



# THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

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## President's Message

by Linda Koehler

As I write at the end of February, it's been a cold and messy week or two in Dutchess County, although I can't complain too much because January and February have been relatively mild up to now. I hope all of you are keeping warm and snug, catching up with organizing your photos, filing the papers you collected on that research trip last summer, perhaps doing some journal writing, or data-entry in your genealogy program, maybe reducing that pile of magazines and journals you promised yourself you would read, as well as catching up with the correspondence that keeps arriving in your mailbox - real and virtual. We can certainly keep ourselves busy.

I saw an interesting entry dated February 9, 2008 on the blog called Upstate New York Genealogy Blog. It offered tips on ordering vital records in New York State, going into lots of detail about what is available, what is involved in the process, where to find indexes to the records, and how to shorten the delivery time (currently maybe 6 months to a year).

The specific URL for the item explaining how to obtain copies of vital records is <<http://ny-genes.blogspot.com/2008/02/how-to-obtain-copies-of-vital-records.html>>. It might be easier just to put the name of the blog in a search engine like Google, and then bookmark the website when you get to it. Or, to get to the home page of the blog, you can shortcut the web address. If you look at the looong URL that I gave you in the sentence above, you can cut off the end of the address and just write "ny-genes.blogspot.com" (without the quotes) in the address line of your browser. This takes you to the current home page of the blog. If you scroll down the left side of the blog just a little bit, you will find a link to that article about vital records.

## DIGITIZED BOOKS IN HERITAGE QUEST

By Linda Koehler, Librarian

One of the great advantages we have as genealogists today over those of earlier years is the availability of digitized books on the Internet. HeritageQuest Online is a set of online databases offered through many public libraries. Currently, the HQ databases available through Dutchess County library systems include the Census (1790-1930), Books (family and local histories), PERSI (a periodical index), Revolutionary War Era Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications (based on National Archives microfilm of original records), Freedman's Bank records (1865-1874 for freed slaves), and the U.S. Serial Set (Memorials, Petitions and Private Relief Actions of the U.S. Congress passed on behalf of private citizens).

For the libraries and repositories that offer HeritageQuest, you can access the databases using computers at the library, and if you are inexperienced with computers, the library will help you use them. But most libraries also allow you to sign on from your home computer, so that you can access the databases anytime you want.

When you click on the name of the database "Books", it takes you to another screen where you can click on a search for Persons, Places or Publications (browsing all titles). Using a simple search term like "Dutchess county" in the Place search field, I pulled up at least 144 book titles that mention Dutchess County somewhere in the book. These included county histories, church records and histories, gravestones, and genealogies that mention the county. Below, I have included a few of the titles here to give you some idea of what is available, including some standard Dutchess County historical sources, as well as a random selection of family histories.

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Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. The records of Christ Church : Poughkeepsie, New York. Poughkeepsie N.Y.: F.B. Howard, 1911.

Smith, James H. History of Duchess [sic] County, New York : with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. Syracuse, N.Y.: D. Mason & Co., 1882.

Smith, Philip H. General history of Duchess [sic] County : from 1609 to 1876 inclusive. Pawling, N.Y.: The author, 1877.

Eardeley, William Applebie. Dutchess County, New York cemeteries. Brooklyn, N.Y.: 1916. 364pp Typescript (carbon copy). Vol. 1. 1733-1904 -- v. 2. 1764-1907 -- v. 3. 1760-1906 -- v. 4. 1799-1907 -- v.5. 1791-1895.

Van Alstyne, L. Burying grounds of Sharon, Connecticut, Amenia and North East, New York : being an abstract of inscriptions from thirty places of burial in the above named towns. Amenia, N.Y.: Walsh, Griffen & Hoysradt, printers, 1903.

Barber, Gertrude A. Index to wills of Dutchess County, N.Y. : from 1812-1832. Unknown: 1950.

Cohen, Minnie. Abstracts of wills of Dutchess County, New York. New York: 1939.

Brownell, Elijah Ellsworth. First federal census of all Dutchess County, New York : comprising 12 towns, Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Fishkill, Frederickstown, Northeast, Pawling, Philipstown, Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck, Southeast, Washington. Philadelphia, Pa.: Bertram Press, 1938

Donlin, George T. History of the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Pawling, Dutchess County, N.Y. and the Mission Church of St. Charles Borromeo, Dover Plains, Dutchess County, N.Y. 1900

Bartlett, Edward O. The "Dutchess County Regiment" : (150th Regiment of New York State Volunteer Infantry) in the Civil War, its story as told by its members. Danbury, Conn.: Danbury Medical Print. Co., 1907.

Bailey, Henry D. B. Local tales and historical sketches. Fishkill Landing N.Y.: J.W. Spaight, 1874.

Dutchess County. Philadelphia: William Penn Association of Philadelphia, 1937. Compiled by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration.

