SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGY 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 2015 BULLETIN

Dear Family and Friends:

As you read this issue of the *Bulletin* you will learn more about our annual Swackhamer Dufford Genealogy Society gathering still called a "reunion." It has changed with the times from a 1950's style family picnic to a more modern genealogy conference style reunion. Some of the best from the past has been retained—time for visiting and information sharing, a fellowship luncheon and stories of the Long Valley life of our ancestors. New ideas and approaches are constantly being tested for value—outside speakers, organized local tours, and member genealogy show and tell presentations.

The goals of our annual gathering are to (1) encourage the retention and transfer of family history, (2) to render assistance to others working on their family history, and (3) to make the pilgrimage visit to Long Valley a productive experience. In my opinion the value of this annual gathering isn't in the count of how many attended, but in the knowledge gained from the experience.

Realizing that many members may not be able to attend the July reunion, but might visit Long Valley at another time of year, the Swackhamer Dufford Society and Washington Township Historical Society (WTHS) have developed two self-guided tours. One is a driving tour of historical Dufford homes and sites and a second is a walking tour of historic Swackhamer homes and former businesses within a few blocks of Zion Lutheran Church. You may contact either the WTHS or me for these tour packages of maps and descriptions. A Swackhamer driving tour is being developed and may be available by the 2016 reunion.

Should we have a Facebook division for Dufford Swackhamer contact throughout the year? We do have the website for inquiry and communication. Perhaps photo sharing is of greater member interest or has more youthful appeal than genealogy. Let us know your interest and we will discuss some of these options in the Summer 2016 *Bulletin* and at the July 30, 2016 reunion.

Wishing you good health and much happiness for the forthcoming Holidays,

Gene L. Swackhamer, President

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Current and past Bulletins are located here. Put your comments or questions in the "Guest Book". The site is monitored and you will get a response.

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

Communication with Members and Friends

Two Surprises. Recent communication has revealed two responses to questions in prior issues of the Bulletin. One story in the Summer 2014 Bulletin was about family crests including the origin and meaning of the crest on the cover of the Bulletin. Where did it come from and what does it mean? A letter was received from **Anita Grace (Swackhamer) Cedervali**, daughter of **Frederick Q. Swackhamer**, who served as President of the Society in the early 1980's. She indicated in her correspondence that it was her father who designed the crest for the Swackhamer Dufford Genealogy Society that first appeared on the cover of the 1982 Bulletin. That issue described the crest and its meaning, but did not reveal its origin. Now we know. A second communication from **Stephanie Bell-Boissonneault** (S) provided many answers to fill the blanks of Kelly Hayes descendency chart listed in the Winter 2013 Bulletin. Neither Anita nor Stephanie was on the *Bulletin* distribution list; both got information from a relative or friend. They are included in the Society membership now!

Marie L. Oxford (S) wrote that she would love to attend a reunion in Long Valley, but now at age 92, it is a bit of a challenge! She is descended from **Ruliff Swackhamer**, her great grandfather. Her parents, her mother's parents, and others of her family are buried in the Wehrly family plot in Somerville, NJ. She said she has two books of Oxford family history, which are priceless, and encourages others in the Society to write their family's history.

Summary of the 69th Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society Annual Reunion

Twenty-one attended all or part of the 2015 reunion, held on July 25, 2015 in Long Valley, New Jersey, coming from 5 states and Canada. At least a couple implied that they were there for Sharon's warm German potato salad, shrimp salad, black beans and corn salad, pasta salads and homemade desserts! In spite of gourmet food distractions, we had some very interesting presentations and observations.

Vivian Logan (NJ) garnered the distinction of being the oldest present, Gloria Muir came the furthest distance (Woodstock, Ontario) and Joe Schultz (CT) was the youngest at 14. He was excited to learn that in the book of Samuel's Emigration he could find Samuel's ancestors back to Jakob Schwechheimer in 1546. He whipped out his laptop, pulled up his family tree, and went to work.

