



THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

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

Vol. 22, No. 4

Summer 2014

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President's Message

Valerie LaRobardier, President

One of my lectures entitled "Surprises, Skeletons and Black Sheep" deals with encountering uncomfortable discoveries researching one's family history. One of my cousin's granddaughters contacted me recently hoping I could advise her whether or not to divulge a family secret to her aunt (also my cousin) who was writing her memoirs. Could she handle it or would it be too disturbing? Ironically her aunt and I had discussed this secret at length and agonized over whether it would be right to tell her niece's family. The three of us put our heads together, dug out what we each knew of the situation and tried to piece together the facts as best we could. They both regretted not asking more questions when they were told pieces of the story, when those who could answer were still alive, but it had seemed indelicate at the time. There are often answers helpful to the living so that open discussion can be beneficial...if the facts are known. But if it is idle gossip or if few facts are known, it can simply be hurtful to let these secrets out. With the wisdom of hindsight we now see the openness choice would have been better...but there is no going back...and it would

have been impossible to know the best choice at the time. Some secrets will just die with our ancestors. The best we can do is present the facts as we know them in an understanding light.

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 recently added materials there:

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

Two Faces of DCGS

Valerie LaRobardier, President

Dutchess County Genealogical Society has two different audiences...each requiring its own type of service. Some of our members hale from afar and join our society to learn more about their Dutchess County ancestry. Certainly for these members our quarterly *Dutchess*, Name Search service and Members Only web page will be services they require. They may occasionally travel to our area as well and visit our library. But we also have members who live in or near Dutchess County. These members for the most part have no ancestors here...just a passion for genealogy. We consider it equally important to serve those mem-

bers by providing classes and seminars on general genealogy topics and opportunities to mingle with others to share their experiences and challenges.

Membership

Roland Ormsby, Membership VP
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Membership lists are shown in the printed version of the Newsletter, but not in the web version.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors

Melinda Carter, VP

On Sunday, June 15th I attended one of Dutchess Heritage Days History Fair inside the large hall at Tymor Park, LaGrangeville, NY. This was the 2nd day of their Civil War weekend. A lecture that caught my genealogical eye was called Women in the Civil War. The speaker was Sherrie House. In her presentation she talked of the many roles executed by women during the Civil War, and it was very interesting to learn of lady soldiers and spies, doctors and farmers and head of the household. She also made numerous references to her various Civil War ancestors which led me to ask about how she researched Civil War ancestors. She shared a free online website function that I had not heard of in my prior research efforts—the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, provided by the National Park Service. Here is the URL I used to reach it: <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm> Here is the description provided on the site: The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a database containing information about the men who served in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. Other information on the site includes histories of Union and Confederate regiments, links to descriptions of significant battles, and selected lists of prisoner-of-war records and cemetery records, which will be amended over time. The CWSS is a cooperative effort between the National Park Service and several public and private partners whose goal is to increase Americans' understanding of

this decisive era in American history by making information about it widely accessible. I'm still working with the data presented here, but it's certainly a site I have bookmarked and will return to visit and see what additional information may be added over time.

Volunteers Needed

Valerie LaRobardier, President

We are still looking for individuals who would like to help out by transcribing for our members only page. This activity can be handled remotely so any member might apply. If you would like to learn more please send an email to dcgsinfo@aol.com with "Volunteer inquiry" in the subject line.

Meeting Change Considered

Valerie LaRobardier, President

The board is considering changing our meeting time to Saturday mornings for general lecture meetings. This time slot has proven successful for other societies. We also hear that many do not like to drive in the dark and do not relish going out after dinner in the winter. We are also considering having workshop meetings during library hours at the Family History Center possibly in the months of February, April, August and October. These meetings would be small groups and conducted in a workshop or sharing format.

Dutchess County History

Valerie LaRobardier, President

DCGS Board Members Melinda Carter and Valerie LaRobardier attended the Dutchess County History Fair and Civil War Re-enactment last month at Tymor Park in Union Vale. In addition to the encampment and musket drills there were displays by area historical societies and a fascinating presentation and lecture by Sherrie House about the role of women in the Civil War.

The Dutchess County Historian and Dutchess County Historical Society have teamed up on an excellent series of lectures for this season. More information on program and tickets is available at www.dutchessny.gov/history. This season's series is particularly appropriate for genealogists.

Award-winning author **Fergus Bordewich** returned to Dutchess County on **Thursday, July 10th**, to deliver a presentation on the Dutchess County section of the Underground Railroad at the **Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Theatre, 12 Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie**.



Professor Philip Otterness of Warren Wilson College will explore the experiences and contributions of the Palatines, who arrived in northern Dutchess during the opening decades of the eighteenth century at **7 PM at the Elmendorph Inn, 7652 Route 9, Red Hook, NY on September 18th**.

Dutchess County native and long-serving village historian **David Greenwood** will round out the 2014 lecture series with an examination of the Italian immigration into Millbrook during the opening decades of the twentieth century at the **Millbrook Village Hall, 35 Merritt Avenue, Millbrook, NY, at 7 PM on November 6th**.

(Thanks to Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum for summaries of these lectures.)