

Special Collections

WINTER ISSUE

1960

SWACKHAMER -

DUFFORD

BULLETIN

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REUNION SATURDAY JULY 29, 1961
AT THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
LONG VALLEY, NEW JERSEY

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

FOR

The descendants of Samuel Swackhammer (Swackhamer) who, in 1730 settled in New Jersey in the Long Valley - and of Philip Dufford (Dufford) who settled there in 1738.

Officers of the combined Societies are:

President - Rev. T. Cecil Swackhamer, 151 Fifth St., Stamford, Conn.
Vice-Pres. - Mrs. W. J. Moren, 2268 Redwood Rd., Scotch Plains, N.J.
Secretary - Mrs. Ruth Alpaugh, High Bridge, N.J.
Treasurer - Mr. W. J. Moren, 2268 Redwood Rd., Scotch Plains, N.J.
Bulletin Editor - Mrs. C. I. Harriman, 18 Hillandale Rd., Westport, Conn.

MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

The morning of July 23 discouraged us in going to Long Valley for the annual meeting of the Genealogical Society of the Dufford-Swackhamer families. All night long it had rained in torrents. It was amazine that about 50 people had braved the roads and flood warnings and were comfortable in the Fellowship hall of the Lutheran Church. One family had come all the way from Illinois - Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Henry, from Kankakee.

The President, Robert Swackhamer, of Dover, N.J. was there to preside. We knew how heavy was his heart, for his wife was critically ill and was soon to be gathered to her Fathers in death. We appreciated so much his loyalty and interest in the Society.

The nominating committee asked me to be president of this group. I said "yes" and was so honored.

The Dufford and Swackhamer families are among the finest old families in this country. Mr. George Dufford rendered a splendid service to all when he organized the meetings and encouraged the preservation of family records and history. This we can continue to encourage.

Here are some of the things we can do:

Encourage the descendants of these pioneer families to know the Valley where their ancestors first settled in 1730 and built their homes and churches. It is one of the most picturesque places in the United States. We should all set our feet on this soil and walk where they walked. The youngsters of this generation should know this place and why their people settled there.

We should preserve all records of the family lines and achievements. A copy of all records should be filed with the New Jersey Historical Society.

Encourage all who can to make this pilgrimage for the Reunion in 1961, which will be held July 29th.

We should make it interesting to all ages and worth while for those who have traveled long distances to be present.

What can we do?

1. Send all family news, including births, deaths, and achievements to Eliza D. Harriman, 18 Hillandale Road, Westport, Conn.
2. Plan to attend the next Reunion on Saturday, July 29, 1961, at Long Valley, N.J. Get it on your summer vacation plans. Bring the children and try to make it by ten o'clock in the morning.
3. Bring any antiques or relics that have family connection so we can all see these interesting objects.
4. Bring family records. If you cannot come, send copy to Mrs. Harriman.

5. Send \$1.00 to our Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Moren, 2268 Redwood Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. so we can continue to print and send you copies of the Bulletin. We have more than 300 families on our mailing list, but only a fraction of these respond.

6. Send any ideas to your President - Rev. T. C. Swackhamer, 151 Fifth St., Stamford, Conn.

(Editor's note - We think our new President is getting us off to a fine start. Let's rally around and help. He is going to need it. He is Pastor of The First Methodist Church of Stamford, and is in the midst of building a new church.)

Our President and Mrs. Swackhamer entertained a famous Minister from England for a month this past summer. He is widely known as "Father Green". We have a copy of his farewell letter which may interest you in part.

"May I express on behalf of my wife and myself our deep gratitude for your wonderful friendship and hospitality.

During the past 40 years I have been "Padre Green" to soldiers and airmen, to prisoners and delinquent boys, and now I have the great privilege of being "Father Green" to many American Methodists. It has been a delight to my wife to be called "Mother Green".

Dr. and Mrs. Swackhamer have been incredibly kind. We are reluctant to leave them and shall always think of Stamford Methodists with affection and gratitude. ---

The wonders of New York, Boston, Hartford, Washington and Virginia have been surveyed by our amazed eyes and we have come into contact with many types of life in the USA. We have always liked Americans, and we will go back to England liking them more than ever. We have been met everywhere with cheerful friendliness and it is enheartening to realize that the world's most powerful nation is also the kindest. ---

Forgive me if I end with three Questions:

There is a welcome absence of social snobbery, but is there not a danger that this may be replaced by the subtle snobbery that comes from too eager dollar chasing?

