

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 2025 BULLETIN

Dear Members,

As I reflect on the intricate tapestry of our shared history, I am struck by the cycles of life and death that weave through every family tree we trace. Each name, date, and story we uncover in our research reminds us that our forebears, like us, lived through moments of profound joy and loss, their legacies enduring in the records we uncover and the connections we make. Our work in this society links us to those who came before, offering solace in knowing that, through our efforts, their lives continue to illuminate our own. Let us continue to honor these cycles by exploring our past with curiosity and reverence, ever mindful of the fleeting yet eternal nature of our shared journey.

This year will be a time of transition for our Society. In lieu of an annual meeting, I will be hosting a virtual meeting for society officers only, on Sunday July 27th. Among other topics of discussion will be next year's meeting, which we will plan to hold fully virtually. Please look for details about next year's virtual meeting in the next Bulletin issue as well as on the Society Facebook group and our website. I look forward to seeing where we can all take this Society in the future, whatever form it may take.

Sincerely,

Matthew P. Martyniuk (D), President

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Current and past *Bulletins* are located on the website. Share your comments or questions on our Facebook group, Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society. This FB page is monitored, so 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.

EVALUATION OF THE THIRD AND FINAL TWENTY-YEAR GROUP OF SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETINS

from Gene L. Swackhamer

This story of the history of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society as told through its *Bulletins* has been published in three parts – section one, 1953-1973, in the winter 2023-2024 *Bulletin*: section two, 1974-1994, in the winter 2024 *Bulletin*. And the third and last set from 1994 -2025 is in this issue.

It is a story of bulletin styled from mimeographed travel and birth announcements to a news communication document and today's general interest subject matter. It is a story of resiliency and grit. It is a story of finding connections and resolving our origins. It is the never-ending story of two families growing in number, diversity, and interests.

I also am very much aware of how one's bias can distort perception of events or the exercise of judgement regarding the interests of members. I'm vulnerable to that bias since my most active years with the Society cover the third set of years reviewed. Also, I retired in 1995, so all of my retirement years are in this set of bulletins. That by itself shouldn't be so special except retirement has a freeing effect on life permitting more direct and candid observations than might otherwise be the case. It is for these reasons that I have tried to limit statements of observation and emphasize statements of fact.

Society Presidents, 1994 to Present

Audrey T. McCaffery	1994 – 2003
Christie Martyniuk	2004 – 2006
Gene L. Swackhamer	2007 – 2024
Matthew Martyniuk	2025 – Present

Beginning in 2004 dramatic change began among the officers. Several "old guard" officers resigned due to health, relocation, and what might now be called burnout (i.e., multiple years of similar activity). The Society elected Audrey's granddaughter as President (our youngest ever), then discovered that she was off to Spain for additional education. Her mother, Carol, helped cover for Christie until the election of Gene Swackhamer. At that time Gene was doing the printed *Bulletin* and had just coordinated a successful 275th anniversary program at the Raritan Inn for Samuel Swackhamer in 2007.

Other changes included style adjustment including shorter articles, more variety, color photos, and the professional attention of Shelley Heretyk as editor. Now, Teryl Cartwright is doing her best as editor to make the material given to her become a cohesive presentation.

Two *Bulletin* issues each year was maintained throughout the study period, which was often accomplished when it looked doubtful. Perhaps the number of issues per year matters less than the quality of the content, but it does help maintain connection with members.

A personal disappointment for me has been the absence of dedicated genealogy researchers among our membership. Almost all members would like to learn more about their ancestors but finding that information takes time and talent. A new generation of Nancy Schanes, Jim Swackhamers, or inquisitive Duffords, would produce new family knowledge for interesting *Bulletin* stories.

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. This Bulletin contains a number of contributions.

First things first. In the last Bulletin, we introduced and welcomed our new young Society President, Matthew Martyniuk. Today, I begin by asking for your prayers and good thoughts. Recently, our new President's young and beautiful wife, Rashida, suddenly passed away on April 3, 2025. Matthew and his two young children, Nova and Kai, are surviving. Please, please keep the Martyniuk family in all your thoughts and prayers.

