

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.

SUMMER 2016 BULLETIN

Dear Family and Friends:

In addition to the honor of serving as your Society President is the joy of reading communication from members that is sent to me. I just this week received an email from Donn Dufford of California. Donn would claim to be an amateur genealogist who just loves history, especially family history, but I think he is a pretty darn good genealogist. Here are some of his findings from a journey into his ancestral past.

With little more than sketchy information from Chamber's "Early Germans of New Jersey" and Burgert's Dufford baptismal records in "Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Northern Alsace to America," Donn had a very productive visit to the region of Langensoultzbach, France. He wrote: "I found the actual house our Dufford ancestors lived in before they left for America in 1738. It was unreal to wake up in Langensoultzbach, open the shutters, and realize I was looking at my ancestor's house across the street."

Donn continued: "I can also prove that the Dufford name wasn't all these variations we've seen over the years. Through at least two generations of church and civil records, the name was consistently spelled "Duffort." All other versions are the result of scribes, authors, government officials and others listening to the name and spelling it phonetically as they would in their homeland (Germanic, French, English, etc.), or just changing the spelling with copying errors. The original Philip Duffort/Dufford who came here, and his family, were French citizens who spoke one of the many Germanic languages. Were they French or German? It depends on your perspective. I say French. German was a language, not a country."

Donn also thought that he had traced the name to an original Dufford, but new research extends the name further back into the 13th century. So, surprises continue and new questions arise. For example, what caused Philip Dufford to locate in Long Valley? Why did he bring his family to the American Colonies? Was his religion Catholic, Lutheran or Huguenot?

Donn is working on a more extensive documentation of his findings, which we hope to publish in future issues of the Bulletin. We also hope to include Donn (by audio/video connection) to the July 30 reunion meeting at Zion Lutheran Church. Come to this reunion for the next chapter in the Dufford story. And, if you are a Swackhamer descendant, come to the reunion to visit with Franz and Irmtraud Drees and their granddaughter, Celina. Not only are they from Altlussheim, but they have relatives, who are descendants from the Schwechheimer (Swackhamer) family that remained in Germany in 1738. **Make your plans today. Use the registration form in this Bulletin for Long Valley, New Jersey, Saturday, July 30, 2016.**

Sincerely yours,

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

Robert Lee Swackhamer
Vice President & Treasurer
1284 Linda Drive
Toms River, NJ 08753
bobjeanswackhamer@hotmail.com

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

VACANT
Membership Coordinator

Carol Martyniuk (D)
Secretary
cmartyniuk@gmail.com

Gloria Muir (S)
Canadian Representative
Woodstock, Ontario
519-475-4891
gmuir_1@yahoo.ca

Matthew Martyniuk (D)
E-Bulletin Webmaster &
Asst. Dufford Family Historian
martyniuk@gmail.com

Bryan Swackhamer
Asst. E-Bulletin Webmaster
bryan.swackhamer@gmail.com

Steffen Drees (S)
Aus dem Englischen
Bulletin Translator to German
s.drees@gmx.net

Bonnie Wilson (D)
Bulletin Reporter &
Outreach
rwilson578@cfl.rr.com

Steve Jones (S & D)
Bulletin Reporter
steve@jones88.net

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

Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society Website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njswdugs/

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.

Necrology

Audra Joan (Swackhamer) Kingery died on January 28, 2016 at age 83. She was born in Frankfort, IN to Dorcas and Lee Swackhamer on September 8, 1932. Joan was a cheerleader at Jackson Township High School and graduated there in 1950. Joan was very athletic and had women's sports been available then, she would surely have excelled. On March 9, 1951 she married Richard Eugene Kingery and they made their home on a farm in northern Clinton County. Richard and Joan had three children: Keith, Carol and Nancy.

After struggling with asthma for several years, Richard and Nancy moved from the farm to Tucson, AZ, where he could enjoy the drier air. Richard predeceased Joan dying on October 5, 1999. She also was preceded in death by siblings Morris, Sue, Alma Dean and Clyde. She is survived by brother, **Richard Swackhamer** of Frankfort.

Joan is a first cousin of **Gene Swackhamer**, Society President. He said that in his youth Joan was a favorite babysitter because she would play ball with him. She remained active throughout her life and in her later years celebrated her 80th birthday by hiking with grandchildren into the Grand Canyon. Gene further said that he will be the master of ceremony for the annual Jackson High School reunion August 27, 2016 in Clinton County Indiana and during the program a mini style show will model Joan's cheerleading outfit and her senior painted yellow-cord skirt. Following this memorial recognition, her attire will be donated to the Clinton County Historical Society museum.



