



THE DUTCHESS NEWSLETTER

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

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

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◆ PRESIDENT'S NOTES

2/05, from Linda C. Koehler, lckoehlr@optonline.net

A New Computer!

One of the advantages of sharing space with a Family History Center (FHC) is having access to computers that are connected to the Internet. The databases that traditionally were only available on microfiche on a visit to an FHC are now online for anyone to use from their home computer, or at the FHC under the advice of one of the volunteer librarians. All kinds of Dutchess County resources are also available online, including personal websites devoted to a surname or family line, local history, abstracts of records (vital records, obituaries, wills, etc) and digital images (federal census, newspapers, out of print books, etc).

Many of these kinds of materials are also available on CD-ROMs, sometimes in addition to their availability online, sometimes only in the CD format. One of the advantages of combining, for instance, abstracts of many vital records on one CD, is the ability to do an index search on many sources at one time. Also, groups of older out-of-print classics, which were once difficult to find in a library (and very expensive for a library to buy when they could be found), can now be combined on one CD. In an electronic format which allows a search on every word in the book, these sources can now be widely available for research, along with a greatly augmented ability to search them quickly and thoroughly.

The library of the DCGS concentrates on collecting as many published Dutchess County vital records as possible. (We do not have the space or facilities to collect original, archival materials.) Recently, DCGS has bought our own new computer and printer to put in the library. We want to take advantage of the increasing numbers of materials being published in CD-ROM format (with DVDs in the future). Some of the finding aids that we have generated for use in our library (partial indexes to the Family File

and pedigree charts, every-name index to The Dutchess) which were printed out at irregular intervals, will now be available on computer files also. In terms of long-range planning, we can make a greater effort to acquire original, unpublished records in an electronic format (using scanners or digital cameras), which would then be available on our computer and for publication in The Dutchess. We have also downloaded or acquired a number of genealogy programs in demo or trial versions which members are invited to explore when they are in the market for a new program. For the moment, we do not plan to have the computer online.

We have had an anonymous donor over the last few years who has made some very generous donations to our organization. I want to say that the purchase of this new computer would not have been possible without her help, and we thank her very much for her generosity.

NY State 1825-1925 Census blanks on the web

12/04, from your ed., John D. Leith, jdleith@comcast.net

Gary Minder has created a family of census blanks for the NY State 1825-1925 censuses which are well-designed and useful, and we recommend them. He has numerous other similar spreadsheet creations for other national and local censuses, even extending to foreign countries like Ireland and Scotland, with additional research checklists for some places including NY. The sheets are in MS Excel format, free to download, with a \$10 donation suggested if you like what you get. Visit <http://censustools.com/census/download.html> and choose the download set, "New York Census 1825-1925" for this particular group. Each entire set opens as a single MS Excel Workbook file with individual nicely formatted worksheets, one for each census. You can modify them like any other spreadsheet, adding your name and address, e.g.

Web Threads

Jeanette (Jan) Foster, 2/21/05
jfos@fosterswebsite.com
on <http://www.dcgs-gen.org>

We Need Your Help!!!

I am looking for a volunteer who would be willing to act as a back-up to myself with respect to the Dutchess County Genealogical Society website. This is the fourth year our website has been in existence and it has come a long way from the 4 or 5 pages it was in September of 2001. Currently, between 350 and

400 visitors avail themselves of information at our website each month. At this point, there are several additional projects on the back burner but without some assistance, they are not likely to get done.

Not much is involved in simply maintaining our website which is the immediate need we have. An occasional update to one or more of the existing pages every month or so and, quarterly, the inclusion of the most recent Dutchess newsletter is what we have been doing. At a minimum, I need someone who is willing to become familiar with how to make those occasional updates and how to actually get our data onto the website for the world to see.

You do not need to be physically located in Poughkeepsie or even New York to help - that is one of the joys of this kind of work! The skills and tools needed include basic computer typing, cutting and pasting and a computer with an up-to-date security product (something like Symantec's Norton product) and internet access. You will need a willingness to familiarize yourself with a few basic html tags. We use a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) program to upload the data (very simple to use). They are all skills that can be relatively easily mastered and of course, I would be able to assist you in doing so.

Beyond that, the sky is the limit! If you have a knowledge of html or website design and a desire to make changes or enhancements, fresh ideas would be enthusiastically welcome! For someone already armed with the skills I have described, the enhancements you might wish to make will surely be appreciated by the entire Dutchess County research community who reference our website regularly.

This is a great opportunity for someone who would like to make a meaningful contribution to Dutchess County genealogy in general and to our organization specifically. Please consider whether you might be interested in assisting me as a back-up or in becoming involved in a more robust manner. If this sounds like fun, please contact me directly at jfos@fosterswebsite.com.

(ed. note: you be anywhere in the world and still serve: I'm in Massachusetts! Jump on board!)

Recent Website Updates

Jeanette (Jan) Foster, 2/21/05

Recent updates to the website include agendas for upcoming meetings and the most recent "Dutchess Newsletter".

Some of the items on the website are previous issues of this newsletter, detailed information about obtaining Dutchess County vital records, and a full listing of all topics included in all previous issues of our quarterly publication, The Dutchess, since it began over 25 years ago are also available at the website. Individual back issues of The Dutchess can be ordered using an online order form.

Unfortunately, we are unable to take inquiries of any kind at the website. We encourage you to use the e-mail address provided on the webpage to submit corrections, improvements or suggestions

for changes to the website. All other inquiries should be addressed to the society at:

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

Membership matters

In our last newsletter, we asked members to send in data for a new updated list of Dutchess County surnames they are researching. In the future, we hope to generate an annual list based on surnames that you supply when you join the society or, if you are renewing, the names that are included on your renewal form each year. This Surname List is a benefit of membership and was published in the written version of this newsletter that was distributed to all current members.

Members who still wish to update their surname listing may do so. Even if you are listed you may, but do not have to, send in your list again. How the next "annual" list is handled will depend on the amount of new input. Meanwhile, interim changes will be carried in the newsletter as usual.

Roland E. Ormsby, VP Membership, wf-are@juno.com

Program and Seminar Planning Questionnaire

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer, cco4cats@prodigy.net

The Dutchess County Genealogical Society is sending out a questionnaire to members who live close enough to Poughkeepsie to attend meetings and seminars, asking about your genealogical research interests. This questionnaire will help us to plan future programs to meet the needs of our members. If you received a copy of the questionnaire and haven't yet returned it, please send it back as soon as possible!

NYG&B activities

Ed., John D. Leith, jdleith@comcast.net

On **March 11** will be a tour of the NYC Municipal Archives, with assisted research time available.

On **March 23**, Cokie Roberts will speak on her new book, *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*.

On **April 22-24**, a research trip to the Mayflower Society Library in Plymouth, Mass., for 2 days of research.

The **NYG&B Record** is now available from its start in 1870 to 1939 on 4 CD-ROMs, \$32 each for members/libraries, \$42 otherwise, in every-word searchable PDF format.

"**Early Dutchess County Tax Lists 1717-1779**" - article in "The New York Researcher" of the NYG&BS, 15(2-3):33-34, Spring/Summer 2004. This is mainly a critical review of available publications, including Clifford Buck's book of tax lists (Kinship, 1990), and the LDS microfilmed tax lists, available at the Adriance Library in Poughkeepsie.

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