

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 2026 BULLETIN

Dear Members,

As family historians, we are often reminded that every generation must adapt to changing circumstances while remaining faithful to the traditions that connect us to the past. The records we preserve tell stories of resilience, flexibility, and commitment, all qualities that allowed our ancestors to navigate the demands of family, work, and community. Our Society faces similar challenges today as we strive to maintain meaningful opportunities for members to connect and share research while balancing the realities of modern life. It is through this spirit of stewardship that we continue the work of preserving our family's history and ensuring that future generations will have the benefit of the knowledge and connections we have cultivated together.

After careful consideration, I have decided that our 2026 meeting will once again be held virtually. While we had originally hoped to return to an in-person format with a virtual participation option this year, the planning required for a successful event has proven difficult to balance alongside family and professional commitments. I believe that if we ask members to travel, we should be able to offer a program that fully justifies the effort, and I do not feel we can achieve that standard this year. Holding a virtual officers meeting will allow us to continue our annual tradition of gathering, discussing Society business, and planning for the future while ensuring that we can devote the necessary time and resources to a more substantial in-person reunion in the next year or two.

With all this in mind, I would like to put out the call to our members for program suggestions - talks, presentations about your personal family research, and any items of interest to family genealogy. All presentations will be a welcome addition to our next meeting. Since we will plan to have the meeting in-person with a virtual component, presenters will not necessarily need to travel, and we can even accommodate pre-recorded presentations. Please email me if you are interested!

Sincerely,

Matthew P. Martyniuk (D), President

Swackhamer - Dufford Genealogical Society Website

Please bookmark this new link: <https://www.sdgenealogy.org/>

Current and past *Bulletins* are located here. Post your comments or questions about the website in the Facebook Group that you can join via the link on the website. The Facebook Group 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.

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NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL REUNION MEETING

Members and Friends of the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogy Society are hereby notified that the Annual Reunion Meeting originally planned for July 25, 2026, has been postponed. Rather than gathering this year, the Society will reconvene for its next Annual Reunion Meeting in 2027.

The officers will have a virtual meeting at 5:30 pm EST on July 25th to plan for the onsite 2027 meeting.

We look forward to welcoming members and friends back together in Long Valley, New Jersey, for the Society's 77th gathering in 2027. Since its founding, the Society has encouraged the study and preservation of the histories of the Swackhamer and Dufford families. We appreciate your continued support and interest and will provide additional details regarding the 2027 meeting as plans are finalized.

CONTINUOUS DUFFORD RESEARCH PROJECT

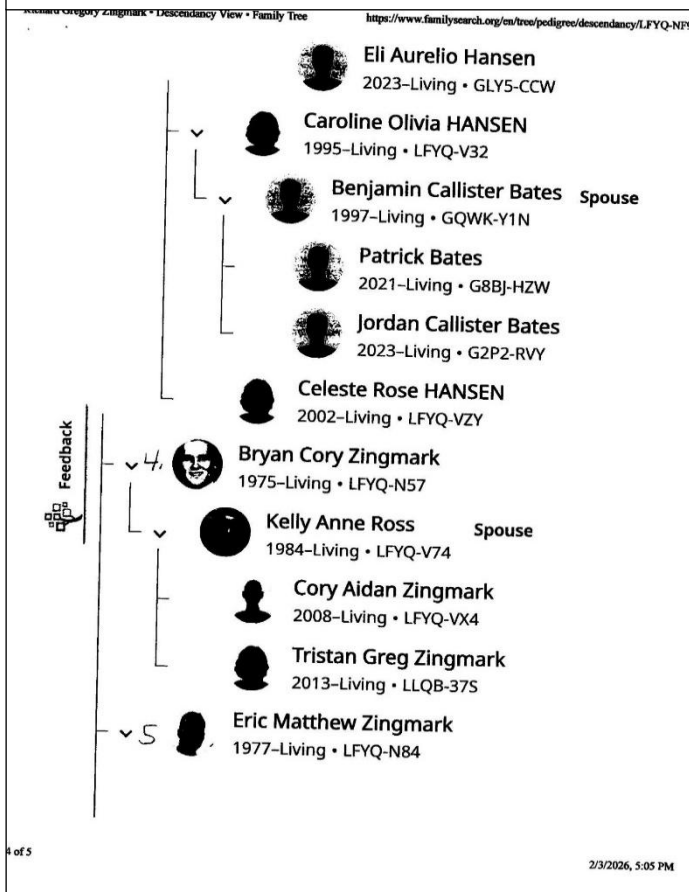
by William Cramer

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.

