

SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGICAL 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.

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Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society Heritage Tour 2010

by Shelley Heretyk, sheretyk@comcast.net

The following is a photo journal of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society (S-DGS) Heritage Tour to Germany, France, and Switzerland. The tour was 9 days – August 25 to September 2. Dr. Wolfgang Grams, head of *Research and Travel*, www.routes.de, a private institute he founded in 1996, designed the program, itinerary, and activities. He customized it to Swackhamer and Dufford history using information provided by Gene Swackhamer and his own research. Dr. Grams directed the tour with attention to German and world history, emigration, and the Swackhamer and Dufford story. References are *Voyage of the Love & Unity* by Nancy E. Schanes (2003), *The Emigration of Samuel Swackhamer and the Westward Migration of His Descendants* by Gene L. Swackhamer (2007), *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Northern Alsace to America* by Annette K. Burgert (1992), and *Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society Bulletins - Winter 2008, Summer 2007, and Summer 2003*.

Special thanks to Friedhelm Schwechheimer, Berthold Schwechheimer, and Dr. Grams for providing additional photographs and clarifications. Note – for best viewing, increase the % of zoom on your toolbar.

Tour Group

Pictured below is everyone on the tour boarding a Rhine River cruise ship. This was our second day and it took about 3 hours to travel upstream from St. Goar to Bingen.



Left to right: **Dr. Wolfgang Grams** of Oldenburg, Germany: Tour Director; **Shelley Heretyk** of Long Valley, New Jersey: S-DGS Bulletin Editor and Washington Township (Long Valley) Historical Society President; **Scott Swackhamer** of Macungie, Pennsylvania: son of Sharon and Gene Swackhamer; **Cole Swackhamer** of Macungie, Pennsylvania: son of Emelie and Scott Swackhamer; **Sharon Swackhamer** of Sparks, Maryland: Acting S-DGS Secretary and spouse of Gene Swackhamer; **Jill Kaplan** of Sparks, Maryland: daughter of Sharon and Gene Swackhamer; **Steffen Drees** of Altusheim, Germany: S-DGS Bulletin Translator to German and son of Irma (nee Schwechheimer) and Franz Drees; **Gene Swackhamer** of Sparks, Maryland: S-DGS President and spouse of Sharon Swackhamer.



The Route

Locations in Germany unless otherwise noted.
Total kilometers: 2,027 (1,260 miles)

- Day 1** – Frankfurt, Rüdesheim, Lorelei Statue and Lookout, Marksburg Castle, Neuwied
- Day 2** – Koblenz, cruise on the Rhine from St. Goar to Bingen, Worms, Altlussheim, Hockenheim. Note: Altlussheim, Speyer, and Hockenheim are all nearby – see Speyer on the map. Our hotel was technically located in Hockenheim.
- Day 3** – Altlussheim, Speyer, Geinsheim, Hockenheim
- Day 4** – Zuzenhausen, Neckargemünd, Heidelberg, Altlussheim, Speyer, Hockenheim
- Day 5** – Altlussheim, Langensoultzbach (France – near Wissembourg on the map), Hockenheim
- Day 6** – Colmar (France), Bern (Switzerland)
- Day 7** – All in Switzerland: Langnau im Emmental, Lauterbrunnen, Stechelberg, Interlaken, Bern
- Day 8** – Back to Germany - cross Lake Constance, Lindau, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Sommerhausen
- Day 9** – Sommerhausen - tour of Artur Steinmann Winery, Würzburg, Frankfurt

Day 1 – Wednesday, August 25

We departed Frankfurt and drove along the Rhine river. Our first stop was the Schloss Johannisberg Winery where wine has been made for over 900 years.

Below are Gene, Scott, Sharon, Cole, and Jill enjoying the view of the vineyards in the Rhine Valley.



Day 1, August 25 (continued)

We then went to Rudesheim am Rhein, a winemaking town and large tourist attraction. Pictured in the square is a monument of a toast.

Emigrants from the Palatine traveled on the Rhine. Pictured below is a sharp bend in the river that is difficult to navigate – a very strong current and rocks below caused many accidents. A famous legend says a siren called Lorelei bewitched sailors causing their boats to crash and sink. We visited the Lorelei statue and lookout high up in Sankt Goarshausen. We ran into a television crew and they asked us to sing the Lorelei ballad for them - we were on TV! Pictured below and to the right is the Lorelei statue.



We then toured Marksburg Castle (pictured right) built in 1200. There are many castles on the Rhine – Marksburg is the only hill castle on the Rhine that was never taken or destroyed.

