

# SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL SCHWACHAMMER (SWACKHAMER) WHO IN 1732 SETTLED IN LONG VALLEY, NEW JERSEY AND PHILLIP DUFFORD (DUFOURD) WHO SETTLED THERE IN 1738.

## WINTER 2008 BULLETIN

Dear Members and Friends:

As 2008 rapidly draws to its end, I am reminded of a saying that I often heard as a youth from adults in rural Indiana: "The hurrieder I go, the behinder I get!" It had little meaning to me then, but now having surpassed age 70, I am experiencing the sensation of ever accelerating time. The old saying has new meaning to me. I know that time does not accelerate, but the compression of ideas and desires against a finite calendar often requires difficult choices. What will be done and what will be postponed?

This periodic *Bulletin* rolls around all too fast. An idea for a story in spring, not done in summer, will still be pending when the publication deadline arrives. The story of members' travels to Altlusheim, Germany (the place of Samuel Swackhamer's birth) is a good example. I used the travel story of **Greg Swackhamer** to represent the experiences of many, but each person's visit to Altlusheim included unique experiences and made lasting impressions. I would like to have included **Nancy Schanes'** discovery that her paternal ancestor, **Johann Sigmund**, a passenger with Samuel aboard the *Love and Unity*, came from the Altlusheim grape growing region, a fact unknown to her U.S. grandfather, who also grew wine grapes. Or, the story of **R.E. Swackhamer** and his family visiting and having meals with **Schwechheimers** in Altlusheim in 1993. **Jim Swackhamer**, our late Swackhamer Historian, also a visitor to Altlusheim, wanted to write a story for the *Bulletin*, but failing health thwarted his desire.

The lesson to be learned from these real-life stories is "do it now". If you have always wanted to write some stories of family history for grandchildren, even those not yet born, do it now. Any blank journal will do. Don't worry about sloppy handwriting or "misspellings" or missing facts—just start and add something to your journal each time something jogs your memory. In due course your efforts will be appreciated. Usually it is the little things that become important to family history, like a family recipe card found as a bookmark in an old book or a Christmas card with the return address of a distant cousin.

If you feel that now is the time to get more involved with family history and genealogy, then note on your new 2009 calendar the date of **Saturday July 25** for the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society annual reunion in Long Valley, NJ. Planning is already underway to assure you that the program is interesting and educational, making the visit to Long Valley worthwhile. There are many ways to become involved in your Society. Become a contributor to the *Bulletin*. Help test a new self-paced driving tour of historic family sites around Long Valley for ease and informative value. Add a family member to our membership and *Bulletin* mailing list. Tell us about your Dufford or Swackhamer family connection. Become a participant in the Swackhamer DNA Project with Family Tree. Send a donation to our Society Treasurer to help pay for postage and annual meeting expenses; your voluntary donation is in lieu of dues or a membership fee.

Your Society officers hope that you had a wonderful Holiday Season and wish you all the blessings of a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

Gene L. Swackhamer, President

## Officers of the Combined Societies

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Check the web site at the address below and put your comments or questions in the "Guest Book." The site is monitored and you will get a response. Swackhamer- Dufford Genealogical Society:

<http://www.geocities.com/swackduff/>

Throughout this issue (D) represents a Dufford connection, (S) for Swackhamer, (S & D) both families and (F) for friend of the Society.

### Communication from Members and Friends

April 28, 2008. The **Washington Township Historical Society** expressed appreciation to the S-D Society for its \$100.00 contribution to the Old Stone Union Church Stabilization Fund. Members and friends also are encouraged to financially support this important historic preservation.

May 21, 2008. **Donald W. Dufford** sent information from his attendance at the 2007 reunion and materials about the Jack and Nancy Ryan house at 186 West Mill Road, which he visited during that reunion. Parts of the house date to 1810 and it was once the home of Donald's great grandfather, William Dufford and his wife, Margaret M. Trimmer Dufford. Donald also believes it is the house where both his grandfather, William L Dufford (the L does not stand for anything said his father!) and his father, William Levering Dufford were born. This material and other communications about historic Swackhamer-Dufford family places will be used to produce a self-guided walking/driving tour of Washington Township for future reunion attendees and visitors.

