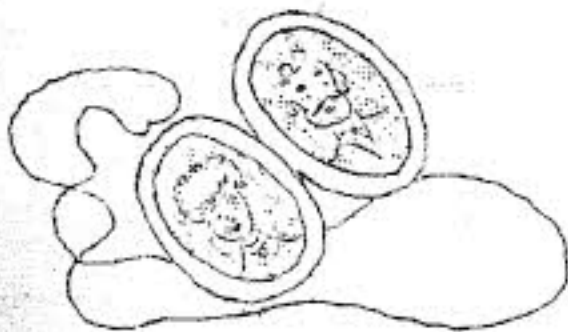


WINTER ISSUE

1954

# SWACKHAMER - - DUFFORD BULLETIN



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

MEETS THE LAST SATURDAY IN JULY

THIS PUBLICATION IS FOR DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL SCHWACHHAMMER (SWACKHAMER) WHO IN 1730, SETTLED IN NEW JERSEY IN THE LONG VALLEY AND OF PHILIP DU FORD (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  
GEORGE STEPHEN DUFFORD .. FOUNDER

.....

## HISTORIC CHURCH SWEEP BY FIRE AT LONG VALLEY; ALL BUT WALLS DESTROYED

DAMAGE IN BUILDING USED BY PRESBYTERIANS SINCE 1832 ESTIMATED AT UP TO \$50,000  
VALUABLE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS LOST

HISTORIC LONG VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON THE MIDDLE VALLEY-CALIFON ROAD ABOUT SIX MILES SOUTHEAST OF HACKETTSTOWN WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE. ONLY THE FOUR STONE WALLS OF THE 122 YEAR OLD BUILDING REMAINED STANDING. FIREMAN FROM FIVE COMPANIES FOUGHT THE BLAZE FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS.

IT WAS THE FIRST MAJOR FIRE IN THE HISTORY OF THE BUILDING. THE CHURCH WAS ERECTED IN 1832 AFTER A FIRE LEVELED THE OLD GERMAN VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON THE SAME SITE.

A FOUR MONTH PROJECT OF REDECORATING THE CHURCH WAS COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1952. MRS. VERNIE HOFFMAN OF LONG VALLEY, A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION FOR 42 YEARS SAID STAINED GLASS WINDOWS MADE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND INSTALLED IN THE CHURCH IN 1832 WERE AMONG THE MOST PRIZED MATERIAL LOSS IN THE FIRE.

IT WAS REPORTED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION THAT THE CHURCH OFFICERS RECENTLY HAD RECEIVED AN OFFER OF \$5,000 FOR THE WINDOWS. ALSO DESTROYED IN ADDITION TO THE CHURCH FURNITURE WAS A PIPE ORGAN PLACED IN THE CHURCH ABOUT 40 YEARS AGO AND A CHANDELIER MORE THAN 100 YEARS OLD WHICH RECENTLY WAS CONVERTED FROM ILLUMINATION BY KEROSENE TO ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

FIREMAN ESTIMATED THE DAMAGE AT BETWEEN \$35,000 AND \$50,000 BUT EMPHASIZED THAT AN ACCURATE FIGURE COULD NOT BE ARRIVED AT BECAUSE OF THE VALUE OF OLD FURNISHINGS AND ARTICLES IN THE CHURCH.

THE FIRE WAS DISCOVERED AROUND 1:30 O'CLOCK BY SGT. JOHN TURNER AND TROOPER THOMAS BARNA OF THE STATE POLICE STATION AT NETCONG. THE TROOPERS WERE PATROLLING IN THE AREA. THEY NOTIFIED LONG VALLEY FIRE CO., FIRE COMPANIES FROM SCHOOL- EY'S MOUNTAIN, HACKETTSTOWN, FAIRMOUNT AND CHESTER RESPONDED TO A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE. THE STATE POLICEMEN SAID THEY SPOTTED FLAMES AT THE MAIN DOOR AND A FRONT WINDOW OF THE CHURCH BUT WITHIN TWENTY MINUTES FLAMES WERE VISIBLE ON THE ROOF AND AT SIDE WINDOWS.

### R A G I N G   I N F E R N O

MEMBERS OF THE LONG VALLEY FIRE CO., REPORTED THE FLAMES WERE OUT OF CONTROL SHORTLY AFTER THEY WENT INTO ACTION. THEY SAID THE INTERIOR WAS A RAGING INFERNO AND THE FLAMES APPEARED TO LICK FROM ALL PARTS OF THE BUILDING AT ONCE. THE FLAT-TOPPED BELL TOWER AT THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING CRASHED THROUGH THE CHURCH ROOF SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST FIRE COMPANY BEGAN FIGHTING THE FLAMES. IT WAS THEORIZED BY FIREMEN THAT THE FIRE ORIGINATED IN THE OIL BURNER WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE FRONT END OF THE BASEMENT.

