



DCGS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 708, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602-0708

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

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You will note above here the new name of this Newsletter, as adopted by the DCGS in its April meeting

down in the family because these are very important in making a person come alive in the mind of the reader.

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President's Notes

Don't forget that it is time to renew your membership in DCGS for 2007-2008!

At the Annual Meeting on May 15, 2007, we elected a slate of officers to serve DCGS for the 2007-2008 term. They are:

President	Linda Koehler
VP	George Trigg
Treasurer	Wayne Merrick
Recording Secretary	Melinda Carter
Corresponding Secretary	Gilbert Leach
VP Education	Vacant
VP Membership	Roland Ormsby
VP Program	Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
VP Publicity	Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer
VP Projects	Valerie LaRobardier
VP Name Search	Bernard Rudberg
VP Library	Linda Koehler
VP Publications	Eleanor Shortle

I would like to extend my heart-felt thanks to this group of genealogists for continuing their good work. I know that this is a hard-working board, because all of these members have been serving in their positions for several years, including Gil Leach who is returning to his old job of Corresponding Secretary which remained vacant all of last year.

"Rescuing the Past"

reported by Linda C. Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

Edith Glass gave a lively presentation at the May meeting titled "Rescuing the Past" about memoir writing. While collecting the basics of names, dates and places is usually the focus of genealogical research, the memoir writer is also focused on collecting stories of personal experience that have been handed

Mrs. Glass provided an information sheet (available at the DCGS Library for those interested in getting a copy) of the type of information that could be collected for writing a biography - or autobiography. She reminded us that if we are grateful for any descriptive writing we can find by an ancestor who lived years ago, think how grateful our own descendants will be to read our own words.

Probably the most important and practical part of the talk described how to go about recording the meaningful events in our own lives. If we sit down to write with the general intention of producing an opus about our childhood or "life in the fifties", etc, most of us will just freeze and never really get started. Mrs. Glass emphasized several times that when we write, the focus of our memoir writing should be in describing just one event - a "Kodak" moment - that means something to us personally. Launching into a description of just this one event or memory - a visit to a relative, a particular holiday, a favorite food - is much easier than trying to plan out a whole "book". And if we have the discipline to choose a particular time, say, once a week to sit down and write something, we will eventually have an entertaining group of reminiscences that we can share with others - our own children and grandchildren, or perhaps those who took part in the same events but may have a different memory of them.

Edith Glass was born and raised in New York City, the daughter of immigrant parents. She received her bachelor's degree from SUNY/New Paltz, and her master's degree from Long Island University. She spent most of her teaching career in the Byram Hills School District in Armonk, NY. She began teaching memoir writing in 1979, and has been a guest lecturer at senior citizen organizations, libraries, and genealogical societies.

More President's Notes

Linda C. Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

While ruminating on what to write for the newsletter, I was reminded of some of those lists of "genealogy rules" that are passed around among genealogists looking for a little comic relief from our under-appreciated labors. For instance, "Genealogy is the examination of the maximum amount of data in the maximum amount of time for a minimum result." Or perhaps, "If you have expended an enormous amount of time, money, and energy getting to a far-distant repository, it has been decreed that you will find exactly what you have been looking for all these years at the exact same moment that the closing bell rings in the repository on your final day in the area. That night, as you reluctantly fly home, the

repository will burn down.” Well, that humor may be getting a little too dark!

How about: “With any luck, some of the people in your family could read and write--and may have left something written about themselves.” Or: “It ain't history until it's written down.” And its reciprocal: “If it's not written down, it ain't history yet.” I have been working with a faded copy of a typed manuscript about some members of my own family. It is only 9 pages, written about 1974 by a woman in her 70's, who cites notes made by her grandmother. So in only 9 pages I can reach back to events that took place about 180 years ago. It's not much information, but it is a lot more than I would have if nothing had been written down by just those 2 women. I know I have written about this before, but let me remind you again: don't forget to write about --or record or videotape-- the important events in your own life. (Okaaay, I mutter to myself - again - I better start doing something about my own life history before someone asks me if I pay attention to my own pontificating.) By the way, our May 15 meeting features a speaker on memoir writing.

Many “genealogy rules” relate to our struggle to find records in the first place. As in: “That cemetery in Missouri where your great-grandparents were buried is now called Interstate 70.” And: “Your ancestor moved frequently and sold all of his property to his children before he died to avoid probate.”

One of my favorites is: “The parish records covering the decades for the ancestor you are researching were eaten by a cow.” The author of that particular rule (I think this is an English reference) goes on to state that “Actually, "eaten by a cow" is the most frequent excuse for there being no extant parish records in any particular locale. The next most popular explanation is "moldy and mildewed beyond recognition.””