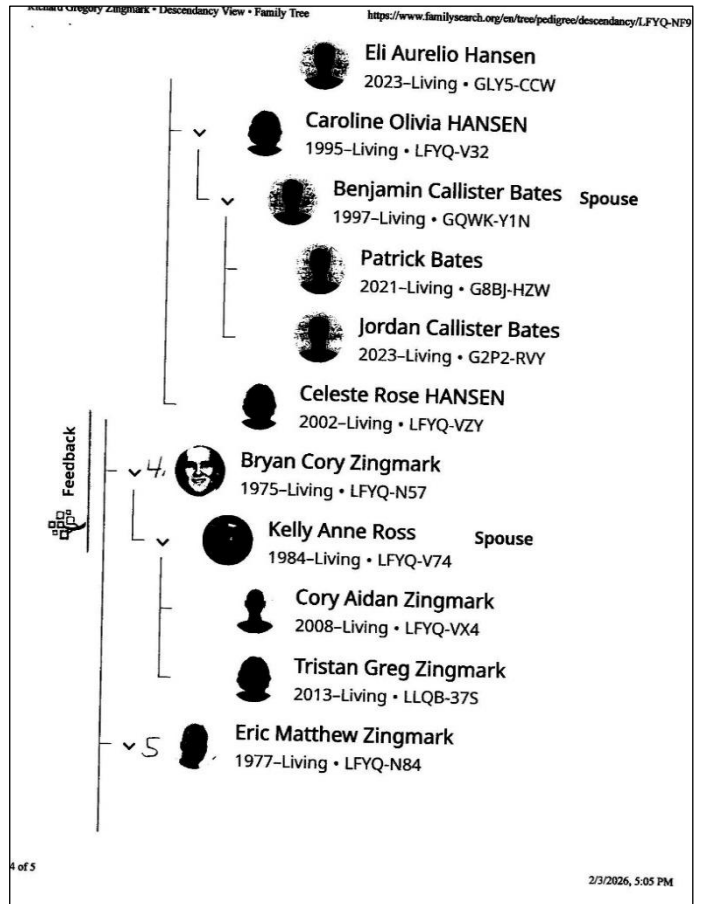
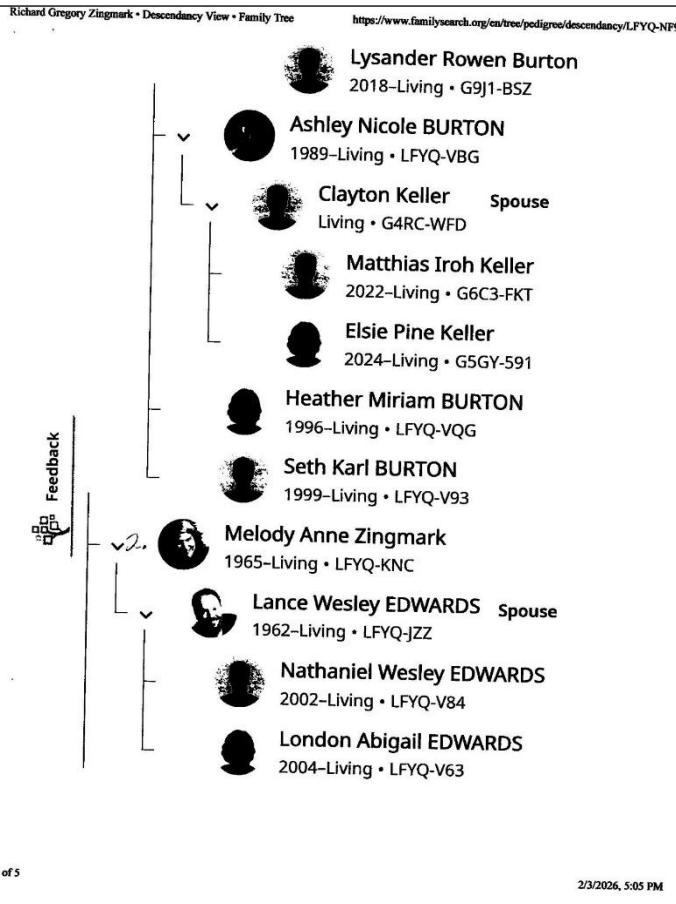
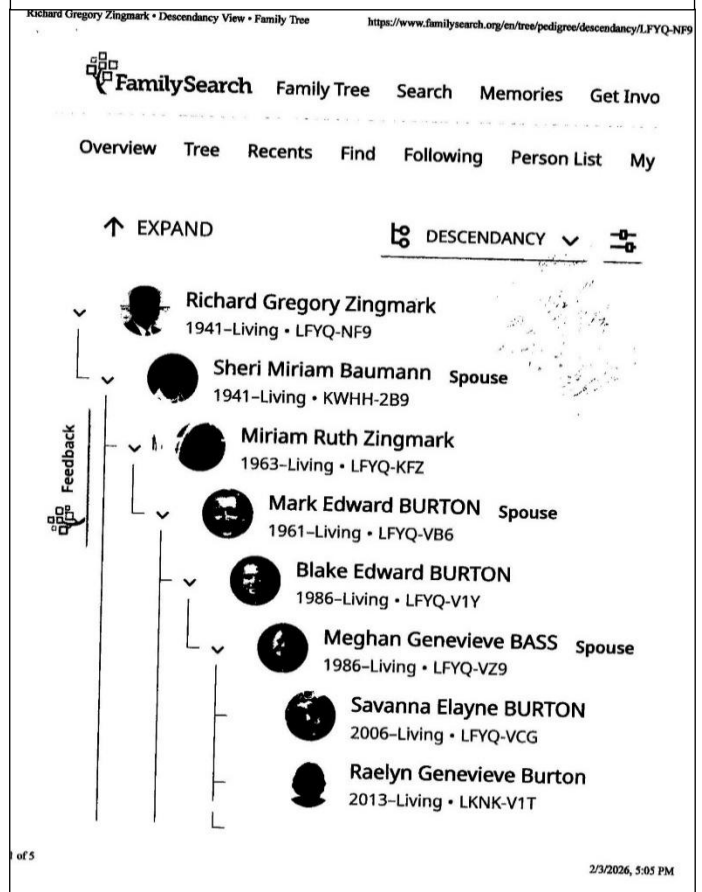
In this bulletin, we have a brand-new family branch of Philip Dufford's descendants to welcome to our society. We have all eight generations of the family from Hans Philip Dufford to the youngest born in 2024, and everyone in between. A special thank you and welcome to the Zingmarks. (a special thank you to the family for including the details they obtained from the website of "Family Search").

