



**SUMMER
BULLETIN
1984**

SUMMER ISSUE 1984

FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL SCHWACHHAMMER (SWACKHAMER) WHO, IN 1730 SETTLED IN LONG VALLEY, NEW JERSEY AND PHILIP DUFFORD (DUFFORD) WHO SETTLED THERE IN 1738.

OFFICERS OF THE COMBINED SOCIETIES -

President - James V. Wert - RD 1 - Nineveh, New York 13913
Vice President - Ruth Hartman, Middletown, New Jersey
Chaplain - Rev. Cecil T. Swackhamer
Secretary - Mrs Audrey T. McCaffrey, 86 Woodland Rd., Madison,
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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS USED TO DESIGNATE FAMILY CONNECTION

(D) DUFFORD (S) SWACKHAMER (B) BOTH D AND S (F) FRIEND

These symbols will not be used where the connection is obvious or if there is uncertainty of connection. ED.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we embark on the New Year let us resolve to look forward. Satchel Paige once said "Don't look back - some one may be gaining on you". And we all know what happened to Lot's wife.

Looking ahead and coping with problems as they arise, and not fretting about what has passed, which incidently we can do nothing about, will surely make us all strong and wiser. Have a healthy and happy summer and remainder of 1984.

REUNION - 1984 - will be held at Schooley's Mountain Park in Long Valley, New Jersey. It will be at the same location as our reunion in 1982. There will be signs directing you to the park if you are coming via Route 24 out of Morristown. We will post signs as you enter Long Valley, and on up the mountain drive. The date is Saturday July 28, 1984 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The park has swimming and boating facilities, and a variety of games can be played such as baseball, softball, frisbee, etc. Please come and pray for nice weather. Remember your ATTENDANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT.

DEADLINE: Items for the next bulletin should be received by the editors by March 1, 1985. Please keep sending news on family happenings. Your continued support in this endeavor enables us to put this Bulletin together.

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BITS AND PIECES:

FROM JAMES V. WERT. On August 29, 1983, your President embarked on a 3-week tour of Alaska. First he went to San Francisco where he spent some time with his brother-in-law and saw some of the sights of that fair city. Then by bus to Seattle. Here he boarded the Alaska Maritime Highway Ferry for Skagway stopping at Ketchikan, Wrangel, Juneau, Haines and Skagway. He then took a bus to White Horse thru the White Pass. This is the route the prospectors of '98 took with considerable loss of life, animals and materials. From White Horse to Dawson City we took another bus stopping at historic landmarks along the way. In '98 this trip (400 miles) was negotiated by river boat steamers two of which are on display in their original form. The Yukon River which conveniently flows north furnished the route. In Dawson City (pop. 400) we saw the site of the first gold strike, original hotels and opera houses, assaying equipment, all kinds of tools and equipment for gold mining, the original cabins of Jack London and an example of how Perma frost is coped with. Flying back to White Horse we passed over one of the operating gold dredges in use in North America. This piece of equipment mines gold as it floats along on its own pond. From White Horse we bussed to Vancouver on the Alcan Highway, and then took the scenic Amtrack train across Canada to Toronto and then home. For the historically minded, this is a trip that can't be beat. Incidentally, more gold was (and is) taken out of this area than the California Gold Rush of '49.

Thank you James for that fine armchair travelogue.

FROM PEG JOHNSON IN INDIANA: Peg writes to tell us she had a lovely trip to Salt Lake City. She says Salt Lake City and the Mormon Temple is everything and more she could imagine. Peg says SLC is everything Denver should have been. It's a beautiful city surrounded by the magnificent Wasatch Range of the Rockies. Peg was very impressed with the Library at Salt Lake City and with the amount of holdings that are on micro film. About 93% is stored on microfilm and the other 7% is made up of books and other materials. The librarians are very courteous and could all be professional genealogists if they cared to be. The entire first floor consists of U. S. and Canadian materials and the 3rd floor is European materials. The 4th floor are all the family sheets submitted to the Library. The second floor is made up of offices. Peg did a great deal research while she was there and it sounds like she and her mother had a wonderful trip. She also did much research at the Desert Bookstore where they have a lot of genealogical books and she bought loads of charts as well as books.

