



**WINTER
BULLETIN
1983**

Excerpts from Minutes of 35th Annual Reunion (Cont'd.)

We received a very nice Coat of Arms from Earl Dufford who lives in Binghamton which represents the Dufford's. Fred Swackhamer designed and had on our Bulletin cover a Coat of Arms also. It was decided to hold off adopting either as the official coat of arms as yet.

It was suggested that we run the picnic on the style of a church covered dish supper and assign certain ones to bring a dish to feed 10 people and different menus to be planned. This suggestion was not voted on but only suggested. Mr. Bert Swackhamer was asked to be the Chairman for the Annual Picnic.

It was also suggested at the picnic that a megaphone or microphone be in use at future meetings so that everyone in attendance could hear the speakers. This suggestion will be looked into for our 36th annual meeting, and acted upon.

New Business - Herb McCaffrey was asked by Pres. Swackhamer to read the list of nominees for office for the coming year. Annette Hart was nominated for President, James V. Wert, Vice Pres., Audrey McCaffrey, Secretary, Ruth Hartman, Treasurer, Annette Hart and Audrey McCaffrey, Bulletin Editors. Annette Hart declined the Presidency and asked for a motion be made to nominate James V. Wert for Pres. Motion was made and seconded to elect J. V. Wert as our new Pres., and to keep the remainder of the slate of officers the same as the previous year. Motion was made and seconded to elect Bert Swackhamer as our Picnic Chairman for the coming year. Motion was made and seconded to make the nominated Pres. hold office for 2 years instead of one year.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey McCaffrey

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED - Attached to the front of this Bulletin there is a flyer with a request for a contribution. Please do not fail to heed this plea as your treasurer's funds are very low and we cannot put this Bulletin together and pay for postage without the support of each and every one of you who receive the Bulletin. DO CONTRIBUTE AND DO IT NOW!

A Few Words from your Editors - I am so sorry that this Bulletin is late, but I have been taking courses at Fairleigh Dickinson University and the pressure of end-term exams (finals being the week of Dec. 11th) and Christmas and New Years just seem to all come in bunches. Our son Cpt. Keith McCaffrey also became engaged at Christmas and came home from Germany for the holidays. We had a very good year and certainly very happy holidays and as the saying goes, "better late than never" so that is my apology for being late with the Winter Bulletin. We wish you all good health and much happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Audrey McCaffrey

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA REMINDER - JOIN US AT THE REUNION IN '83
ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF JULY - JULY 30TH

AT BERT SWACKHAMER'S HOME AT 16 Fairmount Rd.
Long Valley, New Jersey. Schooley's Mtn. Park
was taken very quickly this year. (More next issue)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Through the years it has become customary for the President of the Society to "come forth" with a message which in addition to the usual Holiday Greetings might act as food for thought during the coming year.

"To thine own self be true - and it must follow as the day the night, thou canst not be false to any man". While this has a biblical connotation, it was set down by the immortal (?) bard - Shakespeare. I feel that is is a steadying thought in these troubled times, and hope that you will too. I hope the above will inspire a few of the Duffords and Swackhamers. My wife Peg and I are looking forward to our 45th Anniversary on November 25, 1982.

James V. Wert

Ed. Note: Sincere condolences are sent on behalf of all the members of the society to James on the death of Peg Wert who passed away on December 28, 1982 after a comparatively short illness. Peg lived to celebrate their 45th anniversary but was not well. She was a marvelous person and one of the dearest people I have had the privilege of knowing. Peg was a frequent attendee at the Reunions with James and I know she will be greatly missed. She is survived by James, a daughter Virginia and a son Bill, and 6 grandchildren, Michael, Kathryn and Susan Wert, children of Bill, and Heather Ann, Sean and Erin Hughes, children of Virginia. May she rest in peace.

BITS & PIECES

A long letter from Elma Tufford who gave us Muriel Tuffords new address - R.R. #2 Beamsville, Ont. LOR 1B0. Muriel has retired from teaching and is very busy with church work. Elma was also able to connect Esther Brown of Utah with Dale Tufford of Okla. to the family tree. They are 2nd cousins.

We are all so grateful to Dorothy D. Gunther for her gift of Harold's lifetime works on the Dufford lines. They were passed on to our historian Russell Dufford who says he will cherish them. I am sure it is impossible to realize the hours and hours of work that went into this monumental work of Harold Gunther on the Dufford geneology.

Russell was also able to obtain from the N. J. Historical Society the research that the late Robert Brown had done on the Duffords, especially Adam. There were seven issues from Adam which gives us more to work with, in addition to the three boys there is a Frederick and some daughters.

Mrs. Robert (Sally) Dufford of Sharpsbur, Pa. and South Carolina Duffords have been a great help to Russell Dufford in furnishing material from the Erie, Pa. area on their background. They were of the belief that they were German in background as their religion and customs seemed to prove it. The Duffords lived among Germans in Long Valley so adapted the German traits, and in so doing, lost their own identity. The South Carolina Duffords have their own reunions.

Early last summer Glen Swackhamer of Oneida, N. Y. was hospitalized. (Hope he is much improved.) His doctor was Bruce Harris (S) so they became good friends as well as doctor, patient relatives.

BITS & PIECES (Cont'd)

Ruth Harman of Billings, Mont. (cousin to Mrs. Mahannah) asked for her connection to the Jacob Indian line. I think we helped her in her search. Some of these kin from far away places are more diligent than we who live closer to the "Valley".