SIX PIECES OF APPARATUS WERE USED TO PUMP WATER FROM THE NEARBY SOUTH BRANCH OF THE RARITAN RIVER. FLYING EMBERS IGNITED A NEARBY TREE AND THREATENED LONG VALLEY INN AND THE BARN OF STANLEY S. ANDREWS, LONG VALLEY FIRE CHIEF. THE FIREMAN TRAINED THEIR HOSES ON THE NEARBY BUILDINGS TO PREVENT SPREAD ON THE FLAMES.

THE AUXILIARY OF THE LONG VALLEY FIRE CO. SERVED HOT COFFEE TO FIREMAN.

THE CHURCH CONGREGATION NUMBERING ABOUT 100 PERSONS AND A LIKE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HELD SERVICES FOR FOUR MONTHS IN THE LONG VALLEY MUNICIPAL BUILDING WHILE THE CHURCH WAS BEING RENOVATED AND REDECORATED, MEMBERS SAID. THEY RETURNED TO THE REFURBISHED BUILDING IN DECEMBER OF 1952. THE PROJECT INCLUDED DIGGING A BASEMENT, ADDING NEW LIGHTS, REPAIRING BROKEN BEAMS IN THE CEILING OF THE MAIN AUDITORIUM AND PAINTING. THE NEW BASEMENT WAS PUT TO USE AS A SUNDAY SCHOOL.

THE REV. HARRY H. HUBBELL, THE PASTOR CAME TO THE CHURCH LAST MAY FROM MANASQUAN, N.J.

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FROM: "THE EASTON EXPRESS"

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ROBERT SWACKHAMER OF 47 BERGEN STREET, DOVER, N.J., REMINDS US THAT WHEN THE SWACKHAMER GROUP WERE MEETING SEPERATELY THEY ALTERNATED FOR SEVERAL YEARS BETWEEN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND THE ONE THAT BURNED DOWN. HE ALSO SAYS THAT FRANK SWACKHAMER'S FATHER WAS A FAITHFUL WORKER THERE IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS.

.....  
WE NEED MORE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS BULLETIN SO THAT OUR NEWS CAN COVER MORE TERRITORY. MOST OF OUR READERS WILL HAVE TO TAKE THIS RESPONSIBILITY MORE SERIOUSLY IF THEY WISH TO CONTINUE THIS PROJECT.

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ELIZA HARRIMAN IS ONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN LYING DOWN ON THE JOB. HER CONTRIBUTION FOLLOWS. AND BY THE WAY ELIZA IS THE MEMBER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DONATING THE CHURCH WINDOW.

BY ELIZA HARRIMAN:- OUR LAST REUNION, HELD JULY 25, 1953 AT THE ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LONG VALLEY, N.J., WAS ATTENDED BY 85 MEMBERS OF BOTH FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. IT WAS A DELIGHTFUL DAY AND WE WERE ABLE TO HOLD OUR MEETING OUT OF DOORS.

THE SUBJECT OF A PROJECT UPON WHICH WE COULD WORK AS A GROUP WAS BROUGHT UP BY OUR PRESIDENT, THOUGHT TO BE A GOOD IDEA AND TWO WERE PROPOSED.

1. THAT A GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF THE SWACKHAMER FAMILY BE COMPILED. MR. EVERETT SWACKHAMER WAS ASKED TO TAKE THIS IN HAND.
2. THAT SOMETHING MIGHT BE DONE TO HELP DR. C. SHARP TRIMMER IN HIS HOSPITAL WORK IN PAKISTAN.

THESE WERE TO BE MORE WIDELY PRESENTED IN THE BULLETIN. YOUR PRESIDENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL, AND ANY IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE ON OTHER PROJECTS.

THE REACTION TO OUR BULLETINS HAS BEEN HEARTWARMING AND AFTER THE MEETING YOUR TREASURER ACCEPTED DONATIONS FOR THIS WORK FROM:

MRS. ELIZABETH CRATER \$10.00 MR. ALDEN WERT \$5.00  
MR. WILSON HOPKINS \$5.00

LATER MISS BESS SEWARD AND MRS. CHESTER R. SWACKHAMER SENT US \$5.00. WE THANK THEM ALL.

THE REV. CHAS. S. SCHMIDLING, PASTOR OF THE CHURCH WELCOMED US AND SPOKE OF THE REPAIRS NEEDED TO THE WINDOWS OF THE CHURCH AFTER A DAMAGING STORM. HE SPOKE ESPECIALLY OF THE ROUND WINDOW IN THE FRONT, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE DONATED AS A MEMORIAL. WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP TOOK CARE OF IT. THE WINDOW IS IN PLACE AND DEDICATED.

