

# SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



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

## WINTER 2009 BULLETIN

Dear Members and Friends:

The genealogical highlight of my year was a trip to Altlusheim, Germany, with my wife **Sharon** and 16 year-old grandson **Clay Swackhamer**. The story of our adventure is included in this issue. Aside from seeing and walking in the places where **Samuel Schwechheimer (Swackhamer)** lived before coming to the American Colonies, the most exciting activity was meeting with descendants of Samuel's siblings and uncles, who continue to live in Altlusheim and nearby villages. See the genealogical descendency chart for **Norbert Schwechheimer** in this issue. Norbert and I are both 10<sup>th</sup> generation descendants from brothers **Samuel** and **Mathäus**. The brothers differed in age by 8 years and we by 13, Norbert being the younger.

Although I have visited Germany on previous business and tourist trips, using the services of **Dr. Wolfgang Gram's** firm, Routes to the Roots, Inc., which specializes in family history tours, made a huge difference in understanding and satisfaction. If a sufficient number of members and friends are interested in replicating this experience, the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society will do a group tour to Germany from August 24 to September 2, 2010. The group tour will include a visit to the church and village where the children of Jakob DuFort (Dufford) were baptized and also to the area of the Neckar River where several *Love and Unity* families originated. See the tour announcement in this issue for more details.

Our annual reunion was held on July 25 at Zion Lutheran Church in Long Valley. **Carla and Allen Messinger** were the keynote speakers. They spoke on the history of the Lenape Indians and their relationship with the early settlers of German Valley. They spoke of cultural differences, white settler and Indian interactions and the challenges of inter-racial marriages. **Clay Swackhamer** presented a slide show of his impressions of Altlusheim and the surrounding area and people. **Bill Cramer** presented updates on the "Continuous Dufford Research Project," and I provided an update on the findings of the "Swackhamer Surname DNA Study." Officers were elected for 2010 and the catered luncheon by Califon Foods was enjoyed by all.

Co-Treasurers **Eileen and Daniel Corritori** reported that we are solvent, but just barely. Donations were down substantially from last year. They estimated that it costs about \$2.50 to mail the Bulletins to each member annually so the need to shift to email distribution and more website dependency is rapidly increasing. In the business meeting we agreed to insert a donation envelope in this issue. I urge you to use it and consider a gift to support the volunteers who keep our Society going.

Mark your 2010 calendars with the July 31 S-D reunion date in Long Valley. Your Society officers hope to see you there. We also wish for you a most joyous Holiday Season with good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Gene L. Swackhamer, President

## Officers of the Combined Societies

**Gene L. Swackhamer**  
President  
Swackhamer Family Historian  
16429 Yeoho Road  
Sparks, MD 21152  
[GGSwack@cs.com](mailto:GGSwack@cs.com)

**Eileen and Daniel Corritori (D)**  
Co-Treasurers  
66 E. Fawn Ridge Drive  
Long Valley, NJ 07853  
[ecorritori@comcast.net](mailto:ecorritori@comcast.net)

**Jane Saums (S)**  
Bulletin Reporter  
5 Old Church Road  
Warren, NJ 07059-5808

**Matthew Martyniuk (D)**  
E-Bulletin Editor, Web Master  
Asst. Dufford Family Historian  
4 Washington Street  
Vernon, NJ 07462  
[martyniuk@gmail.com](mailto:martyniuk@gmail.com)

**Carol Trimmer Stout (D)**  
Vice President  
14 Fox Hill Road  
Middletown, NJ 07748  
[Carolstout2003@aol.com](mailto:Carolstout2003@aol.com)

**William (Bill) Cramer (D)**  
Vice President  
Dufford Family Historian  
47 Franklin Place  
Morris Plains, NJ 07950  
[Bcj1226@optonline.net](mailto:Bcj1226@optonline.net)

**Greg A. Swackhamer**  
Asst. Swackhamer Family  
Historian  
103 Victoria Street  
Dundas, Ontario  
Canada L9H2C1  
[gswackhammer@cogeco.ca](mailto:gswackhammer@cogeco.ca)

**Bryan Swackhamer**  
Asst. E-Bulletin Editor, Web  
Master  
5603 Sheldon Street  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
[bryan.swackhamer@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.swackhamer@gmail.com)

**Carol Martyniuk (D)**  
Secretary  
4 Washington Street  
Vernon, NJ 07462  
[cmartyniuk@gmail.com](mailto:cmartyniuk@gmail.com)

**Shelley Heretyk (F)**  
Bulletin Editor  
29 Douglas Drive  
Long Valley, NJ 07853  
[sheretyk@comcast.net](mailto:sheretyk@comcast.net)