Pastor Kristin Hunsinger, in her second year at Zion, becoming the 33rd pastor and first female pastor extended a welcome and responded to several written questions that had been given to her. She spoke about the early Union Church and the awe of serving the same parish as **Henry Melchior Muhlenberg**, the father of American Lutheranism.

(Summary of the Annual Reunion continued on page 3)

Necrology

A good friend of the Society and father of Treasurer, Robert L. Swackhamer, died on May 17, 2015, just 67 days short of his 100th birthday. **Robert Earl Swackhamer** (b. 7-23-1915; d. 5-17-15) was a retired Captain with 29 years of service in the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Robert was born in rural Urich, MO to Tom and Mary Swackhamer. Tom was the son of Jacob Jackson and Susan Clinton Swackhamer and Jacob was the son of George and Elizabeth Swackhamer, who is believed to be the son of Daniel and Darcus Swackhamer of Muskingum County, OH. Society President, Gene Swackhamer, is descended from Elijah Swackhamer, a brother of George.

After a brief stint of farming, Robert (RE) joined the Marine Corps in 1937. He served in the USMC until 1946 at which time he joined the Missouri Highway Patrol. As a marine and throughout life RE stood erect with his shoulders back and his head high. He had the respect of peers, friends and neighbors. While a resident of Kansas I learned of RE through fellow employees of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City who on several occasions would greet me with the comment, "I met your dad last night, he gave me a speeding ticket on I-70!" They always said that he was polite and all business. RE wasn't my father, but I felt that I should meet him. About the same time I met Oren Cletus Swackhamer (OC), brother of RE and a rancher of Tarkio, MO and from him learned of Thomas Cletus Swackhamer (TC), another brother and Methodist minister and former president of the Swackhamer Dufford Society. They were a family of talent and service. RE was buried at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery.

RE is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mildred B. (Johnson) Swackhamer and sons Robert L. of Toms River, NJ and Thomas E. of Flower Mound, TX along with grandchildren Brian K. Swackhamer, Elizabeth A. Swackhamer and Robert W. Swackhamer.

Summary of the Annual Reunion – continued from page 2

Melissa Johnson of Middletown, NJ, used a power point presentation to illustrate the process of collecting, documenting and preparing family history for publication. Many people collect a life-time of photos and information and then leave it in a box for someone else. A workshop later in the day engaged everyone in **a Jill Drees-Bill Cramer** interview to show how one might go about collecting family history from a relative.

Bill Cramer gave an update on Dufford family history and a new effort to help the Tuffords of Canada with early Dufford connections. **Gene Swackhamer** provided an update on the "state of the society," **Patti Barber** (F) reported on the progress of the Old Swack Church cemetery restoration and the formal organization of the interest group under the umbrella of the Mount Amwell Foundation. **Mary Ann Kordy's**, of the Washington Township Historical Society, handed put an 18 page "Swackhamer Walking Tour" photo/text package of homes and former business in close proximity of Zion Church. **Betsy Guzinski**, President of WTHS, led a tour of the school house museum and displays. Some would have liked to have spent their day there going through genealogical records.

It is always a challenge to find the best balance of educational program, visitation time, tours, hands on learning and socializing. The goal is to have everyone leave with the feeling that attending the reunion was worthwhile.

As to business, Treasurer **Robert Lee Swackhamer** reported a strong balance sheet, all officers will continue for another year with **Gloria Muir** becoming our Canadian representative replacing the late **Gregg Swackhammer. Charlie Davidson** and **Helga Schwartz**, members of Zion Church, agreed to be local church sponsors for our Society. We again agreed to make a donation to Zion Church, The Old Swack church project, the WTHS and the Middle Valley Cemetery Association.

The Annual Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society Reunion What is it all about?

