



THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

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

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

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MEETINGS PLANNED

DCGS meeting for Tue 17 January 2012 "Members Sharing with Members"

An informal meeting where members (or non-members!) can discuss their problems, in hopes of getting suggestions for further research, or successes, in hopes for giving other people ideas for further research.

DCGS meeting for Tue 20 March 2012: "Researching Irish Ancestors"

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer

DCGS meeting 15 Nov 2011

"The Immigrant Experience in Poughkeepsie" Harvey K. Flad,

Emeritus Professor of Geography at Vassar College

Reported by Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer

Harvey Flad, a professor emeritus of geography at Vassar College, gave a fascinating summary of material related to the immigrant experience in Poughkeepsie from *Main Street to Mainframes: Landscape and Social Change in Poughkeepsie*,

which he co-authored with Clyde Griffen (SUNY Press, 2009). Between Market Street and the river, there used to be tenements. As each wave of new immigrants came in, they lived in these tenements until their community had advanced enough to move to better housing, farther from the river. Not only the immigrants, but their houses of worship, clubs, etc., moved inland. Professor Flad began the discussion with early Dutch and then English immigrants, and moved up to the present day, with Mexican and Jamaican immigrants. He also touched on the history of several buildings in Poughkeepsie, many of which are serving far different uses now than they did previously.

Copies of *Main Street to Mainframes: Landscape and Social Change in Poughkeepsie* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2009) by Drs. Flad (historical geography) and Clyde Griffen (social history) were available.

Harvey K. Flad received his Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 1973. From 1972 to 2004 he taught courses in Geography, American Culture, Environmental Studies, and Urban Studies. Dr. Flad's scholarship has focused on cultural and historic landscapes, and environmental and urban planning, including waterfront and urban revitalization. He has published numerous articles on 19th century landscape design theory and practice, including the influence of the Hudson River School of Art. His work in film, video and photography has included the prize-winning film *Hyde Park*; an on-line essay on landscape photography for the Smithsonian Institution; and as writer and narrator of the 2006 DVD *A Digital Tour of Poughkeepsie*, reissued on the Vassar College YouTube site in 2010. Research for the latter led to the best-selling book *Main Street to*

Mainframes: Landscape and Social Change in Poughkeepsie, co-authored with Clyde Griffen (SUNY Press, 2009). He is the recipient of a Ford Fellowship, Fulbright Award, Maniotoga’s Russel Wright Award for Environmental Preservation in 2003, and the Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award from the Dutchess County Historical Society in 2010.

The Fall Seminar scheduled for 29 Oct. 2011 had to be cancelled due to an unseasonal snow storm. We are working on rescheduling it for sometime in April or May 2012. Once it is rescheduled, we will send out e-mails with the new date and post information on the DCGS web site, with brochures going out about six weeks before the date. – CCO

Dutchess County Heritage Days set for 23 Oct to 1 Nov each year

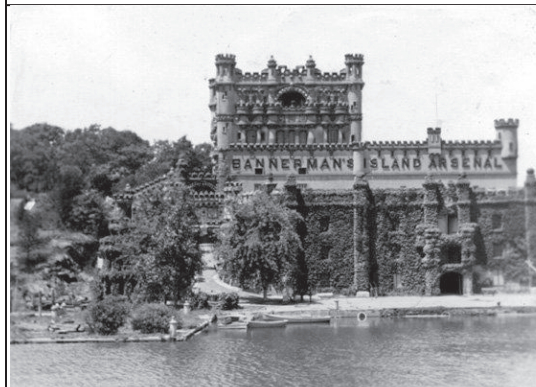
By a vote of 22-3, the County Legislature on 11 April 2011 adopted Resolution No. 2011104, designating an annual Dutchess County Heritage Days period from 23 October to 1 November, commemorating the date of 23 Oct 1713 when the Assembly empowered “Dutchy County” to elect its own supervisor, treasurer, assessors and collectors, and running to November 1 because on that date in 1683 the Province of New York was divided into 12 counties including Dutchess. Quite a bit of County history is summarized in the “Whereas” paragraphs of the Resolution, q.v. So October 23, 2013, will mark the County’s 300th birthday!

Find the resolution in the Legislature Minutes at: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Legislature/CLMeetingMinutes04112011.pdf>, beginning on p. 202

An interesting web site on “Hudson Valley Ruins” is found at <http://www.hudsonvalleyruins.org/> put up by Tom Rinaldi and Rob Yasinsac. County by coun-

ty photographs and text – here are those for Dutchess County (list copied from the web site):

Bannerman's Island Arsenal - "Bannerman's



Castle" - Including historic photos (1998 & 2007).

Beacon - Matteawan State Hospital. Now part of a correctional facility, few get to see this decaying gem as we did.

Beacon - Tioronda Hat factory, undergoing demolition in the fall of 2011.

Beacon - Brockway Brick Yard. We missed out on a magnificent brickyard ruin by just a few years. Little remains today.

Millbrook - The Bennett School for Girls (Halcyon Hall). A most photogenic, and oft-photographed, ruin.