May 30, 2008. A letter from **Merry Lou Oxford (S) (Mrs. George T. Oxford)** arrived. She described her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration aboard the riverboat, "General Jackson." Merry Lou said her birthday was stupendous, true luxury, with all her children. She recommends age 85.

Merry Lou is already planning to attend the 2009 reunion. She also noted that her parents, grandparents and great-grandparents are all buried in the Somerville, NJ cemetery, which she hopes to visit. She said the caretakers there need more family support to help with the upkeep.

June, 2008. **Clyde M Verbryck** of Vestal, NY sends his regards. He and his wife **Mary Therese** are "snowbirds" spending three months in Garden City, SC each winter before traveling on to Boyton Beach, FL to see daughter, Sue, and then to Del Ray Beach, FL to spend some time with son Matt and his spouse Carol. They return to Vestal for summer and fall.

## Communication (continued)

June 18, 2008. **Virginia Allen** said she liked the Bulletin and provided an old Gazette newspaper clipping from around 1935 by **George S. Dufford** of Middle Valley, N.J. Mr. Dufford wrote to the editor that "Last Tuesday morning the people living along the Long Valley-High Bridge road, saw William Maxwell, of Long Valley, presenting them with a picture of long ago days. ...Mr. Maxwell, seated in a buggy wagon of 1900 vintage, that was powered by a horse of uncertain age, sailed blithely along, unmindful of whizzing cars that gave him a wide berth, presumably, out of respect for the picture of almost forgotten days he was displaying...."

This site inspired Mr. Dufford to write the poem "Good Old Dobbin" below. Ms. Allen noted that William Maxwell once lived in her homestead and he may have a connection with Laura Dufford Gano of Middle Valley.

### GOOD OLD DOBBIN

Old Dobbin you're a wonderful thing.  
No horns to honk, no bells to ring.  
No license buying every year,  
No plates to stick on front or rear.

No cranking up to make you start.  
No belts to slip or come apart.  
No sparks to miss, no gears to strip,  
You start yourself. No clutch to slip.

Though reckoned now, a little slow  
O'er vale and mountain \_\_\_ you go.  
Through mud, o'er snowbank's heavy drift,  
You make your way, no gears to shift.

No gas or oil bills every day,  
To steal the joys of life away.  
Your inner tubes are all O.K.  
And thank the stars they stay that way.

Your spark-plugs never miss or fuss,  
Your motor never makes me cuss.  
Old Dobbin, you are still my bet,  
You've something on the auto yet.

June, 2008. **Mrs. Kenneth (Margaret Strandbug) Johnson** of Bremen, IN wrote that her grandson, **Gunnar Henry Bollhoefer** was 5 on April 8, 2008. He is the son of **Duane and Rebecca (Johnson) Bollhoefer** and g. g. grandson of **Bessie (Swackhamer) Emmons**.

June, 2008. Oops, an error was found in the Summer 2008 Bulletin. **Ms Diana Swackhamer** of Montrose, PA wrote that she was shorted one great. She has 11 great, great grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren, 7 grandchildren and 4 children! She also sent a photo of a friend, a handsome sailor from 1965, **Martin D. Swackhamer**. There is no Martin Swackhamer on the Society's mailing list, so if anyone knows his whereabouts, please send us an address.

September 17, 2008. An inquiry from **Susan Sifonte** of Kissimmee, FL looking for a Diane Swackhamer who dated her father **Robert Phelps** in NJ in the 1950's and together they had a daughter, Susan's half-sister. Can anyone provide information?

September 24, 2008. **Dawn Taylor-Moulson** of Nelson, B.C. Canada seeking to determine if the **Katie Swackhamer** who married **Christopher Kern** in German Valley, NJ, was the daughter of the first Samuel Swackhamer.

October 23, 2008. **Mrs. Alfred Swackhamer** of Erie, PA wrote to inform the Society of Alfred's death on October 6 at age 85. She said that they both enjoyed reading the Bulletin and she sent a contribution in his memory to continue support of the Bulletin.