Is there not a danger that many Americans may come to believe that the perfect life will come with perfect plumbing?

The Christian Church is the hope of the world, but are we not all reluctant to face two facts that are taken for granted in the New Testament?

(a) That self exaltation is the Devil and the Devil is self exaltation.

(b) That obscurity is a fiction of the worldly minded.

With kindest regards from my wife and myself, and every good wish."

(FOOD FOR THOUGHT?)

. . . . Ed.

THE REUNION

Our report on the Reunion last July must be quite sketchy for illness kept your Editor away and again we have not been able to get a copy of the minutes of the meeting.

You will note the change of officers on page 1.

There had been a terrific rain storm, and the river had overflowed its banks to the extent that it interfered with parking, yet about 50 people attended, and many who had not met with us before.

Mr. Gunther was there with the Dufford "Family Tree" which was the center of much interest and information. By the way, if you Duffords have not sent Mr. Gunther your family data, please do so, so he can bring the "Tree" up to date. It is still not quite ready to send out.

We are told that all were charmed with the restoration of the Church. A snapshot of it taken by Mr. Frank Henry, has come to me via Mrs. E. J. Blank, of St. Petersburg, Fla. It must be beautiful.

Mrs. Blank also enclosed a newspaper picture of Mrs. Henry at the entrance of the Administration Building of Olivet College, Bourdonnais, Ill., from which she will receive a degree in May. Mrs. Henry has a daughter and six grandchildren.

Now that the Lutheran Church has been so beautifully restored, the matter of the restoration of the original Church in Long Valley which was built by our ancestors has been proposed. The walls of the old Church are still standing. Mrs. Lester Apgar writes that some of the citizens of Long Valley decided in the early fall, to give their services to restore the old cemetery beside the Church, and repair the remaining stone corners of the Church. The ladies did their share by serving the workers with dinner. We hope to have more information about this in the next Bulletin.

As you know from the last Bulletin, our oldest member, Mrs. Augusta Dufford, then 96, had suffered a broken hip, and was in the Medical Center at Flemington, N.J. The group who attended the meeting obtained a "get well" card, all signed it and sent it to her. Mrs. Fred'k Birch later visited "Aunt Gussie" at the hospital and tells us she was so pleased to receive it. She is at home now, getting around in a wheel chair, and is able to take her meals with the family. She is quite remarkable.

We are told that there is to be a big celebration in Long Valley this coming summer honoring the settling of the Valley. Our information is very scant, but we mention it hoping to interest the families in coming back to visit. We will have more information about this, also, in the next Bulletin.

GENEALOGY

A note from Mrs. Chas. Ford of Washington, N.J. says they came home from their winter home in Dunedin, Fla. in June, she, with a very lame back, which delayed getting their family notes to us in time for the Summer Bulletin. It follows:-

Charles Hoffman Ford married Ella Mae Inscho, June 23, 1908.

Their children -

Charles Frederick, married (1st) Muriel Smith - no children
(2nd) Hazel Snyder

children - Kathryn Agnes and Elizabeth Ella

Paul James, married Harriet Bjorklund

children - Ingrid and Pamela

Daniel Inscho, married Florence Wilde - no children

Ben Eldredge (killed in Korea Oct. 15, 1951.) married Dorothy Duckworth -

children - Ben Charles and Glenn William

Robert Bruce, married Mary Arbolini

children - Sarah Elizabeth and Roberta

Mr. Charles Ford is a grandson of Mr. William G. Dufford, formerly of Washington, N.J. Mr. and Mrs. Ford had hoped to be at the Reunion this year. I hope they were able to get there.