### NOTE: New Swackhamer- Dufford Genealogical Society Website

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njswdugs/>

Check the web site and put your comments or questions in the "Guest Book." The site is monitored and you will get a response. 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

June 11, 2009. **Dan Swackhamer** of Jamestown, NY sent an email as a result of his inquiry with **Greg Swackhamer**, Assistant Swackhamer Historian, about travel to Altflusheim, Germany. Dan hopes to make a brief stop there on an anniversary trip through Europe in August 2009. If you like photography, check out Dan's exhibit at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/swackman/sets/72157616278041470/show/>

June 15, 2009. Exchanged emails with **Mike Logan (D)** of Forest, VA, a relative of **Russell (Jack) Dufford Jr.**, regarding Jack's genealogy records. Aside from the possibility of a revealing letter from his quest to locate the European origin of **Jacob and Phillip Dufford**, we agreed that much of his information was from already published genealogy materials and not likely to make a significant contribution to the Dufford family history. Just the same, Mike will remain alert for any useful documents as Jack's estate is settled. In September through the help of **John Grier (D)**, Executor for the estate and **Richard Price (F)**, Russell's nephew, Russell's genealogy materials were transferred to the S-D Genealogical Society for the use of **Bill Cramer**, Dufford Family Historian.

[Note: Sudden death is always a reminder that providing for family history records to go to another family member who shares genealogy interests is an important step to avoid losing a lifetime of work. If there is no family member to send them to, the S-D Genealogical Society will gladly accept them for review, evaluation and retention. A simple sentence to that effect in your will or a statement of distribution instruction among your vital documents will suffice.]

June 15, 2009. **Bill Capell (F)** of Monmouth Junction, NJ, is a descendant of Leonhard Nachbar, an early German immigrant to Long Valley. Bill is researching Leonhard's route from Germany to the Valley. His mother was Adele Neighbour b. 1915; d. 1984. She was from the Hackettstown branch of the family that had little contact with the Middle Valley branch. If anyone else is researching the Nachbar line, they can contact Bill at [billcapell@hotmail.com](mailto:billcapell@hotmail.com).

September 23, 2009. **Brian Hamman (F)** emailed the S-D Society seeking information of an ancestor, Johannes Haman, who lived in the Oldwick area in the 1740s. Because his name follows immediately after the signatures of Samuel and Conrad Schwachamer in the document, "Statement of the Moneys with the Congregations of Fox Hill, Rockaway and Leslyland, for the Preacher's Yearly Support, have Promised," he is hopeful that someone might have information about his ancestor. If you can help, contact Brian at [BHamman@lexpharma.com](mailto:BHamman@lexpharma.com).

November 15, 2009. **Matt Martyniuk (D)** and **Rashida Atkins** were united in marriage at the San Diego Courthouse in San Diego, CA on November 6, 2009. **Michael Martyniuk**, brother of the groom, served as witness at the ceremony. Matt and Rashida met in Sydney, Australia in 2007, where they were both attending Macquarie University; she for her Bachelor's degree, and he for his Master's degree, both in International Relations. Although they met half way around the world, they are both from New Jersey – Matt, from Vernon, and Rashida from Bayonne. They are living in San Diego where Rashida is working in customer service at Teamwork Athletic Apparel, and Matt is working as the web administrator for Surfaid International. They both plan to travel overseas to teach English in South Korea in the near future. Matt Martyniuk is the E-Bulletin Editor, Web Master, and Asst. Dufford Family Historian. Matt's mother, **Carol Martyniuk**, S-D Society Secretary, sent this news.

## CONTINUOUS DUFFORD RESEARCH PROJECT by William N. Cramer Jr.

**Hello descendants of Philip Dufford.** This ongoing project is an attempt to update any descendant lines of the Dufford/Tufford family tree. Surnames include, but are not limited to Dufford, Trimmer, Gru(o)endyke, Cramer, Beavers, Voorhees, Stout, Neighbor, Weise, Hager, Sharp. My project includes children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, and on and on it goes.

At this past reunion I was able to bring with me my newly found 2nd cousin, Carole Ann Trimmer. Due to the connecting work of our Vice-President Carol Trimmer Stout at the 2008 family reunion, I was able to connect, by email first, by phone 2<sup>nd</sup>, and finally in-person, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin from the one branch of my Dufford/Trimmer line that I have been searching for, for many years. We have since met numerous times and Carole Ann Trimmer has documented the over 125 descendants of Theodore Trimmer and Hattie Timmons. Theodore Trimmer was the son of Nelson Trimmer and Mariah Dufford. Carole Ann was ecstatic to meet me, find out about the descendants of her grandfather, Theodore's, other 8 siblings and travelled up from South Jersey to attend our reunion this past summer.