1. Our first contribution is the family line of Karen Johnson Griffin. Karen is the youngest daughter of Myrtle Wauneta Dufford Johnson. Below is her Dufford Ancestral lineage. If any of our 300+ members have any additional information on this Dufford's line, please contact me so that I can assist Karen. Karen was born in Wichita, Kansas, but currently lives in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Here is information on her Dufford Line:

“My father is Martin Lind Johnson; mother is Earlene Maphet.
He is the son of Simon Johnson and Myrtle Wauneta Dufford.
She is the daughter of William Dufford and Mell Bullock.
He is the son of Henry Clay Dufford and Isabelle Bridel.
He is the son of Phillip Dufford and Clarissa Dickerson.
He is the son of Stephen Jacob Dufford and Mary Weiss.
He is the son of George Stephen Dufford and Anna Trimmer.
He is the son of Jacob Dufford and Elizabeth (Leni) Lenape.
He is the son of Hans Phillip Dufforth.”

Karen, welcome to the Swackhamer Dufford Genealogical Society. Secondly, you and I are fifth cousins!!! Thirdly, any Dufford ancestor that has additional information on Karen's line, please let me know.

2. I recently attended an all-day Seminar, sponsored by the North Jersey American Revolution Round Table, which took place at Drew University in Madison, NJ. One of the Presenters spoke about two reference books that may help all of us looking for Dufford ancestors during the time of the American Revolution. One is titled, “New Jersey in 1793.” This is an abstract index to the 1793 Military Census of the State of New Jersey; authored by James S. Norton. The other reference is titled, “Revolutionary Census of New Jersey.” This is an index based on the ratables of the inhabitants of New Jersey during the period of the American Revolution; authored by Kenn Stryker-Rodda. Both are EXCELLENT resources to look up Duffords and any other family last name during the period of the American Revolution.

3. Yet another presentation during that special American Revolution Seminar was a topic that, as many of us know, profoundly affected the Duffords of German Valley, NJ. The presenter was Todd Braisted, a Fellow in the Company of Military Historians, who specializes in Loyalist Studies. He is a former Honorary Vice President of the United Loyalists Association of Canada. His presentation was titled, “The New Jersey Volunteers, 1776-1783”. While many people are familiar with the New Jersey Regiments being raised for service in the Continental Army, fewer are aware that King George likewise raised regiments of New Jerseyans for the British service. Even less know that there were more New Jerseyans fighting for the British instead of the Continental Army. Raised in 1776 by Brigadier General Cortland Skinner, who was the former speaker of the New Jersey assembly and attorney general, the Loyalist core eventually reached a strength of six battalions, along with an additional unit in old West New Jersey.

Regarding our Dufford ancestors, we do know that a number of loyalist Duffords left German Valley, NJ after the American Revolution. Many, while we do not know an exact number, emigrated to Canada. Somewhere in that process, there was a name change for them, to Tufford. Our Society member, Kathryn Wright, a descendant of the Tuffords of Ontario, Canada, sent us a detailed two-page summary of the descendants of Elijah O. Tufford, which was published in our Winter 2009 Bulletin with other information in our Summer 1993 Bulletin. (See our website to read this).

There are/were Tufford descendants in Markham, Ontario; Regina, Saskatchewan; Niagara Peninsula, Ontario; Victoria, British Columbia; Nova Scotia, Alberta, and Quebec. There are/were Tufford descendants in Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Florida, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, California, New York, Vermont, and Delaware. There are many Tufford's around North America who would like to make the connection with their ancestors to the Dufford's of German Valley, NJ. Even Mr. Norman E. Tufford goes on to tell us, "There are many Tufford's in Canada, but we cannot connect them all together. There seem to be several principal family groups, most of them have come from New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania and were born about 1750 to 1830."

COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

Assistant Editor

Your Society has always valued donors, the lifeblood of its existence, so it was a shock when Gene Swackhamer's grandson Cole sent to him, in March, a January 2025 donation check from Pat Barber! It became an example of the danger of multi-tasking having been misfiled or mistakenly stuck in the wrong mail and I sent it to my grandson.

He caught my error and everything got satisfactorily resolved, just with an unacceptable three-month delay. Thank you, Pat, for your forgiveness.

It does give me an opportunity to announce our Swackhamer family expansion with the June 24, 2023, marriage of Dr. Anna Hayes to Dr. Clay Swackhamer in New Ulm, Minnesota. They are on the faculty of Oregon State University and are living in Corvallis. Cole Swackhamer and Dr. Haydn Hallman Swackhamer were married on June 18, 2022, at Lenni lea Farm in Huff Church, Pennsylvania. They have just moved to Danville, Pennsylvania, where Haydn will be doing residency with Geisinger Hospital.