In the years immediately after WWII the Dufford and Swackhamer family reunions were held separately, usually at the home of a family member, and were traditional family reunions of picnic food, games for the kids, story-telling for the adults and home spun music. They were in the Long Valley area and attended by relatives who either knew each other or knew of the other. There also was considerable inter-marriage between the two families so it was logical to say, "Why are we doing this twice each summer?"

Beginning in 1951 it was decided to hold one reunion and the two informal societies became a joint society with one summer reunion on the last Saturday of July. A summer and winter newsletter was published beginning in 1953. A meeting of the Swackhamer Dufford Genealogy Society has been occurring at Zion Lutheran Church in Long Valley each July since 1951.

Membership in the S-D Society is free to anyone interested in family history and currently numbers 330 including about 20 libraries and historical associations. The newsletter called the *Bulletin* is still published twice a year and all expenses of the S-D Society are funded by donations. Although membership numbers are much larger than in 1951, members in Long Valley and New Jersey are now much smaller, which has changed the dynamic of an annual family reunion, which raises the question, "Does it still make since to meet in Long Valley on the last Saturday of July?"

(Annual Reunion, What is it all about? continued on page 4)

My Interview with Bill Cramer, Dufford Family Historian by Jill M. Drees (nee Swackhamer), with editorial support from Bill Cramer

At the 69th Annual Reunion of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society on July 25, 2015, Bill Cramer and I were spontaneously paired-up by Gene Swackhamer, my father and President of the S-D Society, to demonstrate a way to conduct a genealogical interview. Bill and I made the best of our new assignment and had a few good laughs, too!

Although we are not directly related, per se, we are most likely connected through our historic relatives whose families inter-married years ago in the Long Valley region of New Jersey, once known as 'German Valley.'

Here is the outcome of what we were able to gather from our brief interview.

William "Bill" Nelson Cramer, Jr., b. 12/26/51, was born in Chatham, NJ, and now lives in Morris Plains, NJ. Bill is named for his Father (William Nelson) and his great uncle (William Nelson) Cramer. He is a descendant of Philip Dufford. The Dufford family connection comes through the line of his great-grandmother Mariah Weiss (Dufford) Trimmer. He has been actively interested in genealogy for the past 45 years, with a focus on his family history and how his descendants from Philip Dufford continue to branch off the family tree. Bill has presented several times at the SD Society's July meetings on his "Continuous Dufford Family Research" project. He has been gathering all the surnames of immediate relatives, namely, Dufford, Trimmer, Hager, Weise, Sharp, Hendershot, Croft, Neighbor, Stoll, and Sutton. If you recognize your surname in this list, maybe you, too, are related to Bill! (If you are a 'Friend of Bill' that 's another story...but possibly relevant to the Swackhamer side of the family history.)

Bill shared that the family story of most interest to him, currently, is the discovery of extended family in Ukraine, descendants on his mother's side of the family. Bill sponsored a cousin's son to come to the U.S. 20 years ago. Bill has since traveled to Ukraine several times to meet family members face-to-face. He loves to stay on the family farm in a small town where they live, in a completely self-sustaining lifestyle, without the need for monetary transactions. If they need something from their neighbors, they trade produce or labor for a fair exchange. Their kitchen is in a side building and they have an outhouse. They do not even have a refrigerator, but use a root cellar in which to store any food needing to stay cool.

One of his most memorable moments on his first visit to Ukraine was when he discovered how they go about taking a shower. You must first request the help of Ivan, the hired hand. He will fill a bucket of water to splash over you as you stand in the 'shower stall' surrounded by a shower curtain. After you have had a chance to soap-up, you call for your second, allotted bucket, and Ivan comes back and splashes you again from above the rim of the shower curtain. Bill did not say what happens if two-bucket's worth of water does not get the job done. I think you're just out of luck. One learns to make due.