**Mike Swackhamer**, who really is a hog farmer in Indiana, submitted the following poem for the 2007 annual reunion poetry contest. He received an honorable mention for its uniqueness and light-heartedness.

### The Princess & The Pig Farmer

There once was a beautiful Princess  
who married a pig farmer.  
He promised to always love her  
and never harm her.  
He was tight with his money,  
but he took good care of his honey!  
She never knew he would become such a charmer.

She gave him two wonderful daughters,  
and two good sons-in-law, and  
two grandsons, most precious of all.  
She loves to cook and clean and keep  
her castle looking its finest.  
But if you get the floors dirty you  
will be in trouble with Her Highness!

She loves to plant and mow, to watch  
her flowers and vegetable garden grow.  
She loves her hair, clothes, jewelry  
and her car, but making people  
happy is more important by far.

When he gets grouchy and starts  
complaining that she is spending too much  
money and not enough good loving, then out  
the back door she starts shoving, saying  
"Now you are no Prince Charming, so stay  
outside with the animals and your farming!"

## Necrology

Longtime Nevada resident, **William "Bill" Swackhamer**, passed away on July 10, 2008 in Meridian, Idaho at the age of 93. He was born on August 18, 1914 in Winnemucca, NV to Edward O. and May Delaney Swackhamer. They were residents of a mining camp in Northern Lander County. In 1923 the family moved to Battle Mountain where his father purchased a mercantile business. Bill attended school in Battle Mountain, graduating in 1931. Following this he went to work with his father in the business, E.O. Swackhamer and Sons. In 1943 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps where he was trained in radar navigation. He served in a heavy bomb group in Italy. He was discharged from the Army in July 1946. He then returned to Battle Mountain to work in the business with his father and brothers, Bruce and Dick. In 1949 he married Joyce M. Backes and participated in the raising of her children, Rebecca and Lloyd.

In November 1946, he was elected to the Nevada Assembly where he served for 26 years. In 1971 he retired from his business in Battle Mountain. In 1972 he was appointed Secretary of State of Nevada by then Governor Michael O'Callahan to replace retiring Secretary John Koontz. At that time he and his wife moved to Carson City. He served in that office for 14 years and then retired from public service. The couple remained in Carson City in their retirement. They traveled extensively around the world. Bill spent many hours reading and listening to his extensive library relating to history and politics. He was always ready to share his knowledge of history and politics and had so many stories of his times in Nevada's politics. He loved baseball. He loved his family and always made sure they were taken care of. He will truly be missed by all who knew him. He was a member of Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Community. Following the death of his wife he moved to Meridian, ID with his daughter. He remained a resident of his beloved Nevada while in Idaho.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, parents, his brothers; Bruce, Dick and Paul and sisters; Natalie, Roma and Harriet. He is survived by children; Rebecca (John) Tucker of Meridian, ID; Lloyd (Lucinda) Backes of Bushnell, Nebraska; sister, Leah Chiara of Carson City; four grandchildren, Kevin Tucker, Johnna Parker, Kristy Culek and Erika Backes; six great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews as well as grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Interment will be in Battle Mountain, NV at a later date. Memorials may be made to Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Community, 3000 N. Lompa Ln., Carson City, NV 89706 or Make a Wish Foundation, 4355 W. Emerald St., Boise, Idaho 83706.

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**Alfred H. Swackhamer** of Erie, PA, died on October 6, 2008 at the age of 85. He was born January 31, 1923, in Benezette, a son of the late John and Grace English Swackhamer. He was formerly a resident of Corry and since 1985, Erie. Retiring in 1968, he was a manufacturing representative for ESCO Cabinet Co. of West Chester. Previously, he had worked in sales and service of milk tanks and trucks for Marsh Sales & Service, which was the local dealer for Dairy Cool Co. of Madison, Wisc. He was a member of the Trinity Methodist Church and the Disabled American Veterans Association (DAV), enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an avid reader. Inducted in January 1943, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was with the 7<sup>th</sup> Army as a staff sergeant and squad leader in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 253<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Company A. He was honorably discharged Feb. 19, 1946, with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He served in the European African Middle Eastern Theater.

