



SUMMER

1996

Annual Reunion
July 27, 1996

SWACKHAMMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN
SUMMER - 1995

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

OFFICERS OF THE COMBINED SOCIETIES:

PRESIDENT: Audrey McCaffrey --- 6 Centre Street, Madison,
New Jersey 07940
VICE PRESIDENT: John Dufford -- 42 Aberdeen Road, Elizabeth,
New Jersey 07208
SECRETARY: Carol Martyniuk ---- 4 Washington Street, Vernon,
New Jersey 07462
TREASURER: Dorothy Swackhamer - 16 Fairmount Road, Long Valley,
New Jersey 07853
HISTORIANS - CONTRIBUTORS:
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James W. Swackhamer - 818 No. Blanchard St., Wheaton, IL 60187
BULLETIN EDITOR: Ruth Hartman - 7 Brentwood Terrace, Middletown,
New Jersey 07748

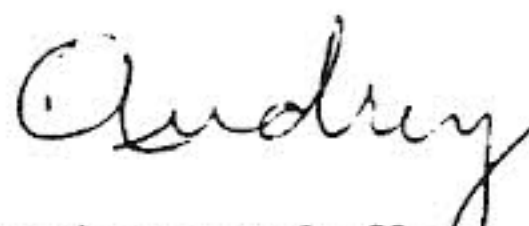
To All of our Dufford and Swackhammer Relatives and Friends,

Well, here we are with another year gone by and asking ourselves where does the time go? But I guess the important thing is that we keep our health. Herb and I and the children and the grandchildren are doing pretty good in that department, thank God., and hope all of you are also,

We are going to have a very interesting guest speaker at our Reunion this year. He is the gentleman who wrote the book, "HISTORY OF MIDDLE VALLEY", Mr Steven Firtko. I am sure all who attend this reunion will long remember it. And I am sure you all know the date - July 27, 1996 at the Zion Lutheran Church at 11:00 a.m. Long Valley, N.J. Be sure to bring a little lunch and something to drink.

We look forward to seeing a good turnout and a great reunion.

Fondly,


Audrey McCaffrey
President

The church is reserved for us from 11:00am - 3:00pm, so bring your lunch with you and any "family" data you would like to share.

Notes from 49th - Annual Reunion - '95

Audrey McCaffrey opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer for our members who had passed away. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dorothy Swackhamer reported a balance of \$427.59 in our treasury. Motions were passed to pay for the following: Zion Lutheran Church \$40.00, Middle Valley Cemetery Association \$100.00, Washington Twp. Historical Museum \$30.00, Ruth Hartman for cost of bulletin \$327.38 (460 copies - printing \$186.51, stamps \$140.87).

A suggestion was made to publicize our annual reunion in local newspapers. Carol will be sending articles to them.

Frank Dufford announced that Steven Firtko has written a book about the history of Middle Valley. Several people ordered copies!

The traditional silver dollars were awarded to Ben White the oldest member present. Connor McCaffrey the younger member present. James Roberts from Ohio, traveled the farthest. Russell Dufford elaborated on information received from genealogist Annette Burgert, which was included in the '95 bulletin.

Submitted by Secretary Carol Martyniuk

When this book was announced at our last meeting several of us ordered copies through Frank Dufford. The entire first printing was sold, but fortunately a second printing will be available in time for the meeting. We are looking forward to hearing from its author.

Agenda:

Lunch: Noon

Meeting: 1:00 p.m. to transact society business.

Guest Speaker: Steven Firtko, author of "Middle Valley Where the Past is Present".

Places To Stay For S. & D. Reunion:

In response to requests from society members and friends who are unfamiliar with this area, Dorothy Swackhamer has gathered a list of places to stay when visiting:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 - The Publick House & Restaurant
111 West Main Street
Chester, N.J. 07930
(908) 879-6878 Price: \$60. to \$90.00
(15 minutes to Long Valley) | 2 - Days Inn Ledgewood
U.S. Highway #46
Ledgewood, N.J. 07852
(201)347-5100 Price: [call]
(25 minutes to Long Valley) |
| 3 - Sheraton - Mt. Arlington Hotel
15 Howard Blvd.
Mt. Arlington, N.J. 07856
(201)770-2000 Price: [call]
(Just off Route #80 - Exit #30) | |

A Happy Occasion - Ben and Louise White will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in September with their family at the home of their daughter in Antioch, Tenn.

