



# THE DUTCHESS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 708, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602-0708

<http://www.dcgs-gen.org>

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1

## Contents

President's Notes	1
Library News	1
Meeting of 21 March 2006 (Scanners)	1
Meeting of 16 May 2006 (Fort House)	2
Dutchess in other genealogical journals	2
Membership	2
NYG&B news & events	3
DCGS web site, DCGS Projects,	4
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## President's Notes

Linda Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

At the Annual Meeting of May 2006, a new slate of DCGS officers was nominated and elected to serve the society for the 2006-2007 term. They are:

- President - Linda Koehler
- VP - George Trigg
- Treasurer - Wayne Merrick
- Recording Secretary - Melinda Carter
- Corresponding Secretary - Vacant
- VP Education - Vacant
- VP Membership - Roland Ormsby
- VP Program - Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
- VP Publicity - Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
- VP Projects - Valarie LaRobardier
- VP Name Search - Bernard Rudberg
- VP Library - Linda Koehler
- VP Publications - Eleanor Shortle

I would like to give special thanks to Gil Leach who has done a wonderful job as Corresponding Secretary since 1999. Gil had to give up one of his DCGS hats to devote more time to personal business, but luckily he continues to serve as our most knowledgeable member of the Name Search Committee. We are still looking for someone to replace Mr. Leach and fill the office of Corresponding Secretary.

I would also like once again to thank Jan Foster for her work as Vice President of Projects. We welcome Valarie LaRobardier to the board as our new VP for Projects. Valarie has been helping out Jan with the website as a volunteer for the last year or so.

**Don't forget – it is time to renew your annual membership in DCGS!**

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## Library News

Linda Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

Summer Schedule - DCGS Library / FHC hours remain the same for now. We are open Tuesdays during the day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and in the evening 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to noon and in the evening 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. However, this schedule is subject to change, since the library is run by volunteers whose schedules can change suddenly.

Usually, the library is closed the last 2 weeks in August before opening again immediately after Labor Day, although these dates have not yet been confirmed for this summer. When the schedule is set, the closing dates will be posted on our society website ([www.dcgs-gen.org](http://www.dcgs-gen.org)). Particularly if you are coming from a distance, you should contact the library to be sure it will be open when you expect to be here. Call the FHC (tel # 845-462-4168) during its hours of operation to check the schedule.

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## DCGS meeting, Tue 21 Mar 2006

### “What Can You Do With a Scanner?”

Bernie Rudberg discussed what a scanner is and how it works; types of scanners; and things you can do with scanned image files (display them on your computer screen; print them; make copies; and transmit them). He demonstrated various ways that genealogists can use scanners in their research, and discussed software packages that can help. He also discussed working with images from digital cameras. Digital image files open possibilities. The only limit is your imagination!

Mr. Rudberg is retired, after having spent four years in Navy electronics, and 35 years as an engineer with IBM. He is now actively involved in railroad history and restoration, and is using computers and digital imaging to preserve railroad history.

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**DCGS Meeting, May 16, 2006**

Linda Koehler &lt;lckoehlr@optonline.net&gt;

**“Saving the Homestead of Revolutionary War Major Abraham Fort!”**

presented by Virginia Buechele and Judy Wolf.

Ginny Buechele and Judy Wolf presented an interesting program on their early steps to preserve a home that could be one of the oldest remaining structures in the town of Poughkeepsie, hailing back to the Fort family who were active in the Revolutionary War. Ms. Buechele and Ms. Wolf are co-presidents of the Fort Homestead Association. They described the process of obtaining a charter from the Regents of the University of the State of New York to become a non-profit, tax-exempt association, a necessary first step before negotiating with the developer who still retains ownership of the house located at 2228 South Road.

This house is mentioned in Helen Wilkinson Reynolds' 1929 book, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776*, on pages 344 and 412 (republished, Dover edition, 1965). [Ed.- The photo is copied from this book.] It is believed the house was built between about 1742 and 1760; the land was bought by the Fort family in 1759. IBM eventually acquired the land and it became part of a private golf course; Thomas Watson Sr. used the house when he was in Poughkeepsie. IBM has since sold the land to a residential home developer.