Mrs. J. I. Lake, formerly of Newark, N.J. writes that they moved to Florida for the benefit of Mr. Lake's health after the death of her mother who passed away Nov. 28, 1958. Her mother was Mary J. Swackhamer, widow of John Swackhamer. She was mother also to Mr. Wm. K. Swackhamer and Mrs. Wm. Appleman, of Easton, Pa. Mrs. Swackhamer was 91 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Lake have both been hospitalized in Florida for surgery, but have recovered.
Their new address is P.O. Box 37, Lake Monroe, Fla.

From Mrs. Bert Swackhamer, of Long Valley, we have -
Roy Swackhamer, Bert's brother, passed away July 30, 1960. He was the son of William Sharp and Minerva Schuyler Swackhamer, and was born and raised in Long Valley. He retired 5 years ago as superintendent of roads for Washington Township. He leaves a wife, Mrs. Erma Wolf Swackhamer, his brother and several nieces and nephews. (Roy's father was one of the instigators of the Swackhamer Family Reunion. - Ed.)

There was another brother, Charles, who died in 1950.
Bert and Eleanor C. Purdy were married March 17, 1922 in Morristown, N.J. They have two children, Bert, Jr., and Betty Jane.
Bert, Jr. married and has four children, Bert III, Linda, Sue and Guy.
Betty married Robert W. Alpaugh. They have two children, Glenn Robert and Sharon Lea.
Bert, Sr. is not well, and cannot work.

Mrs. Florence Wszelaki, Pittsburgh, Pa. sends the following:
"Mrs. Mary Ellen Kuren, age 89, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Proof, in Wyalusing, Pa., July 6, 1960. She is survived by two other daughters, Mrs. Mervel Caswell, Wyalusing, Pa., and Mrs. Letha Lehman, of Athens - 2 sons, Lawrence, of Vestal, N.Y. and Roy, of Va. - 14 grand children and 25 great grandchildren.

She was Mary Ellen Swackhamer, the last surviving member of the Dan Swackhamer family from Rummerfield, Pa. Four brothers and three sisters preceded her in death."

A note from Mrs. C. R. Swackhamer, of Globe, Arizona asks for information. Mrs. Swackhamer is working on the Swackhamer genealogy. She has a mass of data, but wants all available. She has found a new name, Eva Swackhamer, born in Independence Township, N.J., and married Robert Parke. Can anyone supply the name of Eva Swackhamer's parents? If you can, please send it to Mrs. C. R. Swackhamer, 995 E. Sycamore, Globe, Arizona.

NEW ADDRESSES

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Crosby have moved into their new home on Highlander Drive, Scotchwood, N.J.
Rev. N. Frank Swackhamer, 629 Carnegie St., Oshawa, Ont. Canada
Mr. William Smith, 127 Center St., Fredonia, N.Y.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Mrs. Dempsey Edwards, of Kankakee, Ill. has sent us word of the death of her brother, Judge C. D. Henry, of that city, on April 20, 1960. The following are excerpts from an editorial in the Kankakee Journal:-

"There are few better ways that a man can contribute more to the welfare of his fellow citizens than through dedicated service as part of the judiciary system of his community and state.

Judge C. D. Henry, in his tenure as judge of the 12th judicial circuit of Illinois, epitomized this dedication to the highest degree and in so doing added greatly to the dignity and distinction of the judiciary. -----

Truly a guardian of the law, he was diligent in his efforts to administer it fairly so that the law would always protect the personal liberties of all people.

During his career he gained the respect of all lawyers who practiced in his court. -----

Judge Henry held top position among this area's outstanding men of the law. His community, his state and profession are all the richer for having had his years of leadership." -----

Mr. Leonard Brotzman, of Binghamton, our reporter for the New York State Swackhamer group, has recovered from the results of an unusual accident this summer. A horse he was using to cultivate with threw herself sideways, pinning him against a fence post, breaking some of his ribs.

Mr. Brotzman later sent news of the death of Mrs. Wm. G. Smith, of Dunkirk, N.Y. on July 21st. You may remember that Mr. and Mrs. Smith were the first of the New York State Swackhamer family to visit the Reunion. Mr. Smith is now living at 127 Center St., Fredonia, N. Y.

Miss Augusta Brotzman has fully recovered from the operation she had in the spring. She is now doing her own work and again driving her car. -----

Mrs. Ella M. Dorn, of Chicago reports that her nephew and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Chester E. Dufford, of Birmingham, Ala. visited her in June.