The Society extends its sincere condolences to the families of:

Lillian Swackhamer
Davit H. Swackhamer

Elizabeth Bottone
Esther Nobman

Helen E. Caskey

Requests, Corrections & Seeking Information:

Russell Dufford - Any information about that other book of poems by George S. Dufford (address inside cover).

Jim Swackhamer - Missing bulletin issues 1954-1955, also Summer 1961, and Winter 1979 (address inside this cover). Also corrections on Samuel F. Schweckheimer in Summer 1992 bulletin.

MILLER, MULLER, SWACKHAMER, SCHWECHHEIMER: Desire info re Elizabeth MILLER (MULLER?) sis of Fred., m. bet 1732-1782 3rd/w Samuel F. SWACKHAMER (SCHWECHHEIMER) b. 2 Jan 1701 Altlussheim, Baden, Germany, d. 3 Feb 1782 Hunterdon Co, NJ. Also need info re m., prob in Hunterdon, Morris or Sommerset Cos NJ. ADD: James W. Swackhamer, 818 N. Blanchard Street, Wheaton, IL 60187-4408.

you might put in the bulletin, a correction to my writeup on Samuel F. Schwechheimer, in the Summer 1992 bulletin.

The second paragraph on page 8 should have read as follows:

Samuel Friedrich Schwechheimer, born 2 Jan 1701, son of Daniel Schwechheimer and Eva Schmid, daughter of Johann Schmid of Lussheim, married 18 Feb 1721 to Eva Maria Hoffmann, (all the rest of the paragraph is O.K. The underlined part is what changes.)

The fourth paragraph on page 8 should have read as follows:

Daniel Schwechheimer, born 15 Jul 1657, died 21 Nov 1719, son of Christopher Schwechheimer and Barbara Theobald, married 29 Sep 1685 to Apollonia (unknown). Apollonia died after their second child was born. Daniel married second, Eva Schmid, daughter of Johann Schmid of Lussheim, on 29 Apr 1691 in Heidelberg. Samuel Friedrich Schwechheimer was the second child of this marriage. Eva Schmid died 14 Nov. 1710. Daniel had a total of three wives and thirteen children. (The underlined part is what changes.)

My thanks to Diane Ptak for pointing out my error.

Jim Swackhamer

EDITORS NOTE:

Please continue to advise me of address changes so all bulletins can reach their destination. Each year we are having fewer "returns".

The enclosed Middle Valley book flyer did not require extra postage when included with the usual five page bulletin for \$.32.

To correct my statement from the '94 bulletin; the Post Office will forward 1st class mail for 12 months. Mail will be returned to sender with address correction or reason for non-delivery for an addition 6 months after 12 months is up. (Thanks, Peg Johnson, for writing to me about it.)

Treasurer's Note: Thanks for the generous donations received.
We are now in the black.

TRI-CENTENNIAL ISSUE OF 1976 by Annette Hart

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know the Swackhamers and the Duffords were joined together many times before they united in 1941 to form a Family Association? In the bonds of Matrimony there were at least five known instances of a Dufford marrying a Swackhamer. Among the first generations in America, certain members of the respective families were finding each other attractive. Elisabeth (1748-1822) daughter of Samuel, the first Swackhamer in America, was married to Jacob Dufford (1745-1822), son of Jacob. In the next century and succeeding generations Frederick Swackhamer's daughter, Catharine, married Jacob and Maria (Wise) Dufford's son, Lawrence; Matthias Dufford's son, John, married about 1807, Margaret Swackhamer, daughter of John, (son of Samuel). And then there was the wedding of the century, as described in the "State Gazette", out of Trenton, on February 4, 1854:

On Wednesday evening, February 1st (1854), by the Rev. G. Van Artsdalen, MR. ELIJAH DUFFORD to MISS SUSAN, eldest daughter of P. Welsh Swackhamer, Esq., all of German Valley, Morris County, New Jersey.

And let's not forget the marriage of our own century, that of our founder, George S. Dufford (1828-1908) who in 1898 took for his second wife, Hattie Swackhamer (1865-1963).

