



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

Certainly no one needs my adding my two cents to know that this winter has just been a trial for every part of the country and shows no sign of releasing its grasp soon. Mountains of plowed snow reduce visibility at the intersections and make us feel hemmed in and hesitant even after the roads have been cleared. Walking and parking are challenging as well. The DCGS Board has had to cancel and postpone meetings. Nevertheless we have not been idle and have made progress on several fronts.

We contracted with Art Kelly to update the every name index to *The Dutchess*; a new file for Volumes 31 to present is nearly ready for posting on the members only page of the web site. We have not yet decided whether or not to offer a printed copy for sale. Our member listing and surname researchers list will also appear on the members only page. (See details in notice on page this page)

We also discussed that our focus is two-fold; while we do seek to preserve and make available data to further research of Dutchess County families, we also want to provide education and socialization for those living in the area that have no Dutchess ancestry. To that end

we plan to introduce articles regarding research techniques in *The Dutchess*. This will make our quarterly interesting to the wider audience that comprises our membership. Although it may not seem so now, spring is just around the corner. With spring comes a renewal of our classes at the East Fishkill Community Library—watch the events page on our web site for details. We also are having an informational meeting to gage if there is sufficient interest to launch a similar program at the Pleasant Valley Library. This meeting will take place on Thursday May 8th at 6:30 PM.

DCGS Website Update

The Members Only section of the website is up and running. DCGS members may initially establish a username and password by clicking the *Not Registered Yet?* link and following the prompts. Once registered, you may log onto that portion of our website. In addition to the shelf listing of the materials in the Family History Center/Dutchess County Genealogical Society library, there are two new materials there:

- Beginning of the Congregation of the Brothers in Sichem
- **2014 DCGS membership listing**

Membership

*Roland Ormsby, Membership VP
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Please see the change to publication of the DCGS membership listing. It is now posted for members on the DCGS website.

Farewell to a Special Lady

Valerie LaRobardier, President

Last year we lost our Vice President of Education Mary Ann Zatlukal as she and her husband moved to Florida. But this winter we were saddened to hear that her family had also lost her as she passed suddenly in December. Mary Ann was an enthusiastic member of our board who shared her experience organizing quilting classes and events to



Figure 1 - Shown with Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall at the Fair in 2011

introduce us to the Dutchess County Fair and pioneer our library genealogy classes. We have much to be grateful to her for and she will be with us in spirit as we continue to broaden the programs she organized for us. We extend to Mary Ann's family and friends our sincere condolences on what is for all of us a great loss.

Mary Ann was well known in many quilting circles as well as genealogy. Her family tree quilt combined her two passions in very attractive way. The tree could be kept current simply by adding leaves with each new marriage and childbirth.

OBITUARY: Mary Ann Zatlukal (Sunrise April 19, 1941, Sunset December 18, 2013) Born in Olean, NY and raised in Hornell, NY, long-time resident of the Hudson Valley and recent resident of The Villages, FL. Mary Ann worked in education for over thirty years as a teacher, college professor, and elementary school principal. Loving mother of five children and grandmother of nine,

Mary Ann was a talented genealogist, craftsperson and an award-winning quilter who loved family above all. She was active in a number of Quilting Associations such as the American Sewing Guild, Cabin Fever (Orlando, FL), and Charity Chicks (Hudson Valley, NY). Active in the Catholic community, Mary Ann was a parishioner at St. Timothy's in The Villages. She is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, James; son Michael, his wife Amy and children Connor and Katie of Burlington, NJ; son David, his wife Heather and children Jacob and Molly of Newtown, CT; daughter Amy Whittaker, her husband William and children William, Madaket and Pyper of Palm Beach Gardens, FL; daughter Martha, her husband Jason and children Avery and Logan of Clinton Corners, NY; and son Brian of Poughkeepsie, NY. She is also survived by her brother Jim Griffin and his wife Sherry of Clearwater, FL; sister Kathleen Villella and her husband Bill of The Villages, FL; sister Patricia Wynd and her husband John of Danville, KY; brother Joseph Griffin and his wife Helen of Wimauma, FL; sister Margaret Horst and her husband John of Alpharetta, GA and numerous nephews, nieces and cousins. We entrust her to Heaven's care knowing that we are losing but God is gaining a great quilter. (Courtesy of Baldwin Brothers Cremation Society and Dove Funeral Home).