Bayley, Guy Carleton. An historical address delivered before the Dutchess County Medical Society at its centennial meeting, at Vassar Institute : January 10th, 1906 : with a record of the medical profession of Dutchess County from 1740 to 1906. Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: Enterprise Print, 1907

Kip, Francis M. A discourse delivered on the 12th of September, 1866 at the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the First Reformed Dutch Church, Fishkill : with an appendix furnishing a brief historical sketch of the associated churches of Hopewell, New Hackensack, Fishkill Landing, and Glenham. New York: Press of Wynkoop & Hallenbeck, 1866.

Some randomly selected genealogies that have some connection to Dutchess County:

Zabriskie, George Olin. The Amey family. Richmond, Calif. : Retyped by Eunice Moore Anderson for Edmund Randolph Chapter, D.A.R., 1951.

Jacobus, Donald Lines. The Bulkeley genealogy : Rev. Peter Bulkeley, being an account of his career, his ancestry, the ancestry of his two wives, and his relatives in England and New England, together with a genealogy of his descendants through the seventh American generation. New Haven, Conn.: unknown, 1933.

Parker, Mary Bullock Shaw. Elder Comer Bullock and Grandmother Sarah Bullock Shaw. Lockport, NY: 1932.

Curtis, Joseph O. The descendants of Elisha Cole : who came from Cape Cod to what is now Putnam County, New York, about 1745. New York: Thomas A. Wright, 1909.

Hasbrouck, Kenneth Edward. The Deyo (Deyoe) family. New Paltz, N.Y.: 1958.

Frost, Josephine C. The Frost genealogy : descendants of William Frost of Oyster Bay, New York, showing connections never before published with the Winthrop, Underhill, Feke, Bowne, and Wickes families. New York: F.H. Hitchcock, Genealogical Publisher, 1912.

Rideout, Grant. Ancestors & descendants of Sarah Eleanor Ladue. Chicago: 1930.

Harris, Edward Doubleday. James Mott of Dutchess County, N.Y. and his descendants. New York: Press of Tobias A. Wright, 1912.

Powers, Benjamin Mather. The Powers family of Dutchess County. Kansas City, Mo.: Published for the author by the Lowell Press, 1968.

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### **Dutchess County in Other Genealogical Magazines**

*Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer*  
<cco4cats@prodigy.net>

Bennett, Bruce A. "Pierre Parmentier of New Amsterdam and his Dutchess County Descendants." *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 138 (April 2007): 85-96; (July 2007): 199-208.

Benson, Richard H. "Upstate New York Research: Still Difficult, but Getting Easier." *New England Ancestors* 5 (Spring 2004):22-25.

Doherty, Frank J. "Settlers of the Beekman Patent in 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Dutchess County, New York." *New England Ancestors* 5 (Spring 2004): 17-21.

Evans, Stefani. "Parents for Catherine Sophia (Dodge) MacCorkle of Poughkeepsie, New York City, and Pennsylvania." *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 139 (January 2008): 19-26.

Peterson, Nancy Simons. "Died in a French Prison in 1757: Was this French and Indian War Captive Peter Randall of Preston, Connecticut?" *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 93 (June 2005): 110-125.

Popenoe, Oliver. "The Minthorn Family of New York City." *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 138 (April 2007): 105-115; (July 2007): 209-219.

"The Memoirs of John Moore, Esq." Transcribed, edited, and annotated by Terri Bradshaw O'Neill. *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 136 (January 2005): 19-30; (April 2005): 119-126.

Ullmann, Helen Schatvet. "James and Mary (Waddle) Mills of Poughkeepsie." *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 137 (July 2006): 163-177; (Oct. 2006): 274-284.

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### Membership

Roland E. Ormsby <reormsby@optonline.net>

Please see separate Spring membership listing!

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### Bernice (Bernie) H. Fitchett "In Memory"

by Linda C. Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>  
with help from a couple of older members

At the close of 2007, on December 31, we lost one of our earliest and most productive society members with the death of Bernice (Bernie) H. Fitchett.

During our first fifteen years, from about 1972 to 1987, she served as Membership VP (6 years), Corresponding Secretary (9 years) and Circulation manager for *The Dutchess*. She tamed the details of member and address changes (pre-computer) along with the intricate Post Office rules for zip code batching for Permit Mailing of *The Dutchess* and other publications we produced. For twenty years, back issues of *The Dutchess* and other publications occupied storage space in her home.

For many who contacted the society directly, through phone or mail, Bernie was our first contact with the society, as sincere, generous and cheerful a person as anyone could ever meet. For fourteen years she handled all the genealogical questions sent in by correspondents, starting with her personal collection of less than a dozen sources.

She was a major contributor of data published in *The Dutchess*, from abstracts of Dutchess County Will Books, to individual and institutional vital records from around the county.

Many were the executive meetings she hosted in her home and annual seminars for which she provided or organized delightful refreshments. Her interest in regional and culinary history resulted in several publications and columns for the newspaper, the *Poughkeepsie New Yorker* and *Poughkeepsie Journal*, as well as the production of colonial cooking events in cooperation with historical organizations locally.

