

SUMMER ISSUE

1978



SWACKHAMER ~ DUFFORD

BULLETIN

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For the descendants of Samuel Schwackhamer (Swackhamer) who, in 1731 settled in Long Valley, New Jersey and Philip DuFord (Dufford), who also settled there in 1738.

OFFICERS OF THE COMBINED SOCIETIES:

President - The Rev. John Lawrence Brasher, Box 115, Stillwater, N.J. 07875
Vice-President - Mr. James V. Wert, R.D. #1, Neneveh, N.Y. 13813
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Treasurer - Mrs. Robert O. Hart, 1614 Holly Blvd., Manasquan, N.J. 08736
Bulletin Editor - Fred Sisser, III, 10 Codington Place, Somerville, N.J. 08876
Honorary Historian - Mrs. Leo R. Logan

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS USED TO DESIGNATE FAMILY CONNECTION:

(D) Dufford (S) Swackhamer (B) Dufford and Swackhamer (F) Friend

These symbols will not be used where the connection is obvious or if there is uncertainty of connection. - Ed.

DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER 1978 ISSUE should be received by Fred Sisser, III, 10 Codington Place, Somerville, New Jersey, 08876, by November 15, 1978.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring and Summer have arrived late this year. The traditional date for planting peas in New Jersey is St. Patrick's Day. For those of us who are gardeners, it was discouraging then to see the land still in the grip of a foot of ice and snow. Many people never did plant peas, and some others lost their green thumbs altogether to frost bite. But for most of us, tilling the soil and working in it is an activity we must engage in for the season to be full and right. Garden we must! It is in our blood.

So it is with our family reunion the last Saturday in July. The trek to Long Valley, seeing familiar faces, sharing our news, celebrating our heritage - it makes the season full and right. See you July 29!

Larry Brasher

REUNION - Saturday, July 29th, 1978
12 noon picnic lunch followed by business meeting
and program.
Zion Lutheran Church, Long Valley, New Jersey

THE "BULLETIN" COVER

"He came in the year 1731 to this American wilderness, and in his life has experienced the truth of the words 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground'." So wrote the Reverend Wilhelm Graff, pastor of the Zion Church of New Germantown (Oldwick, New Jersey), when recording the death of Samuel Swackhamer in February 1782. The founder of the Swackhamer family was, as were a majority of the early settlers of New Jersey, an agriculturist. Rearing a very large family, and the owner of a sizable farm, necessitated his daily toiling in the field, as the early woodcut, shown on our cover, depicts.

BITS & PIECES

--The following are family members whose "Bulletins" have been returned.

Does any one know their new addresses?

Mr. George DuFort, 2733 Harding, Hollywood, Fla. 33020
Mrs. Charles Crump, P.O. Box 3440. Naples, Fla. 33941
Mr. Alfred Swackhamer, 112 Raymond Ave., Correy, Pa. 16407
Mrs. E. J. Blank, 201 Heritage Presbyterian Apts., Largo, Fla. 33540
Miss Cora Swackhamer, 224 Kings Rd., Madison, N.J. 07940
Mr. James S. Dufford, 221 Prospect Ave., Findlay, Ohio 45840

--Mrs. Glen Swackhamer has moved, and now resides at 124 Oneida Street, #28, Oneonta, New York 13820.

--The Standing Stone Pennsylvania branch of the Swackhamer family descended from Daniel and Rebecca Swackhamer, will hold their annual Reunion on Sunday, August 13, 1978, at the home of Walter and Joyce Bishop Cook, at Franklindale, Pennsylvania.

--The annual Kaar Family Reunion will be held at the Succasunna (New Jersey) Fire House on Sunday, August 6, 1978.

--Gail Logan Keefer (B), her husband Anthony, and their children, Bridget and Patrick, invite all cousins to their home at Lake Roaming Rock, in north-west Ohio, where the climate is described as "perfect"!

--Gladys Swackhamer was in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Kings Canyon National Park when the great fire occurred there in 1977. The fire did not come on her side of the coast range, but several of her friends were wholly or partially burned out.

--Martha Sammond (D) was in the hospital for by-pass surgery on the right leg; Richard Nixon had this. Over a year ago it was done to her left leg, then in January 1978, there was a torn retina. We hope that Martha recupes rapidly so as to resume her travels. One nephew, Lt. Keith McCaffrey, graduated from West Point in May, 1978 and after a month boneing up on German, went to Germany to be with the armed forced. Her grandson, Richard Roenbeck, has been made Commander of his Regiment at Kings Point Maritime School.

