



# THE DUTCHESS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

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

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

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### • MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda C. Koehler

[linda.koehler@worldnet.att.net](mailto:linda.koehler@worldnet.att.net)

**Fall Seminar, Nov. 17** - I would like to thank Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer for all her hard work in organizing our successful seminar. Your Executive Board - Gil Leach, Wendy Campion, Jan Foster, Rod Link, and Roland Ormsby - all arrived early on the day of the seminar to set up, run the business end of the seminar & lunch and clean up afterwards, all in all, keeping the day running smoothly. I would also like to thank the Poughkeepsie Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who allowed us to use their facility at no charge.

Our newest board member, **Jan Foster, VP of Projects**, has already proven the value of getting new blood involved in the society. Besides offering much help on Saturday at the seminar, Jan has put DCGS on the map - or in other words, on the Internet. She has our new site up on the web at [www.dcgs-gen.org](http://www.dcgs-gen.org). I would like to thank her for her hard work and for how quickly she got down to business. We are starting out the site with basic information. Suggestions as to what other kinds of materials you would like to find at the site are welcome.

### • LIBRARY REPORT

Linda C. Koehler

[linda.koehler@worldnet.att.net](mailto:linda.koehler@worldnet.att.net)

The Library shares space with the Family History Center at the LDS temple at 204 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie. Call the DCGS librarian Linda Koehler at 845-462-2361 or the FHC at 845-462-2361 for details. Library hours (subject to change): Tue 9-2, Wed 5-9, Thu 9-12 and 7-9. However, the FHC and DCGS Library will be closed from December 18 to January 8 for the holidays. A catalog of the DCGS library holdings is in progress (can you help?).

### Some materials recently added to the library collection include:

- "*Colonel Lewis duBois Unheralded Hero of the Revolutionary War*", by W. Gordon Gemeny. The focus of this manuscript is to correct confusion in the misidentification of Lewis duBois / duBoys (1744-1824) of Dutchess County with Lewis du Bois of Ulster County. Donated by the author. Mr. Gemeny also generously donated "*History of Orange County, New York, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men*", by E.M. Ruttenber and L.H. Clark. Higginson Book company facsimile reprint of 1881 original.

- "*Sedore Family History. Vol.1 Coonradt Sedore of New York (ca 1734 - ca 1810), His Sons and Grandchildren*". Daniel I. Murphy, Project Founder; Genealogists - Kay Haviland Freilich, Jefferson M. Moak, and Walter B. Smith. Willow Bend Books & Family Line Publication, Westminster, MD, c2000. 154 pages, indexed, hardbound. This book is intended as

the first volume of a 5- or 6-volume family history, tracing descendants of four sons of Coonradt Sedore and Antje Boeckhout of Sleepy Hollow, NY down to the present, covering about 10,000 descendants and 6000 spouses. One son, Frederick Sedore, settled in Dutchess County. A biographical section introduces Coonradt Sedore, then a brief narrative biography introduces each family line through the four sons. The family listings use the Henry numbering system and are well documented. This will be a welcome series for researchers interested in the Sedore and related families. The book is available from Willow Bend Books for \$35 +\$3 shipping.

- **"Braman Cemetery Transcriptions"**. Readings by Edward Braman (1833-1907); transcribed by Jim & Mary Lou Davison. Edward Braman visited cemeteries in Dutchess County in the 1880s and 1890s and recorded gravestones in 3 small manuscript notebooks now in the collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society. The Davisons transcribed the notebooks, compared them to entries in Poucher's "Old Gravestones of Dutchess County", and produced this transcription of gravestones that are omitted or differ from Poucher's book. Indexed. Donated by Mary Lou Davison.

- **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP  
wf-are@juno.com

This issue of the Dutchess Newsletter does not have its normal member address change and surname listing. Instead any changes received are being directed into the 2002 Surname Listing Index publication. While I can not yet provide a firm publication date I am confident that ordering instructions will be given in the Spring Newsletter, when this column will also return to its regular format.

- **EDITOR'S NOTES**

J. Douglas Leith  
jdleith@mediaone.net

Ellis Island's web site is open and mostly free, at <<http://www.ellisland.org>>, covering over 22 million arrivals from 1892-1924. You will be asked to register in order to see interesting details after you find a name of interest. Remember that this listing includes not only immigrants, but also returning US citizens who traveled abroad. Some of the information is "contributed" and unverified. More on Ellis Island in next DCGS Newsletter!

**Contributed news, etc.**

Please send to either of the following:

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<[linda.koehler@worldnet.att.net](mailto:linda.koehler@worldnet.att.net)>

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Auburndale MA 02466-1012  
<[jdleith@mediaone.net](mailto:jdleith@mediaone.net)>

**Genealogical queries**

(often the first thing readers look for!) are published in *The Dutchess* journal (not this Newsletter), and should be sent to:

QUERIES Editor, Jeannine Minisci  
1130 N. Lake Parker, #B312  
Lakeland FL 33805  
<[mini9@gte.net](mailto:mini9@gte.net)>

**Unpublished material related to Dutchess Co. genealogy** is welcomed by *The DUTCHESS* journal. Please send it to:

Arthur C. M. Kelly  
Editor, The DUTCHESS  
c/o KinSHIP  
305 Cedar Heights Road  
Rhinebeck NY 12572  
<[kinshipny@cs.com](mailto:kinshipny@cs.com)>

They add, "Please include sources used and give credit for work done by other than yourself."

