

# SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGY SOCIETY



FÜR DIE NACHKOMMEN VON SAMUEL SWACKHAMER (SCHWACHHAMMER), DER 1732 IN LONG VALLEY, NEW JERSEY SIEDELTE UND PHILLIP DUFFORD (DUFORD), DER DORT 1738 SIEDELTE.

## WINTER 2012 BULLETIN

Liebe Mitglieder und Freunde:

2011 verwüsteten Hurricane Irene und der tropische Sturm Lee Teile der Ostküste. Dieses Jahr war es Hurricane Sandy, der Delaware, New Jersey, New York und Connecticut überkam. Manche sagen, diese Stürme sind lediglich zyklische Ereignisse, ähnlich wie in der Vergangenheit. Andere sagen, sie reflektieren die Konsequenzen der globalen Erwärmung. Vielleicht sind beide Ansichten richtig, weshalb zwei Kategorie 1 Hurricanes so verheerend waren. Ich bezweifle nicht, dass die frühen Deutschen Siedler am Südlichen Arm des Raritan Flusses auch Überflutungen zu bekämpfen hatten. Im August zeigte Bill Asdal Christina Krätzig (siehe Communications für mehr über ihr Projekt) und mir wie genial Samuel Swackhamer den Keller seines Hauses konstruierte, um gleichzeitig die Wärme zu konservieren und ein von Fliesswasser gesteuertes Vakuumsystem zu betreiben, um Wasser weg vom Fundament unterirdisch in den Fluss zu leiten. Bill sagte, dass das System noch immer funktioniert. Nachdem eine seiner Töchter das Prinzip in einem Kurs über Italiensche Hydraulik lernte und ihrem Vater davon erzählte, erfuhr er von der Bezeichnung des Wasserextraktionsprinzips. Es existiert schon mehrere hundert Jahre. Vielleicht erfuhr Samule davon während er am von Fluten bedrohten Rhein lebte. Ich denke das illustriert ein anderes Prinzip: wie sehr wir es lieben, das Rad neu zu erfinden.

Die Übertragung von Familiengeschichte von einer Generation zur nächsten existiert für die meisten Familien nicht. Deshalb widmen wir so viel Zeit und Energie dem Versuch, das wieder zu lernen, was einst allgemeines Familienwissen war. Könnt ihr euch vorstellen, dass ein noch ungeborenes Enkelkind einmal wissen will, wo ihr zur Schule gegangen seid oder wer eure Eltern waren? Im grossen und ganzen dauert es nicht lange, eine kleine Biographie zu schreiben, die in der Zukunft von euren Familien hoch geschätzt wird. Es ist noch wichtiger im 21. Jahrhundert, das geprägt ist von Mobilität, die es unmöglich macht, Familiengeschichten von Verwandten zu behalten. Nächsten Juli feiert die Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society am 27. des Monats den 275. Jahrestag der Ankunft der Duffords in German Valley und den 300. Jahrestag der Ankuft von Pfälzern in New Jersey. Plant diesen Termin ein und lernt etwas über eure Familiengeschichte. Das Wort „Genealogy“ wird fortan das Wort „Genealogical“ in den Bulletins ersetzen, da wir den Namen aufgrund von Verwaltungstechnischen Änderungen geändert haben.

Fröhliche Feiertage euch allen. Ich hoffe, dass ihr das Mahl an Thanksgiving genossen habt und bereit seid für den Weihnachtsbraten und das neue Jahr. Denkt darüber nach, einem Familienmitglied ein noch unbeschriebenes Tagebuch zu schenken. Schreiben ist eine ins Vergessen geratene Kunst. Plant eine Familien- oder Ahnenforschungskonferenz im Jahr 2012 ein. Nehmt eure Familien mit! Denkt an alles, was ihr habt, wir sind alle reicher, als wir denken wenn wir die guten Dinge im Leben zählen und nicht die Güter. Schreibt eine kleine Geschichte über eure Familie für das 2013 Bulletin.

Mit freundlichem Gruss,

Gene L. Swackhamer, President

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### Swackhamer - Dufford Genealogical Society Website

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njswdugs/](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 with Members and Friends

**Gail Keefer** (NH and FL) (D –S) wrote that she was very sorry to miss the 2012 reunion since a niece, two nephews and a grand nephew were there, but she had grandchild care duty which came first. She said that the 2013 reunion will be a definite!