Alert genealogists will point out that others could be added to the above account. For instance, the two male children of Christopher and Catharine Swackhamer (dau. of Samuel 1st) Kern who married Duffords and also a grandson, Philip, married Ellen Dufford.

Each issue of this bulletin is a composite of special interest items and family genealogy which are sent to me.

This time it was Russell Dufford who set the procedure in motion by sending items written by the founder of this society, George S. Dufford. The poems are from a book titled "A Peep at the People", and ~~there~~ is rumored to be another book which Russell does not have. The feature news articles included, I presume, was written during his association with the Plainfield Courier News.

Steve Jones, Silver Springs, Maryland, is a great-grandson of George S. Dufford and has the collection of all his writings, letters, speeches, poems, etc. It was Steve who sent them to Russell. Thanks for sharing them with us!

Jane Saums writes that "...the Dufford homestead was a magnet for many in the family. People would ride up in the evening and uncle George always made everyone feel welcomed. He really sparked my feelings for local history, and may have played a large part in saving the Valley from being submerged for a new reservoir back in the 1930's."

By GEORGE S. DUFFORD

Long Valley - Long Valley for years has been noted for its hospitality, its many historic residences, a fertile soil that will grow anything but a mortgage and the longevity of many of its citizens. Many of the old homes built in pre-revolutionary days are still standing.

The combined ages of five residents of the village of Middle Valley total 598 years. The former community has a population of 300 while in the latter there are 150 persons.

In Long Valley there are John C. Barkman and George S. Hoffman, who landed in this world just 10 days apart. Both have passed their 94th milestone and they are still going strong. Next come Willard Apgar, who is in his 83rd year; and Mrs. Morris S. Trimmer, 80 in May, an efficient housewife, using her spare time in helping in the various activities of the Lutheran Church in which she has been a member for more than half a century.

There also is her cousin, Philip S. Dufford, with a few months of the 80 mark. He still is actively engaged in the insurance business and is intensely interested in that same Lutheran Church, where his ancestors and those of Mrs. Trimmer have served

on the official board ever since the church was founded in 1774.

As busy as the proverbial "settin' hen" is William N. Swackhamer of Middle Valley well beyond his 85th milestone. When not joking with his neighbors, a wonderful garden and two-acre patch of ground in the summer are silent witnesses to his stamina. He served Washington Twp. as a member of the Board of Freeholders for many years, retiring with the proud title of "an honest man without a market price."

Still able to help with the garden and work on the farm of his son-in-law and daughter. Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence D. Trimmer, is Peter L. Apgar, Middle Valley retired farmer, now 93.

