



THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

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

Vol. 22, No. 1

Fall 2013

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President's Message

Valerie LaRobardier, President

The spring and summer have been particularly busy for me while wearing one of my other hats—the historian hat. History is so intertwined with genealogy that few discoveries are possible without learning a bit about the family's story as it relates to the backdrop of history. Thus I do not feel as though I am neglecting genealogy when I pursue learning more about history. The history community benefits as well from the cross over. Just this week at our county quarterly historians meeting we discussed extending the index to the DCHS Yearbooks. One person mentioned that it would be great if *The Dutchess* could also be indexed, and I let them know that it was, up through Volume 30, and available at the library, but that we have plans for completing it up to the current volume. Some were not even aware that there was a Family History Center Library in Dutchess County. And, discussing the resources held at various historic sites around the county highlights how important these collections are to genealogical research. I strongly encourage you to become involved with an historical society or site in your area, whether you are a native or a newcomer, even if you have no ancestry in the area. It helps develop another tool in your genealogy detective toolbox and can be quite enjoyable as well.

We are getting ready to launch the member's only section of the DCGS Web Site. Look for email in the coming weeks telling you how to log on. As we add to this section we will be discussing what form the additional content will take, and how to best get it into a format for sharing.

Our new season of genealogist classes begins on September 9th at the East Fishkill Community Library. The classes are once a month on Mondays from 10:30

to noon and you may register on line at <http://EFLibrary.org> For more detail please visit our web site.

New Newsletter Editor

DCGS has appointed a new editor, Chris Taylor, to replace J. Douglas Leith, who is retiring after about 12 years in the position.

Chris is a member of DCGS who is retired from the US Navy living in Brandon FL with his new bride. He was blessed by the research done by both his grandmothers that had Dutchess County as a home to kick-start his research efforts.

About trusting indexes

From a note by Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer, Sep 1999

Hansen's Ten Rules for Using Indexes (reprinted with permission of James Hansen, reference librarian at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin).

1. An index is only an index. It is not a substitute for the record being indexed.
2. The larger the size of the index, the more easily pertinent listings are overlooked.
3. In any given record, any vowel may at any point be substituted for any other vowel.
4. Virtually every pre-WWII record, in whatever form we see it today, originated as an attempt by an individual to put on paper what he or she thought was heard.
5. There is no perfect indexing system.
6. It doesn't matter how you spell your name; it only matters how the indexer spelled it.
7. Just because an index is described as complete or comprehensive, doesn't mean it is complete or comprehensive.
8. If you haven't found it in an index, you can only conclude that you haven't found it in an index. You cannot conclude that it's not in the record.
9. The index isn't always in the back of the book.
10. Sometimes it is best to ignore the index altogether.

Dutchess County Fair (20-25 Aug 2013) – NOT THIS YEAR!

J. Douglas Leith, Past Editor



The DCGS has had a booth at the DC Fair in years past, but this year we were told that other space needs took priority so we have no booth. Now we can begin thinking about it for 2014! Volunteers to help at the booth are needed and always welcome. Write to the DCGS and ask to help!

The DC Fair is full of opportunities. Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer saw one a year or two ago, submitting a **family tree embroidery** that she had made. She writes: "I won a ribbon (second prize) for an embroidery I entered! It was a family sampler for the family of my mother-in-law's great-grandmother, Harriett Henderson--listing her parents and in-laws, her and her husband, and their children. I made it on linen that my mother-in-law found in the 1980s when she was clearing out her mother's house. The linen was in a box with a note that it was made from flax grown on the Henderson farm, and was from Harriett's hope chest, hence the choice of subject. When my m-i-l found it, I told her that if she would give it to me, I'd give it back to her with some embroidery on it. So, we did have a sort of a genealogical presence...."

Membership

Roland Ormsby, Membership VP
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Membership lists are shown in the printed version of the Newsletter, but not in the web version.

Looking for Herricks in Dutchess Co.?

J. Douglas Leith, Past Editor

There is a 2002 List Serve for Herrick records found on the web which has Dutchess County misspelled as "Duthess" in its title – so if you are looking for this family in our county you might miss it! Web

URL: <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/HERRICK/2002-09/1032268653>

Settlers of the Beekman Patent

Valerie LaRobardier, President

The Beekman Patent was one of the early land grants of Dutchess County, granted 1697. It covered the current towns of Beekman and Union Vale, half of LaGrange, and all of Dover and Pawling except for the eastern strip along the Connecticut border that was contested with Connecticut and then in 1731 became the Oblong Patent.



Frank J. Doherty

In 1737 the Beekman Patent became the Beekman Precinct, and included that adjacent Oblong area. In 1768 Pawling Precinct was taken off, containing present towns of Dover and Pawling.

Frank Doherty Sr. has researched and published an ongoing history of the families who settled this patent. Appropriately named *The Settlers of the Beekman Patent*, the series is now up to 11 volumes. The latest volume covering surnames from Rood to Sly was published this year and the Dutchess County Historical Society very kindly donated a copy for our library, making our set up to date.

The project began as a house history and quickly turned into a quest that has uncovered records shedding



Frank Doherty's home

light on the families who lived in this second largest grant in Dutchess County. Ferreting out these records in old store ledgers and other obscure sources has provided genealogists and historians with a tremendous body of records. One might think if their target ancestor did not live in the Beekman Patent, then information would not be found in these books for them... and that would be incorrect! There is a great deal of information about people who lived in other sections of the county as well as outside the county, because these settlers had families and business dealings outside the Patent. Wherever possible Frank has also included the family information found in genealogical works about the ancestors who lived in other areas before coming to Dutchess County, as well as what is known of the family after it left the area. One excellent feature of this work, to my way of thinking, is Frank's practice of listing all the unhooked people of the surname at the end of their family chapter. There may not have been enough of a family in those branches to include them, or the data snippet may not be sufficient to place the person in a branch. But these records that do not "fit" are given anyway. And sometimes that little snippet is just enough to recognize the person you are researching, and thus you glean another clue.

Recognizing that an individual may only need to see a chapter or two of one volume, Frank has made purchasing single surname chapters possible from his web site. This is particularly useful if you do not have access to a library having the collection. The volumes are available in hard copy as well as CD, with reduced pricing for the entire collection. For more details visit Frank's web site at <http://www.beekmansettlers.com>. You may also reach him by mail at 181 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.