Mr. Swackhamer was preceded in death by three brothers, Calvin and Gerald Swackhamer, and a brother in infancy, Edward; three sisters, Erma Jean "Billie" Austin, Mary Miller, and Edna Pascale. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Charlotte Hopkins Swackhamer, whom he married Dec. 8, 1945; three sons, Gary Swackhamer and his wife, Katie, of West Chester, Ronald Swackhamer and his wife, Linda, of Fort Mill, SC, and Tim Swackhamer and his wife, Joni, of Edinboro; a daughter, Julie Culver, and her husband Denny, of Corry; three sisters, Jane Rossi of Bradford, Carol Means and her husband, Bob, of Largo, Florida, and Rita Gates and her husband, George, of Williamson, NY; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Burial was in Pine Grove Cemetery, Corry.

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**Louise W. Swackhamer**, 93, widow of Farris S. Swackhamer, passed on to be with God on Dec. 17, 2008. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Dec. 23, at St. Michael's Church, 40 Alden St., Cranford, New Jersey.

## Genealogy

July 14, 2008. An email from **Barry Stewart** of Concord, CA included genealogy of his ancestry through Canada back to **Hans Philipp Dufford** (c. 1690 to 1767). He is a descendent of Hans Philipp Dufford (c.1690 to 1767) and Anna Eva Anthoni (1692 to 7-1732) through their daughter Anna Clara (c.1719 to 9-9-1794) who married Hans Stephan Durrenberger on 31 Jan 1736.

Barry was born in Ontario, Canada and his primary linkage to the S-D Society is through his gr.gr. grandmother Nancy Ann Swackhammer (2-10-1819 to 8-12-1908), daughter of Jacob Swackhammer (9-16-1793 to 1-10-1874), and granddaughter of Christopher Swackhammer (7-8-1767 to 4-28-1840) and Elizabeth 'Kate' Terryberry (4-14-1772 to 6-7-1858). Christopher and Elizabeth migrated to Canada about 1805 and are the progenitors of most Canadian Swackhammers. Contact information are email [steauier@aol.com](mailto:steauier@aol.com) and mailing address Barry Stewart, 3731 Cottonwood Drive, Concord, CA 94519.

## Genealogy (Continued)

October 26, 2008. **Bill Cramer**, 2nd Vice President and Dufford Family Historian, Swackhamer/Dufford Genealogical Society sends notice that in the last bulletin, Summer 2008, he provided "**Continuous Trimmer/Dufford Research Project**". That printing "awoke" the genealogical passions of a number of family members that received the bulletin, encouraging them to reach out to other family members who in turn reached out to our 1st Vice President, Carol Trimmer Stout. Carol contacted Bill and activity has not stopped since.

Bill states: "With the help of a number of excellent family sources my 2 page "**Continuous Trimmer/Dufford Research Project**" is now up to 19 pages and growing." He is approaching his goal of listing Nelson Trimmer and Maria W. Dufford and **all** their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, gg grandchildren, ggg grandchildren and gggg grandchildren. This also includes further research on the lineage of 3 of Nelson and Maria's 9 children, specifically: 1) Theodore and Hattie (Timmons)Trimmer, their 7 children, 16 grandchildren and numerous great, gg, ggg grandchildren. 2) John Frank and Minnie (Cruzen) Trimmer, their son Guy Trimmer and his daughters Susan and Jane Trimmer. 3) Daniel and Elisabeth S. (Trimmer) Gruendyke and their siblings, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and gg grandchildren. The only child that remains a mystery to all of us is their last child: Nelson Boy Trimmer (B. 10.30.1875) and his wife, Birdie (Waxler) Trimmer. IF ANYONE OUT THERE HAS ANY INFORMATION ON THIS LAST TRIMMER, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. This will put us well within the reach of finding everyone.

For additional information please contact Bill Cramer at [bcj1226@optonline.net](mailto:bcj1226@optonline.net).

## Help Locate Missing Members!

We ask your help in providing current contact information for those members of the Society for whom newsletters have been recently undeliverable. If you have any information regarding the current location or email address for any of the following members, please email our membership coordinator, Carol T. Stout, at [carolstout2003@aol.com](mailto:carolstout2003@aol.com), or mail to Carol T. Stout, 14 Fox Hill Road, Middletown, NJ 07748.