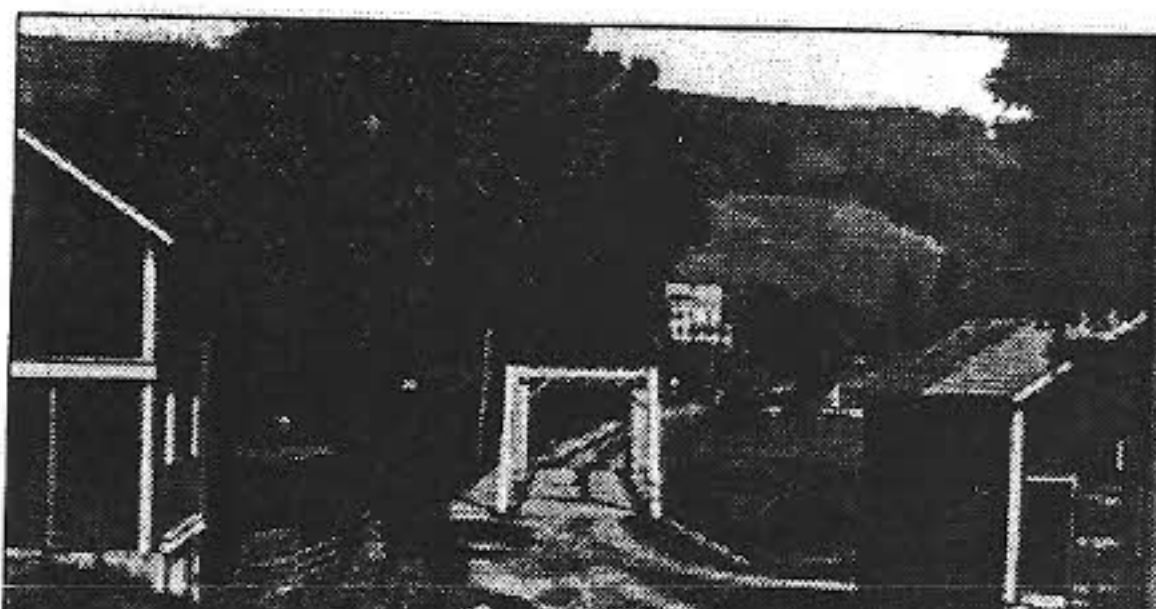
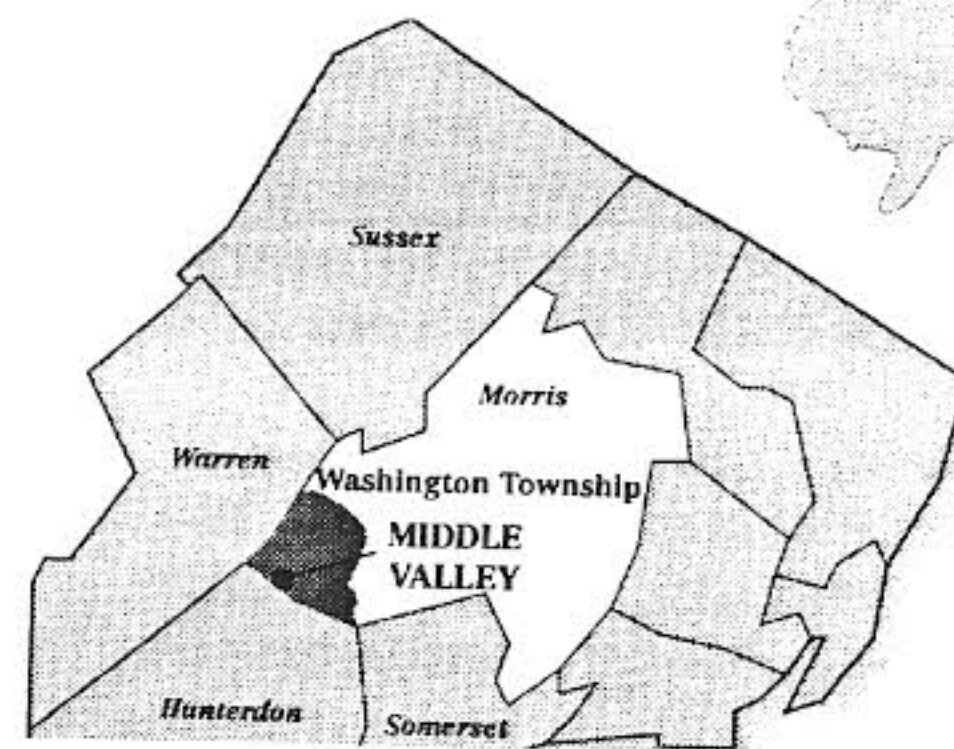
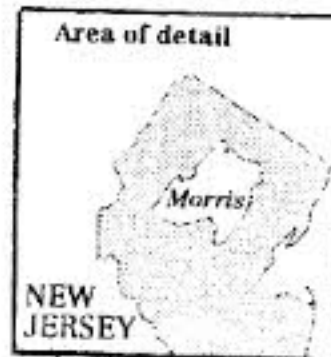
The one monagenarian and the six octogenarians were all born in Long Valley, or as in the case of Peter L. Apgar, on the mountains that shelter it.

These "oldsters," together with many youngsters now handspringing their way through their early and middle 70's create a record of which Long Valley can well be proud.