**Marie L. Oxford** (AL) (Merry Lou) wrote to say that in 2013 she will be 90 and she is determined to attend the Long Valley reunion! [Merry Lou, we will have a cake for you.] Merry Lou's mother was Anna Swackhamer married to John Wehrly. They lived in New Jersey and then NYC. She said she married a Navy man from Florida where they lived in Jacksonville and St. Augustine. She said she has a son living in Palm Springs, CA, a son near Washington, DC and two daughters in Huntsville. The grand children are grown and great grandchildren are in high school. She hopes some will come to college in Alabama so she can see them. Merry Lou said she has written a book about her mother's life and hopes to do one now about her husband.

**Clara H. Harsh** (OH) (F) wrote that just this year she discovered the story of *The Voyage of the Love and Unity* and has asked Gene Swackhamer to write a synopsis of **Samuel Swackhamer's** experience in coming to the American Colonies for the *Palatine Immigrant*, a publication of the Palatines to America organization in Columbus, Ohio, which he has agreed to do. Clara works for PalAm. She said that she is currently researching the **Hengst** family and the **Keller** and **Marx** families who married them. They all came from Odenwald east of Darmstadt, Germany.

Im Sommer 2012 kurz nach der Swackhamer Dufford Familienkonferenz, kam Christina Krätzig, eine unabhängige Journalistin in die USA, um die Geschichte der Love and Unity zu recherchieren. Wolfgang Grams hat sie an uns verwiesen. Er organisierte die Reisen 2009 und 2010. Sie konnte keinen Deutschen TV Sender überzeugen, die Geschichte zu verfilmen, aber sie hat einen Auftrag über einen Artikel in der GEO bekommen. Sie verbrachte einige Tage in Boston und las die Dokumente über die Captain Loeb und die Love and Unity Gerichtsverhandlungen, kam danach nach Long Valley, wo Genen und Sharon Swackhamer, Betsy Guzenski, Präsidentin der Washington Township Historischen Gesellschaft traf. Christina sah das alte Swackhamer Haus, über dem das Raritan Inn errichtet wurde und traf Bill Asdal, der das Haus restaurierte. Ihre Fragen waren sehr detailliert und sie suchte immer nach einem stichhaltigen Beweis. Gene ist immernoch in Kontakt mit ihr und hilft ihr mit dem Artikel, der 2013 in der GEO erscheinen wird.

## Communication with Members and Friends (continued)

**Laurin L. Henry** (D-VA) asked the S-D society for its help in arranging a Dufford family gift to the Washington Township Historical Society Museum. He was successful in donating a clarinet to the museum that was owned by his great-great-grandfather, **Philip Dufford** (1808-1864). According to family legend, Philip played it in a parade to welcome General Lafayette in an 1824 return visit and tour of the United States. The date and location of the parade remains unknown, but ownership of the clarinet is known. Philip's daughter, **Elizabeth Dickerson Dufford** (1831-1913) became the next owner. She married **Andrew Bartles Henry** in 1852 in German Valley and they later moved to Kankakee County, Illinois, where Laurin was born. He subsequently inherited the clarinet and is glad that it has returned home to Long Valley.

### Necrology

**Sarah Elizabeth Swackhamer Nichols** (93) born 12-6-18 died 1-17-12

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**Thomas M. Swackhammer** (66) born 7-4-45 died 5-12-12 suddenly at his home in Chilliothe, OH (Ross County). He was preceded in death by his parents Merrill G. and Eunice R. Swackhammer, a brother Ralph and a nephew Christopher Swackhammer. Survivors include sons William Grant and Thomas Eugene, five grandchildren, a great granddaughter, five sisters, two brothers and a former wife, Faye. A military memorial service was planned for Thomas.

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**Rev. Julius Logan Brasher** (98) born 7-20-1914 died 5-11-2012 at his home in Brasher Springs, AL. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Lois Walters Brasher, also 98 on 3-22-12. (See Summer 2012 *Bulletin* for story on the Brashers). Reverend Brasher's son, Dr. J. Lawrence Brasher, former President of the Swackhamer Dufford Genealogical Society, supplied the following obituary information.