--Vice-President James Wert and his wife quietly observed their 40th wedding anniversary on November 27th, 1978. They have two living children and six grandchildren. James is a retired Engineer from Con. Ed., and Peg a retired RN. They've made two trips around the world and run a 300 acre farm, where he raises beef cattle as a hobby, though found the last winters a chore!

--There's a little old stone house with eyelash shutters on the second story windows, across the road from Mr. Joseph Decker, President of Washington Township Historical Society, Morris County, New Jersey, which Bob Brown says was inhabited by Philip Dufford, the Immigrant, and his maiden daughter in later years.

--The day after Easter Treasurer Annette Hart drove to Middle Valley to see Andrew Dufford and his sister, Sarah Crystell. She found them in reasonably good health, except for eye sight. He gave Annette branches of apple trees which she took to her brother's farm where he grafted them to his apple trees, so one day there should be Dufford apples growing in Broom County, New York.

BIRTHS

Christopher Marrow Lee (S), son of Robert and Linda (Jaquish) Lee, of Odenton, Md, was born November 20, 1977 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. The child is a great grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Francis L. May of Tunkhannock, Penna.

DEATHS

Milton Swackhamer, founder and first editor of the "Bulletin", died at his home in Levittown, Pennsylvania on July 31, 1977. He was born in Englishtown, New Jersey, (then known as English Creek), on October 14, 1897, the only son of Frank and Elizabeth (Lewis) Swackhamer, and grandson of Ruliff Swackhamer, of Whitehouse, New Jersey.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on December 10, 1917, and served as Seaman First Class on the USS Prometheus, stationed for a time in Brest, France. He was discharged on March 2, 1919, after which he went to work for the New Jersey Highway Department, and ended his thirty-six years with this department in 1960, at which time he was a title searcher for the Right of Way Department.

Milton was a well-known magician, and presented his show "Magic by Swackhamer" for over thirty years in the Trenton, New Jersey area. He had a weekly radio show on station WPTN in Trenton for several years. He also did magic shows in the Teepee Club, of Miami, Florida.

An avid golfer, Milton Swackhamer was a member of the Hopewell Valley Golf Club, and for many years he played, on his birthday, a hole of golf for each year of his life. The exception was his 40th birthday, on which day he played 101 holes.

In New York City, Milton married Diane O'Donnell, after which they resided in Levittown, Pennsylvania. They had one daughter, Diana, who married Peter Thatcher, and they are the parents of two sons, James and Stephen.

Diane (O'Donnell) Swackhamer, widow of Milton Swackhamer, died February 6, 1978. She was head of the State Employees Newspaper, and worked in several departments of the New Jersey State House for twenty-seven years.

Howard D. Pierson, age 86, of 106 Early Street, Morristown, New Jersey, died at the Community Medical Center, on January 10, 1978. Survivors include his wife, the former Jeannette Dufford, a son, Robert, of Carvallis, Oregon; and two daughters, Mrs. Ben White, of Morristown, and Mrs. Ralph Tiger, of Bridgton, Maine. Also surviving are five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Mrs. Pierson now resides at 7 Hamilton Drive, Apartment 21, Morristown, New Jersey.

Irene B. Swackhamer, age 82, the wife of DeWitt W. Swackhamer (son of the late Harry Swackhamer of Dunellen, New Jersey), died at her home in Middlesex, New Jersey, on April 12, 1978. She was born in New York City and had resided in Dunellen for fifty years before moving to Middlesex in 1972. Besides her husband, she is survived by a son, DeWitt M., of South Plainfield, New Jersey, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was buried in the Hillside Cemetery, Plainfield, N.J.

GENEALOGY

-- The "Robert & Oliver" ship on which the Duffords arrived in Philadelphia, Penna. in 1738, has been called the "Robert & Alice" in other sources. The ship's list was made up of males over sixteen years of age, and thus includes Philip Duford and one son, either Philip, Junior or Jacob.

-- Previous to his death, Bob Brown had written to Kaiserlautern (in 1967) and inquired regarding Philip Duford and his children. Jacob (born before 1722), George (died about 1784), Adam (died about 1778/79) and Mary Magdalena. There was no trace of any of them.

-- The following excerpts are from a letter written by Richard T. Dufford, Jr. who has done considerable research on his ancestral family over the years. From The Hague, The Netherlands; he received the following information:

We instituted a search in the collections available to us and most specifically in the micro-cards of the Bibliotheque Wallonne:

- Among the bills of the Walloon Church of Rotterdam one shows that f 26.11.8 is paid in 1752 for shelter for Mr. Boisson, his wife and 6 children to Mr. Dufford.
- On May 17, 1711, in Maastricht, Phillipped Du Fort is baptized, He is the son of Mr. Du Fort, major, in the service of the King of Prussia, and of Susanne Elizabeth Boomhouer.
- Marie Anne Du Fort is baptized in Wesel on August 29, 1715, daughter of Jean and Susanna Baumhouer.
- Pierre Du Fort is baptized in Wesel on May 21, 1720, son of Jean Susanna van Moor.
- Christoffle Henri, son of Jean Dufort, is baptized on July 1, 1721 in Wesel.
- Madame Dufort, ages about 45 years, is buried in Wesel on October 2, 1724.
- Lieutenant-colonel Dufort, about 60 years old, is bured in Wesel on November 7, 1724.