Peg also brings us up to date on family doings. Her brother John A. Strandberg, who is the great-grandson of Bessie Swackhamer Emmons joined the Army this past summer. He is in "A" Battery at Fort Sill, OK. Having finished Basic Training on October 22, he is in AIT (Artillery) school learning how to fire the big guns. They are all very proud of him. Peg herself is working on an Associate Degree in genealogy. (ED. NOTE: Great news Peg - you could be a big help with the S-D Bulletin).

INQUIRY: DIAN J. SEARLES, 1241 High Street, Denver, Colorado, 80210 is looking for information to write a book on the Duffords but needs folks to write to, for their stories, etc. She is interested mostly in the George Dufford Married Elizabeth Neighbor 1800-1886 and their descendants. Elizabeth's brother David is her 3rd great grandfather. If anyone cares to write to Dian, please do so at the above address.

Deaths: Clifford L. Hopler of Mount Olive Township died on October 4, 1983 at Dover General Hospital. He resided in Succasunna before moving to Flanders 30 years ago. Mr. Hopler was a Navy veteran of World War II and was the president and owner of Stroud-Hopler Inc. of Kenvil. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth; two sons, Robert of Mount Bethel and Jack D. of Juno Beach Fla.; his mother Mary Hopler of Flanders; and one granddaughter.

HISTORICAL: Sally Dufford of Sharpville, PA. has been trying to connect her husbands line to ours. She thinks one of Adam's sons, Frederick may be a lead and has been working fervently on it. She needs to know the birth date of Geo. Dufford b. sometime between 1810 - 1848. Some of her findings are: 1) Philip bought land in Butler Co., Pa. in 1801 (Bob Brown's records says he was in Canada). 2) Jacob - Butler County history says he come to Butler County in 1817 from Luzerne County. He married Elizabeth Croop. 3) Henry, brother of Jacob moved to Indiana from Butler. 4) Frederick (John) d. 10 May, 1829 age 54 years 9 mo. 25 days. Left wife and 8 children. (That makes his birth date 21 Aug. 1775 which would fit Adams son Frederick) The names have to be more than a coincidence. I have never searched Butler for the Henshaw name (maiden name of Frederick and Geo. Henry wives but found the following in my records. --- Taken from Butler Co. WILL Book C. Magdealene Henshaw of Butler dated Aug. 27, 1850 filed 31 Jan. 1852 Sons - David and Abraham. Daughter - Sarah Croop and husband Jacob Croop (my Geo. Dufford married Susan Croup) Witness - James McKinney, Abraham Henshaw and Jacob Dufford. She was buried in the German Presbyterian Church, Butler TWSP.

HISTORICAL (CONTINUED) Our Washington Township is the second oldest township in N. J. to be named after the "Father of our Country" having been formed out of Roxbury Township in 1798. We believe this to be a heritage of some value and one to be preserved, not cast aside for some personal whim. Present day Route 24 from Morristown to Easton was constructed in 1809 and bore the name of Washington Turnpike from its inception. All the deeds to our homes and lands are recorded as Washington Township, Morris County.

(THE ABOVE ITEM FROM THE MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MEETING.)

FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE FROM V. ALLEN'S ACCOUNT OF Dufours living in caves. "Renewed French interest in caves is spurred by financial as well as fanciful reasons. The price of such a dwelling is still far less than that of a conventional home. Restoration and modernization are likely to be extensive and expensive, especially if electricity and plumbing must be installed, but upkeep tends to be rather minimal. "You never have to worry about putting up a new roof", says Dr. Philippe Dufour. An ear, nose and throat specialist in Tours, he lives with his wife and 3 children in a well-manicured dwelling composed of a series of adjacent caves etched neatly into the base of a cliff. There is also a small chateau standing modestly against the rock at one side. The most agreeable cave dwellings are those like the Dufours' in which a number of individual caves are found side by side, rather than one behind the other extending deeper, darker and damper into the earth. The Dufour kitchen and dining room, for example are in adjoining caves along the cliff face. Next is a shallow atrium a tiny greenhouse cut into the stone, enclosed with glass and filled with tropical plants. A small sitting room is beside the atrium, leading to the family Salle des Collections, which houses a number of pieces of delicate art antiques, as well as sculpture and paintings done by Mme. Dufour. The walls are whitewashed natural rock, rough and cool to the touch. Light flows into each cave through a wall window and a glass-paned door built into the cave opening. All the entries to the caves enlarged by the Dufours to increase the light and ventilation. In the adjacent chateau are a living room and the family bedrooms and bathrooms.

Our President, James Wert, in returning from Alaska last Sept. was riding on a train through the Canadian Rockies. Near Sudsbury, a man boarded the train and James spoke to him, asking if he'd ever heard the name Dufford. The man said "yes", it was a very common name and there were many in Canada.-----If you look in Chambers on page 344 there's a history of the DuFour name where 9 families came to New Paltz, New York and settled with Huguenots in 1655. Our Philip Dufford was then a late comer to this country (1738) and settled with German folk. He had fought with the Prussian army in Europe so must have known their ways of living.---- This Canadian gentleman used an accent in speaking the Dufford name, duFour, sounded more French.

Attached is a 2-page article sent in by Fred Sisser III, titled, "In Quest of Baltus Swackhamer". I'm sure you will all find it a very interesting piece especially if you are a Swackhamer.

BIRTHS: Recently heard that Bert and Dorothy Swackhamer of Long Valley who were our hosts last year have two new grandsons since our last reunion. Congratulations! We are also trying to do a little investigative work on behalf of Bert to follow his line beyond his grandfather.

I, Audrey McCaffrey, apologize for the Bulletin being so tardy this time. Annette my co-editor had her material to me very early and even our President James had done his part in spite of all the travelling he has been doing. Last September I started to endeavor to take 6 credits of accounting at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and that along with my full-time job was all encompassing. Recently my brother George Wert, whom you know if you attended any of our reunions, was taken ill and is slowly recuperating at his home in Maryland.

Our son Keith just finished advanced infantry training school at Ft. Benning, GA. On his fitness part of the final Keith took first place and also broke two records - number of points overall scored on the exam and the number of sit ups accomplished. In June he will be stationed in Korea for one year and then he returns to attend graduate school and the following year he will be assigned to West Point as an instructor. Keith runs every day of his life and took part last October in the New York Marathon where he accomplished a time of 3 hours and 34 minutes. (I have taken up walking to keep myself fit --- it may not be running but at **least** it is a very good form of exercise.)

Our grandson Matthew Martyniuk will become a big brother in July, and so you know how happy that will make us.

In closing this Bulletin, we want to wish all a very healthy, and happy year. Would like to see as many as possible arrange their schedule to attend our REUNION ON JULY 28th, at Schooley's Mountain Park in Long Valley.

In Quest Of Baltus Swackhamer

Statisticians would probably be hard pressed to estimate the present population of Hunterdon County had all the many descendants of its early settlers remained in its confines. Fortunately, a large number of Hunterdon's natives migrated elsewhere. Fortunate, that is, from a population point of view; not so fortunate, however, from a genealogical point of view. Removals are more often than not the bane of genealogists.

Consider the early German, Samuel Swackhamer, who was a resident of Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County. Described as "a Pallantine,"¹ he came to America in 1731, and ultimately settled in the "wilderness" of Hunterdon County. "Samuel Swachheimer," (as he signed his will), died on 3 February 1782, "In the 82nd year of his useful life." The pastor of the "German Protestant Evangelical Congregation of Zion Church," of New Germantown (now Oldwick), which Samuel attended, noted in the "Record of Deaths" for that Lutheran Church:

[On] Sunday, Febr: 3rd [1782], the Lord of our life made a hopeful blessed end to the long life and six weeks illness of our oldest member and father Samuel Swachhammer . . . the Lord had blessed him singularly with a very numerous family. He thrice entered into the state of Holy Matrimony, and fathered 25 children. From these, before his end, 73 grandchildren were born, and from these in turn, 25 great-grandchildren, all of whom he saw after. The entire number of those produced from his blood was therefore 123. . .²

Hence, in the first generation of Swackhamers in Hunterdon County, there were over one hundred descendants of the Patriarch even before he died! Though twenty-five children are mentioned in Samuel's funeral notice, only fourteen are listed in his will,³ and of these, only seven of the children have been genealogically researched. Assuming the remaining children reached adulthood, (as indeed some must have been at the time Samuel wrote his will in 1780), it can only be assumed that they either died or moved from Hunterdon County.

Such seemed to be the fate of Samuel Swackhamer's son, "Boltus," (as his name is written in his father's will of 1 February 1780), when he and eight other of the Patriarch's younger children are routinely listed as inheriting "the Money ariseing from Such Sale of the Moveables & Lands."

From his place in the children's names enumerated in the will, it would appear that Baltus was among the



The matching tombstones of "Baltus Swackhamer" and his wife are located in a small, abandoned cemetery on the present-day Morgan Gulf Road, Turin, Lewis County, New York.

oldest children of Samuel's second or third marriage. Baltus Swackhamer is first mentioned in the records of the Zion Lutheran Church of New Germantown on 28 October 1780, when he and twenty others noted that:

We the subscribers desire and promise to be regular members and to adhere [to] the Articles of our Church as witness our hand marks on the day of our confirmation at New Germantown October ye 28th 1780²

He signed his name boldly: "Balthes Swachhamer," and on the next day, the "last Sunday in October" 1780, it was noted that "Balthas Swachhamer old father Samuel's son" was among those confirmed at Zion Church.²

After Samuel's death, Baltus came into possession of his father's 162 acre farm in Lebanon Township, and as "Baltis Swackhamer," was irregularly taxed on this land and various animals until July 1789. As he does not appear on the tax list for July 1790, it is supposed that he had removed from Lebanon Township by that time.⁴ He apparently was not a resident of the state in 1793, as his name fails to appear among those men between the ages of 18 and 45, who were required to serve in the state militia.⁵

A check of the United States Federal Census records for states surrounding New Jersey revealed that at the time of the 1820 census there was one "Baldis Swackhamer" residing in Oppenheim, Montgomery County, New York. Dwelling next to him was one "Samuel Swackhamer." These census records further showed that "Baldis" was over 45 years old, an agriculturalist, and residing in his household were two sons, three daughters and his wife. The unique name of Baltus, (not to mention the uncommon surname of Swackhamer), proved this to be Baltus Swackhamer, son of Samuel, who, like so many others of central New Jersey, migrated to Montgomery County, New York. The Samuel residing next to Baltus turned out to be one of his older sons, whom he named in honor of his father.

Albeit, this was the singular instance in which Baltus was recorded in Montgomery County, for he disappeared from this area as well.⁶ A further inspection of the Federal Census records showed that in 1830 "Baltis Swackhamer" was then residing in the Town of Turin, Lewis County, New York. An 1836 map of New York State clearly delineates a major road going through Oppenheim, Montgomery County, and continuing in a north-westerly direction, through Herkimer and Oneida Counties, and passing through Turin, Lewis County.⁷ Baltus' restless spirit had pushed him even further into the wilderness of New York State, and over three hundred miles from his native county of Hunterdon. The 1830 census showed that he was then between 70 and 80 years of age, and it was apparently due to these years that Baltus' migratory inclinations ended in Lewis County.

Research among the records of Lewis County revealed that at the time of the 1825 New York state census, Baltus' sons, Samuel and William Swackhamer, were already residents of the Town of Turin. In 1828 their father followed them in their move, and on 28 January 1829, "Baltine Swackhamer," of Turin, is recorded as purchasing "50 acres near Lot No. 98. . . now in his actual possession" from William D. and Jane Shaler of the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.⁸ By the time of the 1840 Federal Census, Baltus was residing with his son, Richard, in whose household he is described as being the one male aged between 80 and under 90. Living nearby were Baltus' son, Samuel, as well as the widow of his son, William, and their respective families.

