THE DUTCHESS NEWSLETTER

D u t c h e s s   C o u n t y   G e n e a l o g i c a l   S o c i e t y

P. O. Box 708, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602-0708

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

Vol. 11, No. 4   Summer, 2003

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- **President's Notes**

Linda Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

Officers elected May 20, 2003

President (Acting)	Linda Koehler
Vice-President	OPEN
Treasurer	Wayne Merrick
Recording Secretary	Melinda Carter
Corresponding Sec.	Gilbert Leach
VP Membership	Roland Ormsby
VP Library	Linda Koehler
VP Publications	Eleanor Shortle
VP Programs	Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
VP Education	Wendy Campion
VP Projects	Jan Foster
VP Publicity	Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
VP Search	Bernard Rudberg

Appointed:

Editor	Arthur Kelly
Newsletter Editor	J. Douglas Leith
Circulation Manager	Betty Griffin

I would like to welcome our two new board members **Wayne Merrick** and **Bernie Rudberg.** I know they will bring lots of energy and genealogical experience to our board. And a special thanks to Rod Link who has served the board and the society for so long. Luckily, he is not going anywhere yet, so we can still rely on his long memory!

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- **Opportunities for contributions!**
Material is needed for *The Dutchess*

Photocopied or transcribed material of original records would be much appreciated. Credit will be given to the contributor. We would also appreciate suggestions for material which could be included. Please cite the source and location of the record. Send contributions to the undersigned or to:
The Dutchess, PO Box 708, Poughkeepsie NY 12602-0708.

Nancy Kelly <kinship@hvc.rr.com>

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- **DCGS Board - MEETING NOTES**
from Wednesday Apr. 16, 2003

Roland E. Ormsby <wf-are@juno.com>
(edited by Ed.)

Board members work to improve the DCGS in many ways. Some topics considered at their Apr. 16 meeting are good examples:

How to become more effective at providing timely responses to member queries, nonmembers as well.

How to provide a broader range of speakers for our regular meeting. Linda commented, "I'd like board members to think about coming up with ideas for meeting topics - generally, I'd like to put together a committee to help Christine come up with themes, names of local people who could make presentations, the possibilities of putting more money into the budget for speakers at regular meetings, etc. As a starting place - in considering our own research, if I could grab an expert and ask them questions for half an hour about one problem/ project, what would it be about - genetics, city maps, military records, computer basics, fancy computer graphics, digital cameras, DAR, the merger of Ancestry.com and genealogy.com…."

And it's not too early to think *budget* for the June meeting.

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- **DCGS MEETING**
Tuesday May 20, 2003   7:30 PM
At the Latter Day Saints Church
on Spackenkill Road in Poughkeepsie.

Program for May 20
Linda Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

"Tips on How to Use a Family History Center with the On-line Resources of <familysearch.org>"

Linda Koehler, the Society's librarian, spoke on this topic at the May meeting. Both FamilySearch.org on the Internet and the Family History Center (FHC) in Poughkeepsie have the following resources: the Family History Library (FHL) Catalog; Ancestry File (no longer being updated); the 1880 US Census, 1881 British Census, and 1881 Canadian Census; the International Genealogical Index (FHC has version 4.0; online has version 5.0); Pedigree Resources File (more entries available online, but online has only the index, not the full information. The FHC hasn't gotten disks 46-50 yet); the US Social Security Death Index (online is through Sept. 2000; the FHC has through March 1999); and the Vital Records Index for Scandinavia (plus Mexico, available online only). The FHC also has the Vital Records Index for the British Isles, North America, and Western Europe; Scottish Church Records (through 1854); US Military Index (Korean and Vietnam War dead 1950-1975); Freedman's Bank Records; Mormon Immigration Index, and Temple Ready Index.

The FHL catalog can help researchers locate microfilmed or published family histories and records from their areas of interest. Most microfilms can be rented for use at your local FHC. Ancestral File and the Pedigree Resource file include submitted family data; remember that no one verifies this information, and use it as clues for further research. Linda showed an entry from Ancestral File that included two proposed sets of parents for one person to illustrate this. The International Genealogical Index (IGI) includes some submitted (unverified) data, plus some data extracted from records. The Vital Records Index replaces this, and has only extracted information. When searching the IGI, try clicking on the Batch Number to see a list of other people in the same batch, in case these include relatives.

Try searching for your ancestors in all of these resources; you may find some enlightening results!

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- **LIBRARY REPORT**
Linda Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

New Summer FHC/Library hours are Tuesday 9am - 2 pm; Wednesday 5pm - 9 pm; Thursday 9am - 12pm and 7pm - 9pm. There will be no Saturday hours during the summer. The FHC is usually closed the last 2 weeks in August, although it is not yet determined if it will be this year. If you

are planning a trip to the library in late summer or coming from a distance, it is recommended that you call the DCGS librarian, Linda Koehler, to check the schedule before you come (home telephone # 845-462-2361; e-mail <lckoehlr@optonline.net>). The library can also be opened by appointment.

