

# 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 2024 BULLETIN

Dear Members and Friends:

As I step into the role of president of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society, I am both humbled and inspired by the legacy that has come before me. This organization has been a vital gathering place for our extended family, where we have not only preserved our history but kept our connections alive across generations. I feel incredibly fortunate to have spent 24 years in service to the society, starting with the creation of our first website and growing into the role of assistant family historian, and have been fortunate to be able to begin introducing family history and genealogy to the next generation via my children. Now, it is an honor to continue this work in a new capacity, building on the foundation laid by my grandmother Audrey McCaffrey during her presidency, and by our outgoing president, Gene Swackhamer, in his dedicated years of service.

I'd like to recognize Gene's many contributions to our society, particularly his dedication to sparking peoples' interest in our shared history and reminding us of the impact of our ancestors. I aim to carry forward these efforts, using new ideas and tools to help preserve and share our family's stories. Gene's legacy is one of hard work, connection, and pride in our shared heritage, and I hope to follow in his footsteps with the same dedication.

The specifics of this new era of the Society are still being developed, but may include a greater emphasis in online communities as a way to connect our now far-flung membership in discussion groups, as well as annual or semi-annual virtual reunions taking the place of in-person gatherings. As we have done the previous few years, for now we will continue with semi-annual reunion meetings, so we will not hold a meeting in Long Valley in 2025. We will plan for the next meeting, whether in-person or virtual, to be held in 2026. Details will be included in future issues of this Bulletin and posted to our online community.

As we look to the future, I invite each of you to play an active role in shaping our society's next chapter. Whether by contributing to our family tree, sharing stories, or participating in online community, your involvement will help keep our family's history vibrant and relevant. Together, let's ensure that future generations can look back on our efforts with the same pride we feel for those who came before us. I look forward to working with each of you as we embark on this journey together.

Sincerely,

Matthew P. Martyniuk (D), President

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### Swackhamer - Dufford Genealogical Society Website

Please bookmark this new link: [www. https://www.sdgenealogy.org/](https://www.sdgenealogy.org/)

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.

## SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGY SOCIETY 74TH REUNION JULY 27, 2024, ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LONG VALLEY, NJ by Gene Swackhamer



2024 reunion meeting group. From L. to R.:  
Carol Martyniuk, Matt Martyniuk, Anita Davis,  
Gene Swackhamer, Barbara Schinkle,  
and Mary Ann Kordy (Photo by Sharon Swackhamer)

Eleven members and guests gathered in the Fellowship Hall of Zion for an annual meeting. The downward trend of attendance continued in 2024 making the cost (food, insurance, donation for room and kitchen) prohibitive for the future of the event.

As in the past, attending members and guests enjoyed the educational and social activity of the reunion meeting. Officers benefit from the opportunity for members' discussions since the sharing of ideas and experiences almost always leads to family discoveries.

Long Valley will always be the American origin of the Dufford and Swackhamer families. The association with Zion Church and the Washington Township Historical Society represents a long and beneficial mutual history, but times change. The widespread dispersion of membership makes it difficult for families to justify the trip for part of a day about genealogy with others sharing the same surname. Many have said they would like to make the trip someday, but maybe only once in a lifetime.

A partial answer to the question of future gatherings might lie with a return to the Pandemic Zoom model. It is simple, low cost and an efficient way to reach members. Through the semi-annual Bulletin, the Society will keep the membership informed of actions.

Some of the highlights of this year's meeting include:

- The election of Matt Martyniuk as President succeeding Gene Swackhamer (86), who is stepping down to Assistant Bulletin Editor and Swackhamer Family Historian after 18 years as President.
- All other officers were reelected for 2024-25.
- Bill Cramer was isolated in a corner of the meeting room with his mask as he took precautions to avoid spreading Covid even though it had been more than a week since he tested positive even having taken all the shots available. He departed after his morning presentation.
- Gene presented Robert Swackhamer's Treasurer's report for 2023-2024 and handed out the financial statement. The July 31 balance in the Central Bank checking account is \$2,897.33, with some reunion expense pending.
- Pastor Ingrid Wengert of Zion joined us for lunch. She and her husband have done some genealogy searching of their respective families.
- We enjoyed seeing the WTHS museum. It seemed much brighter with bright white wall paint and LED lighting. Even the tombstones that have been cleaned were very white. They will continue to accept Dufford/Swackhamer memorabilia as space permits.
- Donations from the Society of \$150.00 each were sent to four organizations: Zion Church, Washington Township Historical Society, The Amwell Fund for Old Swack Church, and the Middle Valley Cemetery



