

# 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 2022 BULLETIN

Dear Members and Friends:

Once upon a time people wrote letters to family, friends, and associates. It is now becoming a lost art. Children are no longer being taught how to write cursive. Tablets for teaching lower case and capital letters are no longer printed. Letters from home, from war zones, and from summer camps are not being sent. The communication vehicle of choice for millennials and generation Z seems to be a computer program such as email, Instagram or a Skype or Face Time call. Nothing needs to be saved.

An author may someday write a book revealing “The lost emails of Hillary Clinton” or “Why Donald Trump burned his emails,” but it won’t show the rich language typical of past letters. Why is this change occurring? Did we do it to ourselves by stuffing classic letters (and photos) into shoe boxes until claimed by downsizing? Do we even care? Perhaps it is just a quest for electronic speed. Genealogists get excited when they find an old family letter. It is a window to an ancestor’s life, probably not dramatic, but another piece to the puzzle of their life.

All is not lost. You can make a difference in preserving your family’s history. Start a 3-ring binder of letters. Don’t save every letter, be selective and just save those most interesting to you at the time. With aging, they will become even more interesting. I’ve watched children downsizing and they end up reading letters in a binder which doesn’t get discarded.

**We will not hold a Long Valley reunion meeting in 2023.** Our next reunion will be the last Saturday of July in 2024. This decision has been a long time coming and it probably will not be the last change. In recent years friends of the Society nearly outnumber members in reunion attendance, who are the officers of the Society. Regional reunions remain successful (see story in this issue) and are a good option. Officers will continue to focus on other purposes especially the *Bulletin* which is the most popular product of the Society.

Sincerely,

Gene L. Swackhamer, President

## Officers of the Combined Societies

**Gene L. Swackhamer**  
President  
Swackhamer Family Historian  
13801 York Road, Apt. U-204  
Cockeysville, MD 21030  
[GGSwack@cs.com](mailto:GGSwack@cs.com)

**Jill (Swackhamer) Drees**  
Membership Coordinator  
195 Joppa Farm Road  
Joppa, MD 21085  
[jillmdrees@gmail.com](mailto:jillmdrees@gmail.com)

**Matthew Martyniuk (D)**  
E-Bulletin Webmaster &  
Asst. Dufford Family Historian  
[martyniuk@gmail.com](mailto:martyniuk@gmail.com)

**Bulletin Editor**  
Editor  
Teryl Cartwright (F)  
[cartwrightteryl@gmail.com](mailto:cartwrightteryl@gmail.com)

**Robert Lee Swackhamer**  
Vice President & Treasurer  
165 North Boulder Creek Drive  
Camdenton, MO 65020-6615  
[bobnjeanswackhamer@hotmail.com](mailto:bobnjeanswackhamer@hotmail.com)

**Gloria Muir (S)**  
Canadian Representative  
Woodstock, Ontario  
(519) 475-4891  
[gmuir\\_1@yahoo.ca](mailto:gmuir_1@yahoo.ca)

**Bryan Swackhamer**  
Asst. E-Bulletin Webmaster  
[bryan.swackhamer@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.swackhamer@gmail.com)

**Steve Jones (S & D)**  
Bulletin Reporter  
[steve@jones88.net](mailto:steve@jones88.net)

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

**Carol Martyniuk (D)**  
Bulletin Reporter  
[cmartyniuk@gmail.com](mailto:cmartyniuk@gmail.com)

**Steffen Drees (S)**  
Aus dem Englischen  
Bulletin Translator to German  
[s.drees@gmx.net](mailto:s.drees@gmx.net)

**Shelley Heretyk (F)**  
Long Valley Reporter  
[sheretyk@comcast.net](mailto:sheretyk@comcast.net)

**Larry Brasher (S)**  
Bulletin Reporter  
[lbrasher@bsc.edu](mailto:lbrasher@bsc.edu)

### Swackhamer - Dufford Genealogical Society Website

[www.panaves.com/swackduff/index.html](http://www.panaves.com/swackduff/index.html)

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

## Donations to the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society

6-1-22 through 11-1-22

The following donors have made contributions since the summer 2022 *Bulletin*. Donations include in-kind gifts, contributions 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. Family symbols included, if known, are (D) for Dufford or (T) for Tufford, (F) for friend of the Society and (S) for Swackhamer.

