



# THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

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

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

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

*By Valerie LaRobardier*

This year has been a busy one for all here in Dutchess County. Quad celebrations gave us the mixed blessings of extra work and wonderful memories of good times with families and friends. The DCHS Silver Ribbon Historic Homes Tour this summer was especially memorable with a wide variety of both styles and time periods. I was able to view the homes via slide shows prepared by historian Holly Wahlberg, though unfortunately only saw one in person as I was managing that home. The experience in itself was well worth the sacrifice...if you have not already had a chance to document an event of this type you should definitely consider doing it in the future. The Half Moon visited us at Waryas Park and we had a chance to tour the wonderful ship as well. Another great opportunity both to document and crew—I took advantage of both and earned my crew shirt. This was a very pleasant day of sailing and learning each job as carried out by the crew back in the 1600's.

But, for many, the high point of the Quad in Dutchess County was the long awaited opening of the Walkway Over the Hudson with a weekend of parades and festivities. My siblings, son and their spouses came from Maryland and New York City to share the experience with me. Releasing the large air lanterns at night and picnicking with family and just-met friends so high up in near darkness was a never to be forgotten experience. You can view television of this great event at [http://english.ntdtv.com/ntdtv\\_en/ns\\_na/2009-10-08/718288540040.html](http://english.ntdtv.com/ntdtv_en/ns_na/2009-10-08/718288540040.html) (URL is all one line! – ed.)

Our Fall Seminar this year was particularly successful, and I will leave reporting the details to our Program Chair Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer. Suffice it to say that you would be wise to watch our web site for advance notice of the date each fall and reserve it well ahead. It seems to usually fall around the Saturday closest to the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, but of course, speaker and venue availability can move that date a little.

The thorny issue of our county still lacking a historian continues. We had Ginny Buechele in to our November meeting to provide us with more background and help continue the advocacy for filling this vacant position. If you have not done so yet, please consider writing to Executive Bill Steinhaus and the County Legislature. It is certainly appropriate for those non-residents who care about our history to write as well. The investment made in the Walkway has already paid off well in terms of tourist business. We feel very strongly that more dollars would be spent in Dutchess County by researchers visiting if that research could be made easier to evaluate from afar. As it stands now, how to get at our records and get information out of them remains a mystery to most. We do not know of anyone who is sure what records exist and in what condition. The longer this problem continues, the greater the risk to our earliest records. I did call a meeting of the Dutchess County Records Management Advisory Board, and we had what appeared to be a productive meeting with County Clerk Brad Kendall. He forwarded the Bylaws I wrote to the County Attorney Ron Wozniak for review. This was certainly a prudent step to take, since I myself am not an attorney. I based the bylaws upon a template for a similar advisory board and the sketchy material found in Local Law 3 of 1986. Unfortunately, lacking Historian and Archivist, the success of the board's efficacy depends on additional advisors to fill the gap in expertise. Attorney Wozniak's interpretation was that we could invite anyone we wanted to the meetings, but that invitees would not serve on the board. This decision hamstring us completely. Nevertheless we will continue to lobby for a more effective board. This can be accomplished either by appointing a good historian to fill the vacancy, with budget adequate enough to appoint an archivist, or by amending the Local Law 3 of 1986 to allow for the bylaws as written to be approved.

Write and call:

Dutchess County Executive  
William R. Steinhaus  
22 Market. St.,  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
Voice (845) 486-2000 Fax (845) 486-2021

e-Mail [countyexec@co.dutchess.ny.us](mailto:countyexec@co.dutchess.ny.us)  
 and send a copy to the County Legislature at:  
 Dutchess County Legislature  
 Chairman Roger Higgins  
 22 Market St.  
 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
 Voice (845) 486-2100 Fax (845) 486-2113  
 e-Mail [countylegislature@co.dutchess.ny.us](mailto:countylegislature@co.dutchess.ny.us)

### Historic Towns of Dutchess County Appeal

*President Valerie LaRobardier*

Our Quad Project, the launching of this Association and magazine is still stuck, awaiting only more advertisers. Our advertising is very reasonable...starting at \$20. All businesses, churches, townships, clubs and historical societies are urged to participate, and certainly at these low advertising rates there is no reason not to. Please talk to any business owners or clubs that you are involved with. They may visit the web site at [www.historicdutchesstowns.org](http://www.historicdutchesstowns.org) or call me at 845.849.6025 for more information. Any of you who have not yet subscribed, this would be another great way of supporting the project!

