1 April 2020

**COVID-19 Announcement**

Dear Members and Friends,

As I am sure you all have known would be the case, our library is closed for the foreseeable future. Watch for announcements on Facebook and our website for our reopening schedule, but understand please, it will not be soon.

Thanks to the power of the Internet, there is still a great deal that we genealogists can accomplish during these difficult times.

1. **Meetings & Classes**
   a. We have 7 historical society and library venues interested in hosting meetings and events whenever Gov. Cuomo lets us know that it is again safe to do so. Thank you, history community, for stepping up to the plate!
   b. Meanwhile, we will begin hosting classes and presentations via Zoom. Watch for these Zoom “events” to be announced on Facebook.
   c. If you are not familiar with Zoom, a good video introduction for how to sign into a meeting can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E)

2. **The Dutchess**
   a. We continue to make good progress with our Quarterly, thanks to being able to handle compiling, editing, printing and mailing all remotely without meeting face to face. Our editor Chris Taylor has been doing a stellar job on this.
   b. Free queries for members only are published in every issue to the extent that space is available. Be sure to include your name and e-mail address (or phone number) with your query. [https://tinyurl.com/syysz3f](https://tinyurl.com/syysz3f)
c. We hope you are enjoying our serialized novella by Nathan Dylan Goodwin about a forensic genealogist—please also see https://www.nathandylangoodwin.com/the-asylum to download The Asylum, the first story in the series. And watch for our review of his newest book, The Sterling Affair, in our next Newsletter.

d. Historical Societies have started planning for Rev 250, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War. Watch for our series beginning soon on DAR and SAR ancestors—how to document yours as well as tales of problem updates.

3. Mail Delivery, Back Issues & Membership

a. Without knowing when our shelter in place might be lifted, I am not willing to send our treasurer out to the Post Office on a regular basis to collect the mail. As I live in a hamlet, I must go to collect my mail regardless, and, I now do so 3 or 4 times a month. So please take notice of our temporary new mailing address. Once or twice a month I will package up the checks received and mail them for deposit. Please be patient and understanding if your check takes a little longer to clear the bank!

b. Membership renewals and new members should enroll or renew online using the form found at https://tinyurl.com/r9o5fxe and then mail the check with a note regarding the date you filed the form, your member number if known, and your email address (or you may simply print your submitted form before you click submit). If you are not submitting the online form, then you must include the paper form.

c. I am very sad to announce that our long serving Membership VP, Roland Ormsby, died suddenly this February. We will not be sending out his customary e-news until we have the email portion of the membership list recreated. We do have the names and mailing addresses for all members. Please make sure when you join or renew that you give us a current email address.

We will keep you posted with any additional updates on Facebook and MeetUp. We hope to also have these updates included on our web site soon. For now, stay in, stay well, and make use of this time to add to your genealogy skills and your family tree!

Best regards,

Valerie LaRobardier, President