Here is their lineage: Philip Dufford (1808-1861) and Clarissa Dickerson (1802-1852) to Theodore Dufford (1843-1915) and Mary Adeline Hitchcock (1853-1938) to Orville Leyde (1870-1973) and Ruth Dufford (1886-1970) to Seth Leonard Zingmark (1912-1968) and Margaret Emerald Leyde (1918-1990) to Richard Gregory Zingmark (1941-living) and Sheri Miriam Bauman (1941-living) to their children. See the next two pages for their expanded list of their descendants as follows:

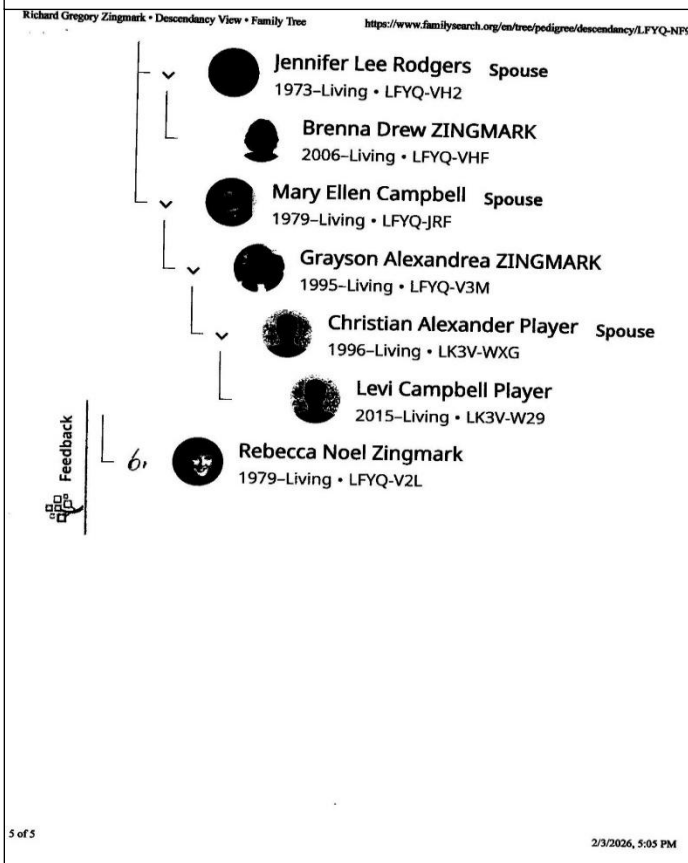
ZINGMARK FAMILY TREE, PAGES 1- 2 BELOW



ZINGMARK FAMILY TREE, PAGES 3-4 BELOW



ZINGMARK FAMILY TREE, PAGE 5 BELOW



Zingmark family tree, continued from page 3

FAMILY PHOTOS AND HEIRLOOM ADVICE

by Gene Swackhamer

Deciding what to save and how to save it is not easy. I'll share some of the advice from experts and then give you some of my experience. The "experts" say:

1. Save representative photos that tell a story. Discard others even those beautiful mountain scenes! Assemble small, short story albums and keep them visible or where they can be used--no boxes.
2. Less is more! As hard as it is, purge to the bare essential family photos; future generations won't know or care about them. Discard scenery or building photos that don't add to the story.
3. If a photo is one of a kind or the only one of a family member, save it. Remember to label who or what is in the photo along with a date.

My observations: Most who try to preserve photos don't stay with it. Ask a family member to help you go through a small quantity at a time and accept their advice. If this works, repeat it periodically. For example, I asked Sheri to help with our fishing pictures. She said, "Isn't one enough"? I painfully agreed.

What about heirlooms or items with sentimental value? Items, such as a pillow, a fishing reel, a banjo, a pocket watch, or a quilt represent challenges. Experts say that if they are really old or have historic significance, give them to a community museum. If you can use them, do so (such as a quilt). An item may be of value only to you.

My observations: Who are you saving it for? Would a photo do just as well? If you do save an object, it will help to document the stories with the item(s) or who made them to help you pass them along to your family. Remember to identify items with specific details and list who will receive items in your will if you want to ensure your beneficiaries know which saved items belong to the family legacy or are of historical interest.

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What You Need to Know:

To continue receiving printed copies of the Bulletin, members must submit a check donation of at least \$2 by the end of the year. An annual minimum donation is required each year to receive that year's mailed Bulletins. Please send to the following address: **Matthew P. Martyniuk, 114 Stonybrook Rd, Columbia, NJ 07832.**

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JILL'S JOURNEY HOME TO GERMANY!

By Jill Drees

One of the unforeseen perks of being married to a German is continually meeting new family members and newly discovered distant relatives upon each visit home to Germany.

Steffen and I have recently returned from a two-week visit to his hometown of Altlussheim, Germany. We went for the scheduled family celebration of his father's (Franz Drees) 80th birthday and for his uncle Friedbert Blaschke's acceptance of a prestigious Stauffer Medal held at an evening award ceremony in the Altlussheim City Hall to recognize his 50 years of services bestowed upon this town and the Baden-Württemberg region.

There are two other highlights of our travels that I wish to share with you. First, my mother-in-law, Irmtraud Drees, invited me the first day after our arrival to their Sunday worship service at the local Altlussheim Protestant Church.



Elisa Schwarz outside Altlussheim Church, photo by Jill Drees

I know from my father's genealogical research that this is the very same church where our oldest known relative, Samuel Schweichheimer, was both baptized and married, and possibly where one of his children

was also baptized before a premature death while still a baby. We believe that the sudden death of his wife and child due to disease is what may have prompted him to make the perilous journey across the Atlantic on the "Love and Unity" ship, so misappropriately named as nearly half of the German emigrants aboard would perish during this deadly journey.

