



# THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

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

<http://www.dcgsgen.org>

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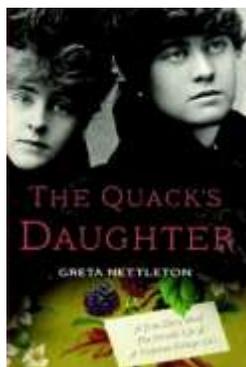
## President's Message

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### DCGS meeting, 19 Sep 2012

By Roland Ormsby [reormsby@optonline.net](mailto:reormsby@optonline.net)  
[with some changes and additions by ed.]

Only about a half dozen people showed up [bad weather – ed.] along with our speaker, Greta Nettleton. We held off until maybe quarter to eight to see if more showed up, none did. Christine and



Greta discussed postponing the session until sometime later, possibly next March.

Greta did mention that she was almost ready to release an E-book and she took the E-addresses of any who thought they might be interested. [It's *The Quack's Daughter: A True Story about the Private Life of a Victorian College Girl*, at Amazon.com's Kindle Store. – ed.]

I didn't want to mention it at the meeting, but if no one objects, and given that Greta is willing to return at no cost, it might be appropriate for us to give her the exposure to at least the people I have in the E-mail address list. If a few of us buy her work, it would cover her extra expenses.

[Book notes, assembled by ed. from the web:]

This is a true story about the notorious Mrs. Dr. Rebecca J. Keck who in 1884 sent her daughter

to Vassar to raise the family's social status; Cora Keck's unexpected educational opportunity opens a window to a turbulent era that greatly resembles our own.



Greta Nettleton is a professional writer, editor and researcher in Rockland County, New York. She has devoted five years of research to reconstructing Cora's story and is currently at work on a second book about Cora's mother, Mrs. Dr. Keck, and the tumultuous early years of

America's medical profession, called [The Charmed Line](#).

Greta Nettleton says, "Imagine that a Saratoga trunk full of diaries and photographs belonging to a forgotten black-sheep ancestor came your way.... What secrets might be hidden inside?"

"My great-grandmother, Cora Keck, was a piano prodigy from Davenport, Iowa. Her mother, Mrs. Dr. Keck, was a notorious self-made patent-medicine millionaire. My story transports readers back through time to follow a passionate and talented western girl on her unlikely climb from the muddy streets of the nation's "wickedest city" to the pinnacle of America's social pyramid at Vassar College.

"Cora was sent to Vassar's School of Music in 1884. Transformed by Vassar's high expectations, she graduated as the star of the conservatory program. Returning home to her conservative parents and prevented from performing in public, she was forced to make a choice between loyalty to her family and her dreams of an independent future.

"Cora could have walked straight out of a Susan Glaspell story, except that everything in her tale is true. It is accompanied by hundreds of photographs that illuminate the life of a heroine eager to explain

in her own words the ups and downs of her many friends and flirts, her wildly unconventional family and her bright ambitions for the concert stage.”

## DCGS meeting 13 Nov 2012

### “Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley”



Overshadowed by the many major historical sites in the Hudson Valley are a number of relatively unknown yet historically significant locales. In most cases these sites are hidden in plain view, positioned along heavily trafficked roads or in the midst of city centers. **Anthony Musso** profiled many of these in

his book *Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley*. At this meeting, he discussed, with a slide show, the fascinating history of places you might pass every day. Many have been reworked and repurposed but still are recognizable.

**Mr. Musso** had a 38-year career with the United States Post Office, while also working as a writer and editor for several magazines and newspapers, and currently writes a weekly column for Gannett newspapers. Mr. Musso had copies of his book available at the meeting.

## New Dutchess County Historian

*By your ed.*

The Dutchess County Tourism and the Dutchess



County Historical Society welcomed new Dutchess County Historian William P. Tatum III on Nov. 15, 2012, at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor & Education Center, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum. Plans were shown also for the

many upcoming 2013 Dutchess County Heritage Days Events.

## SamPubCo - notes

*By your ed.*

Historian and Hudson Valley genealogist Jane Fiske mentioned lately that there is a web site where you can look for wills (etc.) in Dutchess County and elsewhere put out by SamPubCo.com. The web site lets you search for wills by browsing lists or by person's name, and then gives the document ID so if you have access to the county clerk office you can go and look up the will, or you can order copies from this site for about \$11-\$20.

The web URL for Dutchess wills is:

<http://www.sampubco.com/wills/ny/nydutchess05.htm> and the tables are arranged in 3 columns. I include a sample of 3 people that interest me so you can see how it works:

<u>Testator</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Vol. page</u>
TREMPER, CATHARINE	RHINEBECK NY-	14-V-475
TREMPER, JACOB	RHINEBECK NY-	14-A-132
TREMPER, SALLY B.	RHINEBECK NY-	14-V-147

## Volunteers for genealogy

*By your ed.*

A recurring question showed up recently, that with so much more available online these days, would there be any way we could use the distant members to transcribe records (e.g., census or whatever)?

DCGS members who live in the area can volunteer for some tasks (write to us!). Those farther away can do other things, especially transcriptions, and perhaps other jobs also. Your editor (that's me) lives near Boston and all my DCGS work is done by email. I also have been doing transcriptions for the NYG&B: they email scanned images of census pages and matching Excel spreadsheet forms, and I transcribe them into the Excel spreadsheets, which they later proof read carefully. Other organizations also want people to do transcriptions. Ancestry.com has a wide range of documents that volunteers can transcribe. Foreign language ability is needed for some collections if you have that skill. So, just contact your preferred target, poke around on their web site, and volunteer to do something!

## Membership List

*By Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP  
reormsby@optonline.net*

The membership list is not included in this web version.