Bill and Marcia Asdal, Raritan Inn (NJ), (F), a donation for operations

Kenneth and Sandra Dufford (CA), a donation for wherever most needed in memory of Frank, Ruth and Scott Dufford

Ellen Freeman (NH), (D), a gift to the S-D Society for *Bulletin* production

Karen and Brent Griffin (RI) (D), a donation for wherever most needed in memory of Karen's grandmother, Neta Dufford Johnson

Laurin L. Henry (VA), (D), a donation for general operations

Joyce MacRae (ON), (S), a donation for *Bulletin* production in memory of Harold and Mary Swackhamer

Judy Meenach (OH), (S), a donation for operation in memory of husband, Robert Meenach

Jeanne Sheppard (TX), (D), a gift for *Bulletin* production in memory of Harold Apgar Dufford

Garland (Gary) H. Swackhamer (OH), a donation for operation in memory of

Alfred Harold Swackhamer

Gene and Sharon Swackhamer (MD), a gift of postage for mailing the winter 2022 *Bulletins*

Robert Swackhamer (MO), a gift for operation of the Swackhamer-Dufford (S-D) Genealogy Society

Clyde Verbryck (NY), a gift for *Bulletin* production in memory of Karen Verbryck

## **Descendants of John and Grace Swackhamer Reunion Bradford, Pennsylvania, July 17, 2022**

From Garland (Gary) H. Swackhamer, a Grandson of John and Grace

In a request from Gary for additional summer 2022 Swackhamer-Dufford Bulletins, I asked if he would send a write up and perhaps some photos of the reunion. He did and it is included here.



*Descendants of John and Grace Swackhamer at the July 17, 2022, Bradford, Pennsylvania family reunion.  
Photo contributed by Garland (Gary) Swackhamer*

On July 17, 2022, forty descendants of John and Grace Swackhamer gathered at Callahan Park in Bradford, Pennsylvania for a family reunion. Among those attending were Jane Swackhamer Rossi of Bradford and Rita Swackhamer-Gates of Williamson, New York, surviving daughters of John and Grace. Melissa Robertson, a granddaughter from Coats, North Carolina, provided karaoke entertainment throughout the day. A delicious meal was provided by TLC catering.

During the day new family connections were discovered, old friendships renewed, and attendees had an enjoyable time sharing family stories. The next reunion will be held in July 2025.

# Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society 75th Annual Reunion

## Introduction and Opening Remarks

Gene L. Swackhamer, President

July 30, 2022

### Welcome

Appreciation for the use of  
Faith Hall  
How shall we deal with Covid  
19?

It is okay to wear a mask,  
to social distance  
Informal—coffee, restrooms

### Introductions

Our caterer, Sharon  
Swackhamer, Continental  
Breakfast and Lunch

### Thank You

Bill Cramer, Dufford Family  
Historian  
Robert Swackhamer, Treasurer  
Teryl Cartwright, *Bulletin* Editor  
Charlie Davidson, Zion Sponsor



Officers of Swackhamer-Dufford Society: Matt Martyniuk (D),  
Robert Swackhamer and Gene Swackhamer  
Photo by Sharon Swackhamer

### Highlights of 2021-2022



Poster of German Schwechheimers in 2009-2010

Covid 19 won—variation B-6  
Donations declined, but not by much  
Many genealogy conference  
cancellations  
Well received *Bulletins*  
Sparse attendance at 2021 Reunion

### Program For Today

- Railroads in German Valley by Ken Martin
- Religion and Muhlenberg in Long Valley by Ingrid and Tim Wengert
- The Life of Reverend J. Lambert Swackhamer by Gene Swackhamer

### Lunch/ WTHS Visit

- Continuous Dufford Family History, Bill Cramer
- Business items and Wrap Up—Future of Reunions



## Reunion Memories and Moments



Top left: Pastor Ingrid Wingert and her husband, Pastor Dr. Tim Wingert, with a team presentation on Pastor Henry Muhlenberg

Top right: Lobster dinner at nearby Gladstone Tavern after reunion

Bottom center: Tour of WTHS office and museum with Debra Bush





## 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 family about their history, their origins, their ancestors, and their descendants. Any Society members who have new Dufford branches or updated information on their specific Dufford branch, please get that information/tree/line to me so that we may update all our Society members.



Above: Bill Cramer and Ken Martin discussing Long Valley trains

This past summer, at our July 2022 Annual Reunion, we had a special presentation by Ken Martin, a retired railroad employee, whose grandfather and great-grandfather also worked for the railroad.