But let's end on a more positive note and take to heart Beth Uyehara's final rule “None of this will matter in the least, and like any good genealogist, you'll sail on into the past brimming with optimism that this time, things will be different.” There is a nice website maintained by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society at <www.rootsweb.com/~nylnphs>. In the fall of 2005, they announced that they had received a donation of old records dating from 1772-1940. One volume contains records of the Northeast Precinct of Little Nine Partners from 1772 until the formation of the town of Pine Plains in 1823. The volumes had been stored in an old barn for many years, but were in amazingly good condition. Now that's more like it!

[The quoted rules come from “Dollarhide's Genealogy Rules” by William Dollarhide published in “Genealogy Pointers” (02-20-07), an e-mail newsletter of the Genealogical Publishing Company; and “Point of View: Bloodied but Un-Cowed” by Beth Maltbie Uyehara in *Missing Links: A Magazine for Genealogists*. Vol. 8, No. 5, 3 February 2003. <http://www.petuniapress.com/> (c) 2001-2003 Julia M. Case.]

Membership

Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP <reormsby@optonline.net>

(Membership lists are not available for the web version of the Newsletter.)

The Dutchess County Genealogical Society would like to extend its condolences to the family of **Lemma McGinnis**, who recently passed away. Mrs. McGinnis, Member #15, was a charter member of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society when it was started in June of 1972. She was active in the DAR and very knowledgeable about early Dutch families.

Linda C. Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

The Flushing Remonstrance

Linda C. Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

[Ed. note: Linda comments that this is not actually Dutchess County material, but we both agree that it may be of interest to our members. If you have an ancestor in their list, they want you to contact them! - JDL]

The Bowne House Historical Society of Flushing, Queens, is celebrating the 350th anniversary of the "Flushing Remonstrance" of 1657, a "remonstrance" addressed to Peter Stuyvesant as director general of New Netherland demanding religious freedom for the town (brought on by a ban on the activities of Quakers). The event is considered important in the development of principles that led to the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

The Bowne House society, specifically, is looking for descendants of the original 30 signers of the remonstrance, as well as descendants of Peter Stuyvesant and his sheriff Resolved Waldron. They have a website, www.bownehouse.org, with info about the Flushing Remonstrance, although I didn't see anything in a quick visit specifically about this current project.

The following is from the Queens Gazette, 2/28/2007: It's official- the Flushing Remonstrance is coming home to Queens for a 350th anniversary celebration, marking the signing of the document that guaranteed religious freedom in the New World. The document has been in storage at the state capital in Albany for many years.

To mark the occasion, officials at the Bowne House Museum in Flushing are searching for descendants of the 30 courageous signers of the Remonstrance, who will be invited to a ceremony celebrating the document. *[See list below - ed.]*

From: <http://www.nyym.org/spark/is2007.2.shtml>,
New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers), InfoShare 6(1), Feb 2007, Ed: Paul Busby.

[shortened by DCGS ed., JDL]

Flushing Activities for Unity in Diversity And the Flushing Remonstrance

Naomi Paz Greenberg, Flushing Meeting

A few weeks ago I was asked to participate in a year-long celebration of religious and cultural diversity in Flushing, Queens, one of the most diverse neighborhoods in all of the United States. The celebration will culminate on December 27, 2007, with a celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Flushing Remonstrance, which many believe was the foundational document that led to religious toleration in the U.S.

The first event took place on December 27, 2006, with keynote speakers in one of the school auditoriums, and then a candle-light walk to a number of local landmarks closely connected to the Remonstrance including Bowne House, George Fox's Rock, the weeping beech trees, and of course, Flushing meetinghouse.

Signers of the Remonstrance:

[This list is from:

<http://home.att.net/~Berliner-Ultrasonics/bownehse.html>
and was sorted alphabetically by your DCGS ed., JDL]
(the site also has a good map, photo, and historical discussion):

Blackford, Nicholas	Noble, William, The Mark of
Clere, George	Peake, Tobias
Colas, Nick, Parsell	Pigion, William
Doughtie, Elias	Sentell, Henry
Farrington, Edward	Stockton, Richard
Feild, Antonie	Store, John
Field, Robert, junior	Tarne, Edward
Field, Robert, senior	Thorne, William, Junior The Mark of
Foard, John, The Mark of	Thorne., William, seignor
Griffine, Edward	Townsend, John
Hart, Edward	Townsend, Henry, The Mark of
Hefferd, Nathaniel	Tue, Micah, The Mark of
Hubbard, Benjamin	Tue, Nathaniel
Mastine, John	Ud, Philipp, The Mark of
Milner, Michael	Wright, George

NEWS FROM THE NYG&B SOCIETY

<http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org>

ADDED TO THE E-LIBRARY, NYG&B

Indexes to the Record 1961-1963, 1965-1984 and 1985-1994.