We have started to acquire a CD-ROM collection for our library. We have 4 new titles:

Family Tree Maker CD#157 **Early New York Families** -
(2 discs) includes 6 extensive family history publications: *"Family History of New York"* [City] Vol.1-4 by William S. Pelletreau, 1907. *"Hudson - Mohawk Family Memoirs"* Vol.1-4 [Albany, Rensselaer, Washington, Saratoga, Montgomery, Fulton, Schenectady, Columbia and Greene counties] by Cuyler Reynolds, 1911. *"Family History of Southern NY"* Vol. 1-3 [includes Dutchess County] by Cuyler Reynolds, 1914. *"Family History of Central NY"* Vol. 1-3 by William Richard Cutter, 1912. *"Families of Western NY"* Vol.1 by William Richard Cutter, 1912. *"New York and New England Families"* by S.V Talcott, 1888.

Family Tree Maker CD#351 **Roll of Honor: Civil War Union Soldiers.** [28 published volumes of burials]

Ancestry CD: **City Directories: New York 1886-1894. Selected Cities & Years.**

Heritage Quest CD: **New York 1870 Census Index.**

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- **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**
Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP <wf-are@juno.com>

Membership listings are a benefit of membership. Updates are published in the written versions of this newsletter which are distributed to all current members.
Your new editor is shown here, however:

#1692 J. Douglas Leith
162 Islington Road
Auburndale, MA 02466-1012
E-mail: jdleith@comcast.net (after 1 Jul 2003)
Search for: **Tremper**

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- **SPECIAL REPORT - THE 1880 CENSUS ON CD**
Linda C. Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

From the **FGS "Forum"**, Vol.13, #2 (Summer 2001) pg. 1, 18-19 "Index and Transcription to the 1880 U.S. Census" by David E. Rencher, AG, Director of the Libraries Division of the Family and Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.(permission to reprint this

article verbatim granted to any FGS member organization by The Family and Church History Department and FGS Forum. Figures included in the original article have been omitted.)

Nearly twenty years in the making, the newly released compact disc index and transcription to the 1880 U.S. Federal Population Census is ready. Prepared by the Family and Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Church), this index will be a powerful tool to genealogists throughout the country. The index contains approximately fifty million entries and helps to find people in a nation that was bursting with immigrants and churning with the separation and migration of family members.

The Family and Church History Department coordinates the indexing (extraction) of major genealogical record sources by volunteers throughout the Church. Many who are not members of the Latter-day Saint Church also volunteer their time in this effort. It is estimated that 11.5 million volunteer hours were donated to create the index. Their tireless efforts now make it possible for researchers to find ancestral entries in a matter of seconds that once took hours of painstaking research to locate. Valuable assistance in checking the integrity of the data and verifying the locality entries was provided by the Historical Census Project at the University of Minnesota. Regional Indexes

The software developers have divided the 1880 U.S. census index into seven regions of the country to facilitate both the size of the result sets (especially for common surnames) and to assist the searcher to focus on one geographic area at a time. This approach works especially well when you know the state and county of interest.

The regions are identified in Figure 3 (omitted). Additionally, some of the regions are divided further into sub-regions. Research tip: The National Index can be searched by entire regions whereas the regional indexes usually are searched only by sub-region.

Returning to the search strategy for the Rencher surname, a preliminary search of both the National Index and the Regional Index for Edward Rencher (b. 1816) failed to identify a prospective entry. Family information indicated that he was living in Louisiana and died there in 1884. Using the regional index, a "wildcard" search in the surname field quickly located the entry. A search was made for "*encher" which returned an entry for "Edward Kencher". In the transcription process, the R and K are easily confused, but the flexibility of the index search allowed the entry to be located despite the transcription error.

The "Neighbors" feature will be a significant help to researchers and will add immensely to the utility of the index. Once an entry of interest is identified, you may select the "Neighbors" feature and browse entries in their original context on both sides of the entry you selected. This gives you the ability to identify other possible entries of interest.

Finding Females --

Searchers will quickly learn another strategy: finding the surname of a female identified only by her given name. for example, you can select the state, county, and town you wish to search. Then type in the given name of the female you are seeking, for example, "Abigail." The index will return all of the entries in the geographic locality, regardless of surname, for the given name Abigail.

Should a search of the indexes fail to reveal the desired entry, you also have all of the data preserved in its entirety by geographic locality. For example, if you believe that a family was living in Eutaw, Greene County, Alabama, you can go through that locale page-by-page, the same as if you were looking at the microfilm copy. What you are viewing, of course, is the automated transcript. To use this feature, select the region you want to search, and select the state, select the county, select the town.

To maintain the integrity of the "Neighbors" search, the discs for each area have all of the data contained on that disk. When there was more data than the disc could accommodate for both the data and the index, the index portion spans multiple discs. For example, the Southern States Region Index for Alabama and Mississippi is divided A-R and S-Z. Using either disc, experienced users will be able to use the Advanced Query feature to locate people with surnames A-Z.