The Fort house was in the process of being prepared for demolition by the developer when the Town of Poughkeepsie Historic Preservation Commission obtained a stop order. By coincidence, Ms. Buechele and Ms. Wolf became aware of the house about the same time while they were helping a Girl Scout restore the Fort family cemetery, which is across Rt. 9 from the home. The homestead itself, although located right on busy Rt. 9, has in effect been hidden in plain sight, a 10-foot tall stockade fence guarding it from the heavy traffic.

The presenters set up a 3-part display of materials relating to their genealogical research on the Fort family, architectural aspects of the house itself, and the period

1911- 1944 when the homestead was owned by the Dickerson family and operated as a working farm.

Ginny and Judy have been very active in attempting to contact living descendants of the Fort family - a process that demands considerable skill since they are following mostly female lines of the daughters in the family. They are also searching out family papers and information about all of the families who have lived in the house.

The goals of the Fort Homestead Association are to obtain legal ownership of the house, have it listed on State and National Historical Registers, and restore and maintain the home as a living history education center. To contact the Association, their mailing address is 6 Timberline Dr, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, e-mail <forthomestead@optonline.net>, telephone # (845) 462-1932 or 452-6417, and on the web at <www.geocities.com/ginnyflies/saveforthomsetead.html>.

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**Dutchess County in Other Genealogical Magazines:**

Christine Crawford-Oppeneimer &lt;cco4cats@prodigy.net&gt;

- Meggison, Michael Thomas. "The Alanson Cummingses." *The American Genealogist* 78 (Jan 2003): 55-70.
- DeGrazia, Laura A. " 'Her Brother Went to China': Identifying Parents by Widening the Focus: The Hencher Family of Kingston and New York City." *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 134 (Apr 2003): 83-94.
- Crandall-Wood, Larry. "Connecting Parker Burdick Crandall to the Rhode Island Crandall Family." *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 135 (Apr 2004): 92-105.
- Green, Scott Wesley. "John Martin Schmidling: The Life and Paternal Ancestry of a Civil War Soldier." *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 137 (Jan 2006): 15-30.
- Sypher, Francis J. "New Data on Henry Lewis of New York." *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 137 (Jan 2006): 58-62.

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**MEMBERSHIP**

Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP &lt;reormsby@optonline.net&gt;

The membership list is not included in this web version of the newsletter - Ed.

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## NEWS FROM THE NYG&amp;B SOCIETY

## THE WEBSITE

Record Subject Index 1983-2005. All Record articles since 1983 are now indexed by principal surname, locality or subject, at

<http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=106>

The eLibrary. New sources recently added to the eLibrary include: marriages 1815-53 and baptisms 1816-31 from the Canal Street Presbyterian Church in New York City (also known as the Irish Presbyterian Church); deaths and cemetery inscriptions from Pound Ridge, Westchester County; inscriptions from four cemeteries in Putnam County; and from the Vosburgh Collection, records of the Congregational Church and Society of New Canaan, in the Town of Canaan, Columbia County.

If you have used the eLibrary and have questions or suggestions, please contact our Systems Dept. at [systems@nygbs.org](mailto:systems@nygbs.org)

Early American Newspapers Series I, which is available to NYG&B members, is nearing completion. For a complete list of all the titles in Series I go to <http://www.readex.com/scholarl/earlamnp.html>, and click on the Title List link (under the picture of the New-Hampshire Gazette). Series II (1758-1900) and III (1829-1922) are in preparation and will include at least one paper in every state of the Union. Title lists for these series will be available soon. Each series requires substantial funding, and if that can be obtained we will be able to make Series II and III available to our members.

Gravestone Inscriptions, Sundry Cemeteries in Cattaraugus, Erie and Wyoming Counties, New York, by Gertrude A. Barber (1934)

Burials in Springfield Cemetery, Springfield [Queens County], L.I., New York, by Elizabeth Janet MacCormick and Marian Otis Reeves (1946)

Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Herkimer in the Town of Herkimer, Herkimer County, N.Y., by Royden Woodward Vosburgh (1918)

Staten Island Church Records [Dutch Reformed, St. Andrew's Episcopal, and Moravian] (Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. IV), edited by Tobias Alexander Wright (1909)

## LAST CHANCE TO BUY MARRIAGE BONDS BOOK

The Society recently acquired the remaining copies of Kenneth Scott's *New York Marriage Bonds 1753-1783*, published in 1972. Only a few copies remain, so if you want to add this title to your library, act now! For further information go to <http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=108>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 28: Booktalk - Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island, by Patricia M. Salmon, Curator of History at the Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences. Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., in the Portrait Gallery. The author will sell and sign copies of her book. The program is free; however, registration is required, email [education@nygbs.org](mailto:education@nygbs.org) or call 212-755-8532, ext. 36.