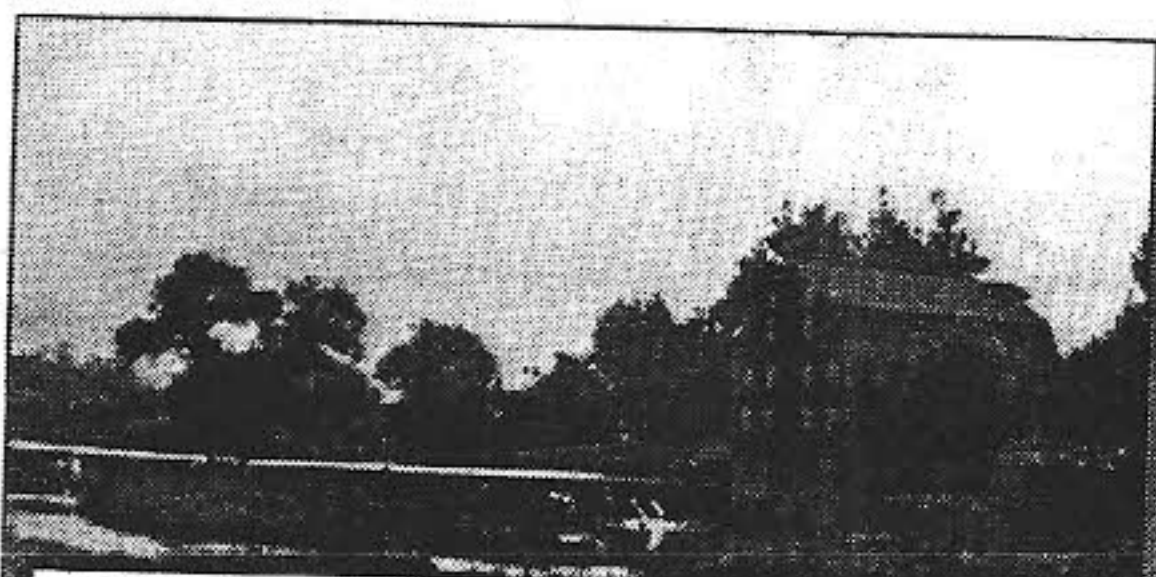
Your writer, 73, isn't doing any handsprings right now, because of sciatica, but he is simply singing the praises of his old birthplace and of his old friends.

to: Swackhammer descendants
 Dufford family descendants
 Philhower family descendants
 Historical society members in
 New Jersey
 Residents of Washington,
 Tewksbury & Lebanon
 Townships
 Califon, Chester &
 Hackettstown Residents
 Morris & Hunterdon County
 Residents
 Supporters of historic and
 farmland preservation