A Surprising Land Record Discovery by Scott Swackhamer

In the investigation of family history, land records are useful to find a missing link or data bit. They can reveal holdings, ancestor location, division of estates, establish a time of residence, etc. This is a story of an interesting discovery through land records, not of family ancestry, but of property ownership.

Our home is in the eastern part of Berks county Pennsylvania: birthplace of Daniel Boone, Conrad Wiser and Taylor Swift. Yes, we are still making history! Our community has been known as Rittenhouse Gap and was settled by people who had escaped indentured servitude in Philadelphia in the early 1700's. The people of "The Gap" had the reputation of wanting to be left alone to scratch a living from the land. This reputation persisted into the early 1900's, but has been mostly forgotten today. These early white settlers were escaped slaves from forced indenture and are now just a footnote in American history. Many of these settlers began iron mining of surface outcroppings. Early iron masters in the area include Thomas Mayberry, John Leshner, Reuben Trexler and his daughter Lucinda Rittenhouse. Lucinda leased land to the Thomas Iron Works and later to Bethlehem Iron Company, which became Bethlehem Steel.

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A Surprising Land Record Discovery – continued from page 2

Our house was built in the early 1850's and stood as witness to the industrial mining era that ended in 1881. The stone remains of the Catasauqua and Fogelsville rail line turntable are in the woods just behind my barn. An old-timer once told me that Thomas Edison used to stay in our house when he was inspecting his ore leases at Red Lion station at the foot of Gap hill. The old-timer had heard the story from his father who used to deliver bread for the Longsdale Bakery to our house in the 1920's. I consider it folklore of the oral tradition, but freely admit that it's fun to think about late at night when the house is still. "I wonder if Thomas Edison ever leaned against the stone wall beside me."



Scott Swackhamer and son, Cole, flying home from the S-D Genealogy Society Heritage Tour to Germany, France, and Switzerland in 2010.

During the summer of 2015 an adjacent track of land, about 14 acres, became available for sale. The owner was a retired woman from New Jersey who had never seen the property. Her late husband's grandfather had purchased the land in 1900 from Charles N. Gery. Gery was a mine owner, store owner, treasurer of Huff Union Church for 14 years and a postmaster for 54 years, having been appointed by President Pierce. The land was desirable to my wife and me as a buffer from development, as a long-term investment, a place to hunt deer and a supply of firewood. We were successful in the purchase; however, a question arose as to why the deed description did not include the 4.5 acres of road. The two parcels had always been used as one tract and everyone familiar with the area assumed that the New Jersey family had two deeds, but that one was never recorded. That was not the case. No deed for the parcel with the road frontage had ever existed. No taxes had ever been paid on it. In State terms the property had not been conveyed properly at some point in history. Could it be possible that in 2015, a 4.5 acre tract of land with 850 feet of road frontage had never had an owner? Thus began a major effort of land record research.

I made many trips to the Recorder of Deeds office at the courthouse in Reading and to the State Archives in Harrisburg. Often weeks of effort became just another blind alley! It was frustrating and I often doubted if the effort was worth my time investment. Finally, another researcher named Larry C. Fisher found a Warrant in a private archive collection from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Henry Knoblock to survey 25 acres near his friend, Thomas Mayberry. A total of 119 acres were surveyed in right of Knoblock by Augustus Scheckler and it included the 4.5 acre parcel. In 1752 Knoblock (Pennsylvania Dutch for garlic) was the owner of the land.

The State could find no heirs of Knoblock and decided to sell the 4.5 acres at a judicial auction with the proceeds going to the State. At the conclusion of the sale, my wife and I were the success bidders. A new deed had to be created since Knoblock owned the property by Warrant. The new deed reads: William Penn and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Scott and Emelie Swackhamer. It is probably the shortest recitation in Pennsylvania!



Donations to the Society (December 2015 through May 2016)

The following donors have made contributions since the winter 2015 *Bulletin*. Donations include in-kind gifts, contributions by check from 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*. If we missed recognizing your gift, please forgive us. We truly appreciate every dollar received; your voluntary gifts have sustained the Society since 1951.

John Lawrence Brasher (AL), a donation to the operating fund in memory of Lois Watters Brasher, Bessie Swackhamer and Clark and Harriet Skellenger Swackhamer.

