



THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society
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<http://www.dcgs-gen.org>

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President's Notes

By Valerie LaRobardier

SAVE THE DATE!
October 25, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Hyde Park United Methodist Church
Hyde Park, NY

Watch for program and Registration
details on our web site at
<http://www.dcgs-gen.org/meetings.htm>

Greetings to all DCGS Members from your new president! I will be starting my term on August 30th with the Board Meeting. Many thanks to all of our Board Members for their cooperation in getting this meeting off the ground amid numerous scheduling obstacles. We are gearing up for a full program to include the Fall Seminar October 25th in addition to our regular meeting September 16th.

I will be continuing with the projects and policies established during Linda's Presidency. The most recent of these was the liaison with the Dutchess County Historical Society. I will be meeting with their officers in September and will report with more detail as this alliance takes shape.

A little biographical information for those of you who do not know me—I have been a resident of Dutchess County for 32 years. Before that I lived in New York City. I grew up in Wyoming and Montana. I am third generation genealogist in my family preceded by my father and grandmother. My genealogical roots are in Maine, New Brunswick, Massachusetts and Sweden—but I am very much involved with Dutchess County families just the same. Currently I am researching the genealogies of the early settlers of the Town of Dover, including their roots elsewhere and their migrations out of this area.

Professionally I am a construction consultant, currently involved mostly with commercial projects in the Kingston area. I designed my own home, along with several other homes and additions. I also serve on the board of the National Association

of Leavitt Families, the Planning Board of the Town of Dover, and the Dover-Wingdale Chamber of Commerce.

My sincere hope is to continue the good work of our society and contribute according to the great example of those who have gone before me. For this I will certainly need help from many of you. I welcome your thoughts.

Using the Dutch Reformed Church Records

Valerie LaRobardier vl@valeconsulting.com

The records of the Dutch Reformed Church in New York can provide an excellent source of marriages and births, but one must be careful when using them. It is a good idea to get as many records as possible for various spellings of the name of the individual in question and analyze them to ensure that you have the correct ones. For ease both finding and analyzing I can find no equal to Robert Billard's work. He has transcribed and posted on line many of these records. Additionally he developed a very handy program called Record Search, and made it available to all in downloadable format. His site may be found at

http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rillard/vital_statisti_cs.htm Scroll down the page to find the link to the program.

Before you go on to that, take some time to read the material concerning the records.

When you download the zip files, make sure to save them all in a folder of their own. Do not move them or the folder after you start to use the program—for some reason, even if you specify the directory again with the new location, the program will not find the files after moving. Billard's program does something truly amazing—it analyzes all the records and collects those with similar names and groups them together in families. Now, due to the wide variety in name spellings, it will not always do this perfectly, but what a great shortcut to get started! Take a look at this example: [Each record shows the father, mother, child, witnesses, in that order. The bracketed number is keyed to the source list.]

1727 May 21; Johannes de Duytser, Catrina Bogardus; Rachel; Cornelis Bogardus, Rachel Bogardus [1]

1728 Dec 01; Johannes de Duytser, Catrina Bogardus; Lidia ; Jury Westvaal, Blandina de Wit [1]

1730 Apr 05; Johannes de Duytser, Catrina Bogardus; Dirk; David de Duytser, Ariaantjen Vreedenburg [1]

1732 May 14; Johannes de Duytser, Catrina Bogardus; Jannetjen; Lowies du Bois, Jannetjen Van Vlied [1]

1734 Dec 01; Johannes de Duytser, Catrina Bogardus; Jeremias; Cornelis van Bueren, Margriet Bogardus [1]

1741 Jul 12; Johannes de Duytser, Catrina Bogardus; Catrina; Anthony Schuyler, Rachel van Bueren [1]

1748 Jan 31; Johannes de Duytser, Catharina Bogardus; Zara; Cornelis van Keuren, Zara Hoogteling [1]

Notice that the mother is always given by her maiden name—another great bonus of these records. If the marriage record cannot be found it may often be inferred from the baptisms. With this list we also see gaps 1734 - 1741 and 1741 - 1748. This may indicate that additional records can be found during those periods.