*Matt Martyniuk, newly elected President of the Society, discusses genealogy with Barbara Schinkel and her brother Greg Hartman, at the July 27 reunion (left photo). William (Bill) Cramer (right photo) also attended, though recovering from illness (Photos by Sharon Swackhamer)*

In concluding the meeting, Gene expressed his thanks to the members of the Society who through the years helped him with operations and representation of the Society. He said it has been a pleasure to meet so many Dufford and Swackhamer family members, to represent the Society at genealogy gatherings, to do two group trips to family historic sites in Germany, France, and Switzerland, and to assist the editors with dozens of Bulletins.

Gene said he does not plan to ride over the horizon and disappear but does expect to slow down as a concession to age. He pledged support for Matt as President and looks forward to continuing as Swackhamer Family Historian and Assistant Bulletin Editor.

## **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.



The first thing all Dufford's would like to do is congratulate our Society's new President, Matthew Martyniak, a Dufford descendent.

Today we have remarkably interesting and educational information I learned about the Palatine section of Germany in the 1700's. The Palatine area is where most all our ancestors emigrated from the Duffords and as many as thirty other families.

I recently attended a six-hour Webinar sponsored by the Ohio Chapter of the Palatines to America. One of their main speakers was Ursula C. Krause, who spoke from Germany and gave a superb presentation on "An Overview of the History of Germany." She is a German genealogist with a law degree who started her own German Geological Company "Rootseekers" and "My German Family."

She spoke about a number of reasons that caused many of our ancestors to emigrate. Among them were several European wars during the late 1600's that brought destruction, famine, and disease, a severe winter in 1708, a collapse of the agricultural base in the Palatine area, and the religious differences between Catholic and Lutheran believers. Also, during part of that Century, the Palatine area, as well as most all areas west of the Rhine River, were under French rule or at least under French influence, providing our ancestors another incentive to move.

There were three basic sections of the Palatine region. (This brought smiles from many of us). There was the "Wine Palatines" (mostly in the east); the "Potato Palatines" (mostly in the center); and the "Nothing Going on Palatines" (mostly in the west). I will discuss more of this in our next bulletin, but I was wanted to "wet your whistle" with these thoughts.

## AMERICA'S BIG 250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

By Larry Brasher



This next year (2025) begins the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, when the colonies revolted against the reign of King George the Third. It was not so long ago, really. To the left is an infant photograph (it has been in the Bulletin before) of my own mother, Lois Ann Watters Brasher (1914-2013), at the Swackhamer Reunion at Pleasant Hill, Ironia, New Jersey, August 4, 1914. Her great-great-grandmother Elizabeth "Eliza" Hopkins Swackhamer (1819-1915) is holding my mother on her lap. Here's the connection to America's 250th Celebration: Eliza was born when King George the Third was the King of England! So, I am only two lives away from King George. Not so long ago, really.

The Swackhamer reunions were one of the precursors of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society. In fact, my great-grandmother Harriet Swackhamer Clark (1864-1955) always considered the Society a continuation of the reunions that celebrated "Grandmother Swackhamer," which began on Eliza's eightieth birthday in 1899 and continued through her 95th in 1914.

All the Swackhamers were there. To the right is a photo of the formidable family at the first reunion in 1899, with Grandmother Swackhamer reigning from the oval-backed chair in the center.



