



THE DUTCHESS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

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• **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Linda C. Koehler
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Spring is a time for getting energized - we are putting together a nominating committee to look for a new slate of officers. We had an excellent talk from Roger Joslyn for our March 19 meeting about finding ancestors in upstate New York. And the 1930 federal census was released to the public at all of the National Archives branches on April 1.

We will be ordering the microfilm of the 1930 census for Dutchess County for our library as soon as it becomes available. The National Archives has done a lot of work preparing for this release and have an excellent site at <<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html>> explaining how to get the most from the new census - considering that most of us will have to search without the benefit of index or Soundex. The National Genealogical Society is offering a new on-line course "Using Census Records in Genealogical Research". If you are interested, check out the course at the NGS home page <www.ngsgenealogy.org>. Ancestry.com, a commercial site, is intending to release the 1930 census online as soon as possible. So join in the fun and good luck! (More on p. 2)

• **MEETING OF 15 January 2002**

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
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"Oops! Bad Moments in Genealogy" was the topic for the January meeting. Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer described several types of information that might make the genealogist who finds them say "Oops!" These include:

- immorality - acts that, while contrary to social standards, are not necessarily criminal;
- criminal acts;
- unexpected ethnic or religious affiliations that may be distasteful to the family;

- destruction of long-cherished family stories, usually having to do with connections to important people or events;
- and realizing that you have published something about an ancestor that you have now discovered is incorrect.

Some genealogists hope for these moments, because they may produce records with information you might not ordinarily find for ancestors.

If you find "oops" information, consider carefully how to handle it. The first thing to do is to verify that the information is correct. Double check in original sources; a transcription or abstract of a source may contain an error. If the information is indeed correct, consider how, or if, you should present it to family members.

"Oops" moments are much less traumatic the further back in one's ancestry they occur. If you tell family members about something you've found, will you cause pain or embarrassment to living family members? If so, consider keeping the information confidential for a while. If you must pass on upsetting information, do it gently.

Some information may need only to be put into historical perspective. One of Christine's ancestors was jailed in England in the late 1600s for being a Quaker. Currently, this is not a crime.

If you're sure that the information won't embarrass or hurt someone-for example, the story of an out-of-wedlock child born in 1819-by all means mention it in the family history. But be fair. Don't mention the crimes of one family member, but suppress those of your favorite uncle.

Whatever you do, don't lie. Don't adjust the birth or marriage dates in a family to make the first child appear to have been conceived in wedlock if he wasn't. If you feel you must conceal this fact, leave a date blank. Don't add to the incorrect information that's already out there. If people find you have given them incorrect information about one family member, they will be distrustful of other information you give them.

Finally, if you need a support group, there are groups out there for many different genealogical problems. The most interesting and general is the International Black Sheep Society, whose Internet home page is at: <http://blacksheep.rootsweb.com/>

- **MEETING OF 19 March 2002**

Linda C. Koehler

The program for our March 19, 2002, meeting was a presentation by Roger D. Joslyn, CG, FASG, titled "Finding Your Ancestors in Upstate New York", attended by about 35 people. Mr. Joslyn gave an excellent talk that emphasized nineteenth century sources; his handout was four pages of bibliography (a copy of which is in the DCGS library).

Mr. Joslyn showed several outline maps of New York that illustrated migration routes based on geography and transportation. He recommended two gazetteers in particular to consult for place names. J. H. French's Gazetteer of the State of New York which was originally published in 1860 is excellent for short descriptions of towns, name changes, and some history (as of 1860). There are a number of reprints of French's Gazetteer available, but the GPC 1994 reprint includes an index of some place names, as well as people and topics not included in the original index. A modern gazetteer that is very useful for identifying the town and county of even small hamlets is a publication put out by the New York State Department of Health (Albany, 1995) called New York State Gazetteer.