Bill's goal is to continue to visit these relatives every few years and learn more of his history from Ukraine, including their culinary traditions. Bill now hosts an Easter Brunch with Ukrainian faire for approximately 30 family members, fellow 'Uke's." (Helpful tip: We established that one should have a Ukrainian ancestry before calling Ukrainian people 'Uke's). Bill's next scheduled trip to this region of Ukraine is coming sometime in 2016.

Another aspect of family research that interests Bill is finding out more about the life and descendants of Annie Marie Cramerin (Cramer) who arrived, with her children, to America on the ship "Lyon" during the 2nd Palatine Emigration of 1710; July 13, 1710, to be exact. Her journey here was rather circuitous having first left with a 'crowd' from the Palatine region of Germany and they made their way across the channel to England. However, they were then herded over to Ireland where they were able to gain passage to America. Because of this final point of departure from Ireland, the family was often considered as Irish when their true ancestry was from Germany.

(Cramer Interview continued on page 8)

Annual Reunion, What is it all about? — continued from page 3

Officers of the Society have answered that question "Yes" for the following reasons. (1) Families benefit from having a place of roots, Long Valley is our roots. (2) The annual gathering provides a structured opportunity for family "pilgrims" to see and learn about their ancestors. (3) An annual gathering facilitates sharing and discovery of family history and information. (4) The reunion helps support the efforts of local groups such as Zion Lutheran Church, Washington Township Historical Society and the Middle Valley Cemetery Association in preserving family history.

What will be the future of the Swackhamer Dufford Genealogy Society? The Society will remain viable so long as it is relevant to the interests of members. The reunion in the past 20 years has ranged from a low of 6 attendees to a high of 75 (Samuel's 275th anniversary celebration in 2007) with an average attendance of 16. President Swackhamer has said that even if only the officers attended the reunion, it would still be beneficial.

In recent years an effort has been made to add more substance and variety to the reunion by including outside genealogy and family history speakers, including reports on family research, and providing time for tours and socializing. The "bring your own lunch" has been replaced by catered food service and a \$25.00 fee. Our best report card is the reports of "first-time attendees."



Pictured above are some attendees of the 2015 Annual Reunion

From left to right are Sharon Swackhamer, Vivian Logan, Amanda Logan, Stefan F. Firtko, Maria Ernest, Robert Swackhamer, William (Bill) Cramer, unidentified hidden behind Bill Cramer, Pat Barber, Gene Swackhamer, Carol Schultz, Gloria Muir, Joe Schultz, and Jill Drees.

kkk

Observations from Two First-Time Reunion Attendees

From Gloria Muir: It was daunting navigating Schooley's Mountain Road and then walking into an event where I knew no one. However, a friendly welcome established a pleasant start to the day. I am descended from Samuel Swackhamer by way of his oldest daughter Katie. Katie married Christopher Karn, a descendent of another early German Valley pioneer.

For me, the reunion delivered many positive outcomes. The venue surpasses many conference centers; including the wall of windows that looked out onto a picture-perfect day. The organizing committee had prepared a program including introductions, group discussion, and guest speakers; all of which answered many of my questions on local and family history. The background information on the connection between the Dufford and Swackhamer families was appreciated. Melissa Johnson's presentation on "Recording and Writing Family History" inspired me to get started on my family story. Individuals sharing fond and amusing memories added another dimension to the event.

As if all of the above wasn't enough to supplement my genealogical research, the program included a tour of the Washington Township Historical Society Museum and adjoining church ruins and cemetery. The library resources on the second floor of the museum held many treasures. A walk through the cemetery resulted in finding the grave of my 4X great grandfather Philip Karn and my 5X great grandparents Christopher and Katie (Swackhamer) Karn. Amazing! My sincere thanks to the organizing committee and everyone who attended the 69th Swackhamer Dufford Society Reunion; your participation has contributed to my connection to New Jersey and new found cousins, and ultimately to my family story.