Carole came a day early and we spent Friday driving all over western New Jersey. I was able to take her to see her grandparents' graves at Pequest Cemetery in Great Meadows, our great grandparent's graves at Union Cemetery Hackettstown and the graves of her grandfathers 7 siblings at Union Cemetery also. We then did a memory-lane-drive around Hackettstown, N.J. where Carole had grown up and she was so pleased to reattach to wonderful memories. After that, Carole took me to visit her 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, Ruth Beavers Blair, (my 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin) who updated me on her line of the Dufford/Trimmer/Beavers/Blair descendants. I also got to see the house where we used to visit our Aunt Hattie (Carole's grandmother) where she lived in Oldwick, NJ. Aunt Hattie died at the age of 101 in 1977. IT WAS A GRAND DAY FOR BOTH CAROLE AND ME!!!

A week later, I had the chance to visit another one of my 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins, Ruth Beavers Haferl, who lives in Delaware. We shared pictures, stories and updated genealogical information. Again, I credit our Swackhamer/Dufford Genealogical Society, its membership and the annual reunion for connecting me to my cousins.

Following are three articles from Dufford descendants – 1) updated information from the Dufford/Trimmer/Beavers connection, 2) an article on the genealogical information from the descendants of Elijah O. Tufford of Ontario, Canada, and 3) a correction by Bill Capell in the work done by Chambers in his book, *Early Germans of New Jersey*. Bill is assisting in trying to identify the "Elizabeth" who married George Dufford (b.1794).

### MORE DESCENDANTS OF MARIAH DUFFORD TRIMMER

MARIAH DUFFORD and Nelson Trimmer had 9 children. Theodore Trimmer (who married Hattie Timmons) was the 7<sup>th</sup> child. Theodore Trimmer and Hattie Timmons had 7 children. Lulu Pauline was the 5<sup>th</sup>. Below is Lulu Pauline Trimmer Beaver's updated information. [Editor's Note: Because of space limitations, only the Beavers' children are listed. Please contact Bill Cramer if you want information on the children of their children.]

**6. Lulu Pauline (Aunt Lou) Trimmer**-Harold Cook Beavers Sr.

b. 11/19/1911	b. 10/27/1905
m. 10/12/1932	m. 10/12/1932
d. 12/01/2003	d. 03/28/1986

Children

1. Harold Cook Beavers Jr. - Kae E. Apgar	
b. 07/19/34	b. 11/36/1937
m. 09/29/1956	m. 09/29/1956
d.	d. 07/30/1985

2. Carolyn Jane Beavers- Joseph William Blair

b. 07/13/1935	b. 04/14/1931
m. 09/26/1953	m. 09/26/1953
d.	d.

3. Ruth Joan Beavers- Edward Kenneth Conover

b. 02/28/1940	b. 06/06/1938
m. 1960	m. 1960
d.	d.

4. William Kay Beavers

b. 01/21/1937
d. 01/22/1937

5. Evelyn Beavers

b. 06/27/1938
d. 06/28/1938

**Descendants of Elijah O. Tufford of Ontario, Canada**  
**by Kathryn Wright, kswright@rogers.com, phone (905) 294-1039**

Over the years I have been in touch with many Canadian families, mainly from Ontario who are members of the Tufford family. The late **Elma Tufford** of Beamsville, ON was especially helpful. My research on the Tufford family has always come to a halt when I reach back to Elijah Tufford (my 2nd G.G.) who was born in New Jersey in 1809 and died in Canada in 1874. I have attached an abbreviated history. If anyone has any clues related to Elijah or his wife Keziah House I would be delighted to hear from you.

***Descendants of Elijah O. TUFFORD***

*Generation No. 1*

1. ELIJAH O.<sup>1</sup> TUFFORD was born 05 Jun 1809 in New Jersey, U.S.A., and died 10 Apr 1874 in Halton, Ontario, Canada. He married KEZIAH DEAN HOUSE (?) Bet. 1827 - 1830 in Halton, Ontario, Canada?. She was born 11 Feb 1812 in New Jersey, U.S.A., and died 05 Dec 1891 in Appleby, Ontario.