There are a number of depositories with large collections of New York research materials, such as the New York State Library and Archives in Albany, and the New York Public Library in New York City, but it is also a good idea to visit the local area you are interested in. A small local public library or museum may have files, indexes, or collections that contain material that is available nowhere else. Also, New York State has a system of county and municipal historians, and these people may be able to give you a great deal of help (or not) based on the knowledge and materials they have. Although dated now, there is a 1997 Directory of New York State County and Municipal Historians [we have a directory in our library]. More up-to-date information on the local historians might be found on the Internet at various sites such as county GenWeb sites or local government sites.

Mr. Joslyn explained the process of recording state civil vital records that started, for the most part, about 1880. The original birth, death or marriage certificate was turned in to the town's registrar (usually the town clerk). The clerk then copied the information from the certificate, usually into a large ledger kept for that purpose, and sent the original certificate to the state authority (now the State Department of Health). So today, subject to certain restrictions, one can obtain a copy of the vital record from the state (which can sometimes take 6 months, but is a copy of the original certificate) or from the town where the event took place (which may only take about 2 weeks, but is usually a transcript copied onto a standard form from a ledger entry of information in the original certificate).

New York took many state censuses, which can supplement information in the Federal Census. The state censuses were usually taken between the Federal census (1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915, and 1925). Although basically the format of a state census is

similar to the Federal census, there are significant differences. For example, the 1855 state census first identified relationships of members of the household, well before the Federal Census started recording relationships in the 1880 census; births and deaths in the state census year were recorded; when a New York native was asked about their place of birth, the enumerator wrote down the name of the New York county where they were born. However, a state census may be harder to find [the 1855 census for Dutchess County is lost]. A pamphlet published by the New York State Library (Albany, 1981) New York State Census Records, 1790-1925, Bibliography Bulletin 88, compiled by Marilyn Douglas and Melinda Yates, gives the location of surviving state censuses and county copies of Federal censuses. There are some errors and omissions, and a revision is being planned, but the pamphlet is still available from the state.

Mr. Joslyn also pointed out that the Federal census that we are used to seeing - that is, the census on National Archives microfilm - may actually be the second copy of the original 1850, 1860, 1870 or 1880 census. If you have a question about the census record you have seen, it might be worth it to check the original manuscript to see whether there is additional information that was left out of later copies, or if a mistake was made in making the copy. Again, the problem here is that access to manuscript copies, often kept at the county level, may be restricted or they may have been lost entirely.

Deeds can be a good source of information, although they were not necessarily recorded with the county clerk, especially before 1830 state legislation made the requirements for recording deeds more stringent. Also, there was a good amount of New York land [as for example, in Dutchess County] that was owned by large land owners who merely granted long-term leases for land, rather than selling it outright.

The value of probate documents for genealogical research also benefited from 1830 state legislation. The law required that a "Petition for Probate" include the names of all of the legal heirs to an estate, even if they are not mentioned in a will. Obviously, this requirement was even more important if there was no will at all. This document will be found in the loose paper probate files, not recorded in will books (which are usually filmed by LDS and available from the Family History Library).

Mr. Joslyn briefly mentioned church records, which have obvious value, but often were not well kept in early New York, and in any case are usually difficult to find and access because they are private records. Also, when investigating cemetery records, do not forget that in addition to the information on gravestones themselves, the care-takers of the cemetery may also have their own records including records of gravesites without markers of any kind.

- **SPECIAL REPORT - 1930 Census**

Linda C. Koehler

1930 FEDERAL POPULATION CENSUS

This information about the 1930 census comes chiefly from a NARA website about the census at <<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html>> and from a talk given by Jean Nudd, Archivist at the Northeast Regional Archives in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The 1930 census is NARA microfilm publication T626, "Fifteenth Census of the United States." The New York State part is 269 rolls, # 1401-1670 of series T626. There is no roll 1602. (Ed. note: Consider buying the new "1930 Federal Population Census" printed booklet, a true bargain at \$3.50. Also, you may be able to determine exactly which census roll and ED you want to examine if you visit the NARA web site above with an ancestor's address.)