From Maria Ernest: I am glad to have been able to attend the get-together of like-minded people who also happen to be distantly related. The latter made the experience all the more enjoyable. I was impressed by how well run the meeting was. It was helpful that you are able to corral tangential input that would have impeded our covering all the topics. I particularly appreciated our principal speaker (Melissa Johnson) and received further guidance in doing family history and genealogical research. The demonstration of a history-gathering interview was helpful and gave me an idea to interview a first cousin who is 9 years older than I am and about whose story I know little.

A suggestion I have is that perhaps a bit of time can be structured into the meeting to separate the two families so that information sharing can be conducted. That part was missing for me as a Swackhamer descendant and was a good part of why I wanted to be there in person.

The Long Valley region in which my ancestors settled certainly is beautiful and a draw in and of itself. Having a purpose for a visit helps in exploring our country, but just the curiosity of seeing something new enhances one's life.

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/ Teaford family tree. In this bulletin we have four excellent contributions. THANK YOU DONN, SIDNEY, SUSAN AND BILL FOR THE EXCELLENT REFECTIONS, INFORMATION, INTRODUCTIONS AND QUESTIONS.

1) An intriguing question from our Cousin Donn Dufford

Our Cousin Donn Dufford, after a genealogical research trip to the Dufford family hometown in Germany, asks an interesting question: "Why did the Duffords (and Terryberries) decide to go to Long Valley? Who convinced them to do that? There's no apparent connection between Duffords and Swackhamers. Is there anything that indicates what brought them to Long Valley? I know the story about Samuel writing to his friends in Germany, but there is no logical tie I've found between Samuel Swackhamer, the Dufforts and the Durrenbergers. The latter two families were on one side of the Rhine and Samuel on the other, hours hard travel apart. I've plotted out at least six other families who also were aboard the Robert and Alice and came from within 20 miles or so of Langensoultzbach in the Alsace region. None appear to have ties to, or settled in, Long Valley. My assumption is the Dufforts and Durrenbergers were convinced by someone they made friends with on the Robert and Alice to go to Long Valley. One of the other families that were from Germany, may have known Samuel, and also settled in Long Valley. Langensoultzbach is a small village (make that "tiny") in Alsace about eight miles from the Rhine River and Germany."

Donn asks an exciting question. If any Dufford/Tufford/Teaford or Swackhamer can shed light on this question, please email me your thoughts.

2) Cousin <u>Sidney Teaford (Dufford)</u> explains his connection and some interesting facts about the Teafords/Duffords in Virginia

Our cousin Sidney Teaford from Annandale, VA greets us all with: "I have been reading the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society Bulletin's for some time, particularly the Summer 2007 Bulletin. Very interesting Dufford family history. My ancestry: Jacob Dufford (with the umlaut over the u) arrived in Philadelphia on the ship "HERO" in 1764, and settled in Staunton, VA. The name was changed from Dufford to Teaford, in a Lawyer's office by mistake. My name is Sidney J. Teaford, SC, USN, Ret. I am a 6TH generation Teaford. Our family historian was Nell Teaford Wood and he published "The Teaford Families of America" in 2004, 544 pages, and I was the Chairman of the Teaford Reunions for many years until recently. I noted that your Swackhamer-Dufford 2007 Summer Bulletin had a research article by Annette Kunselman Burgert. She published the "Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Northern Alsace to America". DNA was highlighted in her book: "The Palatines to America" suggested that a simple genealogy (DNA) blood test of several Dufford's should help clarify the national origin of our family. My daughter, Susan, can provide more of her Dufford/Teaford research to you as necessary."

3) A reflection from our Cousin <u>Susan Teaford</u> regarding the "Naming Patterns of German Families"

Our Cousin Susan Teaford provides us with an insightful article on the "Naming Patterns of German Families".

German families often used the following pattern for naming children. Again, though, there were several variations used, and often the pattern was disrupted by other circumstances. When a duplicate name occurred in these patterns, the next name in the pattern was usually used. Often when a child died in infancy, his/her name was reused for the next child of the same gender. Too, a child's name was sometimes repeated when a spouse died and the surviving spouse remarried and had more children. This would result in halfsiblings with the same name.