Her church, Children's Home, Home Bureau and gardening activities were demonstrations of her wide interests, energy and willingness to contribute. When Bernie finally decided that she needed to hand off her DCGS responsibilities, her activities were divided up among at least 4 society members.

A donation of \$25.00 has been made by DCGS to the Poughkeepsie Children's Home in memory of Bernice H. Fitchett.

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### New Palatine DNA research study

[from an email to President Linda Koehler from DCGS member Doris Wheeler, January 2008, lightly edited,]

Hi Linda, I wanted DCGS to be among the first to hear about the Palatine DNA Project that I have just launched. I have several years of experience with family surname projects, especially Worden and Southworth-Southard, and have concluded that a DNA project specifically directed to the Palatines could be very worthwhile. My special interest in the Palatines stems from the fact that I descend from at least 33 of the immigrants to the Hudson Valley in 1710.

Here is a press release on this project -

### For immediate release: Breakthrough in Genealogical Research: Palatine DNA Project

Descendants of the Palatine emigrants who left Germany in 1708-09 and settled in the far reaches of the British Empire, including the Hudson Valley and beyond in New York State, may soon be able to connect with long-lost family members and learn far more about their German roots than they ever thought was possible.

A Palatine DNA Project has been established that welcomes all direct descendants of these brave and hardy men and women. The goal is to determine if and how these families are related and to reunite those families that were split apart during the great exodus from Germany and resettlement throughout the world. DNA testing can make this possible, and this new Palatine DNA Project

will coordinate test results from all companies in an effort to reach this goal. Not only will participants learn about their connections to Germany but they may also learn about their deeper roots, the path their ancestors took out of Africa many thousands of years ago that led them eventually to Germany.

All that is needed to take part in this important new research effort is to visit the website <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/PalatineDNAProject/> and order a DNA test if you have not already had one. If you have, instructions for transferring the results and joining the project are explained at the website.

Please don't hesitate to write if you have any questions!  
Best regards,  
Doris Wheeler  
3435 Williams Pl.  
Conyers GA 30013  
404-462-2747      Family website:  
<<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dorisw>>

[Of interest to this editor is a presumed Palatine listed on Doris's web site: "Georg Trimper", aka John Jury Tremper, whose family is shown in: Jones, Henry Z., Jr., *More Palatine Families* (1991 Universal City, CA, self-pub., p. 291-292). George was baptized 26 Dec 1709 in Neuwied, Germany, and immigrated around 1718 to NY. Susanna Dipple was his second wife; his first wife was Anna-Madelena Denemarken. Their descendants lived mostly in Dutchess County, while his brothers settled elsewhere. The family by now is all around the U.S. - JDL]

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## NEWS FROM THE NYG&B SOCIETY

### Brooklyn Historical Society Wednesday, March 19, 1:00-5:00 P.M.

Offered for the first time last year, the Brooklyn Historical Society's library is a wonderful resource for Brooklyn and western Long Island. Registrants will be given a detailed orientation to the collection and time for research on their own. Session enrollment strictly limited

Registration: \$25 members/\$35 non-members. Please register online <http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org> or 212-755-8532, ext. 36, Lauren Maehrlein.

**NYG&B LIBRARY NEWS - ATTENTION:**  
The G&B Library will be closing at our long-time location as of June 1st. We urge researchers who've been contemplating a visit to make use of the Library and complete their inquiries before then.

After closure our librarians will be fully engaged in preparing the Library to move and be recatalogued. The timing of this project, and where G&B materials will be available again, have yet to be finalized.

## BOOKTALK

Tuesday, April 1, 5:30 p.m. Jeff Richman, Historian of the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, will give a talk on his book, *Final Camping Ground: Civil War Veterans in Green-Wood Cemetery, in their own words.*

In September 2002, Green-Wood Cemetery launched its unprecedented Civil War Project to find as many of the Civil War veterans buried there as possible. In the ensuing years, hundreds of volunteers, led by Mr. Richman, have worked to identify these soldiers.

Come to hear their stories as presented by Mr. Richman.

He will sell and sign copies of his 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](mailto:education@nygbs.org) to reserve your space.

## NEW YORKERS OF FLANDERS FIELD

Saturday, April 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Christopher Sims and Patrick Lernout will visit the NYG&B to discuss their project to discover the identities of the New Yorkers buried in Flanders Field.

Their PowerPoint presentation will include general historical information on the United States' part in World War I; information on the history of Flanders Field and the American Battle Monuments Commission; Gold Star Mothers; Memorial Day in Belgium; and details and examples of the information found on some of the New Yorkers, both officers and soldiers, interred at Flanders Field.

Registration: \$25 members/\$35 non-members. Please register online <http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org> or 212-755-8532, ext. 36.

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Editor's note: We would love to have more contributions from members for the Newsletter! As always, actual genealogical reports, queries and data should go to the "Dutchess" journal, but we welcome news and photographs of any kind that might interest the membership! Email with RTF (or any other) attachments works well.

Send to: John D. Leith <[jdleith@comcast.net](mailto:jdleith@comcast.net)>.