Reverend Brasher may have been best known for his long-tenured leadership of the former Northern New Jersey Methodist Conference (1941-1976), but family and friends knew him as an exceptionally skilled teacher and a man of many talents. In retirement he taught a church discussion class for 25 years until age 94 and served as a pastor of the Walnut Grove United Methodist Church and Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, AL. Among his many interests and talents were singing, carpentry repairing and remodeling, cave exploring, archery, tennis, golf, soft ball, ping-pong hiking, swimming, nature study and teaching. He served as a volunteer fireman and was a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason. He received his Divinity Degree from Drew Theological Seminary in 1941.

In addition to his wife Lois, Reverend Brasher is survived by a daughter, Ellen Marie Harris of Gallant, a son, John Lawrence (Louise) Brasher of Birmingham and grandchildren Jonah Harris, Anna Harris, and Daniel Brasher.

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**Carol Ann Swackhamer** (nee Holmes), 77, of West Milford, N.J., passed into eternal rest on 9-13-2012 in Wayne, N.J. Raised in Bloomfield, N.J., Carol had lived in Towaco, N.J., Pompton Lakes, N.J., and recently in "The Villages", Fla. Carol was predeceased by her husband, Frank, and her son, Gary Swackhamer, and is survived by her six children: Mitch Conklin and his wife Naomi; Laurie Eymmer and her husband, Stephen; Debra Conklin; Linda Swackhamer and her husband, Ken Croatman; Robin Merchant and her husband, Roger; and Geri Swackhamer, five grand-children and one great-granddaughter.

### 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.

Mrs. Ronald S. Clark Sanford, FL  
Mr. Chester S. Dufford Utica, MI  
Mr. Donald L. Dufford Broken Arrow, OK  
Mr. Jack H. Dufford Omaha, NE  
Mr. Raymond L. Dufford Loveland, CO  
RUBY L. Metzgar Newbury Park, CA

Evelyn R. Newbold Hackettstown, NJ  
Mrs. Norman Olson Tampa, FL  
Mr. George B. Ramsey Boca Raton, FL  
Warren Simmons San Jacinto, CA  
Mr. Melvin Swackhamer Zanesville, OH  
Mr. William Tufford Sask., Canada

## Das Jahr der lange erwarteten Hochzeit

Nach vielen Monaten des Wartens können wir endlich ankündigen, dass die Hochzeit von Jill und Steffen Drees offiziell am Donnerstag, dem 10.5.2012 in der Faith Lutheran Kirche in Cockeysville, Maryland stattgefunden hat. Es war genau 24 Stunden nach Steffens Ankuft in den USA aus Deutschland. Wir wollten so viel Zeit wie möglich dem aufüllen von Anträgen widmen, damit der Prozess für die Aufenthaltserlaugnis (Greencard) starten kann.

Ew wurde zwar im Winter 2010 Bulletin schon angekündigt, dass die Hochzeit im Sommer sein würde, aber die Einwanderungsbehörde war anderer Meinung. Im Mai 2012 feierten wir unsere erste Hochzeit mit den in USA lebenden Familienmitgliedern und Freunden. Dann, am 14.7. feierten wir unsere zwiete Hochzeit mit Familie und Freunden aus Deutschland, Kanada und weiter entfernt lebende Verwandten aus den USA. Somit konnten Flüge gebucht und Aufenthalte geplant werden. Nach der Zeremonie mit speziellen Musikbeiträgen von Steffens Vater, Schwester und Nichte feierten wir unsere Hochzeit in einem Hotel, wo jeder eine gute Zeit hatte.

Wir danken unseren Familien und Freunden für einen unvergesslichen Tag voller Liebe.