OUR SPEAKER OF THE AFTERNOON WAS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, MR. HOMER WEIDER, PRINCIPLE OF TWO SCHOOLS IN PLAINFIELD, AND REFEREE OF THE JUVENILE COURT OF PLAINFIELD. HE GAVE US SOME IDEAS ON THE SUBJECT OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

WE ARE ALSO HAPPY TO REPORT THAT BOTH MR. C. C. DUFFORD AND MR. G. B. WERTS HAVE RECOVERED FROM CORONARY ATTACKS.

DR. & MRS. RAY DUFFORD OF EVANSVILLE, IND., VISITED THEIR DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW MR. & MRS. JAMES M. LOGAN OF FORREST HILLS, N. Y. ANOTHER DAUGHTER, CATHERINE, WHO IS STUDYING AT THE EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC IN ROCHESTER, N.Y. MET THEM THERE. WE HAD A DELIGHTFUL VISIT WITH THEM AT THE HOME OF MR. & MRS. E. J. BLANK, OF ALLWOOD, N.J. MRS. BLANK AND HER SISTER, MISS BESS SEWARD ARE COUSINS OF DR. DUFFORD WHO HE HAD NOT SEEN SINCE CHILDHOOD. THE BULLETIN AND THE REUNION BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER. MR. DUFFORD IS HEAD OF THE PHYSICS DEPT., OF EVANSVILLE COLLEGE. WHILE HE WAS TEACHING AT MARSHALL, MO., HE MET REV. CECIL SWACKHAMER, AND FROM THE FACT THAT THE NAME SWACKHAMER WAS MENTIONED IN AN OLD DUFFORD RECORD THEY CONCLUDED THEY MIGHT BE RELATIVES. THEY ARE BOTH INTERESTED IN THE REUNION AND THE GENEALOGY OF THE TWO FAMILIES. DR. DUFFORD HAS A RECORD OF HIS FAMILY AFTER THEY MOVED WEST AND IS GOING TO SEND IT ON FOR OUR RECORDS.

SINCE OUR VISIT WITH DR. DUFFORD, MR. & MRS. LOGAN HAVE BECOME THE PROUD PARENTS OF MICHAEL J. LOGAN, BORN SEPT. 28, 1953.

ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE FAMILY IS HUGH EVAN HARRIMAN, WHO ARRIVED AT THE HOME OF CYRUS AND BEE HARRIMAN, WOODSTOCK, N.Y., ON AUGUST 9, 1953.

RICHARD LOGAN, SON OF YOUR PRESIDENT, WAS MARRIED ON SEPT. 12, 1953 TO MISS VIVIAN SCHILHA. THEY ARE RESIDING AT 1529 FRONT ST., SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J.

DR. CHESTER R. SWACKHAMER, OF GLOBE, ARIZ., WAS CONFINED TO THE HOSPITAL AT PHOENIX FOR SEVERAL WEEKS WITH A HEART CONDITION FOLLOWED BY AN OPERATION. AT CHRISTMAS WE HEARD THAT HE HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY RECOVERED. ALSO THAT THEIR SON DR. BILL HAS BROUGHT HIS FAMILY BACK TO GLOBE WHERE HE IS TAKING UP PRACTICE.

MRS. RUTH JOHNSON RETURNED FROM AN EXTENDED TRIP THROUGH EUROPE A FEW WEEKS AGO WHICH SHE ENJOYED THOROUGHLY. SHE VISITED ITALY, WHERE SHE SAID THE FOOD WAS WONDERFUL AND THE PEOPLE MOST FRIENDLY. THIS WAS TRUE ALSO OF HOLLAND AND WEST GERMANY. SHE SAYS IT IS AMAZING HOW WONDERFULLY WEST GERMANY HAS COME BACK. SHE FOUND FOOD ON FRANCE TYPICALLY FRENCH AND VERY GOOD; PEOPLE FRIENDLY EXCEPT IN PARIS WHERE THERE WAS A GENERAL FEELING OF "GO HOME, AMERICANS!" WHICH SHE ATTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNISTIC INFLUENCE IN THAT CITY. ENGLAND, OF COURSE, IS FULL OF SUCH OLD HISTORIC LANDMARKS. THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE TOO MUCH WARMTH IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE AND THE FOOD PLENTIFUL, BUT NOT TOO GOOD. AMERICA IS STILL THE BEST.

MR. & MRS. JACK NELSON HAVE PURCHASED AND ARE OCCUPYING THEIR NEW HOME IN UNION, N.J.