On 17 December 1831, "Baltis Swackhammer" of Turin, Lewis County, made his last will and testament. He left one dollar, respectively, to his daughter Anna, son Samuel, son William, daughter Sarah, daughter Eliza and daughter Abigail -- in that order. The rest of this estate he gave to his "dear Beloved wife Mary" until her death, at which time he ordered that the northern half of his farm was to go to his son Richard, and the southern half to his daughter "Polly" (Mary). Baltus signed his will before his former neighbors, Harvey and Sarah Ingham of Oppenheim, Montgomery County, who testified that he was of sound mind, memory and understanding.⁹

Baltus Swackhamer died 23 November 1842, and was buried in a small family burying ground situated on his farm near Lot No. 98. A stone erected over his grave noted that he was aged 90 years and 9 months at the time of his death. In time, his wife, several children, and numerous grandchildren were buried about him. *The Northern Journal*, a newspaper published in nearby Lowville, made no mention of the death of the ancient pioneer of Turin. It was reported, however,

that a snow began falling on November 19, and ended two days before Baltus' death, leaving "12 to 15 inc on a level, which makes the sleighing tolerable."¹⁰

At a Surrogate's Court held at the county seat (Lowville) on 28 December 1842, "Richard Swackhamer one of the heirs of Baltice Swackhamer late of the town of Turin in the County of Lewis" made proof that Baltus died in Turin "on 29 [sic] November last," of a natural death, and that he left a widow and the following heirs: Richard, Samuel and Polly of Turin; Abigail, wife of Abram Klock, of Morristown, Saint Lawrence County, New York; Anna, wife of Joseph Youran (perhaps of Oppenheim, New York); Eliza, wife of Andrew Shaver, of Oppenheim; and Sally, wife of Melchant L. Potter of Saint Johnsville, Montgomery County, New York; and one child who died during Baltus' lifetime, leaving issue, to wit, William Swackhamer, who left six children and a widow residing in Turin. The will was probated on 20 February 1843, when Richard and Samuel Swackhamer appeared before the Surrogate at Lowville. The "rest of the heirs appeared by default."

Mary, the widow of Baltus Swackhamer, survived him by five years, and died, of consumption, at Turin, on 13 April 1847, aged 80 years, 10 months and 17 days.¹¹ She was buried aside her husband.

From census records, tombstones, deeds, civil and church records, the family of Baltus Swackhamer may be thus constructed:

BALTUS SWACKHAMER, the son of Samuel Swackhamer, was born in February 1752, in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; died 23 November 1842, in Turin, Lewis County, New York; married MARY, whose surname is unknown; she was born *circa* 25 May 1766 and died 12 April 1847, in Turin.

The known children of Baltus and Mary SWACKHAMER:

- i. ANNA, born *circa* 1792; married Joseph Youran.
- ii. SAMUEL, born *circa* 1794; died 29 July 1861; married Hannah Ames.
- iii. WILLIAM, born *circa* 1796; died between 1835-1840; married Mary -----.
- iv. MARY (POLLY), born *circa* 26 April 1798; died 20 June 1848; never married.
- v. SARAH, born *circa* 1799; married Melchant L. Potter.
- vi. ELIZA, born *circa* 1801; married Andrew Shaver.
- vii. ABIGAIL, born *circa* 1803; married Abram Klock.
- viii. RICHARD, born 20 November 1805; died 24 December 1877, married Clarissa Claus.

- Fred Sisser

1. *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, 35:46.
2. Records of the Zion Lutheran Church, Oldwick, N.J. The original record of Samuel Swackhamer's death was written in German by the minister, Wilhelm Graff. This translation was made in February 1964 by Donald A. Sincer. Another translation is found on pages 6-7 of the Summer 1965 issue of the *Swackhamer-Dufford Bulletin*.