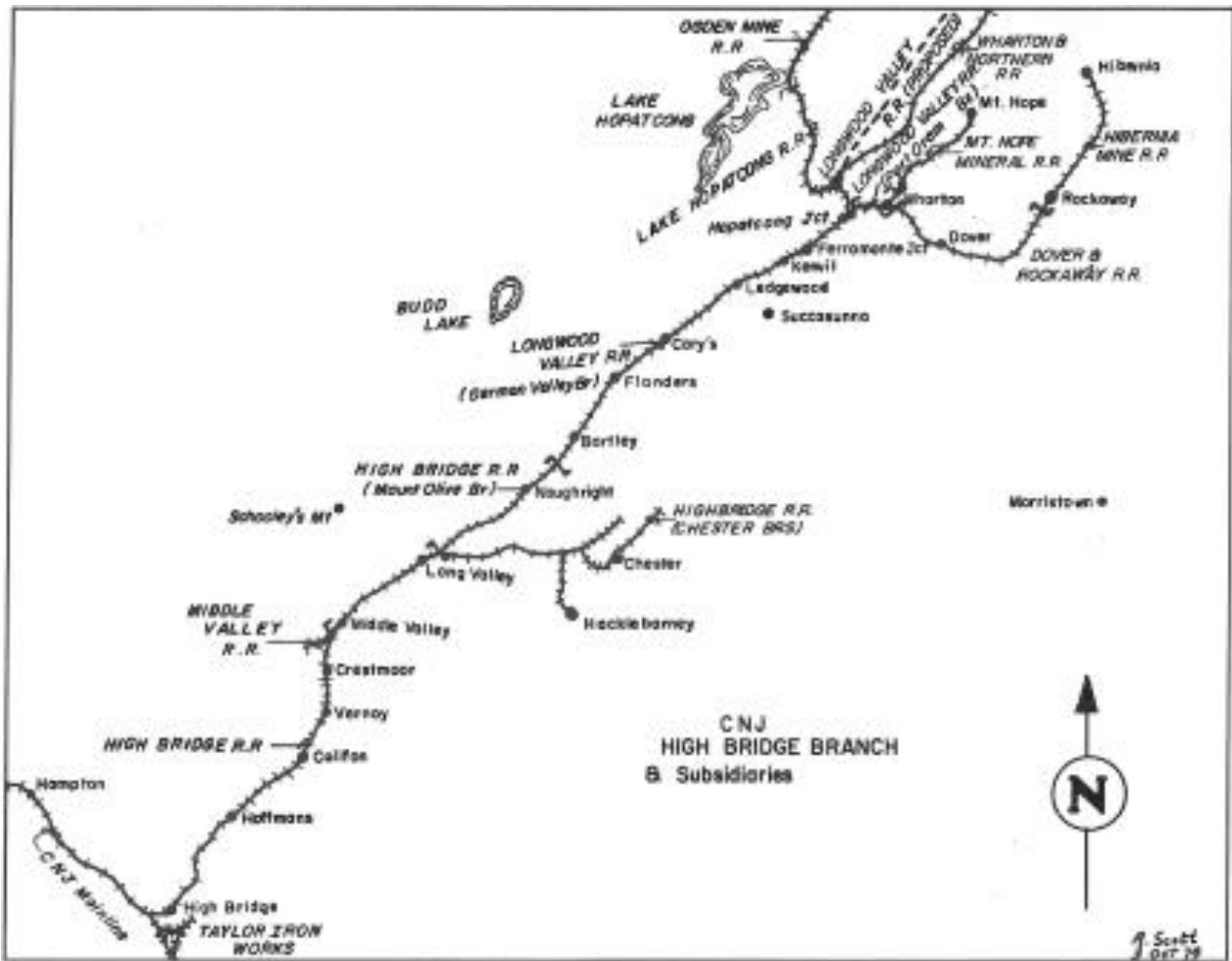
He gave an excellent presentation on the Central Railroad of New Jersey, the High Bridge Branch. This is the branch that ran through German Valley, NJ.

He answered numerous questions from all of us and distributed several handouts. These handouts were so interesting that I have shared two with all our members.

Handout #1 (next page) is a specific map of the individual stations on the High subsidiary routes.

Handout #2 (next page) is a copy of a Complaint Letter sent to the Railroad by leading citizens of Middle Valley, NJ, asking the Railroad to do something about the loitering of disorderly persons which was preventing citizens from Middle Valley from entering or leaving the train without insults or annoyance.