Children of ELIJAH TUFFORD and KEZIAH (?) are:

- i. JACOB<sup>2</sup> TUFFORD, b. 22 Mar 1829, Beamsville, Ontario; d. Dec 1906, Burlington, Ontario; m. LETTIE BLACKLEY, 22 Jan 1886, Halton, Ontario, Canada; b. 1846, CO.
- ii. PRUDENCE TUFFORD, b. 02 Mar 1832, Ancaster, Ontario; d. 29 Mar 1884; m. (1) ISAAC CLINE, 18 Jun 1858, Halton, Ontario, Canada; b. 14 Aug 1831, Nelson Twp., Halton Co., Ontario, Canada; d. 24 Mar 1861, Burial at Mount Vernon; m. (2) NICHOLAS WHEELER, Unknown.
- iii. LUCINDA TUFFORD, b. 02 Mar 1834, Ancaster, Ontario; d. 20 Dec 1902, Wentworth, Ontario, Canada.
- iv. MARIA TUFFORD, b. 02 Dec 1836, East Flamborough, Ontario; d. Unknown.
2. v. HARMON HENRY TUFFORD, b. 23 Jan 1839, St. Ann's, Nelson, Ontario; d. 26 Dec 1918, Burlington, (Halton County) Ontario, Canada.
- vi. MARGARET TUFFORD, b. 28 Mar 1841, St. Ann's, Nelson, Ontario; d. Unknown.
- vii. ELIZA TUFFORD, b. 04 Mar 1843, St. Ann's, Nelson, Burlington, Ontario; d. 12 Feb 1897, Beamsville, Ontario; m. TESSE HOUSE, 31 Mar 1875, Township of Clinton, Burlington, Ontario; b. 1832, United States.
- viii. NANCY TUFFORD, b. 1844; d. Unknown.
3. ix. MARILLA TUFFORD, b. 27 Aug 1845, East Flamborough, Ontario; d. 27 Dec 1912, Halton, Ontario, Canada.
- x. MARY ELIZABETH TUFFORD, b. 28 Oct 1847, St. Ann's, Nelson, Ontario; d. Unknown; m. JAMES WILSON, 09 Jun 1870, Halton, Ontario, Canada; b. 1843, Wellington.
- xi. SARAH JANE TUFFORD, b. Abt. 1849, Beamsville, Ontario; d. 13 Jan 1901.
4. xii. WASHINGTON LEANDER TUFFORD, b. 23 Apr 1850, St. Ann's, Nelson, Ontario; d. 30 Jan 1907, Hamilton, Ontario.
- xiii. CELESTE ALMA TUFFORD, b. 26 Dec 1851, St. Ann's, Nelson, Ontario; d. 15 Mar 1859.

*Generation No. 2*

2. HARMON HENRY<sup>2</sup> TUFFORD (*ELIJAH O.<sup>1</sup>*) was born 23 Jan 1839 in St. Ann's, Nelson, Ontario, and died 26 Dec 1918 in Burlington, (Halton County) Ontario, Canada. He married SUSANNAH WALKER 03 Jan 1871 in Nelson Twp, Halton County, Ontario, daughter of HIRAM WALKER and JULIANNA CLINE. She was born 26 Jan 1846 in Nelson, Ontario, and died 09 Mar 1912 in Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Children of HARMON TUFFORD and SUSANNAH WALKER are:

5. i. HERBERT HILLIARD CAMERON<sup>3</sup> TUFFORD, b. 23 Sep 1872, Appleby, Ontario; d. 26 Aug 1939, Barrie, Ontario, Canada.
- ii. EVELYN MAUD EURETTA TUFFORD, b. 19 Apr 1875, Appleby, Ontario; d. Abt. 1961, Eramossa, Ontario, Canada; m. CHARLES MCKENZIE CAMERON, 08 Oct 1923, Hamilton, Ontario; b. 19 Aug 1874, Dalesford, Australia; d. Unknown.

3. MARILLA<sup>2</sup> TUFFORD (*ELIJAH O.<sup>1</sup>*) was born 27 Aug 1845 in East Flamborough, Ontario, and died 27 Dec 1912 in Halton, Ontario, Canada. She married (2) DAVID HALL 11 Apr 1872 in Halton, Ontario, Canada, son of JONATHAN HALL and ELIZABETH. He was born 1841 in Nelson.

Children of MARILLA TUFFORD are:

- i. EMMA G<sup>3</sup> HALL, b. 1876, Ontario.
- ii. WILBERT C HALL, b. 1880, Ontario.
- iii. GARNET M HALL, b. 1885, Ontario.

4. WASHINGTON LEANDER<sup>2</sup> TUFFORD (*ELIJAH O.<sup>1</sup>*) was born 23 Apr 1850 in St. Ann's, Nelson, Ontario, and died 30 Jan 1907 in Hamilton, Ontario. He married PRISCILLA WILL Abt. Dec 1870, daughter of CALEB WILL and MARY CLINE. She was born 1855.