Jill und Steffen Drees



Postcard from Altlussheim, Germany - 2010

## **Bericht über die jährliche Konferenz von Gene Swackhamer**

Am 28. Juli 2012 fand das 66. Familientreffen der Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society im neuen Lehrgebäude der Zion Lutheran Church in Long Valley, New Jersey statt. Wiedereinmal genossen wir den Komfort und die Klimaanlage der Einrichtung. Referenten waren unter anderem George Apgar, in Kolonialem Gewandt, der über das Apgar Familientreffen und Pläne für eine Feier der 300 Jahrfeier von Pfälzern in New Jersey (1713-2013) sprach. Steffen Drees berichtete über seine Heimat Altlußheim und präsentierte mit Bildern die Geschichte der Gegend seit 946, als der Ort zum ersten mal urkundlich erwähnt wurde. Betsy Guzenski, Präsidentin der Washington Township Historical Society hieß uns in Long Valley willkommen und sprach über die Geschichte und das Museum der Gesellschaft sowie die Bemühungen, die lokalen Orte, Artefakte und die Geschichte zu konservieren. Nach dem Mittagessen führte sie eine Tour durch das Museum.

Ein Höhepunkt der Konferenz war der Austausch von Familiengeschichte. Kopien des Stammbaumes von Richard Milhous Nixon von Raymond Martin Bell aus dem Washington Township und Jefferson College wurden verteilt. Unter den geschätzten „2 Millionen Cousins“ von Präsident Nixon sind einige Trimmers, Mendenhalls, Moores, Milhous und ein paar Duffords aber keine Swackhamers.

Während einer kurzen Geschäftssitzung am Nachmittag wurde der Vorstand wiedergewählt, ein Finanzhaushalt wurde vorgestellt und die Feier des 275. Duffordjubiläums in New Jersey wurde besprochen. Wir endeten um 14.30 mit einer Einladung an alle, am 27. Juli 2013 wieder teilzunehmen.

### **Eine Notiz von Steffen Drees**

Nach einer Wartezeit von einem Jahr konnte ich letztendlich der Einladung zur jährlichen Familienzusammenkunft folgen. Ich danke allen für die Einladung und für die Möglichkeit, meinen Heimatort Altlußheim zu präsentieren. Wie die meisten wissen ist dies der Heimatort von Samuel Schwechheimer, der im Jahre 1730 seine Heimat verließ. Etwa 280 Jahre später folgte ich seinem Vorbild und zog in die USA, um Jill Swackhamer, eine seiner Nachfahren, zu heiraten.

Mir wurde die Möglichkeit gegeben die Geschichte der Region von der Römerzeit an zu beschreiben. Ich versuchte auch die Gründe für die Auswanderung in dieser Zeit darzustellen. Die Präsentation endete mit einigen aktuellen Bildern und Fragen der Zuhörer. Es freute mich, dass so viele Fragen über Altlußheim und die Region stellten und dass viele mehr über Deutschland und das Leben dort wissen wollten. Am meisten bedanke ich mich für den herzlichen Empfang und die wundervollen Unterhaltungen die wir während des Tages hatten nicht zuletzt danke ich Sharon für das gute Essen. Es war eine interessante Erfahrung und ich werde definitiv an zukünftigen Feiern teilnehmen.

### **Swackhamer Surname DNA Project**

This project began in 2007 with Gene Swackhamer as a participant in the National Geographic-IBM study of ancestry. The National Geographic study was limited to anthropological evidence of population movements resulting in a television documentary that traced clans from early man in Africa to the four corners of the world. Gene submitted a cheek swab that was used to classify 12 markers on the Y-chromosome. The Y-chromosome is primarily used for the study because it transfers from father to son unchanged for generations except for an occasional mutation caused by natural or life-style events.

Gene discovered that he was a member of haplogroup R1b (M343). That is interesting, but what does it mean? Seventy percent of all men in southern England are of this group; in parts of Ireland and Spain the percentage reaches 90 percent as it does in regions of Germany. So, my ancestors came from Europe as do yours for most of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society membership. Again, interesting facts for anthropologist, but not especially helpful for genealogist.

Family Tree DNA was quick to see the power for an expanded DNA study for genealogy and the Swackhamer Surname Project was begun. It has answered one important question for Swackhamers who do not have physical evidence of a tie to Samuel. Two participants in the study, one in Canada and one in the U.S. that have proof of lineage from Samuel, have the same DNA at the 37 marker level as do two participants that do not have proof of lineage. Family Tree scientists can then say that there is a 99 percent certainty that the four share a common ancestor within the past 200 years. That ancestor is most likely Samuel, but it might have been George who disappeared after the *Love and Unity* trials or a yet unknown Swackhamer of the early 1700s.