Vosburgh, Royden Woodward. Records of the First Reformed Church of Cossackie in West Cossackie, Greene County, N.Y. Volume 1 (1919), with: Index compiled by Montgomery County Department of History and Archives, Old Court House, Fonda, N.Y. (1958).

Vosburgh, Royden Woodward. Records of The First Baptist Church of Springfield in Springfield Center, Otsego County, N.Y. (1920)

Vosburgh, Royden Woodward. Records of The First Presbyterian Church of Canaan at Canaan Center in the town of Canaan, Columbia County, N.Y. (1920)

Vosburgh, Royden Woodward (1916)

Records of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Town of Berne, Albany County, NY, Vols. 1 & 2.

Montgomery County Department of History and Archives (1961)
Index to Vosburgh's Records of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Town of Berne, Albany County, NY, Vol. 1.

Barber, Gertrude A. (1931)

Wyoming County, N.Y., Cemetery Inscriptions.

Getty, Innes (1948)

St. John's Church, Tuckahoe, N.Y., 1853-1939.

UPCOMING EVENTS at NYG&B

June 22 & 23: GERMAN RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Education Committee of the NYG&B in conjunction with the German Genealogy Group of Hicksville, New York, is very pleased to announce a two-day program on German Research at the NYG&B: **Suche und Spa** (Research and fun).

This year's event will cover both the early German immigrants of the eighteenth century, commonly known as the Palatines, and those who arrived in the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Henry Z. "Hank" Jones, Jr., a frequent speaker at national conferences, will be our keynote speaker. Presentations will also be provided by Dr. Richard Haberstroh and Meldon Wolfgang III, both of whom are well-known German authorities; Alex Calzareth, a specialist in German-Jewish research, and Ruth Becker Cipko of the German Genealogical Group.

The two-day program begins on Friday with an introduction by Library Director, Edward Smith, on the G&B Library holdings that are of particular interest to researchers with German ancestry. The remainder of the day consists of research assisted by Library staff and German research specialists Hank Jones, Richard Haberstroh, Ruth Becker Cipko, and Lauren Maehrlein. Friday evening features a German-style buffet banquet, complete with German beer and wines, and highlighted by an entertaining talk by Mr. Jones.

Because of space limitations for the Friday program, there is a limit of 30 registrants for the two-day program. There is no limit to the number permitted for the Saturday only program.

Saturday, June 23: a two-track program of lectures with a wide range of subjects which will appeal to both the beginning genealogist and those who have been searching for years. Lecture topics will include reading German script, church records, German-Jewish research, Palatine research, among others. Registration includes a buffet luncheon.

For additional charges you can include WALKING TOURS of Kleindeutschland, and/or the All Faiths/Lutheran Cemetery.

Registration is available via our online store or by calling 212-755-8532, ext.36. Two-day registration limited to 30 registrants (includes Friday banquet, lectures, & Saturday lunch): members \$200.00, non-members \$250.00. Saturday only registration (lunch included): members \$100.00, non-members \$150.00.

Banquet (with or without program registration): \$65.00.

LIBRARY CLOSING

Because of this special program above, on Friday, June 22nd, the NYG&B Library and Technology Center will be closed except to registered participants. Please make a note of this if you are planning to visit the Library or Tech Center around that date.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS, NYG&B

June 21: WALKING TOUR of Kleindeutschland

Join us on a walking tour of Kleindeutschland, led by Paul Rush of "Dr. Phil's Tours." We'll explore the area that was home to a thriving German community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Beginning at the Ottendorfer Library, the first circulating library in the city, we will also visit the former St. Mark's church, home church of the congregation of the General Slocum disaster, Tompkins Square Park, among other sites. The tour will end at a German Biergarten for dinner (separate charge), Thursday evening, June 21, 5:30 p.m.
Members \$12.00/ Non-members \$15.00

June 24: WALKING TOUR of Lutheran All Faiths Cemetery

Lutheran Cemetery dates back to 1852 and originally catered almost exclusively to the German immigrant community. This cemetery is the primary resting place for the victims of the General Slocum disaster. A visit to the Slocum monument will be included in the tour. Sunday morning, June 24, 11:00 am.
Members \$12.00/ Non-members \$15.00

Rhinebeck area historical marker:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Peter the Apostle, known for more than a century as the Stone Church. Within its walls stood the first church built in 1730 by the Palatine settlers to whose memory this tablet is erected by Chancellor Livingston

Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and the state of New York 1925.



Photograph and comment are from:
<http://www.revolutionaryday.com/usroute9/rhinebeck/default.htm>