Children of WASHINGTON TUFFORD and PRISCILLA WILL are:

- i. ALBERT W.<sup>3</sup> TUFFORD, b. 16 Mar 1873; d. 26 Apr 1873.
- ii. WILLIAM E TUFFORD, b. 1874, Ontario.
- iii. HETTIE MAY TUFFORD, b. 1877, Ontario.
- iv. IDA MAUD TUFFORD, b. 1879, Ontario.
- v. ELLIS TUFFORD, b. 1883, Ontario.
- vi. CARRIE TUFFORD, b. 1885, Ontario.
- vii. NELLIE G TUFFORD, b. 1888, Ontario.

*Generation No. 3*

5. HERBERT HILLIARD CAMERON<sup>3</sup> TUFFORD (*HARMON HENRY*<sup>2</sup>, *ELIJAH O.*<sup>1</sup>) was born 23 Sep 1872 in Appleby, Ontario, and died 26 Aug 1939 in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. He married VIOLET ETHEL HANES 10 Dec 1902 in Dundas, (Wentworth) Ontario, daughter of ABRAHAM HANES and JULIA HOARE. She was born 01 Sep 1875 in Rock Chapel, Ontario, and died 1962.

Children of HERBERT TUFFORD and VIOLET HANES are:

- i. LLOYD WALKER<sup>4</sup> TUFFORD, b. 23 Mar 1904, Burlington, Ontario; d. 27 Dec 1985, Barrie, Ontario.
- ii. AUSTIN HANES TUFFORD, b. 31 Mar 1907, Burlington, Nelson Township, Ontario; d. 06 Nov 2000, Milton, Ontario; m. MARY EVELYN DEWAR, 12 Aug 1932, Hamilton, Ontario; b. 26 Oct 1907, Middlesex, Ontario; d. 20 Sep 2007, Milton, Ontario.
- iii. MABEL EVELYN TUFFORD, b. 20 Nov 1914, Burlington, Nelson Township, Halton County, Ontario; d. 17 Jan 1989, Milton, Ontario, Canada; m. W. ALBERT REEVE, 05 Jul 1941, Barrie, Ontario, Canada.

**Correction in Dufford Genealogical Research  
by Bill Capell, billcapell@hotmail.com**

The error I have found in the Dufford GED originated in the T.F.Chambers book on page 343 where he shows the wife of George Dufford b.1794 to be Elizabeth Neighbor (daughter of Leonard III) b.1800. The 1850 federal census shows his wife was indeed named Elizabeth b.1800, however she was not the same Elizabeth Neighbor who was living in Middle Valley with her widowed brother David and his children, caring for her 86 year old father, Leonard III. The 13 year old Elizabeth in that same household was the daughter of Lawrence Neighbor. I'm not sure who George Dufford's wife was, but I am convinced by the census record that Chambers was wrong. In addition, I need to clear up who Philip Dufford's wife Catrina (Neighbour?) really was before I can proceed with more Neighbour family history.

**News and Stories Needed for the Summer 2010 Bulletin**

Please provide news and stories for the next Bulletin. Gene Swackhamer and Bill Cramer compile *Communication from Members and Friends, Necrology, and Genealogy* – please send those items to Gene or Bill and anything else to Shelley Heretyk. The deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup> and the goal is to mail the bulletin in early June.

**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**

Mr. John W. Dufford  
Mr. LeRoy E. Dufford  
Mr. Walter C. Dufford  
Mr. R. Lyle Dunkin  
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Ely  
Karen Ann Swackhamer Hanson

**Last Known Location**

Richfield, OH  
Muskogee, OK  
Hazelton, PA  
Steilacoom, WA  
West Orange, NJ  
Carmel, IN

**Missing Members**

Mrs. Mildred Hopkins  
Mrs. Grace Jennings  
Mrs. LaQuita J. Kelly  
Mrs. Marilyn B. Macy  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Macy  
Mrs. Marilyn Mawdsley

**Last Known Location**

Lakewood, NJ  
Springfield, PA  
Savannah, GA  
Spokane, WA  
Ingleside, TX  
Utica, NY

**Attention Researchers**

The NJ State Archives has been putting their records online - many searchable databases including birth, marriage, death, Revolutionary & Civil Wars. The web site is <http://www.state.nj.us/state/darm>  
Click on "State Archives"

**Attention Travelers**

Please consider including the annual Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society Reunion on July 31, 2010 in Long Valley, New Jersey in your summer travel plans. Long Valley is within a day's drive from just about anywhere in the mid-Atlantic & northeast U.S. and southeast Ontario & Quebec Canada. Newark International Airport is 45 minutes away. There are plenty of options to stop by and connect with family & friends. Send an email to an officer for planning assistance.

**Attention Savers**

The Washington Township Historical Society is looking for copies (a few pages only for some) of old S-D Genealogical Society Bulletins: 1956, 1957, 1964, and 1969. Also anything before January 1953. Hopefully we'll get these scanned and on the S-D web site. Please email Shelley Heretyk at [sheretyk@comcast.net](mailto:sheretyk@comcast.net) or telephone (908) 876-3983.