What next? Locating and testing one or more descendants of each of Samuel's sons is one goal. Another is to gain German Schwechheimer participation to confirm that descendants from Samuel's brothers still in Germany have the same DNA markers as those of us in the United States. If you are a male Swackhamer and would like to participate in this study, contact Gene Swackhamer, the Project Administrator. He has four swab kits purchased from Family Tree during a half-price sale that are available to you at his cost.

## CONTINUOUS DUFFORD RESEARCH PROJECT by William Cramer

**Hello descendants of Philip Dufford.** This ongoing project is an attempt to update and inform the descendants of the Dufford/Du Ford/Tufford family tree. In this bulletin we have two contributions by [Ann Cook](#).

**Ann Cook** is the 6<sup>th</sup> generation great granddaughter of Philip Dufford (she connects through Magdalene Dufford, who married Andrew Wack). Ann is the daughter of John Heed Shaw. As an avid genealogist and researcher, she shares with us an excellent article she wrote concerning some of our Dufford ancestors connected to us via Magdalene Dufford. **Thank you, Ann**, for your excellent contribution.

### To all new and regular readers, a quick reminder:

**Bonnie Wilson** has shared with us a very special document: The "[Dufford Family History](#)", **written by her Uncle George in 1935**. A Very large THANK YOU to Bonnie Wilson for reissuing this important piece of family history.

**Part 1** included Bonnie's introduction; the beginning of the "History", the establishment of New Jersey, the division of west jersey, the trip Samuel Swackhamer and Philip Dufford on the "Robert and Oliver"; and how Philip Dufford arrived at "The Valley". ([Published in Winter 2010 Bulletin](#))

**Part 2** included Uncle George's in-depth analysis of the Dufford's European roots including a discussion on Huguenot origins; migration through Germany and Holland and eventually to America; and a discussion of the possible town in France the Dufford's came from. ([Published in Summer 2011 Bulletin](#)).

**Part 3** includes Philip Dufford and his family settling in "The Valley" in 1738; and the beautiful story of the marriage of Jacob Dufford to the Lenni-Lenape Indian maiden, (whose Christian name is) Elizabeth. He shares aspects of the wedding ceremony and the family's reaction to the marriage. ([Published in Winter 2011 Bulletin](#)).

**Part 4** is the descendant information and genealogical lines of Jacob and Elizabeth's three sons, Matthias, born in 1738; George Stephen, born in 1741; and Jacob, born in 1746. ([Published in Summer 2012 Bulletin](#)).

### Magdalena Dufford Family Tree by Ann Cook

As many of you may already know, I am a descendent of Magdalena Dufford Wack. Over the past few years I have been attempting to obtain additional information regarding the Dufford and allied families in order to compile a more comprehensive family tree. Currently, I have in my possession information on more than 4,100 individuals.

In my searches I have come across a number of interesting facts regarding the families and with that in mind I would like to share some of the information I have obtained regarding William S. Naughtright, grandson of Andrew Wack and Magdalena Dufford. William S. Naughtright was the son of William Naughtright and Anna Wack having been born in 1843 and died in 1901.

Young William was quite the adventurous young man. During the Civil War he volunteered to serve his country in Company E, 31st New Jersey Infantry. Shortly after enlisting on September 3, 1862 as a Private he fought at the battle of Fredericksburg in December, 1862 and Chancellorsville in April and May of 1863. He served nine months in the service of his country, mustering out on June 24, 1863. During his enlistment he reached the rank of Corporal, with this rank being bestowed upon him on February 7, 1863 (N.J. Civil War Record, page 947).

The history of the Middle Valley Community Center cannot be told without the mention of William S. Naughtright. As many familiar with the history of this building will know, David Miller opened the first general store in Middle Valley, New Jersey (then Washington), at that location in 1792. In 1868 William S. Naughtright entered into a partnership with Elias Bartles to operate the general store. In 1870 Elias Bartles dissolved their partnership and a year later, in 1871, William Naughtright obtained a new partner, Jacob Welsh, to continue operation of the general store. In 1891 Middle Valley Hall Association purchased the general store from Jacob Welsh. Middle Valley Hall Association changed its name in 1975 to The Middle Valley Community Center.