Take the Middle Valley, NJ History quiz

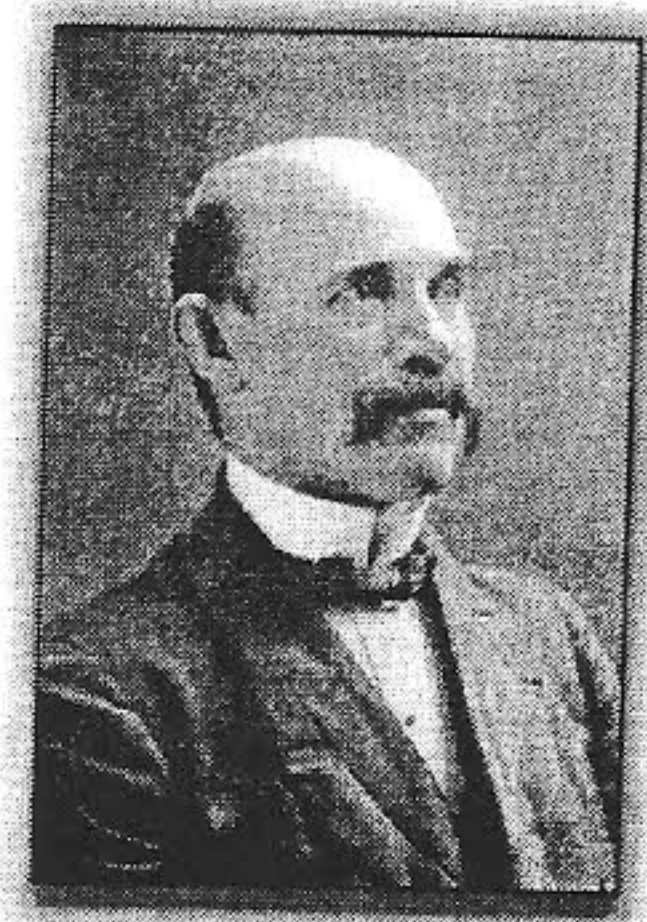
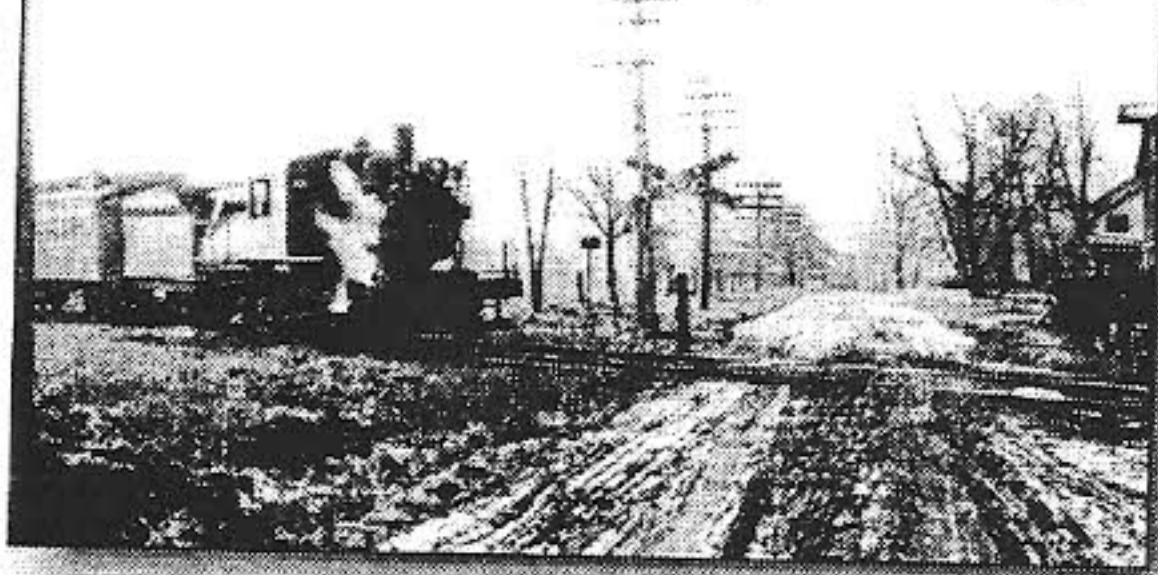


1. This road crosses the Raritan River. Where was this bridge located? (hint—It was not in Califon.)



2. What German pioneer family built this mill in Middle Valley by the time of the Revolution? (hint—they were also known as Tofort)

3. During the 19th century, what New Jersey train line stopped at California, Crestmoor, Middle Valley, German Valley, Naughtright and Bartley?



4. In 1871 he got his start with a Middle Valley general store, but his namesake business is ongoing in Long Valley. Can you name this gentleman?

Answers

1. Middle Valley Road, Washington Township
2. Dufford. The mill was demolished in the 1930s.
3. Central Railroad of New Jersey, High Bridge Branch
4. Jacob Welsh, founder of Welsh Farms Dairy, Long Valley

... these questions intrigue you, the just published book *History of Middle Valley, New Jersey* will fascinate you.

Praised for both its enjoyable narrative and scholarship, this book is a solid addition to several subject areas. The New Jersey Historical Commission awarded the publisher of the book a publication grant in 1995.

For more information on this book, see reverse.

History of Middle Valley, NJ

by Steven Firtko, M.A.
 Illustrated with 39 antique photos
 and 11 maps
 Hardcover,
 136 pages



For additional information, call Bill Leavens of the MVCC, 908 / 832 • 5822

Middle Valley, NJ—where the past is present

Amplly illustrated, the *History of Middle Valley* tells the story of the hamlet of Middle Valley (ca 1730). The book details its changes — from settlement to commercial growth and then re-ruralization.

Learn about a town that appears much as it did 100 years ago. Middle Valley is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and is surrounded by 737 acres protected by Morris County's Farmland Preservation Program.

Budd's Valley

The *History of Middle Valley* traces the origins of the first German immigrants. The land was owned by speculator John Budd, who established 97-year leases. Only a special act of the legislature in 1844 could resolve the intrigue caused by Budd's heirs.

Enjoy reading about other colorful personalities such as the Reverend Caspar Wack, United States Senator Jacob W. Miller, and Civil War hero George Dufford.