#### Membership Level [check one]

- Individual Basic [Enclose \$35]  
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 Individual Sustaining [Enclose \$85]  
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- Professional Basic [Enclose \$150]  
 Professional Sustaining [Enclose \$185]  
 Professional Donor [Enclose \$250]  
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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose payment and mail to:  
 Historic Towns of Dutchess County  
 71 Sand Hill Road  
 Dover Plains NY 12522

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### DCGS Meetings, Fall 2009

*Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer*

This has been a busy fall, with two meetings and a seminar. At our meeting of 15 Sep 2009, Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer spoke on the topic “**Planning a Genealogical Research Trip.**” She emphasized that planning ahead will help you make the best of your time on a research trip. List the problems you want to solve, the records that might help you solve them, and where those records are held.

If the local genealogical or historical society or public library has an online catalog, check it from home and make a list of the books (and their call numbers) that appear to be useful for your research. Organize your time to the best advantage. If the library is open in the evening, visit it then when the courthouse is closed, and visit cemeteries when other repositories are closed (however, don't postpone cemeteries until the last day, as that will guarantee torrential rains). Go over the day's research every evening, to see what you've added to your knowledge, and if it opens any more avenues for research that you should work on while you're there.

Bring family group sheets and pedigree charts for the families you'll research, but if you want to use documents you already have for these families, bring photocopies rather than originals. If family members will accompany you, especially those not interested in genealogy, plan activities that will interest them so they won't get bored.

At our meeting of 17 Nov 2009, Virginia Buechele discussed “**What Archives?**”- the problems with the Dutchess County archives. Since 2003, she has been advocating for appointment, and now reappointment, of a Dutchess County Historian and compliance with local, state and federal regulations pertaining to records management. Older historical records are kept in a records center, but no one is allowed to go there. There is no county historian to coordinate efforts to collect and organize materials relating to the county's history (this during the Henry Hudson quadricentennial year!). The county historian appoints the county archivist, so there is no county archivist to watch over the materials in the records center. Although the historian position is budgeted, the county executive won't fill it.

See also the previous issue of this Newsletter for other aspects of this problem.

The topic of the Fall Seminar on 24 Oct 2009 was “**Google Your Family Tree.**” Dan Lynch, author of the book by that title, discussed ways to harness Google and use it specifically to search for ancestral information. For example, did you know that putting a tilde (~) in front of a word in a Google search will cause Google to search for both that word and words with similar meanings? For example, for ~genealogy, among other terms, Google will search family history. So searching for Cheney ~genealogy will find items relating to genealogy of the Cheney family that don't include the word genealogy. The tilde is on the key under the Escape key at the upper left corner of the keyboard. For many more useful suggestions for using the power of Google and its many features (e.g., Books, Maps, etc.) in your genealogy, look for Dan's book, *Google Your*

*Family Tree*. The list price is \$34.95, but you can find it at a lower price on Amazon.com, and it's worth every penny.

### Next DCGS meeting

by *Christine Oppenheimer*

The next meeting is planned for Monday, January 18, 2010, and will be our traditional January Members Sharing with Members.

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### George Trigg Resigns

by *Linda C. Koehler*

George Trigg, a DCGS board member for many years, has moved out of the area and reluctantly resigned his position as Vice President. One of my early memories of George is from the DCGS library, where he was using film he had ordered from the Family History Center. He looked to be well into his 70s, bent over with a cane, with lots of white hair. Someone asked him a question and he said he had to check his calendar. So he whipped out his Palm Pilot (the first I had ever seen in use), punched in some info, and checked out his schedule. That was not what I was expecting from the oldest person in the room.

George was always up to date with news in the field of genealogy as a whole, as well as the technology. He attended numerous national genealogical conferences in the U.S. and Canada, and acted as our representative to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. I appreciated his opinions, experience and knowledge while I was on the board, and I know the society is going to miss his voice and presence at meetings.