Keep in mind that the Dominie traveled to outlying areas to perform baptisms and marriages. In the example above the dates all fall on a Wednesday, indicating that the family was not living in Kingston. Be alert too for unexpected records. Two of Richard Sackett's grandchildren's baptisms are to be found among the records of the Kingston Dutch Reformed Church. Richard Sackett was an early and very influential settler in Eastern Dutchess. P. H. Smith, in his History of Dutchess County says that "at the time Richard Sackett established his family in Amenia there was not another white family nearer than Poughkeepsie, Woodbury and New Milford." Charles H Wygant's Sackett's of America shows no name for John Sackett's wife. So, not knowing she was Dutch, you may not think to look in the Kingston DRC for his children. However, we find two of his son John's children in these records, also baptized on Wednesday:

1734 May 05; Jan Sekket, Elisabeth Masten; Ritsert; Ritsert Sekket, David de Duytser, Mary Brodeth, Elisabeth Van Vlied [1]

1737 Jun 19; Jan Sekket, Elisabeth Masten; Ezechiel; Aard Masten jr, Ezechiel Masten, Elisabeth Masten [1]

It is quite tempting to go through these records quickly and take the first information found at face value. Here is where care must be used. In the case of Elisabeth Masten above, two logical sets of parents are found among the records. Some of the same surnames can be found in relatives of both families, and this may indicate that the two Elisabeth's are cousins. More research will be needed to pin down the parents. But you can certainly see how helpful these records can be in extending your family tree.

How many ancestors do we really have?

A short review sent to us on 7/15/08 by our member Daniel Baright reminds us that we don't really have 2^n different ancestors in each n th generation, because of marriages among cousins and other relatives. Apparently mathematicians like to figure out formulas for this - Mr. Baright mentions a paper, "Recent Common Ancestors of All Present-Day Individuals", by Joseph T Chang <http://www.citeulike.org/user/bpacker/author/Chang> in *Advances in Applied Probability*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (1999), pp. 1002-1026. A comment among others on that is available on the web at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200205/olson>,

Mr. Baright says:

(slightly edited by JDL)

In addition to personal genealogy, I have for some time also been interested in origins of life and species. Genealogy, in particular the consideration of all ones "ggggg...s" has given me a sort of an "Eureka!" moment beginning this past spring and has led me to complete a 40 page essay I have been calling "Upside-Down Trees / Bushes: Genealogical Insights into Origins."

I have come to realize that there are two ways to proceed regards to research: One can either proceed, as is the usual method, with current family history and work back, or one can take a look at some of the known descendants and their lineages of historical figures -- in my case in probably either England or Holland -- and work forward. Your readers might find it of interest to find where their lineages inevitably intersect with such lineages of the past and keep these possibilities in mind as they also work from the present back.

In this light, I have recently come across some research of possible interest, a paper by a Yale University statistician, Joseph Chang. Among his conclusions:

"[A]ll Europeans alive today have among their ancestors the same man or woman who lived around 1400. Before that date, according to Chang's model, the number of ancestors common to all Europeans today increased until about a thousand years ago [...] [A]lmost everyone in the New World must be descended from English royalty -- even people of predominantly African or Native American ancestry, because of the long history of intermarriage in the Americas. Similarly, everyone of European ancestry must descend from Muhammad. The line of descent for which records exist is through the daughter of the emir of Seville, who is reported to have converted from Islam to Catholicism in about 1200. But many other, unrecorded descents must also exist. [...] The most recent common ancestor of all 6 billion people on Earth today probably lived just a couple of thousand years ago and before that, the majority of the people on the planet were the direct ancestors of everyone alive today. [...] 'You can ask whether everyone in the Western world is descended from Charlemagne, and the answer is yes, we're all descended from Charlemagne. But can you prove it? That's the game of genealogy.'" [In BEST OF AMERICAN SCIENCE WRITING 2003.]