*Photos provided by Larry Brasher*

## NECROLOGY

### Wilma Swackhamer

Wilma Swackhamer, 92, of Lebanon, died Sunday, April 14, 2024. Wilma was born February 2, 1932, in Frankfort, the daughter of the late Russell Bryan and Bernice Opal (Gregg) Spurgeon. She married James B. Swackhamer in November 1950, who he preceded her in death on April 6, 1981.

Wilma graduated from Frankfort High School. She was the head cook for Clinton Central Elementary School. She also worked for the Clinton County Bank and in the office of Dr. Michael McDonald's dental practice.

Wilma loved God and was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church. Wilma also adored Dull's Tree Farm, along with Camp Cullom. She was a member of the Eastern Star, Psi Iota Psi, cooking club, and bridge club. Within the family Wilma was known as "Wahoo Willie," a name of endearment for her ability to catch trophy fish.



*Photo from obituary*

She is survived by her children, Connie McDonald of Zionsville, Gregg (Sue) Swackhamer of Cave Creek, AZ, and Jeff (JoAnn) Swackhamer of Frankfort; grandchildren, Dr. Brent (Dr. Christie) McDonald of Indianapolis, Erin (Stephen) Stanfield of Fredericksburg, VA, Bryan James Swackhamer of Shoreview, MN, Emily Swackhamer of St. Louis, MO, and Mary Swackhamer (Nick Hipko) of Phoenix, AZ; great grandchildren, Ellie and Blake McDonald, Evan and Mark Stanfield, and Isaiah, Logan, and Mila Swackhamer; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to her parents and husband, Wilma was preceded in death by her sisters, Winifred (Robert) Kern, Phyllis (Don) Dobbins, and Joan (John) Heide, and son-in-law, Dr. Michael McDonald.

### Carole A. Trimmer



*Photo from obituary*

This past year on March 17, 2023, we lost Carole A. Trimmer, 79, a member of the SDGS for over 15 years. Carole, affectionally known as "Mimi" by her family and friends, was a lifelong resident of Brick, NJ.

She was born on January 23, 1944. She graduated in the first graduating class of Brick Township High School in 1962 and worked as an Outreach Coordinator for Brick Township for 30 years. She also coordinated the Senior Writing and Book club groups. Carole attended Central United Methodist Church, serving on many of the church committees and fundraising events. She was known for creating the 'Pie Ministry.'

Carole is survived by her daughter, Katie Wilford, and husband Michael Wilford; two grandsons, Nicholas and Matthew Wilford, and one surviving sibling, Virginia Lane. Carole, the youngest of five children, was predeceased by her parents and three of her siblings, brothers Earle and Robert Trimmer and sister Jean Johnston.

Her ancestry line included her father, Frank Earle Trimmer; her grandfather, Theodore Trimmer; and her great grandmother, Maria Wise Dufford. She was most proud of her grandmother (Hattie Trimmer) who was born in 1876, and died, at the age of 100, in 1976. Her sister is also a member of the SDGS.



## THE SECOND TWENTY YEARS (1974-1994) OF S-D GENEALOGY SOCIETY BULLETINS

by Gene L. Swackhamer

In 1974, several children attended the annual reunion. It did not seem unusual at the time, but looking back now, I see the leadership of today's Society. It appears that travel in the early seventies was not as limited as it might be today by youth activities on weekends, possibly more energy-demanding employment of parents, working spouses cherishing weekend time, and more communication options replacing assembled gatherings.

Bulletins of the first twenty years (see Winter 2023-2024) were mostly a year-long accumulation of personal information about family travel, births, anniversaries, and deaths. Real genealogy was rare, but some connections were noted. In the second twenty years appeals for material continued and the focus on Dufford and Swackhamer origin increased with notable success. Some of the good writers of this period were Jim Swackhamer of Wheaton, IL; Fred Sisser, Larry Brasher, and George Dufford from the first twenty years.

