



# THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

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

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## President's Message

Valerie LaRobardier, President

As we embark upon the first year in an eight year cycle of celebrating our county heritage, many of us have been quite busy in the history arena. For my part, my service on the County Heritage Committee has admittedly siphoned off my free time that I normally devote to the genealogy society. But I remain convinced that history is one of the most powerful helpers in the genealogist's toolbox, so I feel this focus is doubly important. Dutchess County now has a full time **County Historian, Will Tatum**, who has been very busy mobilizing all of our various and sometimes fragmented historian communities. On February 17<sup>th</sup> 60 of us met at Locust Grove to discuss upcoming programs and brainstorm ideas that would involve and interest our various audiences. The group was made up of Town Historians, representatives of historical sites and societies, as well as some with a genealogy focus. I was wearing my Dover Town Historian and Heritage Committee hats in addition to the DCGS hat. (Imagine how funny I looked!)

The **Pawling Historian Drew Nicholson** threw out a query to the group. He needed help locating **Farmers Hill**, where a post office had been located. He knew the name of

the postmaster but no other information. We took a look in Linda Koehler's *Dutchess County NY Churches & Their Records* and did find Farmers Hill listed as a former Pawling community. Later I did some research and discovered a few Quaker records for his target Willis H Haviland, as well as a biography for a potential son or grandson in Butte, Montana. Drew is now circling in on this post office location. It was very gratifying to discover that genealogy can be just as valuable to the historian as history is to the genealogist!

The **Heritage Days program** includes a coffee table book celebrating Dutchess County people's contributions to government. The book will ship May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is offered for advance sale at

<http://www.pedimentbooks.com/store/product/democracy-in-dutchess/>

Here's the book's cover image:



There will be more to report as we move forward.

**Correction to previous Newsletter issue***By your red-faced ed.*

Somehow the previous Newsletter got out minus its main heading! That was **Vol. 21, No. 2, the Winter 2012-2013** issue. Please add this info to the header on page 1 of that issue. The Word-to-PDF change did that!

**Dutchess County Fair: Help Wanted!***Text & image from Valerie LaRobardier, President*

An old County Fair

The genealogical society will once again host a booth at the Dutchess County Fair in August. We need volunteers to help staff the booth. Those who worked this booth in the past felt it was a positive experience. We will be calling for volunteers in June. We also need help collecting images for the display—and these can be copies of photos or magazine clippings or even digital files of newspaper ads. We are looking for any images from the 1860's through the 1950's that depict major events in history or inventions of the day or just daily life—something to give an overall “flavor” to each decade. It is not important to know the exact date or details surrounding the image.

Service at the booth comes with a free ticket to the fair. If the rides and food are not really your “cup of tea” keep in mind that there are also turn of the century displays:

The **Antiques Museum Village** features “story tellers” in costume, a printer's shop complete with a working 1900 printing press,

Victorian living room, rural kitchen and a Model-T-era auto shop. The authentic **One-Room Schoolhouse** is filled with memorabilia that reflects educational practices and school-house activities in an era long past. A **Working Blacksmith Shop & Gas Powered Engine Show** demonstrates how work was done and things were made long before the robots were introduced to the workplace. The **Working Sugar House and Cider Mill** shows how

maple syrup is made with sap gathered from the fair-ground's 100 maple trees.

**DCGS Board Meeting  
November 2012***Summarized by Valerie LaRobardier, President***“What has your Board Been Up To?”**

As Dutchess County continues participating in Civil War Sesquicentennial celebrations and embarks on our own Heritage Days we discussed how the Society might be involved, and decided the best route would be to act in a service role and ask the County Historian Will Tatum what task might we best fill. The consensus was that handling it this way would avoid duplicating other events that are already planned. We do have our ongoing Civil War project transcribing the NARA military headstone records our Librarian Mary Colbert secured for us.

Work on our web site upgrade continues. We began with one volunteer signed up, Eileen Stickle, to work on the transcriptions and I believe that number has grown. We also plan to partner with local historical societies both to

get more records listed and to assist them in getting their message out.

We have again committed to a booth at the Dutchess County Fair. We will not have the assistance of our VP of Education Mary Ann Zatlukal, as she has retired from this position, but she did such a wonderful job of setting us up the past two years that we should be able to manage. We will be again asking for volunteers to help set up, take down, and man the booth. All volunteers get a free ticket to the Fair.

Our computer was very old, bought in 2006, so we voted to replace it. This should make the library research experience a little easier.