On July 10, 1879 he married Mary A. Linnell. Their union was fruitful as they were the proud parents of four children: Lena, Bella, Stanley and Grace ([Hunterdon Marriage Records, 1876 to 1900](#) and [The Early Germans of New Jersey: Their History, Churches, and Genealogies](#) by Theodore Frelinghuysen Chambers) On May 21, 1885 William S. was appointed as the Postmaster of Middle Valley. He served as the Postmaster until sometime in 1888 when Henry P. Dufford was appointed on October 19, 1888 ([The Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society](#), Vol. 23, No. 2, Whole Number 112, March 1995). In the 1890s William S. was elected as an assemblyman for Morris County. He also served as the Assistant Clerk, House of the Assembly for indexing the Docket of the Assembly session of 1893. After retiring from political life, on July 14, 1898 financial tragedy struck as written about in the New York Times on July 15, 1898. The barns, outbuildings and windmill on the Riverstock Farm in Finderne were destroyed by fire and before the flames could be stopped by the Somerville firemen the flames had spread to the ice house and creamery

## Magdalena Dufford Family Tree (continued)

owned by William S. Naughtright. The fire was believed to have been started by spontaneous combustion of new hay. This fire was thought to have caused over \$20,000.00 with not enough insurance to cover the losses. William S. was also an officer of the Knights of Pythias, Evening Star Lodge Number 147. William S. Naughtright was buried in the Naughtright cemetery plot in German Valley Rural Cemetery along with his wife, Mary A Linnell Naughtright.

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### The death of John H. Shaw, father of Ann Cook



John H. Shaw 82, of Valley Station, Kentucky passed away September 10, 2012 in LaGrange, Kentucky. He was a much loved husband, father, and grandfather who was preceded in death by his parents, Harriett Marjorie Heed and John Dee Vincent Shaw of Hackettstown, New Jersey.

He was a retired member of the US Army and Civil Service, having spent time in Korea, Vietnam, Germany, and Desert Storm. He was a member of South Dixie and West Point volunteer fire departments, American Legion Post #148, Barker Masonic Lodge #129, and a Kentucky Colonel.

He leaves behind wife, Constance R. Shaw; son, John A. Shaw (Mary); daughter, Ann C. Cook (Robert); and eight grandchildren. Funeral service was September 14, 2012 at 11am at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Highway, Louisville, Kentucky with burial to follow in Bethany Cemetery, Valley Station, Kentucky.

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### Hurricane Sandy Hits Long Valley by Shelley Heretyk

It was rainy and windy all day on Monday, October 29, 2012, and by around 6pm "Hurricane Sandy" arrived here in Long Valley, New Jersey. The winds were fierce and we lost power at 8pm. It was pretty scary - it seemed our bay window was going to blow in or a tree would crash into the house. Fortunately, neither occurred and by morning it was fairly calm. Our chimney cap did blow off and landed on the front lawn. Also, a large limb broke from a maple tree but there was no damage. Huge trees were uprooted everywhere – they snapped poles and brought down power lines. Trees hung on lines for days, roads were closed, and it was apparent we were not going to have power for awhile.

Schools were closed for two whole weeks, Halloween was canceled and rescheduled, and still no power on Election Day (Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>) but we voted and listened to the returns by candlelight on our Sony transistor radio. Our wood stove provided some heat and hot water but it was getting quite cold in the house. Finally, on November 8<sup>th</sup> utility workers arrived in full force. We saw around 20 trucks – BBC Electric from Joplin, Missouri, PennLine from Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, and Ohio Edison – all working together to restore power. Sandy is one for the record books.



Hacklebarney Road, Long Valley, New Jersey, November 9, 2012

## **A City Girl on a Canadian Farm** by Bonnie Wilson

As a young girl within a family that loved early American history and especially the beautiful New Jersey farms, I was privileged to spend some time on a working farm in Canada (somewhere near Blyth, Auburn, Goderich and Londesborough, Ontario). What made this so special to me was that the farm was definitely still living in the "Horsepower" era. My dad, John Hargreaves and my mom, Dorris Dufford Hargreaves enjoyed the fact that one stepped back to early farming before the advent of modern mechanization. It was very much a return to what the Duffords and the Swackhamers would have been doing on their respective farms for the previous 100 years. Even as a young person I was acutely aware that this wonderful farm in eastern Ontario, Canada was a treasure of memories and of wonderful people.

