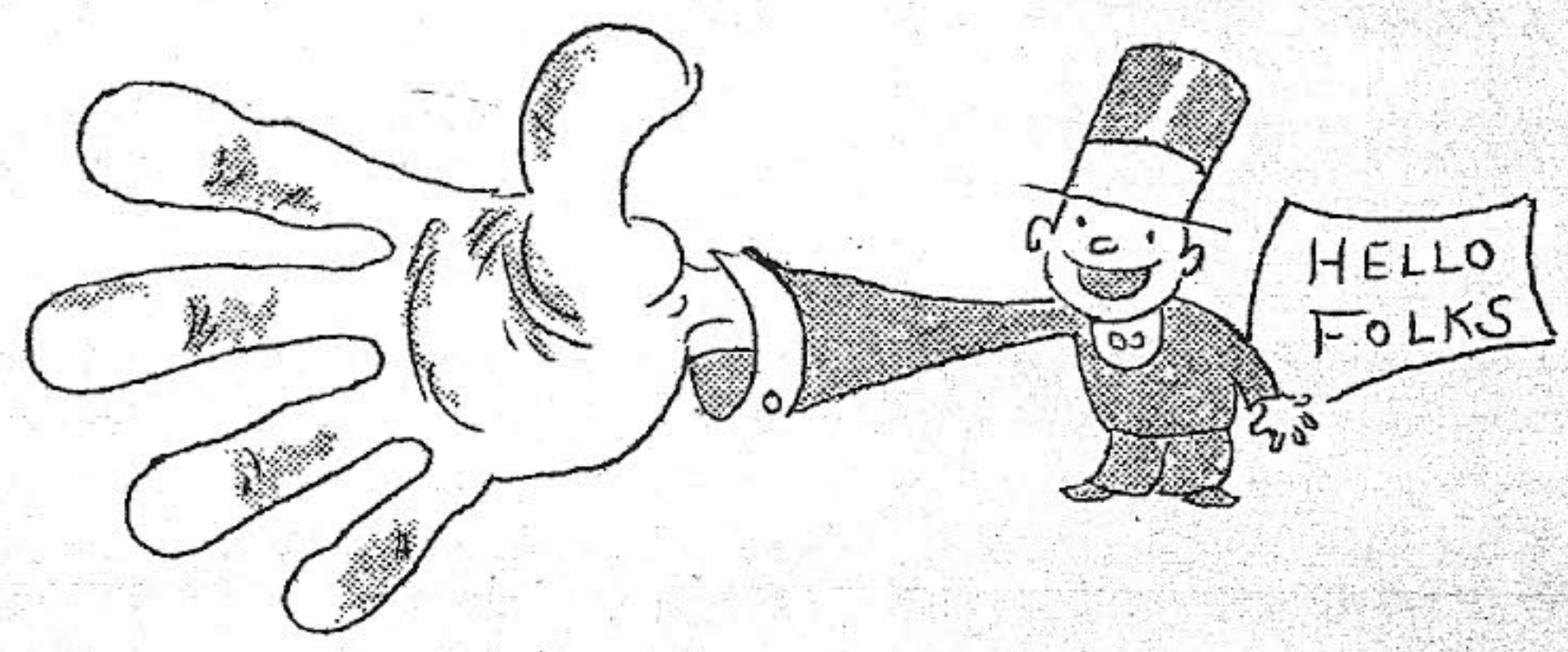


SUMMER ISSUE

JULY 1953



# SWACKHAMER - - DUFFORD BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY  
THE COMBINED SWACKHAMER AND DUFFORD  
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES  
OF THE  
LONG VALLEY, MORRIS COUNTY, N.J.

MEETS THE LAST SATURDAY IN JULY



DONT FORGET

THE BIG ANNUAL MEETING

LONG VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1953

C O M E E A R L Y - B R I N G Y O U R O W N B O X L U N C H

COFFEE, CAKE AND SODA MAY BE PURCHASED

MAKE THIS A BIG AFFAIR

DONT FORGET



This publication is for the decendants of Samuel Schwachhammer who, in 1730, settled in New Jersey in the Long Valley and of Philip Dufford who settled there in 1738. We hope these pages will be of interest.

- Marjorie Dufford Logan---President
- Eliza Dufford Harriman---Sec'y-Treas.
- Everett Swackhamer-----Historian
- Milton Swackhamer----- Editor

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I N T E R E S T I N G      R E L A T I V E S  
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( Samuel Stansbury Swackhamer )

In a New Jersey newspaper, on August 17th, a few years ago, under the headline, "Assembly Hears Swackhamer Again" appeared an article of which the following is part.....

"Trenton, N.J.-Samuel S. Swackhamer's oratory sounded again in the State Legislature yesterday. The North Plainfield lawyer.....advocated amending a reorganization measure which would authorize the Governor to name a Commissioner of Education. Mr. Swackhamer said the appointment should be in the hands of the State Board of Education."