SONS		DAUGHTERS	
1st	father's	1st	mother's
	father		mother
2nd	mother's	2nd	father's
	father		mother
3rd	father	3rd	mother
4th	father's		father's
	father's	4th	father's
	father		mother
5th	mother's		mother's
	father's	5th	father's
	father		mother
	father's		father's
6th	mother's	6th	mother's
	father		mother
7th	mother's	7th	mother's
	mother's		mother's
	father		mother

(Naming Patterns of German Families continued on page 7)

Naming Patterns of German Families — continued from page 6

(Susan interjecting now -The immigrant Jacob's first son was named Jacob (Jacob's Father's was named Jacob). The first daughter was named Margaret (Christenah's mother's was named Christenah). The second son was named John (Christenah's father's was named John or Johan). The second daughter was named Elizabeth (Jacob's mother was named Elizabeth or Elisabeth). The third son was named Henry (Father) [- wait - his father is definitely Jacob and his brother is Jacob too so they may have dropped down to 4th place] (Jacob's father who was also named Jacob had a father named Henry or Heinrich). The fourth son George would drop to 5th place (Christenah's grandfather was named Georg or Jorg with an umlaut).

Jacob	Christenah	
Jacob and Elisabeth	Johan and Christenah	strictly conjecture
Heinrich and ??	Georg and ???	strictly conjecture

Birth/ Baptismal Names

Two names were usually given to a child at birth or baptism. In Germany, the first name - what we often refer to as a given name - was a spiritual name, usually to honor a favorite saint. The spiritual name was often used repeatedly in families. The second name - what we now would refer to as a middle name - was a secular or call name, and was the name by which the person was known. One of the most common and heavily used saint's names for males was "Johann" (with no "s"), and for females, "Johanna" or "Anna". Thus, in a hypothetical German family, we might see the male children named:

Johann Heinrich Johann Hermann Johann Friedrich

Respectively, these children would be known as Heinrich (Henry), Hermann, and Friedrich (Fred).

For girls, we may see:

Anna Maria Anna Catherine Anna Louise

Respectively, these children would be known as Maria (Mary), Catherine, and Louise. Again, these patterns were not always carved in stone, but it is helpful to understand the basic custom when researching German families. You may know your ancestor was called Henry, and thus assume his name was Henry Something, when in fact, his name was Johann Heinrich. If his parents were called William and Catherine, their full names may have been Johann William and Anna Catherine.

Susan interjecting again - We just don't see this strict adherence to the Birth/Baptismal names. It would be fun to sit down one night and see if any of Jacob's children followed any kind of a naming pattern. It would be fun, too, to see if the Middle Valley Dufford's followed any of these patterns.

Susan tells us that the website that has the "German Naming Customs" information is:

http://www.rieperoots.com/pages/Names/customs.htm

4) Research information from our Cousin <u>Bill Teaford</u> about Duffords and Teafords listed on the Civil War Soldier Rolls with their Regiment information

Bill Teaford writes: "I just searched for Dufford men who were soldiers in the Civil War. There were 12 in the Union Army, and none in the Confederate Army. Quite a contrast to the Teaford's, we had 5 in the Union Army and 15 in the Confederate Army.

Lists of the Teafords who served in the Civil War are attached. The Union Soldiers came from two families of Teafords who were in Floyd County Indiana (on the Ohio River) in 1860. Dennis, and Lewis were my Great Uncles. Thomas, Jesse and John were their first cousins. All names are listed oldest to youngest. Lewis and John who were 15 in 1860 ran away to join the 81st Regiment. The two Fathers went to the muster-in camp and took them home. They immediately ran away again, and served with honor. Thomas served a two-year enlistment in the Army of the Potomac. When he came home he found these two kids had run away, so he enlisted again in the 81st Regiment to keep them safe. He was the only Teaford who was killed, he was killed in Tennessee.