Missing Members	Last Known Location
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Apgar	Annandale, NJ
Mr. Howard S. Apgar	Holland, PA
Mr. John M. Bottone	Plainfield, NJ
Francena Bramell	Yellville, AR
Mrs. Ronald S. Clark	Sanford, FL
Mrs. June Dalgity	Ontario, Canada
Miss Susan A. Dufford	Mifflin, PA
Mr. Chester S. Dufford	Utica, MI
Mr. Howard E. Dufford	Hastings, NE
Mr. M.J. Dufford	Shippenville, PA
Mr. Robert O. Dufford	Atwater, OH
Mr. Roy Dufford	Sapulpa, OK

## Summer 2009 Reunion

It's not too early to pencil in the next annual reunion of the Society! This year, the reunion will take place on **Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**. The location is still being determined, but it will be in the area of Washington Township, New Jersey. This area of northwestern New Jersey, also known as German Valley, is lush and lovely and the home of many early German settlers. So plan to spend the weekend researching your roots!

We are in the process of securing a keynote speaker, and will have other Society speakers updating us on their research. As in the past two years, we will provide a light breakfast and a luncheon, and will have time available for fellowship with old and new members. We'll also have a display table for members to exhibit their ancestral photographs and related materials.

Look for the full program and registration form in the Summer Bulletin. In the meantime, please email Carol Stout at [carolstout2003@aol.com](mailto:carolstout2003@aol.com) with any questions about the reunion.

## Dufford Family National Origin Search

[Prepared for the Bulletin by **Gene Swackhamer** at the request of **Russell T. Dufford, Jr.** from his materials in the hope that others will seek a definitive solution to the century old question of national and religious origin of the Dufford family.]

In "Early Germans of New Jersey" Chambers suggests that the German Valley Duffords were most likely Huguenots, perhaps adapting their surname from Devoor or DuFour. Many refugee Huguenots adapted to German customs and practices upon fleeing from Switzerland and France into the Palatinate to be less exposed to Catholic invaders and harassment, and then continued those ways upon coming to America. George Dufford, founder of the Dufford Family Association and a founder of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society, strongly agreed with Chambers, that the Duffords were Huguenots, further citing the claim of some local Frenchmen that it was a name common to the Lemans region.

About an equal number of Duffords disagreed with George's logic and conclusions. One of the most outspoken was Peyson Dufford, brother of Lewis Dufford, and an attorney with The Metropolitan Insurance Company. Peyson argued that the Duffords were much too stubborn to be anything but "German Deutch."

The question of nation origin was posed to the national office of Palatines to America, an organization representing Germanic language speaking immigrants to America from the religious refugee regions of the Rhine River valley known as the Palatinate. Ann Scott, a Palatines to America librarian, responded that based upon the Dufford family behavior once in America, they were not likely to be Huguenots. Even if they immigrated on the same ships with Germans and were otherwise friends, they would not have intermarried with Lutherans, would not have had christenings in the Lutheran church or remained an integral part of the German Lutheran community as they did.

A further argument for Germanic ancestry for the Dufford family can be found in "Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Northern Alsace to America" by Annette Kunselman Burgert. Her book shows the birth records of the children of our ancestor Phillip Dufford and his wife Eva Anthony in the Lutheran Church at Langensoultzbach, formerly Soultzbach in Germany. Also shown are the marriage record of a daughter to Stephen Durrenberger and the marriage records of Duffords to the Weiss family. The Durrenbergers and Weiss' trace their origin to Bern, Switzerland. This book makes a pretty convincing case that the family origin is the Germanic section of Switzerland.

If we Duffords are Huguenots, we should embrace that society. If we are German/Swiss, then that would provide additional certainty to our present mission.

### Editor's Note on "Early Germans"

For your reference, Chambers' book above is The Early Germans of New Jersey Their History, Churches and Genealogies by Theodore Frelinghuysen Chambers. It was originally published in 1895 in Dover, New Jersey and has been reprinted several times. Your library may have it or be able to obtain it. A quick google shows it appears to be available for purchase or check with your local bookseller.

