

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 2024 BULLETIN

Dear Friends:

Covid is not gone, but it is not a part of daily press nor a major concern. It is still a risk but we, as a society, appear to have accepted it as we previously did with flu and head colds. It is now just another concern of life. Thus, our summer reunion is scheduled for Saturday, July 27, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Long Valley, New Jersey. A registration form is included in this Bulletin. Plan a weekend mini trip or daytrip, and if your plans don't work out, a full refund can be obtained until close of business July 26, 2024.

A common refrain after each reunion is "I'm glad we came!" We also receive feedback that even though outside genealogy speakers are interesting, the discussion among attendees is always the most interesting.

In each Bulletin we seek balance of articles and information for both the Duffords and the Swackhamers. It is not always possible, so this 2024 summer issue is focused on the Dufford family. Donn Dufford's story of his 2015 visit to Lagenoultzbach, France, home of his ancestors (and probably yours too if you are a Dufford), captures the feel of home and its likeness to Long Valley.

Not everyone feels the emotional tug of ancestral connection upon a visit to Europe, but for those who do, it is a powerful experience, and as Donn says, "the thrill of a lifetime." For the majority of our readers, I hope his article helps you better understand from where your family originated.

Because we are determined to hold the Bulletin to one ounce of postage, some regular material (communication, other articles, necrology, etc.) have been omitted or postponed until the Winter 2024 issue.

In "Continuous Dufford Research" William (Bill) Cramer draws our attention to forthcoming anniversaries and celebrations.

Sincerely yours,

Gene Swackhamer, President

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Swackhamer - Dufford Genealogical Society Website

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.

INTRODUCTION: In 2015, Donn Dufford and his wife visited the ancestral home of the Dufford family. His recording of the visit was a delightful read of diary and observation. I wanted to publish the story in the Bulletin, but Donn felt that there was editing to be done and it wasn't ready. The inquiry became nearly an annual ritual. This year I asked Bill Cramer to seek Donn's permission once again. A few weeks ago, Bill called excitedly to say, "He said 'okay.' " Thank you, Donn. Your eyes and words will help many of our Dufford readers learn for the first time about their European home. Gene

VISITING LANGENSOULTZBACH, FRANCE

by Donn Dufford



Donn Dufford standing by an entrance sign for Langensoultzbach, France.

After a fast train ride from Paris to Strasbourg, I took a rental car for about an hour's ride to Langensoultzbach. The countryside was beautiful and I could see immediately the similarity to his homeland that Philip Dufford/Dufford saw in Long Valley in 1738. The village was small, mostly just residential, in a very rural area of Alsace about eight miles from the Rhine River and within visual sight of elements of the French Maginot line.

In preparation for this visit, I used a couple of professional genealogists from the region. One I met online while searching for a common ancestor.

He lives about one hour from Strasbourg. The other I found through the Mormon Church. With their help, I located the property where Philip Duffort once lived. The 300-year-old house had survived the French Revolution, World War I, and German bombs during World War II (which severely damaged the house and a stream bridge nearby) as Germany tried to slow the Allied advance. By incredible coincidence, we stayed with a French couple across the street from the original Duffort home. We were directed to the French couple who used their home as a B and B by a Canadian blogger who had stayed there with his family for eight weeks one summer. He said we would find it delightful, and we did. Our host welcomed us as a part of their family sharing unique dinners out and Sunday dinners with their family in the yard.

The original Duffort house is still next to a small, fast-moving, cold stream that flows from the mountains through the valley to the Rhine. It is right on the main street of the village. I enjoyed looking across the street at the home of my ancestor each morning thinking that's where it all began for me. I don't know if the Dufforts owned the mill or just lived there as farmers. They had a garden and some farm animals. Local genealogists found a will that showed what Philip owned and what he owed and to whom, which helped us find the location of the house.