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DIANA, THE DAUGHTER OF YOUR EDITOR AND HER HUSBAND, PETER THATCHER ARE NOW MAKING THEIR HOME IN ROANOKE, VA. PETER WENT DOWN THERE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR TO TAKE OVER A TERRITORY AS SALESMAN FOR THE LEE OVERALL COMPANY AND DIANA FLEW DOWN TO JOIN HIM A MONTH LATER AFTER A NICE VISIT WITH HER PARENTS.

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ILL HEALTH HAS JUST RECENTLY MADE IT NECESSARY FOR FRANK DUFFORD TO RESIGN AS A DIRECTOR OF THE HUNTERDON COUNTY TRUST CO. ROBERT A. BODINE WAS ELECTED TO SUCCEED HIM. A DINNER WAS HELD AT THE CALIFON METHODIST PARISH HOUSE AT WHICH MR. DUFFORD AND HIS WIFE WERE TO BE GUESTS OF HONOR BUT ON ACCOUNT OF HIS HEALTH THEY WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND. NINETEEN OF THE DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES ATTENDED AND SEVERAL CALLED LATER AT HIS HOME AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A FINE RECLINING CHAIR WITH OTTOMAN AND MRS. DUFFORD WITH A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE MRS. HARRIMAN SENT IN HER NEWS ITEMS MR. G. B. WERTS HAS HAD TO RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL. AT THIS DATE WE HAVEN'T HEARD WHAT HIS CONDITION IS.

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THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS WRITTEN LAST MARCH 26TH AND WE INTENDED PUTTING IT IN THE LAST "BULLETIN". SOMEWAY IT WAS LEFT OUT. HERE IT IS NOW.

DEAR MILTON:

THANKS FOR THE FASCINATING SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD BULLETIN WHICH YOU AND MARJORIE MUST HAVE GOTTEN UP. IT MUST HAVE TAKEN A LOT OF TIME OUT OF OFFICE HOURS.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND A REUNION LATELY BUT WILL SURELY MAKE AN EFFORT THIS YEAR. IT HAS BEEN NEARLY FIFTY YEARS SINCE I LEFT MIDDLE VALLEY AND I HAVE BEEN BACK ONLY FOR VISITS SINCE. HOWEVER I REMEMBER AUNT SUSAN SWACKHAMER DUFFORD SO WELL. SHE WAS THE SWEETEST AND MOST BELOVED LADY IN THE VALLEY AND LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE. I CAN STILL SEE HER AND MY UNCLE ELIJAH ON THE WAY TO CHURCH AS THEY DROVE PAST OUR HOUSE TO LONG VALLEY LUTHERAN. THEY MUST HAVE BEEN IN THEIR SEVENTIES EVEN IN THOSE DAYS. THEY WERE THE GRANDPARENTS OF MARJORIE DUFFORD LOGAN, OUR PRESIDENT.

SINCERELY

PAYSON DUFFORD.

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MRS. MABEL APGAR OF CALIFON, N.J., SENDS US THE FOLLOWING NEWS:-  
RUTH E. TRIMMER, DAUGHTER OF DR. & MRS. C. SHARP TRIMMER OF LAHORE, PARKISTAN BECAME ENGAGED AT CHRISTMAS TO RALEIGH SPINKS OF CHICAGO, ILL. AT PRESENT THEY ARE ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. THE WEDDING DATE IS JUNE 16, 1954.

MRS. MARY TRIMMER OF CALIFON, N.J., ONE OF OUR OLDEST MEMBERS, 96 YEARS OLD IS ENJOYING GOOD HEALTH AT THIS SEASON.

(MRS. APGAR ALSO SENT A CLIPPING ABOUT THE CHURCH FIRE. THANKS SO MUCH.)

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ROBERT SWACKHAMER AND WIFE, FLORENCE EXPECT TO LEAVE ON FEBRUARY 19TH FOR A MONTH'S VACATION IN FLORIDA. ROBERT SAYS ELIZABETH CRATER (MRS. GEORGE F.) HAS BEEN SPENDING A MONTH AT WINTER PARK, FLORIDA.

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SORRY THAT WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER FROM MRS. N. F. SWACKHAMER OF 79 PARKVIEW HILLS CRESCENT, TOTONTO, ONTARIO. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM THEM.