One family lived in the castle at a time and below is the knight's table. There was an interesting room of suits of armor and the photo next to the table shows Cole donning a helmet. We also saw the torture chamber but there were no demonstrations.

After Marksburg Castle, we went on to Neuwied and stayed at the Schlosshotel Engers, a music school.



Day 2 – Thursday, August 26

Our first stop was in Koblenz where the Moselle and Rhine rivers converge. There is a huge monument of Wilhelm II - the last German emperor. He abdicated the throne in 1918, the end of monarchy in Germany.

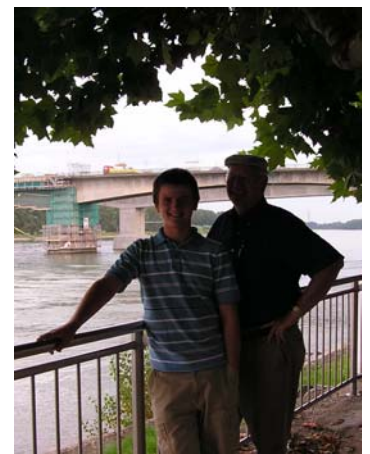
To the right is Wolfgang explaining the site and history to Scott and Gene. Below is Sharon with the monument in the background. The photo next to Sharon is another monument at this site in Koblenz – three segments from the Berlin Wall. German Unity Day is the national day of Germany, celebrated on October 3 as a public holiday. It commemorates the anniversary of German reunification in 1990.



Pictured to the right are Steffen and Jill in Koblenz.

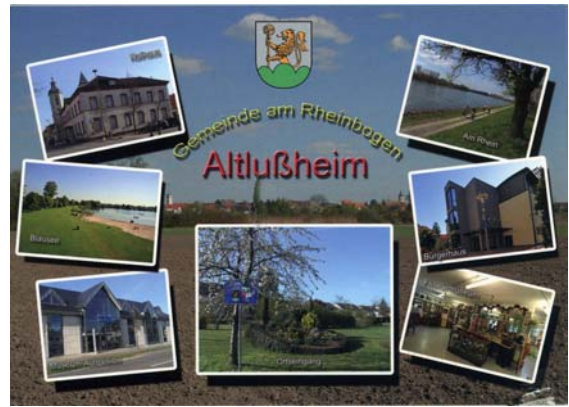
After Koblenz we took a cruise on the Rhine (see pg 1). We then visited Worms and the Cathedral of St. Peter where in 1521 Martin Luther appeared before the *Diet of Worms* to defend his theses. Pictured below are the monument of Martin Luther and the cathedral.

Also in Worms is the place on the Rhine where in 1731 Samuel Schwechheimer bought casks of wine for the journey to the "New Land". This was a happy time – they were not on the ship *Love & Unity* yet. As it turns out, the *Love & Unity* crew stole the wine. The last photo is of Cole and Gene at the place where their ancestor Samuel made his purchase.



Day 2, August 26 (Continued)

We arrived in Altlußheim, Samuel Schwechheimer's homeland. Our hotel was nearby in Hockenheim and we enjoyed a splendid dinner with Maria Schwechheimer and Traudel & Norbert Schwechheimer. They live in Altlußheim and you will see their photos on Day 5. It was a reunion for Gene, Sharon, and Wolfgang as they met them on the 2009 tour. (See Winter 2009 S-DGS Bulletin.)



Day 3, Friday, August 27

We began the day at the Rhine River in Altlußheim to get a glimpse of Samuel Schwechheimer's roots. Pictured to the right are 3 generations – Gene, Scott, and Cole. A *pferdeschwemme*, pictured below, is a place of low water where horses were led to clean and refresh them. In the local dialect it is a *schweche*. Perhaps this is the origin of the Schwechheimer name – the person who lived near to the *schwemme*, *schweche* or may even have worked there with the horses.

We then saw Steffen's home in Altlußheim and visited the cemetery where the names of some early Long Valley families were found – Schwechheimer, Swazyena, Hoffmann, Messler, and Weisse. We then drove to nearby Speyer, pictured below, to the right.



We toured the Speyer Cathedral and Crypt and Tombs of the Emperors.

Pictured right is the front of the cathedral. Construction began in 1030 – it is the largest Romanesque cathedral worldwide.



On our way back to the hotel, we took a short hike on some farmland in Altlußheim. Below is Scott tending to the land perhaps his ancestor Samuel once farmed.



**Day 3, August 27 (continued)
Geinsheim Wine Festival**

We began the evening in Geinsheim at the home of Traudel and Friedhelm Schwechheimer. They hosted a wonderful party and we watched the parade that went in front of their house. Below are Friedhelm Schwechheimer & Jill Kaplan.