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### Update - Census Images on Ancestry.com

by *Linda C. Koehler*

Several years ago, we ran a series of articles that included information about on-line digital images of the U.S. Federal census from 1790-1840 for Dutchess County. There were a number of serious errors in the Federal census as posted at Ancestry.com, which could lead to misleading results from index searches or browsing through the Dutchess County pages. Lately, Ancestry has been re-posting some of their census years with improvements to the images and/or indexing. They have picked up some of the errors that we had found for Dutchess County towns, but not all of them. The problems are listed below.

**1800** - PARTIALLY CORRECTED - Previously, Ancestry.com would only allow you to go up to p.178 of the Southeast town enumeration [now part of Putnam County]. They have added page 179, which is really the last page of that town's enumeration, so browsing the census will find this page. However, there is still a problem. There are only 4 additional names of Southeast residents on page 179, written in a non-standard way (they are written perpendicular to the usual page format). The Ancestry.com index still does not pick up those 4 names in their index. The households are those of

Caleb Fowler Jun., Hezekiah Townsend, John Raymond, and Margaret Moss.

**1810** - This error is NOT CORRECTED. Ancestry.com mistakenly divides the town of Phillips [now part of Putnam County] into 2 separate towns called "Phillipstown" and "Phillips".

**1820** - CORRECTED - Ancestry.com had mistakenly listed the Dutchess County town of Stanford as part of Sullivan County and they split the town of Washington between Dutchess and Sullivan Counties. This has been corrected, with Stanford now in Dutchess County and the town of Washington listed completely within Dutchess County.

**1840** - This problem is NOT CORRECTED. Ancestry.com mistakenly tacked the beginning of the Union Vale enumeration onto the end of the town of Beekman listing. The town of Beekman should end on p. 299, but Ancestry images continue through p. 303. So the Union Vale images on Ancestry start on p. 304 instead of p.300. Therefore, anyone browsing the Union Vale census will miss 2 pages of names. All names are indexed and will link to the correct images, but these names will be identified (in the INDEX only) as belonging in the town of Beekman when they are really resident in Union Vale. A similar kind of error occurs for the towns of Pawling and North East. The first page of the North East enumeration is mistakenly tacked onto the end of the Pawling listing; Pawling should end on page 340, but the Ancestry images continue through to page 341. Town of North East images do start correctly on p. 341, so you will not miss any names when browsing through North East. However, this complicates the index - names on p. 341 of the Dutchess County census appear twice in the index, as resident in Pawling and in North East, when in fact they are only resident in North East. And finally, there is still a spelling error in the Ancestry.com listing of Dutchess County towns - Clinton is spelled "Cinton".

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### Dutchess County in other genealogical magazines

by *Christine Oppenheimer*

Evans, Stefani. "'Middling Sorts' and Baptisms: **Alathea 'Alleta' Sadler** (ca. 1732-1806) of New York and Poughkeepsie." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 97 (June 2009):97-110.

Sadler discusses the family of her son, **Nicholas Power**, who founded the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

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### **VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED**

The NYG&B is accelerating several projects involving preparing original archival materials for inclusion in our website's e-Library. The current projects include indexing both Ward 17 of the 1855 New York State census and our wonderful Member Biographies. Once these indexes are complete, digitized versions of these documents will be posted to the e-Library. Volunteer are doing the transcriptions. Contact Lauren Maerlein: [education@nygbs.org](mailto:education@nygbs.org) or call 212-626-6853.

Just published, Sep. 2009!  
Major opus on one branch of the **Tremper** family, 364 p., 2664 references, index of places, events, and every name. Plus maps, many photographs of people, etc.

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E-mail - [islpris@comcast.net](mailto:islpris@comcast.net)  
Prior volume, 2007, on the Ulster County branch, 397 p., 3223 refs, every name index, photographs, maps, also \$30.

The Johan Jury (George)  
Tremper Family  
of Dutchess County, Columbia  
County  
and  
Delaware County NY  
  
and  
The Wilhelmus Tremper Family  
of the Hudson River Valley and  
Philadelphia PA

### **Membership**

By Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP  
[reormsby@optonline.net](mailto:reormsby@optonline.net)

New members and those submitting address corrections or a new set of surnames are listed by membership number.

NOTE: E-mail addresses are updated only if a new US Postal address or surname list is change is included. Names being researched are in **bold** type.

*(This web version does not include member lists.)*