The Duffort home is in the foreground to the left. The farm barn and equipment are to the right. Photo by Donn Dufford

Even the B and B where we stayed had damage from World War II. A German tank parked in their front yard and the great grandfather of our host reportedly ordered them off his property and apparently, they did move. The house was still damaged by warfare and location of repairs still shows. The famous Maginot line of concrete pill boxes, turrets, and network of tunnels is now a part of a horse pasture just a short walk from the Duffort house.



*A typical street scene of Langensoultzbach, France
Photo by Donn Dufford*

of histories of local families and Alsace villages. It was quite unique, and a real treat. I gained additional information about Durrenbergers/Terryberries. On another day, with two French family historians in the Bas-Rhin Archives, I was fascinated by 1,000-year-old artifacts. Their help was invaluable in revealing to me information of family history that I would never have found on my own.

The people of Langensoultzbach were great to us. The mayor was excited about our visit and opened the church and the museum for us that otherwise were closed to the public. The mayor of a nearby town learned of our presence and my genealogical research, and invited us to come see him, which we did. After meeting at his city hall and seeing information about the family that traveled to America with Philip Dufford, he took us to his home to see his collections



*The church dominates the village and has a museum behind it.
In the foreground is an orchard. Photo by Donn Dufford*



*An ancient horse tank is all that remains of the stream that once flowed there.
Photo by Donn Dufford*

Looking back now, I can truly say that finding my ancestors' home was the thrill of a lifetime! But, like all genealogy, the more one learns the more additional questions arise. Were the Duffords farmers or millers or both? Why did they come to America, and what caused them to go to German Valley, New Jersey, and not to Pennsylvania? Did they know Samuel Schwechheimer who came from east of the Rhine? There were at least six other families aboard the Robert and Alice, but none chose German Valley (now Long Valley) New Jersey.

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.

In this bulletin, we have four different contributions.

The **first** contribution is the continual update on the most recent additional descendants of Hans Philip Dufford. Here, it is his great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, grandchildren – Martha Lynn Serafin, Philip Louis Serafin, Michael Courtland Cramer, and Millie Anne Cramer.

The **second** contribution is information on the “Palatines to America German Genealogical Society” and three (3) of the National Society’s State Chapters. I think you will find this information most valuable as you are doing research on your family’s ancestors.

The **third** contribution is very historical and celebratory. In 2026, our country will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. It is officially called our country’s **Semiquincentennial**. (That is a new word for all of us!) There are going to be major events all around the country, in every state, and in many individual counties of your specific state. Many individual towns/municipalities may also have their own special celebrations. This contribution will include information on “Crossroads of the American Revolution” Association. This is a grass roots movement in New Jersey preparing for the great day of July 4, 2026.

The **fourth** contribution is a picture of the graves of Capt. John Hagar Jr., and his wife, Annie Cramer Hagar, from the Old Stone Union Cemetery, located next to the Washington Township Museum in Long Valley, NJ.

CONTRIBUTION #1

Hans Philip Dufford’s most recent eighth generation great grandchildren include:

- Martha Lynn Serafin, born on July 2, 2020, to Steven Louis Serafin and Patricia Lynn (Cramer) Serafin.
- Michael Courtland Cramer, born on Nov.15, 2021, to Michael Douglas Cramer and Allison Danielle (Lowndes) Cramer.
- Philip Louis Serafin, born on Feb. 21, 2022, to Steven Louis Serafin and Patricia Lynn (Cramer) Serafin.

- Millie Anne Cramer, born on Jan. 8, 2024, to Michael Douglas Cramer and Allison Danielle (Lowndes) Cramer.
- The grandparents of these four latest Dufford additions are Michael Nathan Cramer and Jenilynn Schwacke Cramer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!!!

To all Dufford's – If you have any new 7th, 8th, or 9th Generation grandchildren to add to our ever-growing descendant's information, please email the specifics (name, date of birth, parents/grandparents names) to me at wnpc1226@gmail.com so we may include their information in our next Bulletin.