Above (left to right) are Shelley Heretyk, Steffi Schwechheimer (spouse of Berthold), Traudel Schwechheimer, and Gene Swackhamer.

Below on the left is Berthold Schwechheimer (younger brother of Friedhelm), and on the right is Wolfgang Grams.



Pictured above are Traudel, Berthold, Gene, and Sharon. The parade was staged nearby. Gene, Sharon, and Cole went over to greet the band and are pictured to the right.

After the parade we walked to town for the festival. Pictured below in front (left) are Astrid Glas (daughter of Traudel and Friedhelm Schwechheimer) and her fiancé Tobias Hoffmann. On the right is Steffen Drees.

The last photo is Scott with Jill and Shelley in the background watching the festival opening ceremony of spirited speeches, performances, and beautiful music sung by a large youth chorus.



Geinsheim Wine Festival (continued)

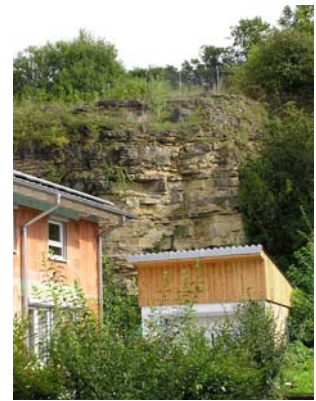
Perhaps the highlight of the ceremony was a long poem perfectly recited by a young boy, pictured right. The woman holding flowers is the "Wine Queen of the Palatinate". The last three people to the right are Friedhelm, Gene and Sharon.

Dinner was hosted by *Chorsänger 1791 Geinsheim*, the oldest German choir, and of course there was plenty of wine. Below are Sharon, Scott, and Gene with the "Wine King".



Day 4 Saturday, August 28

We started the day with a drive to Zuzenhausen. Samuel Schwechheimer's second wife, Anna Katherine Kuch, was from here – their marriage was recorded in Altusheim. To the right is a quarry in Zuzenhausen.



To the left is a stone barn in Zuzenhausen.

We then drove to Neckargemünd and the Neckar river, the place where Samuel began his journey in 1731. The Neckar river is a major right tributary of the Rhine river. Pictured to the left below are Jill and Sharon at the Neckar with Wolfgang in the background.

Our last stop before returning to Altusheim for the sculpture dedication was Heidelberg that lies on the river Neckar. Below is the bridge in Heidelberg.



**Day 4, August 28 (continued)
Sculpture Dedication**

Sharon and Gene Swackhamer, on behalf of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society, presented a sculpture to the city of Altusheim.

The dedication was held in the Rathaus with many relatives and friends in attendance. The event was publicized in the newspaper both before the dedication and after. Pictured to the right are Wolfgang Grams who conducted the dedication and translated, Altusheim Mayor Hartmut Beck, and the Swackhamer family - Gene, Sharon, Cole, Scott, and Jill. Note the sculpture in the background. This kinetic wind sculpture, *Tulip*, by Lyman Whitaker of Utah, is also located at the homestead of Samuel Swackhamer in Long Valley, New Jersey. At their annual reunion in 2007, the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society dedicated a *Tulip* sculpture to commemorate the 275th anniversary of the settlement of Samuel Swackhamer, 1732 – 2007.



In the evening we went to a Medieval Festival in Speyer.

Day 5, Sunday, August 29

We attended service at the Evangelical Church of Altusheim, pictured right. To the far right is Pastor Schlupp inside the church.

The photograph below was taken after the service in front of the church. Left to right are Scott, Cole, Gene, Shelley, Irmtraud Drees (with glasses), Traudel Schwechheimer (red jacket), Maria Schwechheimer (speckled jacket), Sharon, Jill, and Steffen.



Day 5, August 29 (continued)

After church we took a full day excursion to Langensoultzbach in France to trace Dufford family history. Marriages and baptismal records of the children of Hans Phillip Dufforth of Sultzbach on the German-French border (now Langensoultzbach in France) are recorded in the Langensoultzbach Lutheran KB Church. This Phillip is known to be the same as the Phillip Dufford who arrived in Long Valley in 1738 by reference to the names of his wives and children. We went to the church pictured right in Langensoultzbach. The museum there was unexpectedly closed and the town was extremely quiet. Pictured below are Wolfgang studying the tombstones and Cole resting in front of the church doors.

We enjoyed a late lunch at *Seven Oaks Tavern*. Wolfgang talked to the Innkeeper and asked about Duffords in the area but none were known of. However there are Anthony's – another early settler of Long Valley.