Ordering Information --

With the Installation disc, the National Index and the Regional Indexes, there are a total of 56 discs for the complete set. The product is only being sold as a complete set. It comes with a handsome case and sells for $49.00. This price includes all shipping, handling and product support charges. The 1880 U.S. Census may be ordered directly from Church Distribution at 1-800-537-5971 or on-line at <http://www.lds.org> or <http://www.familysearch.org>.

Ed. Note: I bought this set last year and recommend it. There is a branch of NARA near us, and using the CD set before a visit there is often helpful in identifying families with variant spellings or females with unknown last names (as illustrated above for "Rencher" and "Abigail") or unexpected state locations. It provides the exact Series and Roll number needed and saves lots of search time at NARA. If viewing the microfilms is not necessary for the information sought, the CDs often suffice. Unlike other indexes, this set is "every name", not just heads of households, so you can search by a child's name. The set is a tremendous bargain!

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• A May 10 talk at the Marlboro Library

   Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer gave a talk on May 10 at the Marlboro Free Library about using the **HeritageQuest Online databases**. This source currently has about 20,000 scanned books and all censuses except 1900, with censuses indexed for 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1860, 1870, 1890, 1910 and 1920 so far). This is a service that is marketed just to libraries, not individuals. Marlboro has been subscribing to it, and hopes to increase its usage. The librarian there would like us to publicize it to DCGS members. Anyone is welcome to come to the Marlboro Free Library (1251 Route 9W, Marlboro, NY) to use the database.

   ProQuest, the company that owns the database, plans to add more content in the future including the **Freedman's Bank records and American Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Index.**

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• WEB THREADS
Jeanette (Jan) Foster <jfos@fosterswebsite.com>

   I updated the website to include the latest Library additions and the newsletter: **http://www.dcgs-gen.org**

COMMUNITY NAMES:

   We are pleased to announce a new enhancement to our website section regarding Dutchess County vital records.

   Our Vital Records section, which provides the contact information for every town, village and city registrar in Dutchess County, has seen a tremendous amount of traffic since it was first introduced last September. However, within Dutchess County there have been and continue to be many community names which lend not a hint as to which town might hold their records. For example, if you were looking for vital records for an ancestor from Red Oaks Mill, would you know to go to the Town of Poughkeepsie registrar for the records? Would you contact the Town of Stanford for records regarding someone from Bear Market?

   Available now on our website are links to the appropriate registrar for each of over two hundred current and old community names. To access them, simply
        1. Go to the Vital Records Section of the website;
        2. Select the Communities section - there you will see an alphabetic listing of area names.
        3. Click on the name of the locality that you are researching, for example: Arlington. You will be linked to the page of the registrar that holds the records for that area (in this case, Town of Poughkeepsie).

   This supplement to information already contained in the Vital Records section of the website is expected to be a tremendous enhancement for Dutchess County researchers.

   Additionally, I would like to remind everyone that we are unable to take inquiries of any kind at our website. I wish we were staffed to do so but unfortunately, we are not. Due to the limited resources at the website we are unable to answer questions in a timely manner or provide research answers from that site. The e-mail address there, jfos@fosterswebsite.com, is to notify us if something should go wrong with the website. Additionally, we encourage you to use that address to submit corrections, improvements or suggestions for changes to the website. And, of course, any offers to volunteer in any capacity at the Dutchess County Genealogical Society are always welcome!

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• EDITOR'S NOTES
J. Douglas Leith <jdleith@attbi.com>

   Nancy Kelly forwards the following note from a **RootsWeb On-line Newsletter**. Only half of my notebooks had this info, and I quickly fixed the rest! -- *Ed.*

   1b. QUICK TIPS FROM READERS: IDENTIFY YOUR RESEARCH NOTEBOOKS.
            --Loring Hutchinson,   loringh@earthlink.net
Perhaps some good can come from my experience with lost research data. For some time I had been using a 3-ring binder [notebook] to hold my current research papers/notes for my genealogy efforts. My wife and I decided to make a day of it and go to the Dallas (Texas) Public Library to do some research, and further we decided to use the new Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) system.

   After a rather successful day at the library, we rode the DART train back to where our car was parked and I discovered that my 3-ring binder was missing. Telephone calls to the library and DART did not help and I could not believe that two years of information was gone. My biggest mistake was not having any identification on or in the notebook.

   Put a sticker on or in your notebook(s) with your name and telephone number so you won't end up like I did.

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   Finally, look in the October 2003 **NYG&B RECORD** for:
• ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS
TO ARTICLES IN THE RECORD
for a note by your editor concerning RECORD **134:39** ("Notes on the Price, Kelder, Schutz, and MacFall Families of the Upper Hudson Valley," by David Kendall Martin) about an untranslated Dutch phrase found in that paper on page 39, in a 1726 list of Livingston Manor debtors, "*juffr: boer*".