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AT OUR LAST MEETING IN LONG VALLEY LAST JULY YOUR EDITOR HAD QUITE A TALK WITH ELLA D. BROWN OF 30 PROSPECT ST., MORRISTOWN, N.J., SHE IS CONNECTED WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT THERE AND SPOKE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING SOME GENELOGICAL INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE OF SOME INTEREST TO READERS OF THIS BULLETIN. MRS. BROWN CONTACTED US LAST OCTOBER ABOUT A BOOK CALLED "SLOCUM FAMILY" WHICH IS IN THE STATE LIBRARY IN TRENTON. TO DATE WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN TO THE TASK BUT WILL ENDEAVOR TO HAVE A REPORT FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE. MRS. BROWN SAYS, "THE NAMES I'M PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO FIND OUT ABOUT ARE AMANDA AND WILLIAM SWACKHAMER, PRESUMABLY ON PAGE 352 IN ABOVE BOOK OF GENEALOGY".

MRS. BROWN ALSO MENTIONED A MATTHIAS AND CARRIE SWACKHAMER LIVING AT 10 ACADEMY ROAD, MORRIS PLAINS, N.J. PERHAPS WE COULD PERSUADE THEM TO ATTEND OUR NEXT REUNION. SHE ALSO MENTIONS THAT IN THE INDEX TO VOLUMES IN THE MORRISTOWN LIBRARY SHE HAS COME ACROSS THE NAMES DUFOIS, DUFOUR, DUFUR AND DUFOSSET. THESE NAMES ALONG WITH DUFFORD MAY HAVE A COMMON ORIGIN.

MILTON AND DIANE SWACKHAMER OF TRENTON, N.J., ARE PLANNING A SPRING FLORIDA TRIP. THEY WILL MOTOR THERE BY WAY OF ROANOKE, VA., IN ORDER TO VISIT WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, DIANA THATCHER.

## A Short Biography

A LASS AND A LADDIE OUT WALKING ONE DAY  
PICKED A LEAF FROM A GREAT STURDY TREE,  
WHERE OCTOBER HAD PAINTED IN GORGEOUS DISPLAY  
A MASTERPIECE WONDROUS TO SEE.  
BROWN FAIRYLIKE LINES FROM THE STEM FOUND THEIR WAY  
TO ITS EDGE, THROUGH A COLOR-SPLASHED FIELD,  
ITS OUTLINE SERRATED TO HELP THE ARRAY  
OF BEAUTY DAME NATURE WOULD YIELD.

THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST THE LAD PLAINLY SAW  
ITS SHADES, SOFTLY BLENDED YET BOLD,  
THAT VARIED FROM CREAM OR A LIGHT COLORED STRAW,  
TO A CARMINE RELIEVED BY A GOLD.  
HE POINTED THESE OUT TO THE LASS BY HIS SIDE,  
AS ITS BEAUTY APPEALED TO HIS SOUL,  
BUT HE STOPPED DEEPLY SHOCKED WHEN THE LASSIE REPLIED  
OH, DEAR, WHAT AN UGLY WORM HOLE.

THIS SMALL IMPERFECTION WAS ALL THAT SHE SAW,  
UNNOTED THE BEAUTY, OUTSTANDING THE FLAW.  
AND THUS WE'RE REMINDED, IN RUNNING LIFE'S RACE,  
WE SHALL FIND MUCH OF BEAUTY EVERYWHERE, ANY PLACE.  
IF WE LOOK FOR THE BEST, "OFTEN TIMES UNDERNEATH,"  
WE SHALL FIND IT, INSTEAD OF A HOLE IN THE LEAF.

THE ABOVE IS FROM "A PEEP AT OTHER PEOPLE", WHICH IS A BOOK OF POEMS PUBLISHED BY GEORGE S. DUFFORD, COPYRIGHT 1928. AND IF EVER A POEM PAINTED A PICTURE OF ITS WRITER THIS ONE DOES. GEORGE DUFFORD NEVER LOOKED FOR THE HOLE IN THE LEAF. LIFE WAS NOT TO BE WASTED THAT WAY. HE LIKED TO LOOK FOR THE BEST IN THOSE ABOUT HIM AND MAINTAINED AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN EVERYTHING GOING ON. AS A MATTER OF FACT IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR ONE OF HIS INTERESTS WE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD EITHER THE DUFFORD OR SWACKHAMER ANNUAL REUNIONS. IT WAS BACK IN 1926 THAT HE ORGANIZED THE DUFFORD REUNION WHICH HAS CONTINUED TO MEET THROUGH THE YEARS AND IN 1941 HE ORGANIZED THE SWACKHAMER REUNION. WE CAN WELL REMEMBER BEING ASKED IN THE SPRING OF THAT YEAR IF WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A PROJECT. AND WE HAVE BEFORE US AT THIS MOMENT OUR OWN COPY OF THE FIRST LETTER HE SENT OUT. HE HAD FORMED A COMMITTEE AND WAS ACTING AS THE SECRETARY. "HOW MANY OF YOU", HE ASKED IN THE LETTER, "KNOW THE NAME OF THE FIRST SCHWACKHAMER TO SETTLE IN THE LONG VALLEY, N.J. HOW MANY KNOW THAT TODAY HE SLEEPS IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE".