Considered a genealogical classic with extensive sections on the area of your ancestors settling in the New World, it does provide answers. For example, according to Chambers, Katie Swackhamer who married Christopher Kern in German Valley was the daughter of the 1st Samuel Swackhamer. (see Sept. 24 Communications). A scan of the page is to the right. The Washington Township Historical Society had Chambers' map of Washington Township in his book scanned and you may browse it at <http://www.wthsnj.org> under "Local History."

**Correction:** The July 2008 Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society's Annual Reunion was its 62<sup>nd</sup>. The Summer 2008 Bulletin incorrectly had 55<sup>th</sup>.

KERN—KESTER		429
<b>KERN.</b>		
JOHN JACOB KERN (Carn), supposed to have come to this country in 1739, in the "Jamaica Galley." The name, Jacob Kern, appears on John Peter Nitsner's Ledger, 1763, June 28; he had ch. at least:		
(I).	CHRISTOPHER, b. 1728, Dec. 16, d. 1796, July 22, m. 1750, July 3, Katie Schwackhamer (dau. of Samuel), b. 1733, d. 1815, Nov. 5; had ch.:	
	(1). Mary, b. 1752, Dec. 20, d. 1787 July 25, m. <i>first</i> , Leonard; <i>second</i> , Jacob (sons of Matthias Trimmer).	
(II).	LEONARD, b. 1755, March 15, d. 1784, April, m. Catherine; had one child, which died.	
(III).	CATHERINE, b. 1756, Nov. 15, died unmarried.	
(IV).	CHRISTOPHER, b. 1758, July 19, m. <i>first</i> , Sarah Clemens; <i>second</i> , 1785 (?), Sarah Dawes; rem. to Canada.	
(V).	ANNA, b. 1760, Dec., m. <i>first</i> , a Naughtright; <i>second</i> , 1783, Sept. 28, David Henry; rem. to Canada.	
(VI).	JOHN, b. 1763, May 29, m. 17-7, April 9, Charity Bunn (dau. of Cunrad); had twelve children:	
(VII).	ELISABETH, b. 1766, Feb. 14, m. Daniel Anthony (s. of Philip).	
(VIII).	JACOB, b. 1768, Jan. 12, d. 1845, m. <i>first</i> , 1789, April 14, Elisabeth Dufford; <i>second</i> , Susan Ann Pitney; no children:	
(IX).	DAVID, b. 1770, Oct. 15, m. 1794, Aug. 3, Catherine Wise (dau. of Jacob); rem. to Canada.	
(X).	PHILIP, b. 1772, Aug. 10, m. <i>first</i> , 1796, Nov. 20, Ann Roelofson; <i>second</i> , Ann Dufford (dau. of Matthias); had ch.: 1. JACOB, unm.; 2. ISAAC, m. Polly Pasher, rem. to Canada; 3. ELISABETH, b. 1804, unm.; 4. KATIE, b. 1807, May 21, m. Jacob Welsh (s. of Philip); 5. SAMUEL, b. 1812, Sept. 22, rem. to Canada; 6. MARY ANN, b. 1816, April 27, m. (2d wife) Joseph Kirlin, went West; 7. DAVID, m. <i>first</i> , Ruth Castner; <i>second</i> , Ann Swartz (dau. of David); had ch., by his first wife: (1). Philip, m. Ellen Dufford, res. at Morrilstown; (2). Jacob, m. Clarissa Rarick. By second wife: (3). Kate, m. Isaac France; (4) Josephine, m. Jas. Kingey, of Morrilstown; (5). Sallie, m. Jacob Bird (s. of John); (6). David, m. Eliza Hoover; (7). Emma Jane; (8). Litha. 8. SALLIE, m. Thomas Larue.	
(XI).	FREDERICK, b. 1773, Dec. 16, unm.	
(XII).	SAMUEL, b. 1777, Nov. 16, unm.	
MISCELLANEOUS—DAVID, m. Christena, and left a will (Knowlton) probated 1837, Feb. 31, in which he mentions John and Margaret, wife of — Haynes, and her son, William.		