That's the good news. The bad news is that there is no Soundex index for New York for 1930. Soundex indexes exist for only 10 southern states - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia; and a few counties in 2 more states - Kentucky and West Virginia. The fact is, it will be a multi-step process for most people to get close to the census enumeration district (ED) where their families lived in 1930, and then, most probably, a time-consuming search of the ED itself to actually find the exact entry wanted.

Back to some good news - staff at the National Archives and their branches know that genealogists are a major part of their constituency. They are aware of the problems and difficulty people will have searching the 1930 census, particularly urban areas, and are working hard to develop alternate finding aids. In fact, these aids are available at the Archives and its branches now and on their web site (above), so that researchers can be as prepared as possible for their visit to NARA.

CITY DIRECTORIES - To help locate addresses, NARA purchased a commercial set of 865 rolls of microfilm that cover city directories around the 1930 period. Every Archives branch has a set. This set does not include every city or every 1930 directory that may have existed around the country; and directories may not exist at all for many rural areas, since directories were much more likely to be published for cities and urban areas.

This set has 2 rolls of film that include Dutchess County areas: Newburgh 1929-1932 (includes Beacon, New Windsor, Marlboro, Cornwall, Fishkill, Glenham); Poughkeepsie 1928-1931.

City directories can be useful in and of themselves, including such items as business and residential addresses, occupations, period ads and city maps. Adriance Library in Poughkeepsie has a complete set of Poughkeepsie city directories from 1843, with the early years on microfilm and later years as original volumes shelved in the Local History Room.

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS OF CENSUS ENUMERATION DISTRICTS

- Geographic descriptions of

census enumeration districts (EDs) are reproduced in NARA microfilm publication T1224, "Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts, 1830-1950" (156 rolls). These give ED boundary streets, but generally not other streets.

Archives staff describe these geographic descriptions as time-consuming to work with, and sometimes difficult to read on microfilm although they are typed. Keep in mind that the borders of the districts are always described in the same order - north border, east, south, then west. For many of the larger cities, census workers numbered each city block within an ED; this number will appear in the description and on the census page itself.

Enumeration districts always change from one census to the next. However, as part of the description of a 1930 ED, there is a cross reference from the 1930 census ED number to the 1920 census ED number. In other words, if you know the ED number of the address where your family was living in 1920 AND the family did not move at all between 1920 and 1930 (not even across the street), then you can simply scan down the left hand column of the page looking for the 1920 ED number. When you find that 1920 number, you have found the 1930 ED# and geographic description for the district. However, keep in mind that the 1920 ED may have been subdivided into more than one 1930 district, so read the geographic description of the 1930 ED carefully to be sure it includes your street address. You may need to continue scanning for another entry with your 1920 ED number to find a description that includes the address you are looking for.

MAPS OF CENSUS ENUMERATION DISTRICTS

- Enumeration district (ED) maps for the 1930 census have been reproduced as NARA microfilm publication M1930, "Enumeration District Maps for the Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930" (30 rolls). These maps number some 8,345 separate sheets. ED maps show the boundaries and the numbers of the census enumeration districts that are described in words in the microfilm series outlined above. When preparing for the census, the base maps were obtained locally and include postal route maps, General Land Office maps, soil survey maps, and maps produced by city, county, and state government offices as well as commercial printers. Census officials then drew the enumeration district boundaries and numbers on these base maps.

Archives staff have found in the course of examining these microfilmed maps that they are rather difficult to use - faded and/or light-colored ink marking ED boundaries doesn't show up well on microfilm, and small map details can be hard to read. There are some tentative plans for the Archives to acquire hard copy maps of selected major cities. You might want to come to the Archives with your own copy of a street map for help in tracking ED districts.

SEARCH STRATEGIES FOR NEW YORK STATE

1930 CENSUS - You will need to determine as precisely as possible where your family lived in or about 1930. An exact street address would, of course, be best.