Progress Comes to Middle Valley

From 1850 to 1910, Middle Valley saw its most significant growth. While agriculture remained dominant, entrepreneurs optimistically launched four mills, iron mines, a train station, a basket factory, a creamery, and a rock quarry—with its own spur railroad.

For additional information, call Bill Leavens of the MVCC, 908 / 832 • 5822

Reflections from the Past

The *History of Middle Valley* also delves into the closely knit social makeup of the valley and its continuing close ties to agriculture. Several farms remained in the same family for generations.

Reversal and Renewal

From this turn of the century height the next phase can be seen as an era of decline. Commercial activity decreased as did population. The village reverted to a primarily rural setting by 1930.

The *History of Middle Valley* describes a remarkable 1931 state proposal to create a reservoir which would have drowned much of Washington Township.

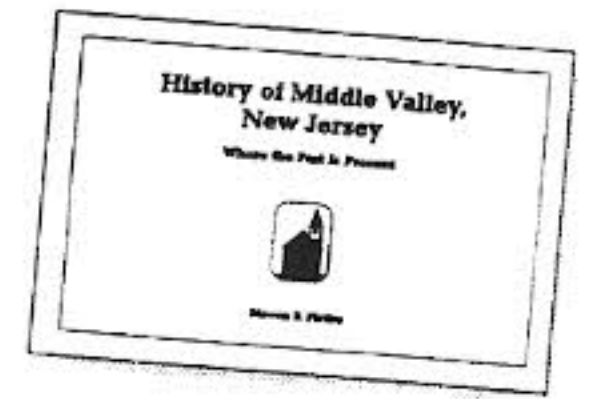
In 1967, despite losing a battle to retain its Post Office, Middle Valley experienced a rekindled sense of place. Since then residents and friends have been determined to preserve its past and to maintain its community spirit.

About the Author

Steven F. Firtko devoted 20 years to researching Middle Valley's past. Mr. Firtko holds degrees from University of Pennsylvania (B.A., *History*) and from East Stroudsburg University (B.S., *Education* and M.A., *History*).

History of Middle Valley, NJ

by Steven Firtko, M.A.
Illustrated with 39 antique photos
and 11 maps
Hardcover,
136 pages



"a discerning examination of a significant area of New Jersey ... this book provides the opportunity to understand Middle Valley in historical perspective."

John G. Muncie, Ph.D.
Professor of History,

East Stroudsburg University

"Reading the *History of Middle Valley* transports one back in time to the life, times and people who made Middle Valley a place to be remembered."

Virginia Allen

Museum Chairman

Washington Twp. Historical Society

"The *History of Middle Valley* reveals the diverse elements, forces and people who have given this valley region a distinctive tone and history... an interesting, readable and scholarly account ... a model for other historians of local development."