## Genealogy Trip to Altlussheim, Germany by Gene L. Swackhamer

Since the discovery in the 1990s that **Samuel Swackhamer** (Schwechheimer) came from Altlussheim, Germany, several members of the S-D Genealogical Society have visited this small village on the eastern shore of the Rhine River across from Speyer. Their advice was pre-plan your visit and arrange appointments. We heeded their advice.

The German genealogy company, Routes to the Roots, was engaged to assist with advance research, travel, appointments and translation services. It was a good investment. **Dr. Wolfgang Grams**, owner of the company, was our driver-guide and interpreter. He had arranged an 8-day itinerary that included several meetings, interviews and a retracing of the land and water route of Samuel and other passengers that were aboard the *Love and Unity*. My wife, **Sharon**, 16-year old grandson **Clay Swackhamer** and I thoroughly enjoyed traveling with Wolfgang. He is a university professor of world history who has studied emigration from the Palatine. His knowledge of local customs, German culture and history made the visit productive and interesting for us.



**Pictured is Dr. Wolfgang Grams picking sweet cherries at an historic Franconian farm park.**

We drank toasts to Samuel and the *Love and Unity* passengers, who had their wine stolen during the Atlantic crossing. We even drank the toasts after we had read that the pastor had written in the Altlussheim Lutheran Church records (similar to church council minutes today) that "Samuel drank too much; he drinks two times too much, he drinks his shoes!" (Note: In 1730 a pair of shoes cost a peasant worker about 3 months of wages, so squandering one's meager income on drink was indeed a sin.) According to Ewald Ballreich's translation of the old church records, Samuel had another black mark from fathering a child out of wedlock with **Kunigunde Zöller** in 1720. Samuel was 19 years old. I searched the 1720 Zöller family records and found a daughter born to Kunigunde. Ms. Zöller married a couple of times subsequent to 1720. I felt that some of our German cousins were watching for my reaction to this new knowledge. I told the oft repeated story of genealogy: "If you like what you have been told about your family stop your genealogy inquiry. If you go ahead, learn to dance with the skeletons that emerge!" Perhaps in his American life, Samuel redeemed his character. That might be the next chapter of this story. So, in addition to all the economic, religious and personal family tragedy reasons for Samuel to leave Germany for the New World, we may have discovered another reason—his tarnished religious and social standing in Altlussheim.

While visiting Altlussheim we tried to immerse ourselves into the community for a few days. We stayed at the local Blautannen Inn, where by coincidence; **Joachim and Hiltraut (Schwechheimer) Blaschke** were celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The family invited us to join them for coffee and dessert and to meet some other Schwechheimers, which we were pleased to accept. Sharon now has Mrs. Blaschke's recipe for a "real German Linzer tort."

With advanced newspaper publicity of our arrival, Wolfgang's efforts to secure appointments and arrange an open-ended invitation to all Schwechheimers to join us at a local beer garden for drinks and dinner, was very successful. For a few days in Altlussheim we were really busy. **Pastor Esther Kraus** came on her bicycle to meet us at her church with the lone surviving 1584-1780 church record book showing the birth, baptisms and marriages of Daniel, Samuel and other Schwechheimers. **Dr. Wilfried Schweinfurth**, a local historian in the mayor's office, gave us a walking tour of Altlussheim explaining its significance as a Rhine River crossing point, a training ground for Roman armies and the breadbasket for whomever was in power. Those circumstances alone were enough to cause many peasant farmers to flee.

**Maria Schwechheimer**, widow of **Karl-Heinz** was the first relative we met and the last to bid us farewell. She came with Pastor Kraus to greet us. Maria loaned us her husband's book on Schwechheimer family history, showed us the local cemetery and family graves, took us to see the local park and lake (a favorite picnic site) and gave us post-card photos of Altlussheim. She was a good Schwechheimer family ambassador and spokesperson for her village. Best of all she had copies for us of her husband's genealogy charts, which showed Samuel's parents, uncles and his siblings and their descendants. (See separate story in this Bulletin).

The charts from Maria led us to the home of **Norbert and Traudel Schwechheimer**, a local electrician. Norbert is a direct descendant of **Mathäus**, an uncle of Samuel, the American immigrant. The fathers of Mathäus and Samuel were brothers and the sons of Daniel. We determined that we are both 10<sup>th</sup> generation from Daniel (1657-1719). Our evening around Norbert and Traudel's dining room table with Wolfgang translating was a highlight of our visit. Using Norbert's computer and Google Earth, we were able to show them our farm on Yeoho Road in Sparks, Maryland. Just one more example of how our world is shrinking in our lifetime.