Poughkeepsie - Hudson River State Hospital.

Poughkeepsie - Opening Day of the Walkway Over the Hudson (Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge.)

Hyde Park - Shagabak mansion. Not quite the Roosevelts and Vanderbilts.

Rhinebeck - Wyndclyffe mansion. Decaying with the Joneses.

DCGS Board Meeting Agenda

Sat 3 Dec 2011 *(summarized by ed.)*

OLD BUSINESS

1. Research grant RFP’s. One is some Eastern Dutchess Research items that we may wish to tie in with the grant process.
2. Membership – we need it.
3. Budget draft for adoption (see below).

NEW BUSINESS

1. Form committee for 2012 Dutchess County Fair. The fair coordinators gave us a very strong “welcome back next year” message, which is very gratifying in terms of public relations.
2. Discuss archiving past issues of the newsletter *[your ed. is working on some of this!]*.
3. Dutchess County Heritage Days plans. It was decided that for this 2012 first year the focus would be on the actual period of history between 1683 when NY State divided into twelve counties and 1713 when we had sufficient population to elect our own government officials. Christine is on the Ad Hoc Committee to plan the 2013 celebration.
4. Civil War Sesquicentennial. It is a multi-year event. Dutchess County Tourism would like to focus strongly on this event during 2013. We might like to have a DCGS project and/or event.

OLDER MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2011

Canceled due to snow, with critical agenda items handled via email. We may reschedule it for April or May 2012.

6 AUGUST 2011

Bennett Room at Millbrook Library, Millbrook, NY.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Chair Roland Ormsby updated the membership numbers. Our size is not in-

creasing materially. We discussed ways of creating more of an incentive for people to join. Ideas are needed from readers....

OLD BUSINESS

Research grant RFPs - tabled until after the Fair.

Getting town historical society members to join us was also tabled.

Mary Anne reported on Renegades Family Day including photos.

Elections—We should get started on this for next May.

Approved: purchase a projector in time for the Fair.

NEW BUSINESS [Aug 2011]

Budget

A new revenue stream is needed. Members-only benefits seemed to be the best way.

We discussed running membership event specials. More ideas solicited.

Budget agreed on:.

DCGS 2011-2012 ANNUAL BUDGET:

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSE
Membership	3,125.	430.
Publications	350.	5,000.
Electronic Publication ¹		400.
Research	900.	400.
Donations	150.	
Program		250.
Seminar	750.	550.
Booths ² [DC Fair, etc]		530.
Library		500.
Technology ³		500.
Other		500.
Totals	5,275.	9,060.
Deficit to come from reserve	3,785.	

Footnotes to table:

¹ Assuming additional expense for Members-only web page

² 135.00 for display, 350.00 for printing and 45.00 misc.

³ Includes computer maintenance agreement.

New Genealogy Web Site in Town!

The material below is a very brief extract and summary of what you can find on the web. It has been brewing for a while. I don't know about it personally and can't guarantee anything, but it looks interesting! ...ed.

MyHeritage.com

MyHeritage is the most popular family network on the web. Millions of families around the world enjoy having a private and free place for their families to keep in touch and to showcase their roots. **MyHeritage's** Smart Matching™ technology empowers users with an exciting and innovative way to find relatives and explore their family history. With all family information stored in a secure site, **MyHeritage** is the ideal place to share family photos, and celebrate and preserve special family moments. The company is backed by Accel Partners and Index Ventures, the investors of Facebook and Skype. For more information visit www.myheritage.com.

... and another news release...

MyHeritage acquires FamilyLink.com and WorldVitalRecords.com to enter US market

PROVO, Utah, LONDON, UK & TEL AVIV, Israel—
[MyHeritage](http://www.myheritage.com), the most popular family network on the web, announced the acquisition of [FamilyLink.com](http://www.familylink.com), Inc., maker of the family history content sites FamilyLink.com and WorldVitalRecords.com. This is **MyHeritage's** seventh and largest acquisition since 2007. The purchase marks a significant move into the US market commercially and operationally, and will boost **MyHeritage's** offering to families with the addition of a vast database of more than 3 billion historical records. With offices and staff in Europe,

Australia and Israel, **MyHeritage** will now be adding its first US-based office in Utah, the home of FamilyLink.com and often cited as the family history capital of the world.

This genealogy site has significant European connections and may prove useful for some ancestries. Visit their web site for more, or visit: <http://tcn.ch/MyHFL> for additional news text about them.

(ed. note) There is some extra space here, making it a good place to beg all you readers to send us *stuff* that might interest other members of the DCGS and the wider genealogical community that receives this newsletter – various libraries around New York, for example. We all enjoy reading about others' findings and fun, especially if it has some wrinkle that might help someone else who is having trouble. Photographs are always welcome, too! Include your name and contact info so others can reach you if they wish.

Please send your material to me; I'm happy to correspond by email if needed to clarify points or problems either before or after you send something. Actual genealogy as such and queries go to the Dutchess (journal), but the Newsletter can take almost anything else. A lively Newsletter exchange makes your membership and that of others much more interesting and worth while! And thanks in advance!

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