This was news because the man in question had once debated many issues in those Halls and they had echoed and reechoed with applause for his great oratory. Yes, Sam Swackhamer was a great orator--smooth and persuasive and extremely well read, able to quote easily from the Bible, Shakespeare and many other sources. He often interpreted the character of Washington and also of Lincoln with whom he was often compared. Referred to as the "Tall Sycamore from Somerset", his skill before a court of law had become a legend even before the First World War.

How did he gain that skill. Well in the first place, of course, he was gifted and in the second place he prepared himself. He taught, as a young man in a country school and found time to read extensively. And he practiced his oratory. How he practiced--at home and abroad. Your editor's mother, then a young teacher visiting at the house, still recalls how he made his sisters laugh and cry with his stories as he practiced on them. But that was not enough for he arranged debates with local ministers and invited neighborhood residents to sit as juries to decide the winner. Once Sam argued the affirmative of the subject, "Resolved that Mankind is Insane, Deformed and Lower than the Brute". And he won.

Most of Sam's contemporaries who knew best his great skill have passed to the great beyond but there are still some who recall that as young law students they listened with awe as the great man fluently quoted from an authority to win a point for himself or bewilder an apponent. Many are the stories we could tell about this man, both as a boy and later as the highly respected Counsellor But let us for a moment take a peek at his genealogical background.

Samuel Stansbury Swackhamer is of the sixth generation descending from Samuel, the pioneer. Sam's grandfather was also a Samuel, who married Sarah Smith and lived at Readington. His father was Rulif, born in 1816. His mother was Jane Loree. Rulif was a Whitehouse farmer who also taught in the public school. In the 1880 s he was Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools. He ruled sternly over a family of eleven children, nine of which lived to old age. Four are still living and of these Sam, now approaching ninety-four, is the eldest. Seven taught school at one time or another and one, an older brother, Austin H. Swackhamer was also a lawyer practicing in Gloucester County, N.J. Austin was also a man of great integrity who later became Common Pleas Judge and it was Woodrow Wilson, then Governor of New Jersey who appointed him.

Sam was born August 7, 1859. He was admitted to the bar in February 1894 and after practicing the required three years passed his Counsellor examination in 1897. Later he was admitted to practice before the Federal courts. In 1894 he married Elizabeth Herr and had one daughter.



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When Constance married Donald Linster they made their home with Sam and brought up his grandchildren in the old home at 109 Summit Ave. It is still their home.

One might well think that this man must have been a serious minded boy, devoid of those faults that so often plague a stern parent. Such was not the case. Pranks and practical jokes were not unknown to him. His mind was always busy and there had to be some outlet. Once Sam made a pair of stilts so high that he had to get on them in the cowyard from the second story of the barn. He nearly frightened his good mother to death as he strode past her bedroom window. He stuffed burlap bags down the chimney and made midnight visits in order to induce a colored family to vacate a tenant house on the farm. And then there was the time when his brother Frank, nine years younger, wanted to own Sam's shotgun. It was winter and Sam said "Break the ice in the river and duck under and you can have it." So Frank broke the ice, waded in and squatted in the cold water up to his neck. But when he came out it was only to learn that he must go back and duck all the way under.

Physically, Sam was six feet tall and very lean but like Abraham Lincoln he was unusually strong. Frank once said of him, "He was the strongest man I ever knew." And when Frank said that it meant something because he had been a forman on a ranch in New Mexico and had held his own in many a rough and tumble.

Yes, Sam Swackhamer was a strong man---Physically, Mentally and Spiritually. No one ever persuaded him to do what he thought was wrong. Clarence C. Case who later became Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court once said "He has served without scandal, taint or irregularity, a gentleman. It is something to be proud of." We agree and as his ninety-fourth birthday anniversary approaches it is with great pride and affection that we say, "Happy Birthday, Uncle Sam. We wish you the very best."

#### C. Sharp Trimmer

One of the descendants of Philip Dufford is a man named C. Sharp Trimmer. He was born in Middle Valley, N.J. which is part of the Long Valley. There he spent his boyhood days, graduating from High Bridge High School, Lafayette College and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. In 1922 he married Ruth Barkman of Rutledge, Pa. and sailed for China as a Methodist Missionary. Except for a furlough every six or seven years Nanking became their home and for over two decades they served the Mission Board, he as a medical Missionary and Mrs. Trimmer as a teacher. A son and daughter were born to them and as you might guess lived through some strange and dangerous experiences. Their home was looted by Chinese bandits and everything taken but Dr. Trimmer's eyeglasses which after some pleading were returned to him.

During the second World War Dr. Trimmer sent his family home but remained himself and was captured by the Japs. He was held prisoner for two years, then sent back to America as an exchange prisoner aboard the Gripsholm. After the war the Doctor and his wife returned to Nanking until the Communists marched in and without resistance from the Nationalists took over and made it known that foreigners were unwelcome. The Trimmers went home but after only a year and a half in the States sailed again for the far east, this time to Lahore, Pakistan. There at the United Christian Hospital they are serving their fellow man.

The son, Morris, with his wife and two children live at Yardley, Pa. not far from the great steel plant where he is ehgaged as an electrical engineer. Mary, the daughter is a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania. Just this past March she was scheduled to speak in Richmond, Va. about her parents' work in Pakistan.