We made our first visit when I was but three months of age (in 1940). We traveled with a family friend by the name of Harold W. with the assurance that we were both expected and welcome. While the welcome was warm and loving, Harold had somehow failed to properly communicate that he would be bringing my mom and dad as well as a three month old baby. It made little difference to our hosts, the Hunking family, and we were immediately integrated into a loving and active farm enterprise. They even found a safe place for me to sleep by removing a drawer from an ancient dresser that made an excellent temporary cradle.

My dad as usual was his loving and very energetic self and spent his entire visit chopping and splitting wood for the winter fires while mom helped with the canning of vegetables and fruit. I just gurgled and acted as an adorable three month old. Mom was the provider of all my food at that age so naturally her work routine was centered around me. All this of course was told to me as I grew into girlhood and the stories also became part of our family history.

Rolling the clock forward 12 years brought a repeat of the visit at the insistence of my mom, who had a new car, a map, a friend with whom to travel and an urge to see the Canadian family who had become close and wonderful friends. The trip to Canada was quite an adventure as the new highway system had not even been started and motels were only just a future dream. We made our overnight stops in "Tourist Homes" and our meals, mostly macaroni salad and PB and J's, out of an original Coleman ice chest. I remember the trip as being very enjoyable but somewhat long. My younger brother, Jack (then age 9), as was his natural bent, asked if we were "there yet" about 11 thousand times.

The Hunking farm was what was known as a half section which included 320 acres of prime farmland. The farm was self supporting with corn for the dairy herd, wheat and barley for human and animal consumption as well as oats for the massive farm horses. The family consisted of a father and son team along with their respective wives and children. Together they operated a successful family farm that provided for their needs as well as produce and dairy for sale locally. The Hunking family was particularly skilled in farm-craft and produced cheeses as well as many different types of delicious preserves. My mom took home a good many of the skills of canning vegetables and producing jellies and jams which she continued to use throughout her married life.

The farm did not have electricity when we visited but later took advantage of the rural electric cooperative. No electricity meant that the Aladdin lamps had to be cleaned and polished everyday. While our Middle Valley ancestors used rush lamps and candles for light, kerosene was the one rather modern improvement that the farm had. Because of the lack of electricity, all milking and dairy work on the farm was strictly done by hand. However, even though I was probably old enough to milk the cows, I never learned to do so until my husband showed me how when we were up in the show farm in Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

Harvesting was done using the, to me, giant workhorses. The farm had an assortment of mechanical equipment which had been produced in the late 1800s and the beginning of the 1900s. Mr. Hunking senior was very proud of the fact that even though the equipment was very old they were in excellent condition because they always put everything away at the end of each day. He also had a large, dark workshop where he even had a coal fired forge where he could make parts that were no longer made. He said working on machinery gave him something to do on the long winter days between milking in the morning and milking in the afternoon.

One final point of interest is that we had to use the outhouse for our "personal activities." Since the nights were cold and very dark, each of the beds had a chamber pot for those middle of the night visits. While I may seem to be very blasé about it now, it really horrified me then. The pitcher and bowl wash up was done in the bedroom and a bath could only be had once a week using water heated on the huge stove in the kitchen and a rubber folding tub. I got to go first since the thought of using water that someone bathed in was sort of disgusting to a young city born girl. Not only that but being unclothed in the huge kitchen was not comfortable to me no matter how much I needed a bath. After a week working, sort of, on the farm one can imagine the conflicting thoughts of modesty versus absolute need.

Departing the farm was always very emotional. We really loved the Hunkings and I am glad to say that they loved us. The experiences were quite wonderful and have remained with me to this day. They have helped me connect with the early New Jersey farmers and to, in some small way, understand the challenges that they faced in settling the lovely and productive valleys of north western New Jersey. I realize that they had far more challenging difficulties than a rubber tub or a chamber pot but none-the-less, the connection is there. What does the old hymn say, "Blessed be the Tie that Binds?" I feel blessed to be bound to the heritage that I received from my early family.



## Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society Donations – Thank You

Voluntary gifts have sustained the Society since 1951. We truly appreciate every dollar received. Every effort is made not to miss anyone but errors can occur. If we missed recognizing you, please let us know and forgive us. Thank you once again.