We then had a scenic drive back to Hockenheim for a "farewell dinner". On our walk to the restaurant we saw the church in Hockenheim, pictured right, where the first wife of Samuel Schwechheimer, Eva Marie Hoffmann, was baptized.

Below left to right are Stephan Seitz of Hockenheim who is a friend of Steffen, Cole Swackhamer, and Steffen Drees. The next photo is of Jill Kaplan and Irma Drees.



Day 5, August 29 (continued)

Pictured to the right are Irmtraud and Franz Drees.

Below are Norbert Schwechheimer, Gene Swackhamer, and Wolfgang Grams. Cheers! Next are Sharon Swackhamer, Scott Swackhamer, and Marcel Transier of Hockenheim who is a friend of Steffen.



Day 6, Monday, August 30

Our next destination was Colmar, an historic and artistic town, in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France. Continuing with the Dufford story, Wolfgang explained overall patterns of religious migrations and that Alsace-Lorraine was an important area for Huguenots. In Colmar we toured the Bartholdi Museum. The museum (pictured right is the entrance) is in the place of birth of sculptor Auguste Bartholdi. His most famous work is the Statue of Liberty. We then took a walking tour through the old town and proceeded onto Bern.



Day 7, Tuesday, August 31

Our first stop was the Evangelical Reformed Church in Langnau. Wolfgang continued to share his knowledge of history of the area, religion, and emigration - the earliest Mennonite organization was here in Langnau, Jacob Amman, Anabaptists, Quakers, persecution, principalities, wars, changing borders, etc. Pictured below are the steeple, stained glass windows, and Cole and Sharon outside the church.



Day 7, August 31 (continued)

We then went to see the Alps with a stop in Lauterbrunnen and then Stechelberg where cable cars can be taken to the Schilthorn, a 2,970 meter high summit (1.8 miles) in the Bernese Alps.

We hiked on trails in Stechelberg (photo right), drove to Interlaken (photo far right), and returned to Bern.



Day 8, Wednesday, September 1

We departed Bern to return to Germany and crossed Lake Constance, the largest lake in Germany. The Rhine river starts in the Swiss Alps in the Kanton Tessin and runs through Lake Constance. Pictured right is Sharon in the ferry we took to cross the lake. After we reached the other side we stopped to enjoy the views. Below are Wolfgang, Shelley, Cole, Jill, Sharon, Scott, and Gene next to our Volkswagen minibus.

We proceeded to Lindau, a Bavarian town on the east end of Lake Constance, close to the Austrian border. The old city is on an island and is connected with the mainland by bridge and railway. The photo below to the right was taken from the lighthouse, looking at the old city.



We then went to Rothenberg ob der Tauber, Germany's best medieval city. The name means "Red fortress above the Tauber" – the town is located on a plateau overlooking the Tauber river. Surrounding it is a preserved wall. Pictured right is a scene taken from on top of the wall.

After Rothenberg ob der Tauber, we drove to Sommerhausen and stayed at Guesthaus Artur Steinmann Winery.



Day 9, Thursday, September 2

We began the last day of our trip with a tour of the Artur Steinmann Winery in Sommerhausen. The family home and winery are located in the birthplace of Franz Daniel Pastorius (born in 1651). He was the first German emigrant to America and founded Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1683.

Pictured right is Steffi Steinmann, daughter of Artur, who gave the tour. To the far right is the group in the courtyard next to the Daniel Pastorius plaque.



We then drove to Würzburg and toured Würzburg Residenz and Court Gardens (Residence Palace), the former residence of Würzburg prince-bishops, and one of the most important castles in Europe. It was constructed between 1720 and 1744 and has the one of the largest frescos ever created. Pictured right is the front of Würzburg Residenz.

We then walked in the beautiful gardens - pictured below is one of the statues with the palace in the background.

Würzburg is on the Main river and we walked through the town. Pictured on the bridge from left to right are Jill, Steffen, Sharon, Gene, Wolfgang, Cole, and Scott in front.



We returned to Frankfurt and said our farewells in Sharon and Gene's suite at the Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof. Wolfgang presented us with ceremonial passports and then we enjoyed another memorable dinner together.

With this heritage tour we forged new friendships, enjoyed hospitality, and learned about culture and history. We really had a lot of fun. It was an experience we will not forget and perhaps will have the opportunity to continue.

Samuel Schwechheimer of Altlussheim, Germany - *Tulip Sculpture*



Samuel Swackhamer of Long Valley, New Jersey - *Tulip Sculpture*