What began as my perception that this project would be an easy task has become more daunting. It has taken time to read twenty years of Bulletins, to glean a sense of style, issues of importance, understanding the urgent needs of a society and Bulletin production. Reading Bulletins of 1974 to 1994 has helped put the first twenty years into clearer perspective. The first twenty years (60s and early seventies) were stable, happy years for the Swackhamer-Dufford membership as revealed in the Bulletins. The second twenty years became more turbulent over time as early leaders began to die and the younger generation was less interested in family history. Officers tried to hold onto past traditions and successes.

### Presidents of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society From 1974-2000

Stanley Dufford	1966-1976
Larry Brasher	1976-1980
Richard Logan	1980-1981
Herbert F. McCaffrey	1981-1982
Fred Swackhamer	1982-1983
James V. Wert	1983-1989
Russell Dufford	1989-1991
Audrey McCaffrey	1992-2003

A picnic tried at Schooley's Mountain Park north of Zion Church (a rainy-day option) produced the highest attendance (72) of the two-decade period. Yet it was too disbursed and disorganized to be a meeting and a social event. Attendance dropped to below 50 the next year, then an unavailable park date led to reunion cancellation followed by a return to Zion and attendance below 20. Officer anxiety was rising over absence of Bulletin material, declining attendance, and weakening financial condition of the Society. Several years had only one Bulletin. What will be the message of the third set of Bulletins—1994-present?



*Visitors from Altlussheim in 2024  
L to R: Gene Swackhamer,  
Franz Drees, Cole Swackhamer,  
Jill Drees, Emelie Swackhamer,  
Scott Swackhamer,  
and Irmtraud Drees*



*Steffen Drees showing visitor  
Jule Zimmermann of Altlussheim  
how she is related to the  
Schwechheimers*



*Franz and Irmtraud Drees of Altlussheim,  
Germany, enjoying an American beach  
vacation day with steamed Old Bay seasoned  
blue crabs. L to R: Franz Drees, Emelie  
Swackhamer, Gene Swackhamer, Kay Kness,  
Scott Swackhamer, Jill Drees, and Irmtraud  
Drees (Photos by Sharon Swackhamer)*

## THE SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGY SOCIETY

DONATIONS 6-1-24 through 11-15-24

The following donors have made contributions since the summer 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.

Joni Bakum (NJ) (S), a gift where needed in memory of Richard Michael Swackhamer and in honor of James W. Swackhamer of Wheaton, Illinois

Michael N. and Jeni Cramer (NJ), (D), a donation to support lunch and refreshments at the July 27 reunion in memory of Anastasia Olga Cramer

William N. Cramer, Jr. (NJ), (D), a gift for Bulletin production in memory of William and Olga Cramer

Anita G. Davis (PA), (S), a gift where needed in memory of her dad, Frederick Q. Swackhamer

Craig Dufford (NJ), a donation for use where most needed

Kenneth and Sandra Dufford (CA), a donation where needed in memory of Frank R. and Ruth L. Dufford and in honor of their son, Scott A. Dufford

Ellen Freeman (NH), (D), a gift where needed in memory of her father, Stanley C. Dufford

Gregory Hartman (NJ), a gift associated with reunion registration and purchase of *Love and Unity*

Laurin L. Henry (VA), (D), a donation where needed in memory of Richard L. Henry

Shelley Heretyk (NJ), (F), a donation with reunion registration

Mary Ann Kordys (NJ), (F) a donation for operation with reunion registration

John MacRae (Ontario), (S), a donation in memory of Harold and Mary Swackhamer of Dundas, Ontario, Canada

Carol and Matt Martyniuk (NJ), (D), a gift with reunion registration

Joy Newell (NY), a donation where most needed

Barbara Schinkel (NJ), a gift in support of the family genealogy society

Jean M. Sheppard (TX), (D), a gift for Bulletin production in memory of Harold Apgar Dufford

Cheryl L. Swackhamer (OH), a gift where most needed in memory of Richard N. Swackhamer

Clay Swackhamer (IN), a donation for operation of the S-D Genealogy Society

Gene and Sharon Swackhamer (MD), a donation to support the 2024 reunion

Dick and Sheri Zingmark (SC), a gift where most needed

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www. <https://www.sdgenealogy.org/>