



# THE DCGS 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 Message

Valerie LaRobardier

### Stormy Weather Over Dutchess County

Our region has seen its share of stormy weather the past few months, figuratively and literally. Those of you who read the Dutchess County Rootsweb Message Board witnessed the flurry of activity created by the issue of our county lacking an official Historian, and by our lack of access to our County Archives. It started with an objection to the insulting \$1 budget line item appropriated by the Legislature to the history budget. The *Millbrook Independent* carried an article by **Eve Propp** on the topic, informing the public again about how our local history is not being properly cared for. Comments and discussion of both budget and news article appeared on the list. Some list members objected to airing the issue on a genealogy message board, claiming that it was off topic. Personally, I cannot see how not having access to our historic documents, or being sure they are preserved, could be considered by any active genealogist as an issue unimportant to us all. Some said that it was a matter of local concern only, and a more appropriate forum should be found for discussion. Again, all who subscribe to the list, whether living near or far, do so for their interest in Dutchess County genealogy—how then could preserving local history not be an appropriate topic? Some just were incredibly tired of hearing about the issue and the acrimony that it raised in some. To that I would have to concur. I also am incredibly tired of it—of hearing it, of saying it, and of having nothing done about it. Unfortunately we must keep trying until we accomplish a satisfactory solution. In any case, the storms passed, the issue was put to bed temporarily, and the message board survived.

Though our winter storms created some beautiful scenes in Dutchess County, they also created problems. Untended, the

unusual snow weight collapsed the roof over the East Wing at the **Dutchess County Infirmary**, requiring an emergency demolition of that part of the building. This saddened many who had worked very hard to see the building preserved. Again the *Millbrook Independent* carried the story, drawing an in depth picture of the entire background of the issue. **DCGS member Ginny Beuchele** has been researching and documenting this history of the poorhouse/infirmary and its inhabitants since 2000. She has been actively advocating preservation of this site, and was joined by Millbrook residents **Margaret Fettes**, **then a Dutchess County Legislator and Didi Barrett**, a neighbor of the infirmary property who ran for County Legislator last year. Barrett and her neighbors filed an Article 78 lawsuit against the County in 2005, charging that they had not adequately considered or protected the historic value of the site. In 2004 Peter Shaver of the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation Historic Properties sent a letter to County Executive Bill Steinhilber informing him of county eligibility for grant money if the infirmary signed up for the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This however was never done. As part of the environmental review process the county wrote that the Department of Public Works would work with NYSOFPHP to “review the architecture of the former infirmary structures for historically significant elements, and document and preserve [those] determined to be significant”, promising to document and exhibit the historic use in a display inside the reconstructed facility. **Olesia Plokhii's** article appeared on the Millbrook Independent's blog as well at <http://themillbrookindependent.com/>. The *Poughkeepsie Journal* also carried an article decrying the county government's lack of caring for our historic heritage.

But voices again were raised to object, saying that this part of our history was unpleasant and should not be preserved. As a genealogist, that concept offends me. It says that those who found themselves faced with this test of character, admittedly unpleasant, many times through no fault of their own, are somehow unworthy of our memory. For every George Washington that many are proud to show descent from, there are thousands of unsung, ordinary people who worked hard to achieve his goals. Some may have ended their days in just such a place as the Dutchess County Alms House. A recent episode of “Who Do You Think You Are?” drove this point home. Rosie O'Donnell travels to Ireland in search of her ancestors and learns they lived in a workhouse, a last stop for “the poorest of the poor”. Her family had the good fortune of being chosen for immigration to Canada, with the trip paid by a benefactor. When Rosie visits the workhouse she is overwhelmed by the experience and says, “I think this part of history needs to

be told. We all have a choice—to focus on the horror or focus on the redemption. The gift is to focus on the redemption.” Surely we can preserve with dignity the many stories of difficulty and triumph to be found in our own Dutchess County Alms House.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

POINT\* Chapter 20 of Pittsburgh is sponsoring a

**ROOTS IN THE BOOT**

Italian Genealogy Seminar  
 Saturday, June 18, 2011 9 AM to 4 PM  
 Carnegie Lecture Hall  
 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA

Ruth Merriman of the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, will present four lectures related to Italian Research. She is an accredited Italian genealogist. She will be covering (1) Reading Italian Church and Civil Records, (2) Italian Research on the Internet and (3) Italian Marriage Records which contain information about several generations of our ancestors.

\* POINT is ***Pursuing Our Italian Names Together***. POINT is an international network of members interested in Italian Genealogy. Chapter 20 meets monthly in the Carnegie Library in the Spring and Fall.

Visit: <http://www.point-pointers.net/home.html>

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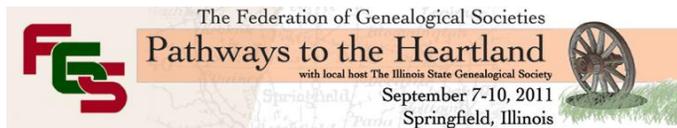
**DCGS meeting**

Tuesday 18 January 2011 7:30 P. M.