The following web address will take you to the listing of the 12 Duffords, and their Regiments. If you click on their regiment you can obtain the official history of that regiment from muster in to muster out.

http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-

soldiers.htm?submitted=1&firstName=&lastName=Dufford&warSideCode=U&battleUnitName=

Cramer Interview — continued from page 4

Annie traveled with her husband and their eight children, however, her husband died aboard the ship on its passage to the new world. Thus, when they were disembarked in New York City, her two oldest children became 'indentured' in order to pay off the expense of their family's Atlantic journey. From New York, the family made its way west to Allamuchy, New Jersey where they settled. Bill is curious to find out more details of their journey, including how long the two children remained in 'indentured' status before being freed of their financial obligation.

Bill feels that his inspiration to pursue genealogical research stemmed from the fact that he lost his father at a young age; and his father lost his father (Bill's paternal grandfather) at an early age also. Because of this, there was very little family history passed down on his paternal grandfather's side. So Bill's summary on his passion for genealogy was "It's about finding family."

Bill's brother, Michael and his family live next door to him. Although Bill is not married and does not have children, he has and continues to dedicate a lot of love and attention to his brother, Michael, his sister-in-law, Jeni, and his nephews and niece, Michael, David and Patricia.

Bill has been an active volunteer for 10 years with the "Caregivers Coalition" which supports unpaid family caregivers who are caring for their family members who may be elderly, have a disability or a mental health issue.

When asked, "Who is the oldest relative you remember?" he replied, "My great aunt, Francis Balnicki Nelson (on his mother's side of the family). She lived till the age of 103. Also, his great aunt, Aunt Hattie Trimmer (on his paternal grandmother's side) who lived to be 100. On his first visit to Ukraine, he met a distant cousin, Johanna Hupalo, who was 94 years old.

Bill also had an interesting answer for "Who is your most famous relative?" Would you believe, Richard M. Nixon, 37th President of the United States of America!? Apparently, they are connected on the Trimmer side of the family, six generations back.

As we concluded our fun interview, I asked Bill if there were any other interesting tidbits about himself that he had not shared previously, something that the group gathered for the "Family Reunion" at Zion Lutheran may not know about him.

He replied, "Well, I am a philatelist!" "Oh?" came my reply. Quickly followed by, "What is that?" Bill explained that he is a stamp collector and has been since he was a boy.

When asked about his education, he shared that he graduated from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ, with a B.A. in American History.

Another point of interest, he recently came across three non-working, but very distinct pocket watches that were the property of his father's parents and sister in Hackettstown, New Jersey. His family had the three, family pocket watches restored to working order. To their delight the watches dated to 1903, 1893, and 1888.

I thanked Bill for his time and wonderful stories...but wait...there is one more story that Bill shared about his maternal grandfather. Julius Michael Iwashko, the 2nd oldest of 18 kids, once shared with Bill, "I will never polish shoes again!" Bill discovered this was in direct correlation to the fact that growing up in Ukraine, Julius, as the 2nd oldest child and the oldest son, had had the family chore of polishing all of his 17 siblings shoes every Sunday! It's no wonder he didn't want to revisit that task again.

Maybe one day, I will write a memoir called "Shoes in the Family," as several other interesting stories about shoes and their connections with distant family members arose during the course of the afternoon at this year's meeting. Stay tuned!

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Items are needed for the Summer 2016 Bulletin. Please send material to Shelley Heretyk, Bulletin Editor, by April 15th. See page 2 for contact info.

DONORS JUNE 2015 to NOVEMBER 2015

The following donors have made contributions since the annual reunion meeting of July 25, 2015. Every effort is made not to miss anyone, but with donations coming in cash at the annual meeting, by check, from the year-end solicitation envelopes, and from a portion of the purchase price of Nancy Schane's book, *Voyage of the Love and Unity*, and from Gene Swackhamer's book, *The Emigration of Samuel Swackhamer*, errors can occur. If we missed recognizing your gift, please forgive us. We truly appreciate every dollar received; your voluntary gifts have sustained the Society since 1951.