Mrs. Chester Dufford tells us that their daughter, Connie, was married to Billy Orvel Garner, of Scottsboro, Ala. on March 16, 1960, at Trinity Methodist Church in Birmingham. They are now living in Burlington, N. C. where Bill is office manager for Burlington Mills. Connie graduated from Auburn University August 26, 1960.

George Chester, 14, is a sophomore at Shades Valley High School and plays cornet in the band.

Mrs. Dufford has been very busy as president in charge of the Christmas Bazaar for the Birmingham Symphony Women's Committee. -----

Mr. Arthur Swackhamer, of Acton, Ontario, writes us that his granddaughter, Joyce Swackhamer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Swackhamer, of Hamilton, Ont. was married to John McKrea, also of Hamilton, on Sept. 3, 1960 in Westdale United Church. They are living in Hamilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Swackhamer accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swackhamer when they visited with us at the Reunion.

Another daughter, Nadine, who was married two years ago last September to James Thompson, of Brampton, Ont. has a baby daughter, Terrie Lynn, born on Sept. 25, 1960. The first great-grandchild for the Arthur Swackhamers.

We hope Mrs. Arthur Swackhamer, who has not been well for some time, is improving. -----

We learn from Mrs. Lester Apgar, of Califon, N.J. that Mrs. Frank Dufford, of Middle Valley, N.J. is at present in The Little Brook Nursing Home. We hope she is improving also.

Winter 1960

A letter from Miss Gladys Swackhamer, of Santa Barbara, Cal. tells us that Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emmons, who have been in California a little more than a year, where he was connected with Air Research, have moved back east and are not living at Windsor Locks, Conn.

Mrs. Walter Swackhamer, of Santa Ynez, California is recovering nicely after a series of accidents which kept her hospitalized most of the summer.

We have word from Ella Logan that they are looking for a house near Pottstown, Pa., where Jim is being transferred.

The reunion they had planned came in bits and snatches. They spent a couple of weeks with her folks, Dr. & Mrs. Ray T. Dufford in Evansville, Ind. From there they went on to visit Jim's family. Then on to visit Cathryn and Norman Pauls and their little daughter, Laura Ellen, in Oklahoma City. They were there for Laura Ellen's first birthday celebration. Cathryn is Ellen's sister.

Dr. and Mrs. Ray Dufford made their regular summer western trip, visiting with relatives in Kankakee, Ill., and then on to Bellevue, Wash. for a visit with Dr.'s sister Mrs. O. H. Leyde.

The R. W. Cochran, of Orlando, Fla., visited daughters in York and Philadelphia, Pa., and then went on to tour Nova Scotia.

Milton Swackhamer, Levittown, Pa., sends us the following:

"My mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Swackhamer, of 216 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. had her 91st birthday Oct. 15th. Her health seems very good.

My daughter, Diana Thatcher is expecting her second baby in the not too distant future.

I am planning to take a trip to Florida in January. Since I retired in June and don't have to come back any particular time, my stay will be indefinite.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Blank, of St. Petersburg, Fla. have recently returned from a visit to the family in Illinois. They saw Miss Bess Seward at Shank Home in Hinsdale, Ill., find she is confined to her bed indefinitely.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Seward plan to move in January to a house they bought in Clarendon Hills, Ill. He is retiring at 75 years of age.

Since her husband's death in October, 1959, Mrs. R. S. Davis is living with her eldest son, R. Spencer Davis in Arlington Heights, Ill.

After visiting the Reunion, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henry, and his sister, Mrs. Fred A. Nelson of Bethesda, Md., took a six weeks trip to Europe.

We learn from Mr. Alden Wert that his niece, Annette Wert Dorfman, of Sunnyvale, California spent some of the summer here in the east.

Mrs. George Dufford, 675 West Front St., Plainfield, N.J. will celebrate her 95th birthday on December 27th.

When Mrs. George A. Nobman, of Roselle, N.J. gave us the news of her mother, Mrs. Augusta Dufford, she told us her husband had undergone an artery transplant operation, and was home from the hospital.