CONTRIBUTION #2

A “Palatine” was a name applied, by English speakers, to all German-speaking immigrants in colonial America in the 1700s. The original founders of this society were descendants of immigrants from the Palatine (Pfalz) regions of Germany. Thus, for our Society's purposes, we could include the names of Dufford, Swackhamer; as well as many others: Wert, Apgar, Trimmer, Neighbor, Hager, Sharp, Weise, Wack, Pickle, Drake, Frelinghuysen, Hoffman, Stoll, Chambers, Lawrence, Roeloffson... to name just some.

The “Palatines to America German Genealogical Society” is a vibrant national and international family history society that focus upon researching German-speaking People. The National Society has local chapters (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio). There is NO New Jersey Chapter. Their mission is to promote interest in the research and study of all German-speaking peoples who migrated to the Americas in the late 1600s and the 1700s. They exchange and preserve information relating to their history and culture; provide appropriate methods, tools, and resources to assist members in their research, and encourage fellowship and sharing of information among their members.

The National Society and each of its State Chapters provide this information and research through various activities including publications, conferences, webinars, workshops, educational programs, Zoom presentations, newsletters, and a variety of resource information. I belong to the National Society and three of the six State Chapters. If you are interested in “checking out” these societies. I have included their contact information. The National Palatines to America German Genealogical Society website is www.palam.org. The Ohio Chapter website is www.oh-palam.org. The New York Chapter website is palam.org/new-york-chapter. The Pennsylvania Chapter website is <https://pennpalam.org>. Feel free to go on-line to get further information on membership, programs, and resources of all their programs.

CONTRIBUTION #3

As we get closer to 2026, New Jersey has its own specific information on our country's Semiquincentennial (250th) anniversary. “RevolutionNJ” is the public-private partnership authorized and formed by the New Jersey Legislature between The New Jersey Historical Commission and the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association to coordinate and plan programs and observances throughout the State during this special year. There is a monthly newsletter that captures just a fraction of the sites, events, stories, and programs. In New Jersey, there are over two hundred historical sites, historical societies, and heritage organizations. Their website is <https://www.revnj.org>. Crossroads can also be followed on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Their headquarters address is Crossroads to the American Revolution National Heritage Area, 101 Barrack St., Trenton, NJ 08608.

We encourage ALL our Dufford, Swackhamer and semi-annual Newsletter Readers to check out their website, their newsletter, and the ever-growing list of events in New Jersey. If you have family or friends in any of the

other states and territories, please encourage them to check their state/county websites for Semiquincentennial celebrations local to them.

CONTRIBUTION #4

Captain John Hagar Jr. fought in the American Revolutionary War as a member of the New Jersey Militia, Roxbury Company. Capt. John and his wife, Annie (Cramer) Hagar, are one set of my, and my brothers, great, great, great, great grandparents. This is a picture of their grave sites at the Old Stone Union Cemetery, located next to the Washington Township Museum in Long Valley, NJ. For the past few years, I have placed beautiful Christmas blankets on their graves.

The three Hagar brothers, Hans George, Johannes, and Jacob, arrived in Philadelphia on Sept. 30, 1732. Johannes and his wife settled in German Valley, NJ, and had seven children. Their oldest son, Lawrence Hagar, who married Mary Catherine Sharp, had six sons. Their oldest son was John Hagar Jr., born on Feb. 21, 1759. He married Annie Marie Cramer on March 3, 1785, after his service to our country. Capt. John Hagar Jr. died on July 17, 1799.



*Photo of John and Annie Hagar's graves
by William Cramer*

Anna Marie Cramerin arrived in New York with eight children in 1710. Her husband, Michael, died on the trip across the Atlantic. During that period in our country's history, widows and orphans were disembarked in New York. Her oldest two children were then indentured to pay for the trip of the family across the ocean. The Cramerin's eventually settled in what is now Allamuchy, NJ, and shortened their name to Cramer. Their family line went through Jurgen Cramer, to Matthais Cramer, who had Annie Cramer. Capt. John and his wife, Annie, raised three sons and one daughter. Annie died on May 18, 1839.