Mr. George N. Apgar, Jr. (NJ), reunion registration and donation for support of the Society.  
Mr. William (Bill) Cramer (NJ), donation for operating fund in memory of Dufford and Trimmer families.  
Ms. Clara H. Harsh (OH), donation through purchase of *Love and Unity* book.  
Mr. Laurin L. Henry (VA), donation for operating fund.  
Ms. Karlay Hutchins (NE), donation for *Bulletin* in memory of Howard E. Dufford.  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony P. Keefer (FL), donation for *Bulletin*.  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Logan (VA), donation to general fund in memory of Ellen Dufford Logan.  
Mrs. Vivian Logan (NJ), reunion registration and donation.  
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Mrs. Carol Stout and Mr. Randy Gabrielan (NJ), reunion registration and donation for operating needs.  
Mrs. Adelia Hall Swackhamer (PA), donation in memory of her husband Charles Webster Swackhamer (d. 6-11), son Charles Arthur Swackhamer (d. 1-1-12), son David Leon Swackhamer (d. 8-13-03), son Danny Lee Swackhamer (d. 9-30-98), and son-in-law Michael LaVere Newman (d. 10-7-04).  
Ms. Diana Swackhamer (PA), donation to Society.  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene L. Swackhamer (MD), donation of postage for summer and winter 2012 *Bulletins*.  
Mr. Jeffrey (Jeff) Swackhamer (IN), donation to *Bulletin* and operating fund in honor of Wilma I. Swackhamer's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Swackhamer (NJ), donation for operation of the Society in memory of Byron & James Swackhamer.  
R.E. and Mildred Swackhamer (MO), donation for *Bulletin*.  
Mr. Richard Swackhamer (IN), donation in memory of James B. Swackhamer.  
Mr. William J. Swackhamer (VA), donation for *Bulletin* in honor of William R. Swackhamer.  
Mr. Clyde M. Verbruyck (NY), donation for *Bulletin* and general fund.  
Bonnie and Dick Wilson (FL/PA), reunion registration and donation in memory of Dorris Dufford Hargreaves.

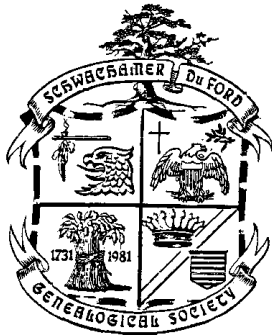


### **News, Stories, and Photos Needed for the Summer 2013 Bulletin**

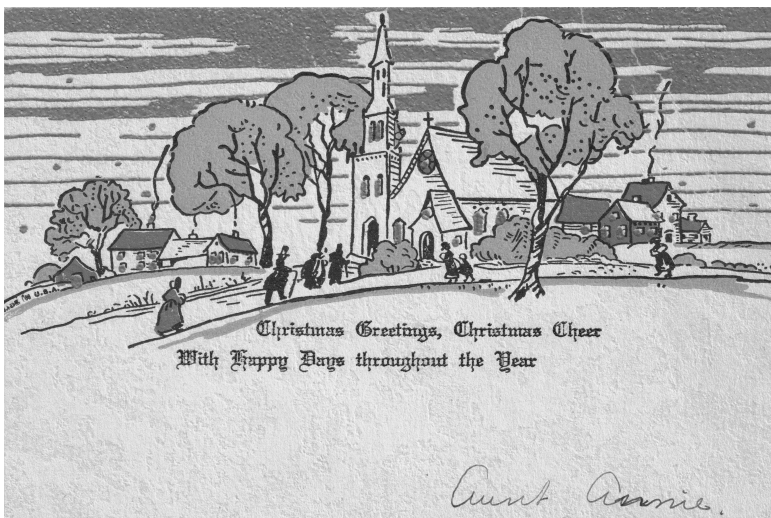
Please send items for the next Bulletin to Shelley Heretyk, Bulletin Editor, by April 15<sup>th</sup>.  
See page 2 for contact information.

**The next Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society Annual Reunion is  
Saturday, July 27, 2013 in Long Valley, New Jersey.**

Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society  
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Middletown, NJ 07748



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Card (date unknown) courtesy of the Washington Township Historical Society

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