Small communities -

If you are fairly sure that the family you are looking for is in a small community, such as Verbank or the village of Pawling, take the direct approach - read the whole community. Find the county roll that includes the town in which the village is located, scroll through the town until you find the village enumeration, then read all of the entries for the village.

Cities and whole towns -

1. At home - check family sources first - older family members alive then, letters, obituaries, etc.
2. At home - From previous research in the 1920 census, and assuming that your family did not move between 1920 and 1930, note the ED number of the address where your family lived in 1920.
3. At library or archives - Use a directory for an exact address. Also, because EDs were usually laid out based on local political subdivisions, it can help, particularly for larger cities, to know the Precinct, Ward or Assembly District in which an address was located. A directory can sometimes give you this information; or check local maps of the time period located in local libraries.

Once you find an address or identify a relatively small local area, you can search further resources to try to pinpoint the Enumeration District where your family is located.

1. Search through NARA microfilm T1224 "Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts, 1830-1950" for a geographic description of the enumeration districts of the city or town where your family lived. For Dutchess county, this would be T1224, Roll 78 "New York: Queens Co.; and Albany Co. through Jefferson Co." If you can use the ED number from 1920, the search will go more quickly; otherwise, you must simply read through the descriptions searching for the appropriate street address to find the ED or range of EDs you want to search in the actual census film.

2. In spite of difficulties in using the microfilm, you may want to look at maps of the EDs if it is important for you to visualize an area. For Dutchess County, this would be NARA film M1930 Roll Number 24 "New York: Albany through Saratoga Counties".

Once you have one or more enumeration districts to search, select a roll of census microfilm and begin rolling! The DCGS is planning to purchase the relevant Dutchess County census microfilms for our library when available in April of 2002.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL ARCHIVES

There are two regional archives relatively close to Dutchess County, one to the south in New York City and one to the north in Pittsfield. The Pittsfield archives branch is about 2 hours driving time from Poughkeepsie, with plenty of free parking. The facility has published census indexes for all states, including all census indexes available on CD-ROM with 3 computers to use them; 32 microfilm readers, and two reader-printers. The staff is very helpful

and aware of the interests of genealogists and they have an active volunteer program to help researchers who come to the archives.

Northeast Region (Pittsfield, MA)

<<http://www.nara.gov/regional/pittsfield.html>>

Address: 10 Conte Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201-8230.

Phone: 413-445-6885.

E-mail: archives@pittsfield.nara.gov

Fax: 413-445-7305

Northeast Region (New York City)

<<http://www.nara.gov/regional/newyork.html>>

Address: 201 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014-4811

Phone: 212-337-1300

E-mail: newyork.archives@nara.gov

Fax: 212-337-1306

- **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP
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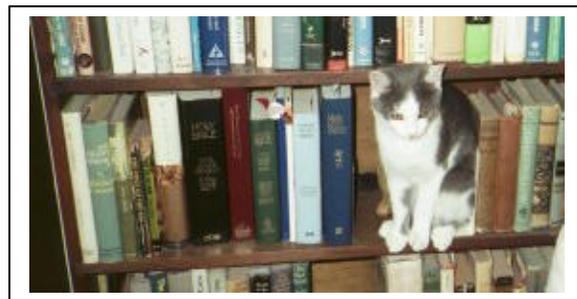
At the last executive meeting the board decided to make the new Surname Listing Index available to all members on record for the 2001/2002 membership year. The index will be mailed at or about the same time as the fourth (Summer) issue of the Dutchess Quarterly. In order to allow further changes and still make this schedule and I am extending my cut off date to May 15, 2002.

- **DUTCHESS IN OTHER GENEALOGICAL JOURNALS**

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
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Ingham, Norman W. "Another Revolutionary War Father with Civil War Son: Samuel and Martin L. Ingham of Dutchess and Broome Counties." *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 132 (October 2001): 249-250.

(Near Dutchess County): Giroux, Amy Larnier. "A Classic Census Problem: Identifying Fathers before 1850: John Bulson of Orange County, New York." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 89 (December 2001): 259-273



Genealogists come in all sizes!