On Sunday, May 17, 2026, Norbert Schweichheimer, my father's distant cousin, was honored for his 60th Jubilee Confirmation, along with his nine fellow confirmands who were able to attend. This was also in honor of those in their confirmation class who had passed away or were not able to attend due to poor health. Norbert is from the line of Schweichheimers who remained in Altlussheim, while my father, Gene Swackhamer, and our ancestors here in North America are from Samuel Schweicheimer's descendants, having originally settled in German Valley/Long Valley, New Jersey after his 1731 arrival to America's shore.

On this festive day, Altlussheim's pastor invited four different groups of confirmands forward to receive Holy Communion, a certificate to mark the anniversary of their original confirmation as members into the Church of Christ, and a personal blessing for continued strong faith and health. These groups were recognized for celebrating their 65th, 60th, 50th, and 45th Jubilee Confirmations.



Altlussheim Church: Norbert Schweichheimer (standing, 2nd from R)

What an honor it was for me to be seated beside my niece Elisa Schwarz in the balcony section of the church which had been hand-built by my husband's great grandfather Friedrich Erb, master carpenter, (1906-1982). An additional perk was enjoying the singing of my mother-in-law in her beloved church choir, having just been recognized for her 50 years of church choir membership in a ceremony held just before our arrival.

The second genealogical discovery that I wish to share with you stems from a revelation first made during a late-night summer BBQ party held over six years ago in the neighboring village of Neulusheim in our friend Thorsten's back garden. My husband made the connection that his childhood neighbor, Ralf Zimmerman, is the nephew of Norbert Schweichheimer – my dad's cousin — thus, making him and me distant "cousins" as well. Group photos immediately had to commence, even at that late night/early morning hour, to commemorate our first meeting!

Since that serendipitous acquaintance, I have since met his only daughter, Jule Zimmermann, who traveled to the U.S. in 2024 to visit her uncle and to

visit Steffen and me and my parents Gene and Sharon Swackhamer at their Broadmead retirement community in Hunt Valley, Maryland. Jule speaks fluent English since she had been an au pair for a Texas family with three young children for over one year. During this visit with Jule, we shared the history of Samuel Schweichheimer from her same village of Altlusheim, Germany and his emigration to the U.S. back in the early 1730's. She was so intrigued by this distant, familial connection that she asked me to please visit her any time we make a trip "back home" to her hometown.



Cousins: Jill (Swackhamer) Drees and Jule Zimmermann with "Samuel Schweichheimer" book by Gene Swackhamer.



Stefanie Zimmermann and Jule's grandmother, Elke (Schwechheimer) Zimmermann

So, on our most recent trip, we made plans to visit her parents, Ralf and Stefanie Zimmermann and her grandmother, Elke (Schwechheimer) Zimmermann, at their home in Altlusheim for a delicious German grill party. Their home is a three-minute walk up the block and around the corner from Steffen's family's home. Over dinner we shared family stories and Elke shared photos with us of her parents and grandparents. What a wonderful discovery to keep meeting new relatives with each subsequent visit back home to Germany!

FAMILY'S REVOLUTIONARY SWORD ON DISPLAY

By Larry Brasher

On an informative note, our family's heirloom rare Revolutionary War silver-hilted dog-head sword is now on display at the special 250th exhibition at Morven Museum and Garden at Princeton: "Five Independent Souls: The Signers from New Jersey." The show is up through January 2027. I highly recommend the show for anyone interested in the Revolution era history in New Jersey.

My grandfather, Lawrence Dalrymple Watters (1878-1970), gave me the sword on my thirteenth birthday on July 4, 1960. The sword was carried in the Revolution by Captain James Moore (1751-1832) of the Princeton Militia. He stormed the door of Nassau Hall at Princeton and forced the surrender of the British Soldiers inside, thus ending the Battle of Princeton. Moore gave his sword to my fourth great-grandfather, Silus Watters (1751-1820), his best friend and a tavern-keeper near Princeton. The sword has been passed down in my family for 236 years, first in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, and later in Succasunna, Morris County. My grandfather married Bessie Swackhamer Clark (1885-1973) in 1910.

THE SWACKHAMER-DUFFORD GENEALOGY SOCIETY DONATIONS

The following donors have made contributions since the last Bulletin was published. 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.

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Michael Cramer (D)

Michael Swackhamer (S)

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Pat Barber, in memory of Catherine Swackhamer Kern

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