**“Members Sharing with Members”**

This meeting was planned as an informal, open forum where attendees could discuss their research problems and see if others had suggestions to help them. Unfortunately it had to be canceled due to the weather.

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**FGS 2011 Conference**

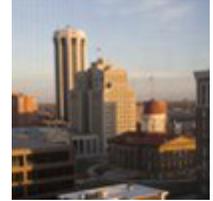
The conference, "Pathways to the Heartland," offers something for everyone interested in genealogy and family history. With over 160 educational sessions, networking opportunities, and the FGS 35th Anniversary Celebration this year's incredible event is not to be missed. Make your plans to join FGS, September 7-10, 2011 now!

Headquartered at the Prairie Capital Convention Center and the Hilton Springfield, "Pathways to the Heartland" includes

five days of events including a keynote session delivered by David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States and presentations by over 100 qualified speakers on a variety of topics related to genealogy and family history.

Interesting in learning more about the conference? Visit the [FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference Website](http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/registration/) for more information.

Ready to register? Online Registration for the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference is now open.



Early registration is just \$185 for all four-days. Don't forget to add tickets to special events - including the FGS 35th Anniversary Celebration, luncheons, and workshops.... You can also download a registration form and register by mail. The registration URL is:

<http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/registration/>

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On March 5, the Orange County Genealogical Society had a session by **James Mandracchia**, "The Quakers and Loyalists of Dutchess County." A quick Google search ties this in with the Akin Free Library, which stands prominently atop Quaker Hill in Pawling as a fitting memorial Albert J. Akin (1803-1903). He did much to promote the prosperity of the area, including the founding of the Bank of Pawling, bringing the railroad to Pawling and Dover, and establishing the Miz-zentop as a premier resort hotel. In his later years he built and endowed Akin Hall for non-denominational Christian worship, lectures, and enlightenment. Akin Free Library was to be his last gift to the community. Construction began in 1898, but the building was not completed until ten years later - six years after the death of this remarkable Quaker.

The library occupies the first floor, and contains many resource documents, rare volumes, ledgers, genealogies of early families, as well as contemporary literature, books by local authors, newspaper collections, and a children's section.



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Our "missing member," **Nancie Simmons Davis**, (see last Newsletter) died 13 Dec 2003 in Cayce SC, according to a brief notice from the "The State" newspaper of Columbia SC, 17 Dec 2003, sent to us by ro.walsh (at) verizon.net.

### DCGS Genealogy Classes Beginning in March!

**Mary Ann Zatlukal**, our VP of Education had a successful introductory outreach meeting at Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls. There were 18 people in attendance. Their skill level was from people wanting to know how to begin to those who had more knowledge. There was great interest and those attending were not only from that area but also Beacon, Pine Plains, and Stanfordville. The Library did a great job in advertising. The classes begin March 16<sup>th</sup>. The first three classes will be held at the East Fishkill Library. **Each class stands alone, and you must register for each session separately.**

**For registration, contact Cindy Dubinski** at the Fishkill Library at 845-221-9943 x225 or by email at [reference@eastfishkilllibrary.org](mailto:reference@eastfishkilllibrary.org)

#### Session I, March 16, 2011

**Mary Colbert** and **Mary Ann Zatlukal**, DCGS Board members and Librarians at the Family History Library in Poughkeepsie, lead the first class.

This session will focus on **Beginning Your Search:**

1. How to begin
2. Using genealogy forms
3. How to document the sources of information
4. First places to find information
  - a. Family Bibles
  - b. Birth announcements wedding invitations
  - c. Address books, birthday calendars, old letters
  - d. Most importantly talk to family members.
5. How to organize materials and information

#### Session II, March 23, 2011

The second session will be led by **Valerie LaRobardier**, President of DCGS, with emphasis on **Reaching Out Further To Collect Data:**

1. Using census data
2. Land records
3. Probate records
4. Newspapers, Obituaries
5. Cemeteries
6. Ordering records (Birth, Marriage, and Death certificate)
7. Historical societies and Genealogy Societies.

#### Session III, March 30, 2011

Emphasis on the **Computer In Genealogy**

1. Software programs available for storage of information
2. Computer research
  - a. Free on line sites
  - b. Ancestry.com
  - c. Heritage quest

### Session IV, Early April 2011

A field trip to the LDS/Dutchess County Genealogy Library on Spackenkill Rd

**Additional sessions** consisting of field trips to court-houses, historical societies and other libraries as well as more advanced classes will be added. These sessions will be member-driven; the topics will respond to questions and requests expressed by those taking Sessions I through IV.

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Exotic conference if you like to travel! - -

**7<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium on Genealogy**  
Bologna dal 26 al 29 settembre 2011

See: <http://www.iagi.info/7colloquium.htm>

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From: Peter Feinman <[feinmanp@ihare.org](mailto:feinmanp@ihare.org)>

To: [HV@ihare.org](mailto:HV@ihare.org)

Date: Wed, 26 Jan 2011 11:55:18 -0500

Subject: **NY County History Conferences**

The Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education (IHARE) is pleased to announce the following schedule of county history conferences as part of the effort to promote a sense of place, a sense of community, a sense of belonging in one's community.