(A note regards origins: The Poisson math of Chang's work indicates an hourglass distribution for past population. It would be interesting to see how Chang's mathematics corresponds to paleontological and historical findings as well as to genetic analysis. Also, while I am pleased to see that, in the genetic analysis, Chang recognizes 'Adam' of the proverbial 'Adam and Eve' of origins, I do wonder about other assumptions. In particular, is a single duality assumed or proved by the mathematics? I would guess the former and that Evolution, as usual, is assumed.)

Dan Baright, Lebanon MO

FROM THE NYG&B

<http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org>

September 28, Rain date October 12: Sunday, 1:00, **Walking Tour. Trinity Church Cemetery, Washington Heights.** Cost is : \$13 members, \$15 non-members, cash, credit, or check payable to NYG&B Society. Please contact Lauren Maehrlein at 212-755-8532, ext. 36 or E-mail education@nygbs.org to register. You may also register via our online store at www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org.

We are very pleased to announce the publication of **Methodist Protestants and the Union Cemeteries of Brooklyn (1844-1894) on CD.** Collected and compiled by long-time NYG&B member Frank A. Biebel, the nearly 1,100 electronic pages are every-word searchable and list over 20,000 extant U.C. interments, plus Brooklyn City Register title (land) records for private lot holders, maps, histories, and more.

Purchase this CD for \$22.00/Members and Libraries; \$27.00/Non-Members.

The NYG&B Publications Department is pleased to announce a new reduced rate for the purchase of the **complete five CD set of the NYG&B Record covering 1870-1960, along with the Worden's Index 1870-1998 (six discs total).** Item #FULLSET is available for \$150.00 members/libraries and \$200.00 non-members. Purchases may be placed with a Visa or Mastercard through our secure online store at <http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org> or by calling Melanie Ayala at (212) 755-8532 ext. 32. An order form may be downloaded and mailed, along with a check or money order made out to 'The NYG&B Society' to the attention of the Publications Department. All orders except International orders include shipping; NY State residents will have sales tax added.

October 2: Thursday, 5:30, **BOOKTALK** - Nancy Rubin Stuart returns to discuss her latest book, *The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation.* Ms. Rubin will sell and sign copies of her book.

Booktalks are held in the Portrait Gallery at Society headquarters, 122 E. 58th St., New York City, and are open to all. There is no charge for these talks, but reservations are suggested. Please contact Lauren Maehrlein at 212-755-8532, ext. 36, or via e-mail education@nygbs.org to reserve your space.

THE NEW YORK RESEARCHER -

Do you have a research victory, tips on finding or using resources, details on a significant repository, or a story of *(please go to top of next column)*

genealogical kismet, that you'd like to share with the readers of the Researcher? We are always on the lookout for quality articles. Please contact Lauren Maehrlein at education@nygbs.org with your ideas.

YORKERS, YANKEES, AND BEYOND -

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is very pleased to present our **third Saratoga program, "Yorkers, Yankees, and Beyond: Tracking New York Ancestors Into, Across, and Around the State."** Thursday - Saturday, **Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2008**, at the Gideon Putnam Spa Resort, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Once again we plan to join the forces of genealogists and historians to provide a rounded overview of the people, politics, economics, and cultural forces that helped shape New York. We will focus on sources at the local, state, and federal levels. The NYG&B enthusiastically supports the trend of the two disciplines of family historians seeking to "put flesh on the bones" of their ancestors by learning the social history of their forbears, and of historians learning more and more about the records and techniques that have long been the mainstay of genealogists and how to apply them to their work.

Our keynote speaker, Meldon J. Wolfgang III is a native of Albany, NY and the owner of Jonathan Sheppard Books. A genealogist since 1961, he has spoken at national conferences on topics ranging from ethnic and urban genealogy to cartography and newspaper research.

Our program will begin with a welcome wine and cheese reception Thursday evening, followed by two days of lectures, two luncheons with speakers, a Friday evening banquet featuring Kathleen Roe, Chief of Archival Services, New York State Archives, and a casual Saturday evening dinner.

Registration for members and non-members: \$140 for full program; \$85 for Friday or Saturday. Meals available for an additional charge. Please visit our website for complete details and to register, www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org.

DCGS Membership

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Membership lists are not published in the web edition of the DCGS Newsletters. .