Michael Cramer (NJ), a donation to the Society in memory of A. Olga Cramer.

William Cramer (NJ), a donation for *Bulletin* production and distribution.

Craig Dufford (NJ), a donation for general operations.

Fred and Jackie Dufford (PA), a gift in memory of Duffords who preceded us for use by the Society.

Lists of donors are continued on pages 6 and 7

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 a **Special Unique Exciting Historical Contribution**. Member, Craig Dufford, mailed to me, the original and first hand-written ledger of the beginning of the Dufford Family Reunions. What a treasure! Craig's father, Norman C. Dufford, was the Society secretary a number of years ago. As Craig was reviewing his father's materials, he came across this ledger and some correspondence. I have scanned in, for all of us to enjoy, the minutes of the first meeting of the Dufford Family Reunion on Aug. 21, 1926. The minutes are in the original handwriting of our Reunion's first secretary, Frank Dufford. Thank you Craig Dufford!

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Middle Valley, N. J., Aug. 21, 1926.

At a gathering of the Dufford, or Du Ford Families, held in the Middle Valley Chapel on the above date, (said reunion having been previously arranged by invitations sent out by Geo. S. Dufford of Plainfield, N. J.) it was decided by a unanimous vote to organize a permanent Du Ford Family Reunion, to be held each year.

The following officers were duly elected.

George S. Dufford, President.
Philip Dufford, Vice "
Frank Dufford, Secy.
George B. Wert, Treas.

The date fixed for the Reunion, was the Third Saturday in July.

A vote of thanks was extended to Geo. S. Dufford.

Mr. S. S. Swackhamer, of Plainfield, who gave an address, and the Arbuckle Company, who furnished hot coffee.

Aunt Sophia Smith of Hackettstown, N. J. was made Honorary President, of the Association, she being the oldest member of the family, present, 88 years of age.

A voluntary contribution was made to defray expenses, amount received \$11.91

The following members of the Family were present, or registered by relatives who were present, to secure addresses for future references.

Dufford Family Reunion Ledger continued on pages 5, 6, 7, and 8

- Mrs William M. Dufford,
 54 Park Ave., Paterson, N. J.
 Widow of Wm Dufford, son of Morris Dufford
 of Schooleys Mountain, N. J.
- Mr. & Mrs Joseph Walker,
 621 East 29th St., Paterson, N. J.
 Daughter of Mrs Wm M Dufford
 Miss Helen G. Walker
 621 East 29th St., Paterson, N. J.
 Daughter of Mr & Mrs J. W. Walker
- ✓ Geo. B. Werk, Ilda M. Werk } Hackettstown
 Annette D. Werk } N. J.
- Mr & Mrs Melvin Suydam } Ringoes, N. J.
 Elsie Suydam
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs John W. Suydam, Trenton, N. J. P. D.
- Mr & Mrs Walter Suydam, Pennington, N. J.
- ✓ Mr & Mrs Samuel Trimmer
 124 West 93rd St., New York, N. Y.
 Son of Elizabeth Dufford Trimmer
 Jacques DuSord Trimmer, son of Samuel &
- ✓ W. A. Hoffman Hackettstown, N. J.
 Mrs. W. A. Hoffman " " " "
 W. A. Hoffman, Jr. " " " "
 Edson N. Hoffman " " " "
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs Wm Dufford, Mineola, Kansas.
 Henrietta Dufford " "
 Wm Dufford Jr. " "
- ✓ Mrs Elizabeth Dufford Trimmer, Hackettstown, N. J.
 Mrs Clifford Mills, Morristown, N. J.
 Daughter of Mrs Elizabeth Dufford Trimmer.
 Anna Elizabeth Mills, Morristown, N. J.

Dufford Family Reunion Ledger, August 21, 1926

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7 Flemington N.J.

La Mout V. Trimmer, Middle Valley, N.J.
 Mrs La Mout V. Trimmer " " " "
 Donald R. Trimmer " " " "
 Marjorie K. Trimmer " " " "
 Children and grandchildren of
 Mrs Elizabeth Dufford Trimmer, daughter of
 William Dufford.

✓ James H. Dufford, 74 Savonia Ave, Arlington, Va.
 James E. Dufford " " " " " "

✓ Mrs Emma Henry Seward
 3647 West 64th St. Chicago, Ill.
 Daughter of Elizabeth Henry, Daughter of
 Philip Dufford.