WELL ALL THAT IS CHANGED NOW FOR AS A DIRECT RESULT OF HIS EFFORTS A SIMPLE TOMBSTONE WAS PLACED AT THE GRAVE IN 1942. AND IT SEEMS NOW EXCEPTIONALLY FITTING AND PROPER THAT THE COMBINED SWACKHAMER AND DUFFORD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES SHOULD DO THEIR BEST TO HONOR, IN THIS ISSUE BOTH DUFFORD AND SWACKHAMER.

LET US LOOK FOR A MOMENT AT THE GENEALOGICAL BACKGROUND OF THIS REMARKABLE MAN, WHO WAS POET, HISTORIAN, WRITER OF SPECIAL ARTICLES AND SPEAKER-MUSICIAN AND MINSTREL MAN, HUNTER OF NO MEAN ABILITY, EXPERT WITH THE PAINT BRUSH, TELEGRAPHER AND ONCE A DEPUTY SHERIFF OF MESA COUNTY, COLORADA.

HIS FATHER WAS ELIJAH, HIS GRANDFATHER, GEORGE, AND HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS GEORGE STEPHEN, A SON OF JACOB AND HIS DELAWARE INDIAN WIFE. JACOB WAS A SON OF PHILIP DU FORD (DUFFORD) WHO LANDED AT PHILADELPHIA FROM THE SHIP ROBERT AND OLIVER ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1738 AND AFTER TAKING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE ENGLISH KING FOLLOWED THE DELAWARE UP TO THE MUSCANETCONG, UP THAT TO AN OLD INDIAN TRAIL (ABOUT WHERE THE BRIDGE NOW SPANS THE RIVER NORTH EAST OF HACKETTSTOWN) AND THENCE OVER SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN TO THE LONG VALLEY. IN THIS VALLEY WAS ALREADY (SINCE 1730) THE SWACKHAMER TRIBE (SCHWACHHAMMER). SAMUEL, THE PIONEER HAD AMONG HIS MANY CHILDREN A SON JOHN (JOHANNES) WHO WAS THE FATHER OF JACOB WHO HAD PHILIP WHOSE DAUGHTER SUSAN WAS THE MOTHER OF OUR GEORGE DUFFORD. SO YOU CAN SEE THAT HE WAS OF THE SIXTH GENERATION FROM EACH OF THOSE PIONEERS.

GEORGE WAS BORN ON JULY 31, 1864 IN THE OLD HOUSE ON THE MIDDLE VALLEY FARM. HE WAS TWICE MARRIED, HIS FIRST WIFE HAVING DIED. HIS SECOND WIFE, (HATTIE SWACKHAMER) STILL ENJOYS THE MOST EXCELLENT HEALTH AND RESIDES AT 675 WEST FRONT STREET, PLAINFIELD, N.J. HE HAD THREE DAUGHTERS, MARJORIE LOGAN, OUR PRESIDENT AND ELIZA HARRIMAN, OUR SECRETARY-TREASURER ARE TWO AND THE OTHER IS DELIAH, WIFE OF WESLY MOREN. HE DIED AUGUST 26, 1945. GEORGE CAME FROM A FAMILY OF BIG MEN BUT HE WAS SMALL IN STATURE HIMSELF. HE OFTEN REMARKED "I WAS THE RUNT OF THE FAMILY". BUT HE MADE UP FOR IT IN HEART. EARLY IN LIFE HE DECIDED NOT TO BE A FARMER SO HE LEARNED TELEGRAPHY.

IN 1886 HE OBTAINED HIS FIRST JOB WITH THE N J CENTRAL RAILROAD AS TELEGRAPH OPERATOR AT CHESTER, N.J., AT \$33.00 PER MONTH. THE TITLE CARRIED THESE DUTIES WHICH HE HAS ENUMERATED, "BESIDES DOING THE OPERATING I WAYBILLED ALL OUTGOING FREIGHT, CHECKED AND STORED FREIGHT RECEIVED, SOLD TICKETS, MADE OUT TICKET AND FREIGHT REPORTS, SWEEPED THE WHOLE SHE-BANG AND KEPT THE KEROSENE LAMPS IN ORDER. MY SCHEDULE WAS FROM 6 AM TO 7 PM IF EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE --- IT FREQUENTLY MISCARRIED." IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT AT THAT TIME THE IRON MINES IN THAT DISTRICT WERE REALLY ACTIVE FOR HE NOTES THAT HIS STATION HAD A STANDING ORDER FOR 35 GONDOLAS PER DAY TO SHIP THE MINED ORE. FOR RELAXATION HE PLAYED THE CORNET IN THE LONG VALLEY BAND. ONE WONDERS, THAT HE HAD ANY WIND LEFT AFTER THE DAYS WORK HE HAS OUTLINED. UNDOUBTEDLY, IT WAS HIS LOVE FOR MUSIC FOR, THRU THE YEARS, HE BECAME A VERY VERSATILE MUSICIAN. IN LATER YEARS HE ORGANIZED AND CONDUCTED THE DUTCH ARMS, THE ELKS, THE INTERNATIONAL AND THE SPICER COMPANY BANDS OF PLAINFIELD. HE WAS ALSO A BANJOIST AND MUCH IN DEMAND AS AN END MAN FOR THE VALLEY MINSTREL SHOWS. IN HIS LATE YEARS HE WAS PIANIST FOR PLAINFIELD'S OLD GUARD.