July 1953



Before us at this very writing lies a "Pakistan Letter" written on February 1, 1953. It is filled with interesting facts. Dr. Trimmer says that Pakistan, one of the youngest of nations welcomes contact with other countries, muslim as well as non-muslim. Permission to do medical missionary work was granted the Trimmers by cable only a month after it was requested. Christians number only a little over half a million out of eighty-seven million. It is a very hot country. Last summer the thermometer reached 110 degrees every day for more than two weeks. But the Christian work must be carried on. Very soon another doctor and his wife will join them. They are Dr. and Mrs. Ed Rice who with their three children have been living in Gastonia, North Carolina. They are not new to the far east, however, having once lived in Soochow, China. Dr. Rice is an excellent general surgeon and will undoubtedly be a welcome addition to the hospital staff. Dr. Trimmer says, "Pray for us that we may be led of the Holy Spirit to bring many more souls into the Kingdom of our Savior."

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I T E M S O F I N T E R E S T

Dear Sir or Madam--

Today we received, forwarded to us from St. Thomas Ontario the Swackhammer Dufford Bulletin. We do appreciate very much hearing of the early Swackhammers and we have forwarded it to a Mr. Arthur Swackhammer at Churchill, Acton, Ontario. He is a grandson of the three Swackhammer brothers who came into Canada about 1812 and we thought he might have some information that might be of interest. Last summer when we returned from our vacation we found the notice of your gathering. My husband was preaching in Brooklyn the Sunday before and we were sorry to have been so near and missed meeting you all. Thank you very much for sending us the bulletin.

Hazel Swackhammer

Hazel is the wife of Rev. N.F. Swackhammer of 79 Parkview Hills Crescent, Toronto 13, Ontario, Canada. The above letter was received last March and we were very glad to hear from a Canadian Swackhammer. We note with interest the double "M" in the name. The rest of us seem to have lost one of them somewhere along the line. We hope to meet the Rev. and Mrs. N.F. Swackhammer some time and to hear much more from and about them.

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Received a money contribution from T. Cecil Swackhamer, minister of Webster Hills Methodist Church at Webster Groves, Missouri. Also from Payson Dufford of 353 W. 56th St., New York City. Many thanks to both of them. As you know all our contributions are voluntary so every bit helps.

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Mr. C.C. Dufford (Chris) has so far recovered from a Coronary Thrombosis suffered in January that he has been able to return to business part time.

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Valley Crest Farm operated since 1913 by Frank Dufford was sold earlier this year to a Dr. Charles Scranton of East Orange, N.J. This farm was the home site of the Swackhamer family being the second home of Samuel, the pioneer. It is on the road leading from Middle Valley to Long Valley and only a short distance from the little cemetery where he lies buried.



We welcome a new member of the family, Craig Higgins born April 11. this year to Mrs. Lois Johnson Higgins of Plainfield, N.J.

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T. Cecil Swackhamer writes that he knows a Dufford who is professor of physics at Evansville College. Cecil knew him when both lived in Marshall, Missouri,

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While in Miami this past winter your editor met and talked to a Swackhamer who resides at 6831 S.W. 72nd Court, South Miami. He is with Pan American Airways. He is Francis T. Swackhamer and is the grandson of William Swackhamer who was superintendant of the Morris County Road Dep't. and regularly attended our reunions. Francis spent a number of years in Brazil and in 1938 some German acquaintances there handed him a German language newspaper which told about the 200th anniversary celebration in Long Valley which at one time was called German Valley. Francis' wife is Myrtle and their post office address is Box 1566, Route 4, South Miami, Fla.

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Ida V. Wert, wife of Ben Wert of Hackettstown, N.J. passed away on April 23rd. Our deepest sympathy to the family. Ben has been secretary and treasurer of the Dufford Reunion since its inception. Ida missed very few and we shall miss her.

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Pauline M. Wert, widow of J. Runkle Wert of Long Branch, N.J. was the first woman to be a registered pharmacist in New Jersey.

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George H. Dufford, 69, well known trotting horse owner and trainer of Little Falls, N.J. died earlier this year. He was fatally stricken with a heart attack while driving in a racing sulky at Willowbrook Farm, Wayne. Mr. Dufford, who was active in Masonic circles and owner of the G.H. Dufford Trucking and Rigging Co. of Paterson is survived by his wife Elizabeth Quimby Dufford and several children and grandchildren

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Peter Thatcher, who graduated in June from Lafayette College has taken a position with the Trenton Box Lunch Co. Pete majored in psychology and after learning the business expects to head a personnel department. His wife is Diana Shalimar Swackhamer, daughter of your editor. Before marrying Pete she graduated from George School, in Bucks County, Pa. and attended New Jersey College for Women at Rutgers University.

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Dufford recently purchased a new home on Shawger Road at Indian Lake, Denville, N.J.

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Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Moren have moved into their new home at 2244 Redwood Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. Mrs. Moren is a daughter of George Dufford who originated these reunions.

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Mrs. Elizabeth Trimmer of Califon, N.J. celebrated her 96th birthday on June 29th. She is our oldest member.

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