Civil War Headstones

Mary Colbert, VP Library

In 1879 Congress authorized government issued markers for the graves of veterans in private cemeteries. Advertisements were placed in newspapers which said, "All persons having knowledge of the burial-places of soldiers in private cemeteries whose graves are not marked are requested to communicate the fact to the Quartermaster-General."

Once such letter came from Miss J. G. Gabaudon who wrote on March 18th 1879;

"Sir!

Saw a notice in the Evening Telegram quoted as an official call, requesting the names and places of burial of soldiers whose graves are not marked. I regret sincerely (sic) the necessity of calling the attention of strangers to that which should long since have been done. Yet under the circumstances it was impossible. Financial difficulties of my immediate family prevented our showing the esteem felt for an only brothers memory by placing a suitable mark to show his resting place, which is at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co. N.Y."

Her brother was Edward C. Gabaudan who died on March 25, 1868, of disease contracted in the service. He was buried at the Presbyterian Church Yard in Pleasant Valley. After some correspondence with the Quartermaster's office Miss Gabaudane provided details about his service in the Marine Corps as a Lieutenant, including his assignment as "Secretary" to Admiral D. H. Farragut.

Many of these early applications are contained in the files of the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) in Washington D.C. The Dutchess County Genealogical Society has obtained scanned copies of the files for the Dutchess County applications.

A review of these files shows that the early applications were hand written letters from family members, but soon the government developed a form, presumably to minimize the need to write back and forth for the necessary information to prove eligibility for a marker. Most of the applications in the files are on the forms, many from the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Posts which submitted applications for several of their members.

Recipients were required to confirm that the markers had been received and set, usually on the form provided. In 1883, H. N. Secor writes about the stone for Corporal Caspar Lewis:

"Rhinebeck Dec17 1883

Mr. S F Prince Dear Sir the above headstone is set in the churchyard i set it in May 1882 i set it ware the Supertendt of the yard Toled me to i could not find eny of the frinds the Sexton sed that was the right Place so i set it thare ware it is at the present time."

The cemetery is the Reformed Churchyard in Rhinebeck."(spelling as in the original)

The DCGS is indexing these photocopies to make them available on the members only page of our website. The file includes letters and forms, while most are from the 1880s, a few are as late as the 1920s. Except for one request for a marker for a revolutionary war soldier, they all appear to be requests for Civil War veterans. If you would like to help with this project, please let us know at dcgsinfo@aol.com:

Book of the Every-Other-Month Club

Valerie LaRobardier, President

The New York Researcher, Winter Issue, from the NYG&BS contains an announcement that the Society will be featuring our own Arthur and Nancy Kelly's Kinship Books in their e-library for NYG&BS members. Selected titles are available on a rotating basis, changing every other month. The book can be read on line, but not downloaded or printed.

The collection of area record transcriptions offered by Kinship is vast. A feature that is particularly helpful is the surname search. Visit their web site at <http://kinshipny.com/page/home> and enter your surname in the family name search box to get a list of publications that contain relevant records.

Recent Programs

Valerie LaRobardier, President

For our November 2013 General Meeting Kathy Moyer spoke about Dutchess County samplers of the 19th century, presenting a variety of sampler types, both Quaker and non-Quaker, made in Dutchess County NY, during the first four decades of the 1800's. She included some fascinating biographical and genealogical information on some of the sampler makers. Kathy Moyer is a retired IBM programmer and project manager. She re-careered into and subsequently retired from being Associate Director of Development, Historian, and Archivist at Oakwood Friends School. This school can trace its roots back to Nine Partners Boarding School in Millbrook. She is writing a book, "Nine Partners Boarding School and Its Samplers," featuring some of the samplers that were presented in her talk

"Dutchess County Samplers of the 19th Century." If readers have information about Nine Partners or its samplers, she would love to hear from you.

Our January sharing meeting was cancelled due to bad weather and rescheduled to March. We had a lively discussion sharing brick walls and breakthroughs and were very happy to see some new faces and get to visit.