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**Web Threads - - <http://www.dcg-gen.org>**

Jeanette (Jan) Foster <[jfos@fosterswebsite.com](mailto:jfos@fosterswebsite.com)>

**Website Changes Coming Soon!**

It has been six years since the Dutchess County Genealogical Society's website first made its appearance. Then, my goal was to provide an internet presence for the Society and a supplementary means by which to communicate general organization information to people interested in Dutchess County genealogy. It provided information about our meeting topics and the hours of operation for our library. Since its beginning, the website has expanded far beyond that initial objective. It now includes a directory of the holders of vital records and the procedures for obtaining them from the various municipalities within the county; a listing of the Table of Contents of The Dutchess journal, beginning with the very first issue and continuing with each new one; and each new issue of "The Dutchess Newsletter" since the Winter, 2001 issue.

This short list is deceiving. The addition of each of these features has involved tremendous investment of time and effort, followed by demand for additional resources so that they can be kept current. The job of simply maintaining and updating the site is one that has grown far beyond the initial scope and so we are making changes!

We have recently begun working with Computat Systems, Inc., a local website support company that will be responsible for making updates to our website at our direction in the coming year. We anticipate with this help, additional improvements to the site will be possible. Work has already begun on the first of these - to redesign and

streamline our entire website. The work is well underway and you can expect to see the results in the coming month or two. Once this is accomplished we should be able to bring additional new features to the website that will be of value to many of our members.

I will continue to be actively involved in the website and decisions regarding it but I will no longer be physically making the changes to the website. Creating and developing this medium for communication amongst Dutchess County genealogists has been a very rewarding endeavor for me personally. I am extremely happy to see it grow beyond its initial scope and look forward to the expansion this move enables. I want to personally thank each and every member, volunteer and website viewer who has taken time to comment, encourage and assist - it has truly been a fun time!

**Recent Updates** include the addition of the Table of Contents of the Spring issue of The Dutchess and the Spring 2006 Newsletter, and the posting of meetings.

In addition to those items discussed above, the website includes an application for membership in the Dutchess County Genealogical Society and an order form for requesting individual back issues of The Dutchess. Both are available for printing.

As always, we welcome comments and suggestions about the website via the e-mail address provided there. Unfortunately, we are unable to take inquiries of any kind at that address. Please address those to the society at:

**Dutchess County Genealogical Society**  
**P.O. Box 708**  
**Poughkeepsie, NY 12602-0708**

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### **Society Projects - summary**

Jeanette (Jan) Foster - [jfos@fosterswebsite.com](mailto:jfos@fosterswebsite.com)

For details, contact any member of the Board for a copy of the Projects Report document.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with Society projects so please let us know if you have an interest in assisting with one of these or a new project. Remember - local residence is not a requirement! Quite a bit of volunteer work is accomplished by individuals who do not live in the local area. If you have already volunteered but have not yet been tapped for a specific project, please bear with us - we should be in touch with you soon!

Projects currently underway include:

1. Index to The Dutchess Quarterlies (Vol. 1-30) - led by Linda Koehler
2. Fall Seminar 2006 (previously: Spring Seminar) - led by Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
3. Ancient Documents - led by Linda Koehler, with volunteer, Lillian Kniskern
4. [NEW] Obtain Antivirus SW for DCGS Computer - led by Linda Koehler

Recently completed items include:

1. Vital Records Update - led by Jeanette (Jan) Foster, with volunteers Bob Peck, Beth Schneider, Liz DuBois, and Valerie LaRobardier.
2. New Projects Prioritization - led by Linda Koehler, with Jeanette (Jan) Foster and Dudley Schneider
3. Obtain professional support of DCGS website - led by Jeanette (Jan) Foster
4. Identify and take steps to improve participation in DCGS - led by George Trigg

Closed without completion:

1. Investigate technologies for publication of materials - led by Dudley Schneider