Bill and Marcia Asdal, owners of the Raritan Inn (NJ), a donation for operation of the Society.
Patricia A. Barber (NJ), a donation through reunion registration.
John K. Blumenstein (FL), a donation for *Bulletin* production in memory of Hellen Tufford Miller.
William (Bill) N. Cramer, Jr. (NJ), a gift for S-D operations in memory of Lena Manlda Dufford Trimmer.
Victoria Dean (AZ), a donation through purchase of *Love and Unity* book.
Donald L. Dufford, Jr. (OK), a donation for operations in memory of Donald L. Dufford.
Donald W. Dufford (IL), a donation for where needed in memory of William L. Dufford.

Frederick and Jacqueline Dufford (PA), a donation through reunion meeting registration.

Sally Dufford (PA), a donation to support the Swackhamer-Dufford Society.

Frederick A. Dufford (PA), a donation through reunion meeting registration.

Richard Emmons (CT), a donation in memory of Jane Saums.

Marie L. Ernest (S) (NY), a donation through reunion meeting registration and purchase of Samuel book. Stefan F. Firtko (F) (PA), a donation through reunion meeting registration.

Ellen Harris (AL), a donation for operation of the Society.

Angeline P. Hunter (S) (PA), a donation for operations of the Society.

Mary Ann Kordys (NJ) a donation through reunion registration.

Gail Keefer (NH), a donation in honor of Vivian Logan.

Barbara M. Lange (AZ), a donation through purchase of *Love and Unity* book.

Vivian Logan (NJ), a donation through reunion registration.

Phyllis Demuth Movius (MT), a gift in memory of Orleta Swackhamer Demuth.

Gloria Muir (Ont., Can.), a donation through Samuel book purchase and reunion registration.

Marie L. Oxford (AL), a donation for operation of the Society.

Barbara Schinkel (NJ), a donation to the general fund in memory of Ruth Hartman.

Carol Schultz and nephew Joe Schultz (CT), a donation through reunion registration.

Adelia Swackhamer (PA), a gift for *Bulletin* production in memory of Charles A., Charles W., Dan and David Swackhamer.

Gene and Sharon Swackhamer (MD), a donation of postage to mail the 2015 Bulletins.

Mike and Kathy Swackhamer (IN), a donation in support of the Swackhamer-Dufford Society. Robert E. Swackhamer (NJ), a donation through reunion registration and in memory of his dad. Thelma Swackhammer (PA), a gift to the Society in memory of Merlyn Swackhammer. Dale Tufford (OK), a donation to the operating fund in memory of Melva Tufford Davis. Tom and Dana (Shelley) VanWinkle (OR), a donation in memory of Janet (Neighbor) Petersen. Clyde M. Verbryck (NY), a donation in support of *Bulletin* production.



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Winter 2015 Bulletin www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njswdugs/

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A Hole in the Leaf by George S. Dufford

A lass and a laddie out walking one day Picked a leaf from a giant sturdy tree, Where October had painted in gorgeous display A masterpiece wondrous to see. Brown fairylike lines from the stem found their way To its edge, through a color-splashed field, Of beauty dame nature would yield. Through the eyes of an artist the lad plainly saw Its shades, softly blended yet bold, That varied from cream or a light colored straw, To a carmine relieved by a gold. He pointed these out to the lass by his side, As its beauty appealed to his soul, But he stopped deeply shocked when the lassie replied Oh, dear, what an ugly worm hole.

This small imperfection was all that she saw, Unnoted the beauty, outstanding the flaw. And thus we're reminded, in running life's race, We shall find much of beauty everywhere, any place. If we look for the best, "often times underneath," We shall find it, instead of a hole in the leaf.