The Swackhamer family in Plainfield have suffered a deep loss by the deaths of two of its members.

Robert W. Davis, 87, died September 2, 1960. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Edith M. DuBois, one son, Norman D. Davis, three grandchildren and one sister.

Mr. Davis was a lifelong resident of Plainfield, and was a retired department manager for the American Express Co., of New York.

Then, on November 3, Mrs. Carl E. Drange, 80, died at her home in Plainfield after a long illness. Mr. Drange died in 1956.

Mrs. Drange was a sister to Mrs. Davis.

As our President told you in his letter, Mrs. Robert B. Swackhamer was slowly dying at the time of the Reunion. She finally passed away on Tuesday, August 16th. I am sure I speak for the entire group in offering Robert our deepest sympathy. We also want to express our gratitude for his loyalty to us in attending the Reunion under such trying circumstances and carrying on his duties as President. It took a degree of fortitude which few of us possess.

The summer Bulletin sent to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Updyke, Dover, N.J. was returned marked "deceased." Can anyone give us details?

When we come to Thanksgiving time our thoughts immediately picture the Pilgrims. How many of us are aware of the fact that there were English speaking people in Massachusetts and Maine before the Pilgrims landed in 1920?

Two years ago Mrs. Ella M. Dorn sent in an article, which has been mislaid, about an Indian named Squanto who was such a good friend to the Pilgrims, and who spoke English. So, being curious, your editor has done some research on this Indian.

Some time ago, during a trip to Plymouth we acquired a booklet called "The Pilgrim Story" which was being sold at a gift shop near Plymouth Rock. This was compiled largely from documents of Governor Winslow and Governor Bradford. This is a day to day record from Wednesday, December 16th on.

There had been some light skirmishes with Indians.

On Friday, March 26th an Indian walked boldly into the settlement. He saluted them in English and bade them "Welcome". He explained that his home was in Maine where he had learned some English from the Captains of fishing vessels that frequented the coast in the vicinity of Monhegan Island between the Penobscot and Kennebec Rivers. His name was Samoset. From him Pilgrims gathered much information. Samoset told him of another Indian named "Squanto" a native of the place, who had been in England, and could speak better English than himself, and said he would bring Squanto to visit them. On April 1st he returned with Squanto who immediately became their friend and later negotiated their treaty with Massasoit who was the overlord Sachem of the Indian tribes in the vicinity. This treaty was known as the first diplomatic agreement in New England history. This was faithfully observed by both parties as long as Massasoit lived. Then came "King Philip War" of 1675. During this war Squanto was taken prisoner by

King Philip's men, but was later rescued by Miles Standish and the Pilgrim army which he commanded. Squanto lived with the Pilgrims until his death.

From another source we learn that Squanto brought the colony the game which included wild turkey, with which the settlers celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

From still another source, we learn that a ship sailed from the Firth of Fourth, Scotland, carrying 20 couples and an extra bachelor and landed at what is now Ipswich, Mass., in 1612. Some of these couples of young Scots stayed in Mass. and the others made their way into Maine where they settled on the banks of the Penobscot River. Some of the descendants of these people still live in the vicinity.

Visiting Ipswich we came across old buildings with dates as old as 1605.

Editor's Note;

We have spent a most delightful summer in our new home in Connecticut. We are surrounded by beautiful trees and a gorgeous flower garden which is Bee's hobby. It seemed as though each day we could see something new blossoming. Yesterday we picked the last rosebud which is slowly unfolding in the warmth of the house.

Cy has been busy going back and forth to Los Angeles where he was aiding in an experiment fostered by the National Fire Protection Assn. and the Automatic Fire Alarm Assn., of which he is president, with a view to finding the best fire protection for schools. The City of Los Angeles permitted them to carry on the experiment in an outmoded school building which was to be torn down, of course, under the supervision of the Los Angeles Fire Marshal and his Fire Department. Ten year old Donald accompanied his father and had a wonderful time "helping."

The foliage coloring this fall has been unusually brilliant and brings to mind a poem written by Mr. George S. Dufford, who founded our Association, and taken from his book of poems, "A Peep At Other People".

A HOLE IN THE LEAF

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 to 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.