We discussed various ways of raising revenue, running the gamut from increasing membership fees or surname search charges to offering package sales on past issues. We also feel it may be time to put PayPal or credit card purchasing buttons on the web site to make it easier for folks to join or purchase those past issues right then and there while they are thinking about it, rather than putting it on the side and possibly never following through with the purchase. Many other societies are coming to the conclusion that this is becoming a requirement for a sound marketing plan.

We are beginning plans for our next seminar. We discussed possibly doing a spinoff of the BBNY Genealogy Event, with admittedly a smaller scope as befits our location and resources. That event charged only \$15 per day for admission and was very successful.

### DCGS meeting 15 Jan 2013

*info from Roland Ormsby, Dec 2012*

Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 7:30 P. M  
LDS Church, 204 Spackenkill Rd., Pkpsie, NY

“Genealogy Sharing Session” was the topic of the January meeting of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society, an informal, open forum where attendees discussed their research problems to see if others had helpful

suggestions or to share research breakthroughs and how they made them.

Attendees were asked to bring their favorite genealogical book and discuss why it is important to them.

### New FamilySearch service

*from Mary Colbert, librarian*

Family Search has new procedures for obtaining copies of documents, including microfilmed documents.

They now provide free digital copies and no form is required. To request copies send an email to:

[photoduplication@familysearch.org](mailto:photoduplication@familysearch.org)

and include in your request: microfilm or fiche number or item number, plus all the details about the record. If a vital record this should include the certificate number, date of the event and any other information that will help locate the record.

Family search will also make copies of select pages from the index of a record and copies from books (limited to 10 pages or 10% of the work). They will not make copies of an entire work.

Limit: 5 copies per request. For more info see:

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Photoduplication\\_Services](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Photoduplication_Services)

### 1. Who gets your *stuff* when you are gone?

*Mary Colbert, DCGS Librarian*

#### A cautionary tale.

Most of us have done a great deal of research, have collected many documents and have files of paperwork. What will happen to them when we are gone? Is anyone else in the family interested?

The patriarch of a local family died not long ago and his heirs have been clearing out his house.

I will not name the family, but it is a well known local family whose roots in Dutchess

County go back to the early 1700s. The family property has been in the same family from the day it was originally purchased until the contents were sold at auction a few weeks ago. The house is on the market.

Everything has been sold, including old letters and original documents. Among the papers is a collection of genealogical research done in the 1800s. The researcher traveled to Europe, wrote many letters and saved it all. Unfortunately she did not write up her findings. Later heirs did not make any provision for these records and the current generation is not interested.

Going through these papers made me realize that I have to get motivated to finish the family history book I am writing and to organize and make arrangements for the important papers I have collected.

The moral of the story: think about all the work you've done and put a plan in place to preserve your work. Talk to your relatives about what you want done with the files and documents. Organize your research so it's easier for someone to review. And, finally, think about publishing your work in some fashion. It doesn't have to be a book, perhaps some short stories about the family, a blog, or photocopies of the family history.

## 2. Who gets your *stuff* when you are gone?

*John Leith, newsletter ed.*

We accumulate shelves and file drawers and boxes of papers and books and physical odds and ends (old kitchen spoons, shelf trinkets, photographs and other documents with and without frames, etc.) during our years of active pursuit of family history. I've been doing this since around 1975 and it is about time to find someone else "in the family" who might be interested and willing to accept all this *stuff*. But how to identify candidates can be a problem! What ideas do our readers have about how to dispose of family history materials? For instance, some of it might go to relatives, some might go to libraries, some might be trashed, and some might all too easily just

be left alone for decisions by whoever has the burden of taking care of your estate.

What solutions have DCGS members found, what worked and what didn't work? Please send us your thoughts on this topic – your editor and all your colleagues want it, need it! (Contributed material may be edited for length or for other reasons.) Send your ideas to your newsletter editor:

[jdleith@verizon.net](mailto:jdleith@verizon.net)

or mail to: John D. Leith, DCGS  
162 Islington Rd.  
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## A Centennial near you

### The City of Beacon will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

*Mary Colbert, DCGS Librarian*

The Beacon Historical Society, in collaboration with the Howland Cultural Center will host an exhibit of the history of Beacon, from the early days when there were two villages, Fishkill Landing and Matteawan.

When: April 6, 2013 to June 30, 2013

Where: Howland Cultural Center,  
477 Main Street, Beacon, NY

Hours: to be determined, but will be open most afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For further information visit their web site: <http://www.howlandculturalcenter.org/>

*(ed. note: Nice web site, but I could not find anything about the exhibit there or on the Historical Society web site. Probably one should check back later.)*



*From a Dutchess Co. Fair brochure*