## **Introducing Society Officers: Carol Martyniuk, Secretary** **Interview by Jill Swackhamer Kaplan, July 26, 2008**

At the Swackhamer-Dufford 2008 Genealogical Society Reunion, I had the opportunity to sit down with Carol Martyniuk and get to know more about her and her family. We demonstrated the "personal interview" process of collecting family history to show how easy and straight-forward it can be, but also how it can lead to many avenues of fact-finding and interesting personal stories.

Carol McCaffrey Martyniuk was born 12/10/52 and grew up in West Chester, NY. She and Peter Martyniuk were married in Madison, NJ on 2/19/77, and they have three children, all of whom were born in Newton, NJ: Matthew, age 27, who has been living and working in Australia; Christy, age 24, who was once the S-D Society President, started her first teaching job this past September; and Michael, age 22, a senior at Montclair State has enjoyed his role as a drummer in a garage band. Carol also has served the S-D Society as an Assistant Newsletter Editor while helping her son Matthew with this task. Next she will be helping on a committee to plan the 2009 S-D Reunion to be held on Saturday, July 25, 2009. Carol is a teacher of Language Arts at Sussex Middle School.

Mrs. Audrey McCaffrey, Carol's mother, was in attendance at this year's S-D Reunion, traveling from Florida. Also in faithful attendance was Carol's younger sister Eileen Corritori, who is the Society's Treasurer and gets assistance from her husband Daniel with this task. They are residents of Long Valley, NJ.

Carol is one of five children. Carol is the oldest, then Keith (5/10/55), Eileen (6/29/57), Ken (1/19/61) and Kerri (11/1/63). You can see that Carol is good with remembering dates!

Carol is related to Philip Dufford through her Great Grandmother who was Martha Ann Dufford, the daughter of George Steven Dufford. The oldest relative that Carol can remember meeting was her Aunt Pauline Wert, who was in her 90's when they went to her big house in Long Branch, NJ. She was married to Runde Wert, a pharmacist. Carol says her most interesting relative was probably her Grandfather Alden Wert who lived until age 82. She realized that he was born exactly 100 years before her oldest son, back in 1881. Carol knows that her Great Grandfather, John Wert and his wife are buried in The Union Cemetery in Hackettstown, NJ.

Attending family reunions over the years is what got Carol interested in family history. She also credits her mother with helping this interest grow through decorating family gravesites each Memorial Day. Carol recalls enjoying reunions under the shade trees at Zion Lutheran Church, the traditional site of S-D Reunions, and watching magic shows performed by her Uncle Milton Swackhamer. She also fondly recalls sneaking off to look at Zion Lutheran's mysterious bell tower. Carol's great grandparents were married at Zion Lutheran Church.

Some interesting family connections include the fact that Carol's grandfather, Alden Wert was named for the physician who delivered him, Dr. Alden Martin, who is the grandfather of Carol Trimmer Stout. Mr. Alden Wert is also credited with having worked on the Panama Canal for three years under Colonel Gaugus.

A little known fact was discovered about Carol through helpful input from the audience: "What do you like to do in your spare time?" "Long-distance swimming," was Carol's reply! She swims about two miles every week and would like to one day swim a major distance event. Good luck to you Carol. We're with you in spirit if not wetsuits. Her brother Keith is an open-water swimmer and has participated in a triathlon.



**Above in the Zion Lutheran Church Hall are Carol Martyniuk (left) and Jill Swackhamer Kaplan (right).**

## A Day Trip to Altlußheim, Germany By Greg Swackhammer

As a 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday present I took a backpack trip I planned myself to Europe that I had always wished to see. My intent was to use a rail pass to travel as much area as possible as a prelude to returning to investigate areas again.

Altlußheim, Germany is one of those places I will return to. Staying in Heidelberg, I took the train early the morning of May 7, 2005 and arrived at a remote train platform on the East side of Neulußheim. The area map indicated I had about a 2 km. walk ahead of me but it was a nice cool spring morning. I set off West along Hauptstraße the main street of Neuleßheim (established about 1720) a town similar in size to Altlußheim (known to have been an inhabited village over 1100 years ago). The bright, roughcast homes and buildings on the quiet clean streets were immediately relaxing. I stopped at a café that had just opened and had a coffee and Danish. In the small town I found the language barrier a little difficult, as tourists are not common here. I set off walking again and came to the West edge of Neulußheim and open fields, hydro lines, commercial area and my first view of Altlußheim.