✓ Bessie R. Seward,
 107 Elliott Place, New York, N.Y.

✓ Geo. O. Henry, Manhattan, Ill.
 Grandson of Philip Dufford.

de ad ✓ Mrs Catherine Smith, Hackettstown, N.J.
 de ad ✓ Emma Smith Taylor 299 Main St.
 de ad ✓ Wallace Taylor " " " "
 de ad ✓ Mr & Mrs Geo. S. Smith, Newton, N.J.

✓ Mr & Mrs Dufford Ribble, Mountain Lakes, N.J.
 ✓ Mr & Mrs Chauncey Ribble, Hackensack, N.J.
 ✓ Mr & Mrs Charles P. Harley, Lebanon, N.J. R.D.
 ✓ Mrs Rena Ramsey, High Bridge, N.J.
 Alice Dufford Ramsey " " " "
 Ruth Ramsey Johnson, 941 West 8th St.,
 Plainfield, N.J.

Helen Harley, High Bridge, N.J.
 Beldon Harley " " " "
 de ad ✓ J. Stanley Harley, " " " "
 Mr & Mrs Philip S. Dufford Long Valley, N.J.
 Mr & Mrs Edwin Dufford
 Wilma Dufford

Dufford Family Reunion Ledger, August 21, 1926



Donations to the Society – continued from page 3

- Steven Firtko (PA), donation for operation of the S-D Society.
- LaQuita J. Kelly (AZ), a donation in memory of those who have gone before us.
- Phyllis Demuth Movius (MT), a donation to the S-D Society in memory of Orleta Swackhamer Demuth.
- Nancy E. Schanes (DE), a donation to the general operating fund.
- Jean Dufford Sheppard (TX), a gift for *Bulletin* production in memory of Harold Apgar Dufford.

✓ Freda Dufford Prebilcock, Gladstone, N. J.
 Ruth E. Prebilcock " " " "

✓ Mrs Morris Trimmer, Long Valley, N. J.
 Mr & Mrs Lawrence D. Trimmer, Middle Valley, N. J.
 Miss Marion Trimmer " " " "
 Mr & Mrs S. Clifford Trimmer " " " "
 Mrs Lester Apgar, Califon, N. J.
 Mary E. Hoffman, Middle Valley, N. J.
 Ryneer Hoffman " " " "
 Cora Hoffman " " " "

✓ Mrs Agnes Hoppock, Hacketts town " "
 Evelyn Hoppock " " " "
 James Hoppock " " " "

Mr & Mrs Gilbert Dufford, Long Valley, N. J.
 ✓ Leonard Dufford, Johnson City, N. Y.
 ✓ Mr & Mrs Raymond Dufford " " N. Y.

Mr & Mrs Geo. S. Dufford, Plainfield, N. J.
 Mr & Mrs Wesley Moran, Elizabeth, N. J.
 Mrs Eliza Harrison
 Mrs Marjorie Logan

Mrs Andrew Dufford, Middle Valley, N. J.
 Miss Ruth Dufford " " " "
 Mrs Byron Gano, Pattenburg, N. J.
 Andrew Dufford, Middle Valley, N. J.
 Halsey Dufford " " " "
 Raymond E. Dufford " " " "
 Elizabeth Dufford " " " "
 ✓ Mrs James Crystell " " " "
 ✓ Mrs Esther Nobman, Jersey City, N. J.
 1020 Plautis St.

Mr & Mrs Lewis Dufford, Morris Plains, N. J.
 Mr & Mrs Russel Dufford, Towson, Md.
 ✓ Mr & Mrs Leo. B. Hiller, 124 Clinton St. Albany, N. Y.

Dufford Family Reunion Ledger, August 21, 1926



Donations to the Society – continued from page 3

- Gene and Sharon Swackhamer (MD), postage donation for mailing the winter 2015 *Bulletins*.
 Douglas R. and Lynda Swackhamer (SC), a donation to the general operating fund.
 Merlin Leroy Swackhamer (OR), a gift for operation of the S-D Society.
 Mike Swackhamer (IN) a donation for operation of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society.
 William and Charlotte Swackhamer (CO), a gift for operation of the S-D Society.
 George H. and Karen N. Williams (CA), a donation for operation of the S-D Society.