Above are Maria Schwechheimer (left) and Pastor Esther Kraus (right) in front of the Altlusheim Evangelical Lutheran Church. Maria was laughing at a joke—translation delayed response!



Above are Traudel (left) and Norbert (right) Schwechheimer in their dining room, Altlusheim, Germany.

We met with **Hartmut Beck**, Bürgermeister (Mayor) of Altlusheim. He was happy for our tourist business in his village and through Dr. Schweinfurth's efforts, gave us two of Dr. Schweinfurth's books on the history of Altlusheim and a very useful book that is a genealogy compilation of the names and family records from the old church records.

At the regular Sunday church service, we were introduced as American family visitors by Pastor Kraus. By coincidence, at that service, a special recognition of three departed souls included a Schwechheimer. So following the service, we were able to meet with additional family members including **Friedhelm Schwechheimer** of Geinsheim.

I asked family members about the origin of our name. Although there is a Palatinate place named, Schwegenheim, that might have some relevance, most thought that the name in someway related to a long-ago local practice of taking work horses at the end of the day to the "Schweche," a low or weak water swale by the Rhine, to cool down before returning them to their stables. They felt that their ancestors were associated with that service.

We also learned that several of the Altlusheim Schwechheimers were confused about the interest of US and Canadian visitors in their village. They did not understand that the names, Swackhamer/Swackhammer/Schwackhamer, were corruptions of Schwechheimer. The story of Samuel's immigration and 1730/31 English phonic spelling of his name, which we have learned through the book *Love and Unity*, is mostly unknown to them. Immigrants since the mid-1800s have not had the language translation challenges of Samuel and thus the S-D Genealogical Society also has members with the Schwechheimer name spelling.

What next? Does the story end here? Several future activities are possible. (1) A group genealogy tour to Altlusheim, the Palatinate villages of other *Love and Unity* passengers, and visit to the possible baptismal church of **Philip and Jacob Dufford** might have appeal. (See Tour proposal in this Bulletin). (2) Correspondence between German and American family descendants using local translators or Google language translation can reveal other interesting family stories. (3) I hope to eventually find a couple of Schwechheimer males who will be willing to participate in the Ancestry Family Tree Swackhamer Surname DNA Study, which would further confirm our family connections.



Greetings from Altlusheim Mayor Hartmut Beck. Pictured from left to right are Clay Swackhamer, Sharon Swackhamer, Gene Swackhamer, and Mayor Hartmut Beck.

Special thanks are extended to **Steffen Drees (S)**, a student in Altlusheim, Germany, who assisted with editing.

**Schwechheimer Genealogy in Germany\***  
**(The line of Norbert, descendant of Mathäus Daniel, relative of Samuel)**

1. Jakob Schwechheimer  
b. \_\_\_\_, d. 1588
2. Johannes Schwechheimer  
b. \_\_\_\_, d. 3-3-1614
3. Apollina  
b. 1596, d. 6-4-1667
4. Johannes  
b. 8-12-1599, d. 27-2-1662
5. Johann Jakob  
b. 21-10-1604, d. \_\_\_\_
6. Amandus  
b. 17-12-1597, d. 19-8-1635
7. Christopher  
b. 16-9-1624, d. \_\_\_\_
8. Maria Barbara  
b. 10-9-1654, d. \_\_\_\_
9. Daniel  
b. 15-7-1657, d. 21-11-1719
10. Christina Cordula  
b. 19-7-1699, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Konrad Ballreich
11. **Samuel Friedrich**  
b. 2-1-1701, d. 3-2-1782
12. Anna Ursula  
b. 15-10-1702, d. \_\_\_\_, m. 1<sup>st</sup> Joh. Marn, m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jak. Düll
13. Anna Barbara  
b. 29-2-1705, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Math. Schwesinger
14. Eva Maria  
b. 2-8-1707, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Jakob Huber
15. Th. Gottlieb  
b. 2-10-1713, d. 17-12-1761
16. **Mathäus Daniel**  
b. 20-8-1709, d. 18-1-1751
17. Anna Margaretha  
b. 26-8-1732, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Thomas Harsch
18. Maria Agnes  
b. 24-11-1734, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Jakob Blausel
19. Elisabeth Margaretha  
b. 8-6-1747, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Joh. Philipp Büchner
20. Mathäus  
b. 26-7-1737, d. 22-3-1807
21. Johann Conrad  
b. 20-4-1770, d. 7-3-1839
22. Julius Heinrich  
b. 25-6-1777, d. 22-8-1884
23. Eva Marie  
b. 8-3-1801, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Ferd. Büchner
24. Maria Agnes  
b. 2-6-1807, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Joh. Stephan
25. Anna Margaretha  
b. 17-1-1813, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Jakob Zahn
26. Johannes  
b. 20-2-1805, d. 10-6-1886
27. Ferdinand  
b. 27-3-1833, d. 6-8-1885
28. Elisabeth Margaretha  
b. 30-3-1838, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Julius Joh. Löffler