We did not find more information about the Dufort family in Wesel. Neither do we wish to suggest that Philippe Du Fort, who was baptized in 1711, is identical to the Philippe Dufford who emigrated in 1738, but the supposition is not so far-fetched as no other registrations of a Philippe were found in the micro-cards.

Only more extensive research in Wesel and Rotterdam will shed some light on this matter and perhaps it is possible to prove at that time what we now only surmise.

Mr. Dufford further added in his letter:

"As you will note, all the family had connection with the church in Wesel except Phillip and hopefully research will show that all except Phillip are buried there. Also this indicated the father was twice married, the first wife Boomhouer being German perhaps, the second van Moor being Dutch."

"Maastricht, as you are likely aware, is in the Dutch province of Limburg on the border between Belgium, The Netherlands, and Germany. Wesel is in West Germany, the second town inside Germany on the Rhine from the Dutch border. Cleve is the first town and this is the place from whence many of the early German immigrants to Philadelphia came. The first group founded Germantown, now a part of Philadelphia."

-- The records of the German Valley (Long Valley, New Jersey) Zion Evangelical Church date from 1775. The records of baptisms begins in 1809, the marriages in 1846, and the deaths from 1823. Among those in the Record Book bearing the name of Swackhamer and Dufford are:

Baptisms --

14 January 1810	Jacob Tuffert wife Mary Witnesses: Stephen Tuffort and wife	Mary born January 5, 1810
27 May 1810	Samuel Swackhammer wife Anna Witnesses: Parents	Jane born 1 October 1809

Marriages --

December 30th 1847 --	Jacob Dufford to Emily Trimmer
February 1st 1855 --	Lawrence Dufford to Cath. K. Swackhammer

Deaths --

Elizabeth Dufford departed this life 25 October 1823

Susannah Swackhamer departed this life November 1825.

John Swackhamer, the oldest member of our church in German Valley, departed this life February 2nd 1827.

Matthias Dufford (of) Schooleys Mount (died) 20 February 1832.

-- Elma L. Tufford, of Beamsville, Ontario writes:

There are some errors in the Winter 1977 "Bulletin" under the Genealogy column.

First of all, Muriel Tufford and I are both Tuffords but we haven't been able to find any relationship as yet. Muriel's Great Great Grandfather was Philip who married Mary Fretz (not Dietz) in 1801. Mary Fretz came from Bedminster Twp., Buck's County in 1800 with a large group of Mennonites. They are both buried in an old Mennonite Cemetery at Vineland, Ontario, about 3 miles from where I live. As far as we know Conrad was no relation to Henry or to Muriel's Grandfather. Conrad belongs to my family. Muriel's Grandfather was John Grobb Tufford who came to Beamsville and bought a farm then owned by Henry Tufford. John and Henry never found out how or if they were related. Henry had married Charlotte Stuart and they had eleven children. After selling his farm to John Grobb Tufford he (Henry) moved to Brantford, Ontario, Canada, and then went to Kensall, North Dakota. He was a thresher. I saw a picture of his monument and it reads: Henry Tufford, born Dec 19th, 1821. Died April 9th 1901 - Charlotte, His Wife Born Oct 7th 1825, Died June 29th 1902. This is in North Dakota. (Kensall).

I believe Henry's children were all born here in Clinton Township and I have all the names and dates of birth of all of them. Henry's parents were John Tufford and Mary Konkle (not Kanple). Muriel is not married (nor am I) so that eliminates "(her husband's grandfather)"!!

My Great Great Grandfather Conrad and wife Judy were United Empire Loyalists who came here about 1786 and took up 100 acres of land which was granted by the Crown. I am the only Tufford living on a part of that original 100 acres. He later acquired an additional 500 acres. There were 3 sons and a daughter who survived and are mentioned in Conrad's will, Jacob, Isaac, Joseph and Mary. Joseph was my Great Grandfather who married Elizabeth Thomas. Their children were Solomon, (my grandfather), Philip, Judy, Mary, Isobel (and Robert - died young). Grandfather Solomon married Elvira Fleming. Their children Burwell Delos (Dad) and Emma Jane. Burwell Delos married Mary A. Tufford (no relation they thought) and had Howard, Leila, Gordon, Sadie and Elma (ME!!). My sister, Sadie and I are the only ones left.