HIS PUBLISHED RECOLLECTIONS OF WHEN HE USED TO "SLING" MORSE WITH INVENTOR THOMAS A. EDISON ARE WELL KNOWN TO PLAINFIELDERS AS THEY WERE PART OF HIS WRITINGS PUBLISHED EXTENSIVELY IN THE COURIER NEWS. ONE OF HIS PRIZED POSSESSIONS WAS A LETTER FROM CHARLES EDISON, THEN SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, TELLING HIM OF THE THINGS HE REMEMBERED IN ONE OF HIS ARTICLES AND ADDING "I AM GLAD TO HAVE IT FOR MY COLLECTION OF EDISONIA."

HE FIRST MET EDISON WHILE TOWERMAN FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD AT MENLO PARK, WHERE EDISON DEVELOPED THE HABIT OF STOPPING AN HOUR OR SO FOR AN EVENING TO LEARN THE NEWS GOING OVER THE WIRES. OWING TO HIS DEAFNESS, EDISON DID NOT GET THE MESSAGES BY SOUND BUT BY PLACING HIS FINGERS ON THE RELAY POSTS AND RECEIVING THE MESSAGES AS IT PASSED UP HIS ARMS. HE WAS TO HAVE MUCH CONTACT WITH EDISON LATER WHEN HE WAS MANAGER OF THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE AT NOLAN'S POINT, LAKE HOPATCONG, AND THE INVENTOR WAS MINING ORE BY ELECTRICITY AT OGDEN, LATER NAMED EDISON. A PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE CONNECTED THE TWO POINTS.

ANOTHER INVENTOR, WILLIS CARRIER, A PIONEER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR CONDITIONING WAS A LONG TIME CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND. TODAY ONE MAY SEE THE NAME CARRIER IN EVERY TOWN IN THE COUNTRY. THEY HUNTED TOGETHER EACH YEAR, SOMETIMES AT CARRIER'S PLACE IN CANADA FOR DEER, AT OTHERS IN PENNSYLVANIA FOR GROUSE AND ALSO ON THE MIDDLE VALLEY FARM WHERE PHEASANT SHOOTING WAS ONCE GOOD.

HE TAUGHT MR. CARRIER TO SHOOT BIRDS AND IN THE EARLY DAYS IT WAS A PLEASURE TO HEAR THEM DISCUSS THE SHOTS MISSED BY MR. CARRIER, FOR HE WAS A MATHEMATICAL WIZARD AND TRIED TO SHOOT ON A MATHEMATICAL BASIS. ONE DAY HE MISSED A SHOT IN AN OPEN FIELD AND TURNING, SAID RUEFULLY, "NOW GEORGE, YOU SAID A BIRD LIKE THAT FLIES SO MANY FEET PER SECOND. HERE I WAS ON A 40% ANGLE AND IF I LED HIM BY SO MANY FEET, JUST WHY DIDN'T I GET HIM?" TO WHICH GEORGE REPLIED, "IF, LIKE I KEEP SAYING, YOU WOULD QUIT FIGURING THE TIME OF FLIGHT AND THE ANGLE AND JUST LEAD THAT BIRD BY TEN FEET, YOU WOULD HAVE HAD HIM - AND A HELL OF A LOT MORE FUN TOO."

AT ONE TIME HE WAS STATION AGENT AT PALISADE, COLORADO. HAVING ALWAYS BEEN A CRACK SHOT, HE ENLARGED HIS HUNTING SCOPE BY BECOMING A DEPUTY SHERIFF OF MESA COUNTY. THIS ACTIVITY BROUGHT MANY ADVENTURES AND A PAINFUL BULLET WOUND.

IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD THAT THE EVIDENCE OF HIS TALENT FOR WRITING EMERGED. IT ORIGINATED FROM LETTERS HE WROTE BACK HOME WHICH WERE PUBLISHED IN A LOCAL PAPER. BEFORE LEAVING PALISADE, HE FOUND TIME TO CORRESPOND FOR THE OLD NEW YORK WORLD AND SEVERAL NEW JERSEY PAPERS. RETURNING TO NEW JERSEY, HE WORKED FOR SEVERAL COMPANIES. DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR HE SUPERVISED THE EXPERIMENTAL USE OF PAINTS BY THE STANDARD AIRCRAFT COMPANY, AFTER WHICH HE WENT WITH THE CARRIER ENGINEERING CORP., WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT.

FROM THAT TIME UNTIL HIS DEATH, HE SPENT HIS WINTERS AT HIS HOME IN PLAINFIELD, N.J., AND HIS SUMMERS IN HIS ANCESTRAL HOME IN THE VALLEY. THIS WAS BUILT IN 1747 AND IS WORTHY OF MENTION. THE LATH WERE HAND SPLIT, WITH INCH THICK PLASTER MADE OF LIME, SAND, CLAY AND COW HAIR. THE FLOOR BOARDS ARE INCH AND A HALF OAK. IN MAY OF 1940 WHILE MAKING SOME REPAIRS IN THE CEILING, HE DISCOVERED AN OLD AMERICAN FLAG 4' BY 7' MADE OF BUNTING CARRYING SEVEN RED AND SIX WHITE STRIPES, A BLUE FIELD ON WHICH ARE TWELVE SMALL STARS AND A LARGE WHITE STAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD.

THERE WERE OTHER FINDS TOO, NOW THAT HE HAD THE TIME TO LOOK AROUND. AMONG HIS FATHER'S PAPERS HE FOUND THE ORIGINAL COVENANT ENTERED INTO BY THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH AND THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES OF DUTCH VALLEY, NOW THE LONG VALLEY. THESE FINDS MUST HAVE INTENSIFIED INTEREST IN HIS FOREBEARS FOR, FROM THIS PERIOD ON, HIS LIFE WAS DEVOTED TO SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION REGARDING HIS ANCESTRY AND WRITING THE HISTORY OF THE OLD DUTCH VALLEY. HE BECAME AN AUTHORITY ON ITS HISTORICAL ASPECTS AND MANY, MANY DESCENDANTS OF THE OLD SETTLERS CALLED ON HIM FOR INFORMATION AND TO CLEAR MOOT POINTS. HE WAS AN INDEFATIGABLE WORKER DURING THIS ERA OF HIS LIFE. BESIDES THE BOOK OF VERSE ENTITLED "A PEEP AT OTHER PEOPLE" HE WROTE NUMEROUS ARTICLES FOR THE PLAINFIELD COURIER NEWS AND WAS MUCH IN DEMAND AS A SPEAKER.

WHEN IT WAS PROPOSED THAT HIS BELOVED VALLEY BE INUNDATED FOR A HUGE RESERVOIR, HE SUCCESSFULLY LED THE FIGHT TO DEFEAT THE PROJECT. ON THE 200 ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LONG VALLEY, HIS HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROVIDED THE MATERIAL FOR THE PAGEANT WHICH WOUND DOWN OVER THE ROAD FROM SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN. DESCENDENTS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS CAME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY FOR THE DAY LONG CELEBRATION WHICH WAS CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY HIM. PAPERS SAID THAT "FEW", IF ANY, LIKE IT WERE KNOWN IN THE ANNALS OF THE STATE".

IT MUST BE SAID THAT HE NEVER LOST HIS LOVE FOR SHOOTING. HIS DAUGHTER TELLS THE STORY OF AN IRATE NEIGHBOR CALLING TO COMPLAIN THAT HER HUSBANDS "LONG JOHNS", WHILE BEING DRIED ON THE CLOTHES LINE, WERE RIDDLED BY SHOTS FROM AN AIR GUN AIMED FROM THE DUFFORD HOME. INVESTIGATION DEVELOPED THAT "GRAMPS" HAD A HAND IN THE TARGET PRACTICE -- AS AN INSTRUCTOR, OF COURSE HIS DESCENDENTS CAN WELL SAY OF HIM,

"HIS LIFE WAS GENTLE  
AND THE ELEMENTS WERE  
SO MIXED IN HIM,  
THAT ONE CAN STAND  
BEFORE THE WHOLE WORLD  
AND SAY,  
THERE WAS A MAN."



DONT FORGET

THE BIG ANNUAL MEETING  
LONG VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1954

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

PLAN THE PILGRIMAGE NOW

DON'T LET ANOTHER YEAR GO BY