These programs will be offered for professional development credit to teachers, have been approved for CLG training for historic preservationists, and provide an opportunity to bring together municipal historians, historical societies, historic organizations, scholars, teachers, and friends of history in a single meeting at the county level. All sessions are in 2011.

Visit: <http://www.ihare.org/publicprograms.htm>

The counties participating in this program at present are:

Putnam County, March 19, at Putnam County Bicentennial at the Mahopac Library; Local Contacts:

Karl Rohde, Putnam County Historian  
Sallie Sypher, Deputy Putnam County Historian

Orange County, April 16, at Albert Wisner Public Library, Warwick; Local Contacts:

Ted Sly, Orange County Historian  
Sue Gardener, Town of Warwick Deputy Historian, &  
Local History Librarian, Albert Wisner Public Library

Greene County, April 30, at Catskill High School;

Local Contacts:

Kate Ferrell, Catskill CSD Superintendent  
Hudson Talbott, author, The Thomas Cole House  
Dave Dorpfeld, Greene County Historian  
Jim Planck, Greene County Historical Society

**Dutchess County, May 7**, at Dutchess Community College;

Local Contacts:

Andrew Rieser, Department Head, History, Government &  
Economics, Dutchess Community College  
Nancy Cozean, former Poughkeepsie Mayor

George Lukacs, City of Poughkeepsie Historian  
Drew Nicholson, Village of Pawling Historian

Ulster County, May 14, at BOCES, Port Ewen; or possibly  
Ulster Community College, Stone Ridge (*ed. – I can't tell!*)

Local Contact:

Anne Gordon, Ulster County Historian

Rockland County, September 10, at [TBD]; Local Contacts:

Marianne Leese, President, Historical Society of  
Rockland County  
Claire Sheridan, Vice President, Historical Society of  
Rockland County  
Eileen Miller, Rockland County Historic Preservation Board

Historic organizations wishing to participate in these conferences can do so in three ways:

1. Display tables - contact me if you wish to have a display table especially since the number permissible at each location may vary. There is no charge.
2. Presentations - we are particularly looking for examples of collaborations with schools not including the standard 4th grade field trip. These might be intern programs, traveling trunks, research projects. Please contact me regarding possible examples for inclusion in the conference.
3. Attendance - your assistance in promoting attendance in your own newsletters and websites is appreciated.

Teachers wishing to participate in these conferences can do so in three ways:

1. Teacher Presentations - we are particularly looking for examples of lesson plans based on local history and examples of elective classes, primarily high school and college, using local history. Please contact me regarding possible examples for inclusion in the conference.
2. Student Presentations - we seek short presentations by students on some aspect of the history of the county possibly as a result of participation in of the elective classes or as intern at an historic site.
3. Attendance - teachers are welcome to attend conferences in any county for professional development credit regardless of where they teach subject to approval by their school.

In addition, Staten Island is having a conference on March 19-20 in celebration of its 350th anniversary at Wagner College (Lori Weintrob).

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(*ed. note: Dr. Feinman has additional ideas on possible future meetings for other areas such as the Mohawk or the Hudson Valley, and how teachers might be encouraged to learn and teach NY history through such sessions. Contact him if you are interested!*)

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**Lineage Workshop**  
**Saturday, April 30th, 2011, 11AM – 2PM**  
**in the Local History Room at the Starr Library**  
**68 West Market St. in Rhinebeck**

***Do you have a patriot of the American  
Revolution in your family tree?  
Ever wondered if you did?***

The Rhinebeck chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is holding a **Lineage Research Workshop** for anyone interested in delving into their family history in search of patriot ancestors. Renowned genealogist and Rhinebeck Town Historian, **Nancy Kelly** will be on hand, as well as many other members of the Chancellor Livingston Chapter, NSDAR, to assist you. Although run by the Daughters, this workshop is open to men and woman as we will also have on hand representatives from the local Columbia Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Refreshments will be served, genealogy research materials will be for sale, and the collections of the Starr library's local history room will be available for help with on-site research. Please bring any information you already have about your family tree and any possible ancestors who might have had a hand in securing our Nation's independence from Britain.

Related web sites:

**Chancellor Livingston Chapter, NSDAR:**  
**[northerndutchessdar.org](http://northerndutchessdar.org)**  
**Columbia Mid-Hudson Chapter, NSSAR:**  
**[cmhvsar.com](http://cmhvsar.com)**  
**SAR National Website: [sar.org](http://sar.org)**  
**DAR National Website: [dar.org](http://dar.org)**

You can also contact Chancellor Livingston Chapter Regent, Sarah K Hermans for details on the workshop at **[saartjelast@gmail.com](mailto:saartjelast@gmail.com) or (845) 518-4008.**

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### **DCGS new book acquisitions**

*Mary Colbert, librarian*

*Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Paltz, New York: Containing An Account of The Organization of the Church and the Registers of Consistories, Members, Marriages, and Baptisms (1896)*

Originally published by the Holland Society of New York in 1896, this is a hardbound reprint, 269 pages, with index.

*The Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County, New York, Volume X Paine to Rogers* by Frank J. Doherty, 2010. The latest volume in this series; 1211 pages, with index.