- 29. Maria Agnes  
b. 25-4-1842, d. 27-11-1901, m. Joh. Stefan Zahn
- 30. Joh. Jakob  
b. 23-7-1857, d. 7-5-1939
- 31. Anna Margaretha  
b. 5-4-1879, d. 10-11-1932, m. 1<sup>st</sup> Konrad Köhler, M. 2nd  
Rudolf Köhler
- 32. Conrad  
b. 19-6-1883, d. 7-\_\_-1946
- 33. George  
b. 7-4-1885, d. \_\_\_\_, m. Wirt/Quelle
- 34. Ferdinand  
b. 23-11-1894, d. 11-12-1923
- 35. Hugo  
b. 18-11-1920, d. 6-8-1970
- 36. Elke  
b. 27-2-1949, m. Zimmermann
- 37. **Norbert**  
b. 25-11-1951, m. \_\_\_\_\_
- 38. **Tobias**  
b. 13-1-1981

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\* Research performed by Ewald Ballreich, Neußheim, Germany, 1993. Individual numbering included to facilitate tabular continuation of descendants, which is less cumbersome than a spreadsheet.

### ANNOUNCING 2010 GENEALOGY TOUR TO GERMANY

Want to see Altlusheim, Germany where Samuel (Schwechheimer) Swackhamer was born, baptized, married and departed in 1730 for America? Would you like to meet and talk with descendants of Samuel's siblings living there now? Then, travel on to Elsaß Langensultzbach, France, where Hans Phillip Dufford (known to be Phillip Dufford) of Sultzbach, Germany saw his children baptized.

We will stand in the Worms Cathedral where Martin Luther said "Here I stand. ...God help me." Drink a toast to the departing Palatine emigrants of the sailing ship *Love and Unity* on the shore of the Neckar River at Neckargemünd and ride a river boat on the Rhine. We'll visit Heidelberg and Bern, Switzerland to learn more about the history of Palatine and Huguenot emigration.

Preliminary plans are for a 9 night (10 day) program beginning and ending in Frankfurt, Germany. At current exchange rates, the cost based upon double occupancy is estimated to be \$2,640.00 to \$2760.00 per person (excluding air fare, one meal per day and incidentals). A single traveler additional surcharge will be approximately \$405.00. Program costs include a driver-translator guide, very nice local 3-4 star hotel/inns with breakfasts, at least one group meal per day, and all land and river transportation, tolls, and entrance fees. You will be responsible for air travel to and from Frankfurt. You also may want to plan independent travel before or after this tour.

The tour will begin in Frankfurt on August 25 and end there on September 2. **Dr. Wolfgang Grams** will be our tour coordinator. He is President, Routes to the Roots, Inc. (see story of travel to Altlusheim in this Bulletin), is a Professor of world history at Oldenburg University and is an experienced leader of genealogy tours.

The price range quoted above is for 7 passengers on a 9-passenger Minibus (\$2,760.) and/or for 14 passengers on a small tourist bus (\$2,640.). The tour will be a "GO" with seven or more participants. If the count is more than 7, but less than 14, the cost will be slightly less than the 7 person group fare. The tour will be limited to no more than 14 to permit ease of travel and language translation.

Anyone interested in going on this tour should contact Gene Swackhamer at 16429 Yeoho Road, Sparks, MD 21152. (410) 771-4437, email: GGSwack@cs.com. All who have expressed an interest will be given additional information as it becomes available from Dr. Grams. A deposit to assure your reservation will be requested in early 2010. Reservations will be accepted in the order of deposit receipt. Reservation requests beyond 14 will be added to a wait list in the event of cancellations.

Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society  
14 Fox Hill Road  
Middletown, NJ 07748



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<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njswdugs/>



Larry Brasher (S) provided this 1860 daguerreotype of Samuel Swackhamer. See the Summer 2009 Bulletin – Samuel, who married Juliet Jordan Skellenger, was the son of Isaac Swackhamer and Eliza Hopkins Swackhamer of German Valley, New Jersey. (German Valley's name was changed to Long Valley in 1918.) This may be the earliest known photo of any Swackhamer. If anyone has an older one, please email Larry at [lbrasher@bsc.edu](mailto:lbrasher@bsc.edu).

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Washington Township Historical Society Museum Collection  
Christmas postcard mailed from Germany to Long Valley in 1923 – translation “**Heartfelt (Sincere) Christmas Greetings**”.