If we had an award for reporter of the year, I would certainly nominate Larry Brasher. He has a unique

ability in retirement to see the connections between the past and present. He produces stories of how our ancestry influences today's society and the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society. It may be through an object such as a musical instrument or through an unforgettable person. He once served our society as its President, but his reporting may be even more valuable.



*Three doctors preparing dinner: Dr. Haydn Swackhamer,
Dr. Anna Swackhamer and Dr. Clay Swackhamer
Picture by Gene Swackhamer*

NECROLOGY

Rashida Martyniuk

We are sad to report the passing of Rashida Martyniuk at age 42. She died suddenly from an unexpected illness on April 3, 2025. However, her vibrant love, wonderful spirit, and dedication to her family will live on. Rashida is dearly missed by all who knew her.

Rashida was born on August 14, 1982, in the Bronx, NY, to Maxine Atkins (nee Wharton) and Otto Atkins. She was both a beloved daughter and a loving mother to her two children, Nova and Kai. Rashida took great joy in her family and her pride and love for her children was boundless as she gave all of herself in raising them with love, care, and guidance.



Matthew and Rashida Martyniuk

Rashida met her soulmate, Matthew Martyniuk, while they were both studying abroad in Australia. They bonded instantly. Their love grew as they traveled the world together, living in several countries and states. They finally settled in New Jersey eleven

years ago. During their fifteen years of marriage, Rashida and Matthew built a life full of love, adventure, and many shared dreams.

One of Rashida's great passions was reading. She could always be found with a book close by. Her love for animals yet was another cherished

part of her life, and she enjoyed caring for and raising them. She loved to travel. She experienced so much joy as she found new experiences all around the world, from her time spent living in Sydney, to teaching English in South Korea, and more recent family vacations to the New Jersey shore and Disney World. Most of all, Rashida loved a quiet evening spent at home with a cup of hot chocolate and a family movie or game night. She truly made so many moments special and memorable.

In addition to her husband, children and parents, Rashida is survived by her five siblings, Erika Jones, Nicole Jones, Larry Jones, Keniesha Jones, and Ganiyo Atkins, as well as numerous extended family members and friends who will forever remember her warmth, kindness, and outgoing presence.



Photo from obituary

SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

If you have an item that you would like included in the next Bulletin, please submit this along with any pictures to the editor (cartwrightteryl@gmail.com) or any of the officers listed. We are looking for stories, memories, and connections to provide historical records and mutual appreciation of our loved ones and heritage. Thank you for your help preserving and promoting the Swackhamer and Dufford families.

THE SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGY SOCIETY DONATIONS

January 1, 2025, through 6-30-25

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.

Mike and Carol Apgar (F), (DE), a gift for the operation of the Society

Patrica Barber (NJ), a donation for the general operating fund

William Cramer, Jr. (D), (NJ), a donation in honor of past president, Gene Swackhamer

Robert and Michele Dewese (S), (IN), a gift in memory of Lee and Dorcas Swackhamer and their family

Morris, Richard, Clyde, JoAnn (Joan), and Alma Dean

Philip Wickstrand Dufford ("Wick"), (WA), brother of Dawn Dufford also of Washington,
a gift to support the Society

William Dufford (OH), a gift in memory of Stanley J. Dufford of Richfield, Ohio

Jay Scott Farley (CT), a donation for operations in memory of Helen and Belden Farley

Barbara Schinkel (NJ), daughter of Ruth Hartman former long-term Society officer,

gave a donation for where most needed

Gene and Sharon Swackhamer (MD), donation to support Bulletin mailing

VISITORS FROM GERMANY

A part of our Society is membership in other countries, especially Germany. When Jill Swackhamer married Steffen Drees from Altlussheim, and two genealogy trips were made to the region, word spread in Altlussheim that friendly family members will help make a visit to the United States interesting and enjoyable. Below are some pictures of these visits to America.



*Leon Eichhorn and family on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.
Photo by Jill Drees*



*L. to R.: Jill Drees showing Jule Zimmerman
how she is connected to the family. Photo by
Sharon Swackhamer at the Swackhamer home*

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