The eminent founder of our Society, George S. Dufford, was a prominent correspondent for various newspapers, particularly on the subject of history. In the possession of his daughter, Marge Dufford Logan, of Whitehouse, is a copy of the 22nd October 1936 issue of the "Plainfield, N.J. Courier News", where on several pages are three separate accounts by Mr. Dufford. One, entitled, "Many Hearty and Earthy Tales Told of Califon and It's Early Days -- Of Puddle Tavern Doings", contains many amusing anecdotes of the small Hunterdon County Village. Part of the account reads:

"Snugly tucked in a natural amphitheater, carved by glacial action in the rugged Hunterdon County hills ages ago, is the Borough of Califon.

Prior to 1876, it was the custom of traveling salesmen unfamiliar with the country to inquire at stores in High Bridge or Middle Valley, "Where is California and how do I get there." The reply, if given High Bridge was as follows:

Drive north about six miles, and you will come to a stone tavern on your right. That is the Puddle Tavern. Turn there to your right and you won't see the village 'till you fall in it. If the traveler was going south, he made a left turn at this point, with the same result.

Up to 1849 the Post Road running south from German Valley (now Long Valley) to High Bridge, ignored completely the little village down under the hill, along the South Branch of the Raritan River. In fact, the village had no name. The few villagers walked the half-mile up to the Puddle Tavern for their mail, the post office being located therein.

In 1849, Jacob Neighbor, son of Leonard Neighbor, returned from California, where contrary to the usual luck of the forty-niners, he had amassed quite a fortune for those days.

Prior to his return, the village boasted a grist mill, now known as the Benny Cole mill. This mill, built by John W. Hummer in the early 1800s, is still standing, though silent for many years. A blacksmith shop, built and operated by Adam Apgar, commonly known as "Chawdy" Apgar, because of the enormous chews of tobacco he used, stood just north of the present Coleman's Garage on the Frog Hollow Road. These and five or six houses comprised the village. On the return of Jacob Neighbor, he began building the mill now operated by Mayor Harry Geist.

In order to obtain water power, it was necessary to dig a mill-race up to the present dam-site, a quarter mile north. Neighbor was a hustler, and in order to spur on the men engaged in digging this race, Neighbor would drop pieces of silver money along the way, that belonged to the first man to reach it through digging for it. Hewing with axes each timber for the new mill was slow work; but in time it was completed. Beside serving as a mill, California Jake (so named) constructed a store in the south end of the building, the first one in the village. In honor of the new mill and store and his new sawmill, the village named itself California in his honor.

The first wheelwright and carriage shop was built by Nicholas Apgar and stood on the present site of the Waldron Creamery. Apgar carried on the business for years, until factory-made wagons and carriages caused him to retire. The late John Moore used the lower floor of this building as a blacksmith shop for several years and was followed by Gus Wrenkle, until the site was secured for creamery purposes.

Back of the store now run by Lester M. Apgar, about where his sheds now stand, John Burgstresser opened a tan-yard. This consisted of a number of pits, about six feet deep and the same square, where the raw pelts brought by farmers from the surrounding country were immersed in a bath of lime and hen manure, until the hair could be removed. After this smelly work had been done, the pelts were next placed in other pits and covered with oak bark, finely ground. This was placed in layers, one of bark and one of pelts, until the pit was filled. Water was then poured in and it brought out the tannic acid from the bark. In about three months the hides were removed, hung on racks to dry and the farmers would come for their sole-leather or calf skins at their leisure. Other hides were bought by Burgstresser which, after tanning, were sold in Newark, New York or New Brunswick.

William N. Swackhamer of Middle Valley, now in his 84th year, told the writer an amusing story concerning his experience in that tan-yard, where he had gone with his father for a load of dried tan-bark, used for walks around buildings and dooryards. Mr. Swackhamer, then about seven or eight years old, like all boys, had a well developed bump of curiosity. While his father and Burgstresser were loading the farm wagon with tan-bark, he took a stroll around the yard. Suddenly what appeared as more dry tanbark, proved to be one of the pits in

which the green hides were being pickled in lime and hen manure. In this mess he began to sink, but was pulled out by his father when the ooze had reached his waistline. Mr. Swackhamer says he rode home on that loan of tanbark, at the extreme end of the farm wagon, while from his clothing emanated a smell that in no way could be taken for that of attar of roses. When he arrived home his clothes were promptly buried. A stiff scrubbing by his irate mother soon left nothing worth talking about but an unpleasant memory.