FAMILY REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION



James Elmer Dufford, 1983

James Elmer Dufford was a man of mystery, but you may have some of the missing clues. His granddaughter, Valarie Scannell, asks for your assistance by sharing any memories and photos you have with his family. She only met him twice. Once was in 1983, and the last time was right before his death on February 16, 1988. She doesn't even know where his cremated remains are buried since they were given to his estranged wife, Margaret, at that time.

Here are some pieces she put together about his past. His family lineage has been traced back to George Stephen Dufford (b.1741), father of Stephen Philip Dufford (b.1770), father of Philip Dufford (b.1808), father of Mars Dufford (b. 1847), father of

James Herbert Dufford (b.1868), father of James (Jim) Elmer Dufford (b.1906).

Jim worked as a salesman. He sold insurance to individuals and companies and later sold antiques. He met Esther Ruth Driscoll when she moved from Peabody, Massachusetts to New Jersey to attend nursing school. They were married on June 2, 1930, and their first daughter, Patricia Ann, was born on October 10, 1931.



*James and Esther Dufford with
baby Patricia, circa January 1932*



*James with daughters Pat to the left
and Sally to the right, 1983.*

Their second daughter, Sara (Sally) Evelyn, was born in June 16, 1938. Sometime between the birth of the two daughters, it is believed that Jim fathered a son after an affair with the nanny.

After Jim and Esther divorced, she moved back to Massachusetts with the girls while he stayed in New Jersey. Jim later married Mildred Stiles on June 4, 1942, until she died on September 26, 1975. He then married Margaret Bergh in 1984 until his death in 1988.

If you have information about other marriages, children, memories to share, or even the burial site for James Elmer Dufford, please contact Valarie Scannell (Sally's daughter) at valariescannell@aol.com.

DONATIONS TO THE SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGY SOCIETY

1-1-24 through 5-30-24

The following donors have made contributions since the Winter 2024 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.

Robert Almond (S), (NY), a gift where most needed in memory of Ruth E. Swackhamer, his mother

Mrs. Joni Bakum (S), (NJ), a donation where needed in memory of Richard Michael Swackhamer.

John Lawrence (Larry) Brasher (S), (AL), a gift where needed in memory of Bessie Swackhamer Clark Watters

Michael Cramer (D), (NJ), a generous gift for Bulletins in memory of Olga Cramer

William Dufford (OH), a gift where needed to support the Society

Mr. Laurin L. Henry (D), (VA), a gift to support the Society. Laurin, age 102, previously donated to the WTHS a clarinet that his ancestor Philip Dufford (1808-1864) played in the NJ Band in 1824 to welcome General Lafayette upon his return to the United States

Mrs. Judy Meenach (S), (OH), a donation where needed in memory of Robert Meenach, her deceased husband, who was a dedicated bugler of Taps at veteran internments

Ms. Jean Sheppard (D), (TX), a donation for Bulletins in memory of Harold Apgar Dufford

Ms. Adelia Swackhamer (PA), a gift for operations in memory of Charles W. Swackhamer and sons Charles, David, and Dan

Dr. Clay Swackhamer (IN), the nephew of Jill Drees, Society Membership Coordinator, a gift for wherever most needed

Gene and Sharon Swackhamer (MD), donation of postage for winter 23/24 Bulletin
Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society Bulletin

Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society
% Jill Drees, Membership Coordinator
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Summer 2024 Bulletin
<http://www.panaves.com/swackduff/index.html>

Registration for S-D Society meeting, July 27, 2024
Clip and Mail to Gene Swackhamer, 13801 York Road, Apt U-204, Cockeysville, MD 21030

| | Number Attending | Amount | Long Valley Information Package. Check here _____. |
|--|---------------------|--------|---|
| Program fee \$15.00 per person Children under 16 free | | \$ | Includes morning refreshments, lunch and facility fee |
| Optional donation in support of Society and <i>Bulletin</i> costs | — | \$ | The S-D Society operates entirely on donations and with volunteers |
| TOTAL | | \$ | Make check payable to Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society |

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