The old timers tell the story of how the men of "Old Union" church would go to the local mountains and fill their wagons with cut wood and bring it down to the church for the stove in the middle of the building. The pastor thinking he could outwit the other men, since there was a prize of a nice bow of ribbon tied around the neck of the horse that won, had gone up to the mountains the night before and filled his wagon with wood. So, Sunday A.M., he took his time and lost the horse race. The others chided him for cheating. "Old Union" was later destroyed by fire. The roof caught fire from sparks and the building was gutted. Local folks would keep their fireplaces burning good with hickory wood for people that came a distance to church. They would give them hot coals or ashes to fill their foot-warmers for the service. Hopefully the sermon wasn't too long so their feet wouldn't get cold and then their heart. The church was the logical place for "bees" to collect wood, potatoes, garments, groceries, and even papers of tobacco for the needy and parson. The parson was given the salary of \$600. a year if it was a good year. There were "rallies" on a Sunday evening before the boys wnet off to fight in the Civil War, to encourage them.

Laura Gano (D), sister to the late Andrew Dufford, was 90 years young last July 29. She is blind and lives alone in a Dufford homestead that has been entailed for five generations. Her neice looks in on her twice a week but she has intestinal fortitude.

Russell Dufford's mother fell last Fall and cracked several ribs, hope she is mending nicely.

Dorothy D. Gunther gave her grandmother's wedding dress and clothes to Lambert's Castle on Garret Mtn. in Paterson. It is now a Passaic County Historical Museum. The dress was on display on a model during April, May, June & July. Many admired it.

There are two new members, Aline Dufford Gordon and spouse came from Butler, Pa. to the reunion and were looking for the military record of her great grand-father, Sgt. Andrew Dufford that fought in the Civil War. James Wert was able to find the address of the Dept. for her to write. Now her cousin would like the same information and also to be on our mailing list. Her cousin is Betty Lou (D) Brickner of Cincinnati, Ohio. Hopefully they will hear.

DEATHS - Sincere sympathy to the family of the late Leon Swackhamer, Sr. He is survived by six living generations.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of Professor Farris S. Swackhamer who died at Overlook Hospital in Summit on November 3, 1982. He was a professor at Union College for 16 years, eight of them as Chairman of the Chemistry Dept. Mr. Swackhamer also held administrative positions including Assistant to the President and Director of International Research. He wrote a column "For the Birds" which was published in local newspapers once a month and was an authority on wild birds, their migration and habits.

WEDDING BELLS - Richard Roenbeck (D) to Elizabeth McBride on September 19, 1982 at Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy. Congratulations Richard and Beth!

Swackhamer Reunion Towanda, Pa. - The descendants of Daniel and Rebecca Swackhamer held their annual reunion on August 8, 1982 at the home of George and Claudia Nesbit in Macedonia with 32 present. A bountiful picnic was enjoyed by all. In the absence of both President and Vice-President Paul Fleming conducted the meeting. A prayer of thanks was given by Jane May. Next year their reunion will be held at the home of Joe and Dorothy Schultz.

BIRTHS: Benjamin Andrew to Patrick and Nancy Coates Beebe. He is the grandson of Jack and Alyce Parks Coates.

On December 25, 1981 twins, Amy Louise and Robert Louis, Jr. to Robert and Diane Swackhamer Craig, Sr. At three months they lost Robert, a crib death. Amy Louise is doing fine. She is monitored when she sleeps. Above sent in by Dorothy Schultz. Thanks Dorothy.

GENEALOGY - From Russell Dufford

Etymology which deals with the origin of words or names. The French author notes a Germanic family name which is used in an absolute manner, analogous in this sort of case to the English Defford. He is wrong there, since the medieval forms are of the type of de Duro forti. This is the Gersian equivalent of Durfort (in Ariège, Tarn, Tarn-et-Garonne, and Gard), which is explained in the same article, an analogy with Durford (Great Britain).

Duffort - a community in Gers, escapes, as far as I know, every attempt to explain it. It cannot be separated from Diffort, a hamlet in the community of Steinsel located in Alzette (Luxumburg) Tiefurt (Germany), and from the place name in English of Dofford, which is also known as a family name. The name Diffort is fairly wide-spread in France.

The name Durfort is used by four communities in France: they are Ariège, Tarn, Tarn-et-Garonne, and Gard. Vincent also refers to a Durfort in Aube which in 1093, was already known under the form Durfort, the others all going back to Duro-fortes. Durfort has a counterpart in Durford in Great Britain. The mutual origin of these two place-names must be the name Turward. Aube (above) is just to the southeast of Paris.

In speaking with French people today and you mention Huguenots or Duffords, they say these people banded together and formed a community away from large cities and built a fort or barricade around their village to protect themselves from attack by people of different faith. Thus they were called "Man from the Fort".

Adam Duffort (a weaver), died Dec. 7, 1778, will prob. Apr. 10, 1779. Wife survived (prob. the 2nd wife). Place Fords Twsp., Northampton Co. Pa. Had children: Jacob born 1754 - 5, Eve prior to Dec. 7, 1757, Maria - prob 1756, John born prior to Dec. 7, 1757, Geo. Henry baptized Feb. 28, 1768, Susannah Catharina born Oct. 20, 1773, bapt. Mar. 7, 1774, Frederick b. 1775-80 Philip born Apr. 4, 1776, bapt. Aug. 25, 1776 at German Reformed Church. The first 4 issue were born in N.J., the next 3 near Forks Twsp. and the last in Easton or so the church records seem to prove. (Above taken from Bob Brown's papers.) Muriel Tufford said 4 Dufforts perhaps brothers came to Canada.

Genealogy - Hedwig Swackhamer is our Honorary Historian for the Swackhamers. Let's hear from you Hedwig!