✓ Mr & Mrs Jayson Dufford, ⁴⁴⁶ 220 Roseville ave, Newark
 Mr & Mrs Frank Dufford Middle Valley N.J.
 Harold A. Dufford " " "
 Frank W. Dufford " " "
 ✓ Miss Mary Dufford, Washington, N.J.
 ✓ Miss Carrie Dufford " " "
 ✓ Mrs Charles Ford " " "
 ✓ Mr & Mrs Robert Smith, Hackensack N.J.
 Mr & ✓ Mrs James Dufford " " "
 ✓ Mrs John Slack " " "
 Nelson Dufford " " "
 Miss Sallie Dufford " " "
 ✓ Harry Dufford " " "
 ✓ Mrs Holloway Dufford Long Valley, N.J.
 Mr & Mrs Alpha McLaughlin, Glendens N.J.
 read Christy Dufford South Amboy, N.J.
 Mr & Mrs Rufus Pitterhouse, Dunellen, N.J.
 Mr & Mrs Pierson, Morristown N.J.
 Children of George Dufford, Pawnee Rock, Kan.
 " " " " Larned, Kansas.
 ✓ H. C. Dufford, Gilbertsville N.Y.,
 Otsego County
 ✓ Mrs. James Dufford, Glendens, N.J.
 ✓ Or Mrs. Chas. J. " " "
 ✓ Mr & Mrs Raymond Roberts, 19 Spruce St. Dover, N.J.
 ✓ John S. Dufford, 615 South 30th St, Newark, N.J.
 Charles Dufford, 21 Warren Place, Newark, N.J.
 Frank Dufford Newark, N.J.
 Record Book 50
 Postage 47c
 Frank Dufford, Secy.

Dufford Family Reunion Ledger, August 21, 1926



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

Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society Annual Reunion

Zion Lutheran Church, 11 Schooley's Mountain Road, Long Valley, NJ 07853

Saturday, July 30, 2016, 9am to 3pm

THEME: Collecting Family History is the Art of Patience and Persistence

Everyone is invited to attend the annual reunion of the S-D Society on Saturday, July 30, in Long Valley. Members of the S-D Society have been gathering in Long Valley for over 60 years to share family information, to assist others with genealogy questions and to learn more about our respective family histories. We will have visitors from Altlusheim, Germany this year.

The program will begin informally at 9:00 am with visitation, coffee, tea, pastry, fruit juice and introductions. The morning program will have two speakers sharing ideas on collecting family history. A luncheon of summer salads, sandwiches and desserts will be served by Sharon Swackhamer at noon. Following lunch at 1:00 pm will be a brief business session followed by a "How do I ... Workshop" and tour of the Washington Township Historical Society Museum across the street. Personal auto tour information, maps and guide services will be available for those desiring to see some of the historic Dufford and Swackhamer sites. The meeting will conclude about 3:00 with desserts.

Please use the registration form below and take advantage of the early registration \$5.00 discount. Day of the event registration will be \$30.00 per person with youth under 16 free. If you would like more detailed information on the program, local hotels, inns, restaurants or local sightseeing, email ggswhack@cs.com If cancellation becomes necessary, please call or email Gene Swackhamer by July 23 at 410-771-4437 or GGSwhack@cs.com for a full refund.

----- **Clip and Mail to Gene Swackhamer, 16429 Yeoho Road, Sparks, MD 21152** -----

Number attending _____ at \$25.00 per adult for total amount of \$ _____ .

Number of children under 16 attending (free): _____.

Voluntary donation to the S-D Genealogy Society \$ _____.

Total amt of my enclosed **check payable to Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society** is \$ _____.

Name _____

Postal Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Here is a suggestion for a future Bulletin:

Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society
16429 Yeoho Road
Sparks, MD 21152



Summer 2016 Bulletin
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njswdugs/

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Annual Reunion Information and Registration



Photo courtesy of the Washington Township Historical Society

House and Store of Frank Dufford 358 West Mill Road, Middle Valley, NJ

In this bulletin, thanks to Craig Dufford and Bill Cramer, we have the ledger documenting the permanent organization of the "DuFord Family Reunion" on August 21, 1926. Frank Dufford was elected secretary.

Around 1860, George Dufford, Sr. purchased property that included a store and mill. Eventually, Frank Dufford operated Dufford's store and took over Dufford's mill. In 1917, the mill was made inoperable because of severe damage from rain and ice. It was razed in the 1930s. Among other things, Frank Dufford continued running his store until he closed it around 1940. He was born in 1872 and died in 1955. In 1894, he married Lillian Apgar and they had two sons, Harold and Frank.