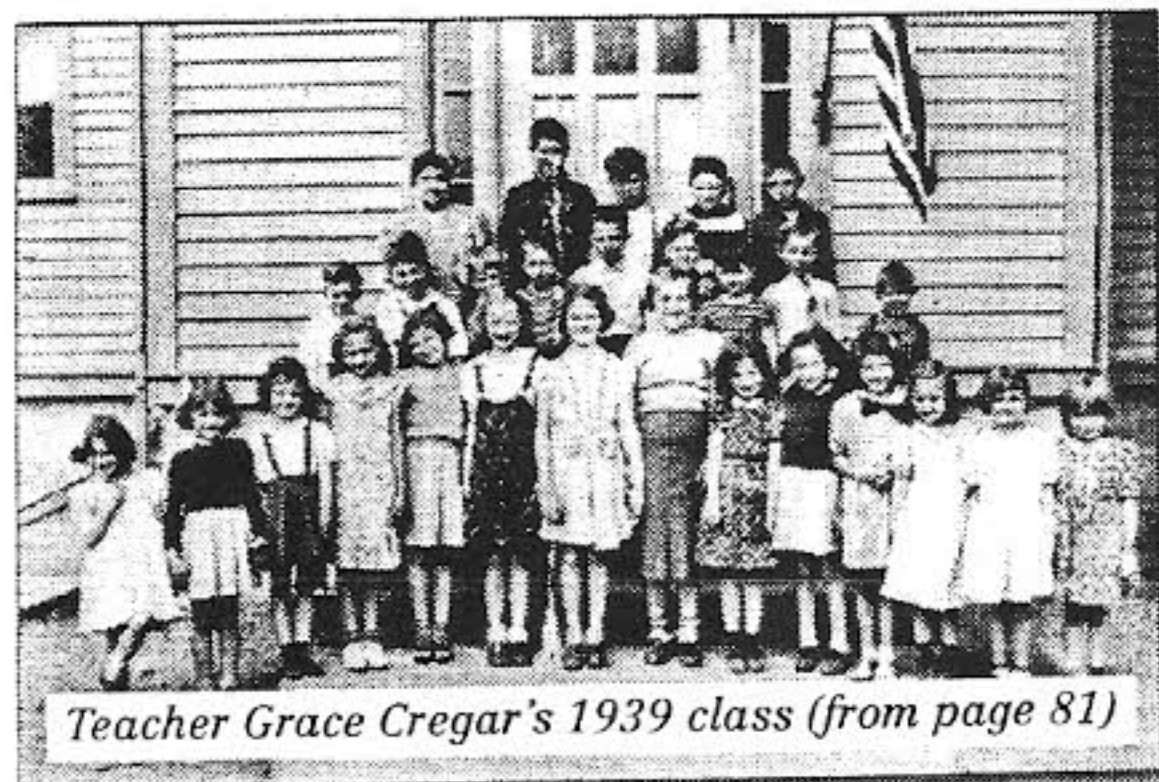
James N. J. Harwood, Ph.D.
Professor of History

East Stroudsburg University

Mail orders to:

Middle Valley Community Center
359 West Mill Road
Long Valley, NJ 07853-3628

BONUS— Yes, have the author sign a first edition copy for me! (Check off box for this offer.)



Teacher Grace Cregar's 1939 class (from page 81)

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Merchandise Ordered

QUANTITY	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
	<i>History of Middle Valley, NJ</i>	\$19.95	\$
	Shipping (per book)	\$4.00	\$
	TOTAL		\$

-8-

LONG VALLEY

I am looking today on Long Valley
below,
From the mountain-top where I
stand,
And it brings to my being a tender
glow,
'Tis my home, in my native land.

Its bosom is checkered with wheat's
yellow gold,
The green of the grass and the corn,
While mountains, like shepherds
keep watch o'er a fold,
And the old home in which I was
born.

I hear the low murmur of brooks
running down
To the ribbon like river I see,
And church bells ring out from the
little old town,
Their call winging upward to me.

Its rugged old houses were built
long ago,
By Pioneers, long since at rest,
Each one a true shelter from heat or
the snow,
A unit of all that was best.

Encrusted in mountains, a gem I
behold,
A jewel; my own, rich and rare,
God set unalloyed, in contentment's
pure gold,
And keeps in his Fatherly care.

Its people are mine and we all glad-
ly dine
At the table conditions may bring,
The dregs of a sorrow or joy's pleas-
ant wine
We share, as we sigh or we sing.

When day shall have ended and mel-
low twilight
Her veil o'er the valley shall throw,
From memory's mountain I fling a
good night,
To the best little valley I know.

— GEORGE S. DUFFORD.

TO SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN

Good evening old mountain, my
greetings to you;
With your summit outlined in the
evening's pale blue.
From down in the valley, through
fading twilight,
I'm waiting your greeting to Queen
of the Night.

Down here, the night shadows cling
close to your base;
But Luna's fair light is now touch-
ing your face.
Both silver and jet are the gems
that shall crown
The somber jade green of your eve-
ning gown.

How long have you stood where
you're standing tonight?
How many full moons have you wit-
nessed in flight?
Geologists reckon; but no man can
say
When nature's upheaval gave you a
birthday.

From timber's deep shadows I see
the lamp-light
From each mountain home shining
out in the night.
And I can imagine the same tiny
glow,
The Red Men once kindled in days
long ago.

For years I have looked on your
rugged old form;
I've ranged through your woodlands
in sunshine and storm.
My lofty companion, your silence I
greet,
And bid you goodnight as I stand at
your feet.

— GEORGE S. DUFFORD.