A small sign announced I had entered the town and I continued to stroll through the quiet hometown of my ancestors. The walk allowed me to view the older buildings that have been preserved over the years and the newer buildings that were constructed with modern materials but held to the older style of existing ones. I walked through downtown finding it very quiet and slowly coming to life and continued until I reached the south side of the town limits at which time I luckily located the town's cemetery. I spent approximately 2-3 hours there photographing a number of Schwechheimer graves sites which were all new, although the dates indicated some had been interred over a hundred years. I found the cemetery had been moved due to flooding of the original cemetery which had been closer to the Rhine River that flows along the town's western edge. It was during this move of the cemetery that a much older gravesite was found. The grave found is believed to be a person of some influence in the community or royalty due to the elaborate way in which the body was buried. The cemetery has Schwechheimer graves and two War Memorials for the town's veterans of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars also containing Schwechheimers.

Walking back through town which by now from the train platform in Neulußheim through Altlußheim and up to the Rathaus (Town Hall) was about 3 miles. I checked the Town Hall for access but the opening time was later in the morning. Another café and coffee and I found the Town Hall open. I entered to a small line up and waited. My turn came up and I attempted to introduce myself and explain to the best of my ability my reason for being there. I managed to inform them I was searching for family and I spelled out the name Schwechheimer that was recognized immediately. They took me to the Clerk's office and I chatted with a pleasant woman, Helga Brand, in broken English. She made a few phone calls and found another woman who had spent some time in the United States with slightly better English skills. The gentleman that they wished me to talk to was Wilfred Sweinfurth, Umweltamt (Environmental Engineer), whose English was better but he was not available.



**Altlußheim Rathaus (Town Hall)**

I met the Burgermeister Hartmut Beck (Mayor) and through some awkward translation was introduced as a Canadian descendant of the large local Schwechheimer family of which there are 24 listed in the area phone book. While in the clerk's office I noticed a book on the shelf which I recognized as *The Family Ortssippenbuch Altlußheim* by Wolfgang Okert. I asked to see the book and found Samuel Schwechheimer and his family and it indicated he was the immigrant that started the family in North America. I purchased a new copy of this book. The author used Church and Town Hall records, written in old German script, to track all the families of Altlußheim back into the early 1600's.

Altlußheim has grown and survived many wars and government changes. The town now has one of the largest sport complexes in the area with large outdoor parks and swimming facilities. A large commercial area for businesses enables many to live and work in the area. The town was one of the few points along the Rhine River which had a drawn ferry to transport goods and people across. Across the Rhine River, France and the City of Speyer, a large city and also very old, there is a massive Cathedral that is the focus point of the city now as in the past.

Due to my schedule I had to leave Altlußheim that same day. I do plan to return much more prepared and will allow myself more time to investigate the ancestral homeland in more depth and to tour area towns and cities along the Rhine. My next trip will be better planned for a more in-depth look at life in Altlußheim present and past. I hope to meet with Wolfgang Okert to assist him in adding the extended family he now knows of in the west.

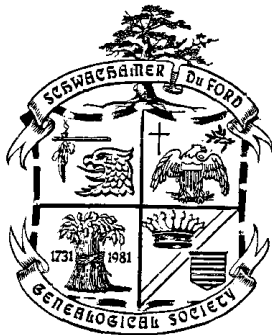


...like candy

Genealogy is like candy  
In the hands of a candy-maker  
Each morsel  
A new creation  
Some discoveries are sweet  
Like molasses, honey,  
Or sugar-gum drops  
Others are bitter like  
Licorice or a "Fisherman's Friend"  
Some melt on your pallet  
Like butterscotch  
Or Strawberries & Cream  
Some memories are hearty  
Like steak and mashed potatoes  
Smothered in gravy  
Pick your favorite flavor  
Dig in with delight  
Indulge your memory banks  
Like taste buds  
Genealogy—what a feast!

By Jill Kaplan

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