This letter, dated Nov.1, 1900 was signed by 3 Dufford's, 3 Trimmer's, 1 Swackhamer and 2 Apgar's, among others. A MOST INTERESTING BIT OF HISTORY.



Nov. 1, 1900.

As the loitering of disorderly persons at the station and along the route hereto, has rendered it impossible for the citizens of Middle Valley to enter or leave trains without insult or annoyance, we the undersigned do hereby petition Mrs. P. Hill to speedily investigate the matter and take measures to remedy the evil.

Elijah Dufford  
 A. S. Dufford  
 W. T. Simpson  
 Isaac Drimmer  
 John Decker  
 Grant Aycock  
 M. S. Johnson  
 W. P. Stafford

John Moore  
 J. M. Clarke

Handout #1 is above, and Handout #2 is to the left.

Thank you to Ken Martin for finding these and to Bill Cramer for offering these to share in the Bulletin



Continued from Page 5: Photo of the Neighbour House, a local B & B used by many reunion visitors

## Poets Within the Society

Writing poems seems to have become a talent of the past or maybe of the old and the young. Living in a retirement center has reintroduced me to the art of poetry. The Broadmead CCRC has monthly poem readings, most being original. Also, the sound and rhythm of words appeals to youth just learning the magic of writing. Below are some poems from the 2007 poetry contest that either didn't place among the top three selected, arrived too late for consideration or didn't make a previous Bulletin because of space limitations.

Don't be shy, send your poem to Jill Drees (see email address in officer listing) and we will include it in a future *Bulletin*.

### WOODEN SHIPS

by Clay Swackhamer

How did they come on wooden ships,  
A long, long time ago?  
How did they feel when breakers rolled,  
And sea monster heads would show?

They must have been resilient.  
They must have been quite tough.  
Because they kept on going,  
Even though the going got rough.

It must have been so terrible,  
On tiny little boats.  
Just try to pack all your possessions,  
Into some handheld totes.

If a new world was discovered,  
The question not if but when,  
Would modern people settle it?  
Are we ready to do it again?

Next time I look out over the sea,  
I'll wonder how much heart,  
It would take to leave all that you knew  
And gamble at a new start.

### NOVEMBER SKY

by Gene Swackhamer

Big bold blustery clouds of billowing blues and blacks,  
Behaving boisterously like brats,  
Bravely bolting ahead then bending back.  
Bad omen sky boiling in blurring summer heat to a silent beat,  
Beckoning, beseeching, bragging of a bygone feat,  
Bruising biceps bent to break,  
Before the blast of blizzard and mercury meet.

Bawdy sea breaking beyond the beach, betraying sky,  
Birch and beech bending beyond the breakers,  
Bereft of beams of beauty, belay the breath of Beelzebob.  
Batten down and button up, bring in the sails, bar the bunk,  
Be not blind to bitter blowing brackish bays,  
Bos'n barking bile. Believe.  
Behind the breakwater the bond blows fair.



## Poets Within the Society (Continued from Page 8)

### LIKE CANDY

by Jill Drees

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

### GOOD OLD DOBBIN

by George S. Dufford\*

Old Dobbin you’re a wonderful thing.  
No horns to honk, no bells to ring.  
No license buying every year,  
No plates to stick on front or rear.  
  
No cranking up to make you start.  
No belts to slip or come apart.  
No sparks to miss, no gears to strip,  
You start yourself. No clutch to slip.  
  
Though reckoned now, a little slow  
O’er vale and mountain, you do go.  
Through mud, o’er snowbank’s heavy drift,  
You make your way, no gears to shift.  
  
No gas or oil bills every day,  
To steal the joys of life away.  
Your inner tubes are all okay.  
And thank the stars they stay that way.  
  
Your sparkplugs never miss or fuss,  
Your motor never makes me cuss.  
Old Dobbin, you are still my bet,  
You’ve something on the auto yet.

*\*George S. Dufford (1837-1924) published a book of poetry in the early 1900s. This poem was submitted by Virginia Allen, a long-time member of the Society. She said he wrote after watching a friend trotting by and as she was crossing the Long Valley to High Bridge Road to buy milk and eggs from the Neighbor farm.*

Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society  
% Jill Drees, Membership Coordinator  
195 Joppa Farm Road  
Joppa, MD 21085



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<http://www.panaves.com/swackduff/index.html>