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- **Fall Seminar Summary**

Christine Crawford-Opppenheimer  
cco4cats@prodigy.net

The Dutchess County Genealogical Society held its fall seminar on 17 November 2001. The sessions included:

**The Ten Best Web Sites:** Christine Crawford-Opppenheimer admitted that we can't really narrow the choice down to ten, but suggested that the "ten" (well, actually twelve) most useful web sites might be:

Cyndi's List: categorized links to thousands of genealogical sites on the Web:

<http://www.CyndisList.com>

Family Search: the Web site of the Latter Day Saints Family History Library includes their catalog, free databases, links, and helpful information:

<http://www.FamilySearch.org>

National Archives and Records Administration: information and links to information about federal records of interest to family history researchers:

<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/>

RootsWeb: a multitude of services for genealogists:

<http://www.rootsweb.com>

USGenWeb: has a site for every county in the US that includes queries and much more:

<http://www.USGenWeb.org>

Ancestry: <http://www.Ancestry.com>

Family Tree Magazine:

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com>

Family Tree Maker:

<http://www.familytreemaker.com>

Genealogy.com:

<http://www.genealogy.com>

Heritage Quest:

<http://www.heritagequest.com>

Everton Publishers, Inc.:

<http://www.everton.com>

GenealogySpot.com: categorized links:

<http://www.genealogyspot.com/>

Some of these sites have totally free information; others may have some free

information, but also have subscription databases.

**Overview of Uses of Computers for Genealogy:** Melinda Carter discussed computer etiquette; criteria for choosing genealogical software, what you can do on a computer, and sources for more information such as some of the web sites listed above, and Dick Eastman's e-mail newsletter (sign up at Ancestry.com).

**How to Choose Genealogical Software:** This panel discussion included information about the features of several programs. One good source for information is the Genealogical Software Report Card, available on the Internet at

<http://www.mumford.ab.ca/reportcard/index.htm>

**Things You Can Do with Computers that Don't Involve the Internet:** Some of the many activities include spreadsheets; scanning documents and photographs; using word processors to write family stories, anecdotes, and recipes, and transcribe materials; and PowerPoint presentations.

**Getting Started with Your Genealogy:** Linda Koehler discussed basic techniques such as starting with home resources (documents plus interviews with relatives); organizing your information on pedigree charts and family group sheets; getting copies of vital records for ancestors; searching for information about the whole family, not just your ancestor; and documenting your sources.

**Using the Census:** Linda Koehler talked about the usefulness of the census in providing a snapshot of your ancestors' families every ten years. Tactics she suggested include starting with the most recent census your ancestors appeared on, looking at all censuses for the family, recording everything from the family's census record (using preprinted forms will simplify this), and being aware of neighbors who might turn out to be related.

**Documenting Your Sources:** Robin Walsh stressed the importance of documenting

sources of information to allow others to go back to them. Others may later want to verify information because of conflicting sources, or may want to see if there is information in the source that you didn't extract. One of the best books about why and how to document is Elizabeth Shown Mills' book *Evidence: Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997).

### Finding Clues for Ancestors' Foreign Origins:

Christine Crawford-Oppeneheimer emphasized her basic rule of genealogical research: collect every piece of paper created by or about your ancestor, because you never know which one might have the clue you need to find an immigrant's place of origin. If, after doing so, you still have not found a clue, repeat the process with the immigrant's children and then with siblings. Finally, although you may never find the place of origin, collecting all this material will give you interesting details about your ancestor's life.

### Some New York and Local Resources

1. New York State Archives:  
[www.sara.nysed.gov/](http://www.sara.nysed.gov/)
2. New York State Library:  
<http://unix2.nysed.gov/>
3. Obtaining New York State Records for Genealogy Purposes:  
[www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/vr/geninst.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/vr/geninst.htm)
4. New York GenWeb:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~nygenweb/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nygenweb/)
5. The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society: [www.nygbs.org/](http://www.nygbs.org/)
6. Dutchess County Genealogical Society Web Page: created and maintained by our own Jan Foster: [www.dcgsgen.org/](http://www.dcgsgen.org/)
7. Dutchess County on GenWeb:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~nydutch/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nydutch/)
8. New Netherland Project:  
[www.nnp.org/](http://www.nnp.org/)
9. New England Historic Genealogical Society:  
[www.newenglandancestors.org/](http://www.newenglandancestors.org/)
10. Hope Farm Press (bookseller):  
[www.hopefarm.com/sampl03.htm](http://www.hopefarm.com/sampl03.htm)

11. Kinship (bookseller):  
[www.kinshipny.com/nytips.htm](http://www.kinshipny.com/nytips.htm)

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### • Gold Mining in Dutchess County?

Only a little over a century ago, investors and speculators were hot on the trail of gold and silver in northern Dutchess County. See for example the story "Our Gold Mine" in the *Rhinebeck Gazette*, Thu 8 Apr 1880, p. 3, col. 3. More on this in a future issue!

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### • OFFICERS

for 2001/2002, elected May 2001:

#### Elected:

President (Acting)	Linda Koehler
Vice- President	OPEN
Treasurer	Rod Link
Recording Sec.	Wendy Champion
Corresponding Sec.	Gilbert Leach
VP Membership	Roland Ormsby
VP Library	Linda Koehler
VP Publications	Eleanor Shortle
VP Programs	Christine Crawford-Oppeneheimer
VP Education	OPEN
VP Projects	Jan Foster
VP Publicity	Christine Crawford-Oppeneheimer
VP Search	Rod Link

#### Appointed:

Editor	Arthur Kelly
Newsletter Editor	J. Douglas Leith
Circulation Manager	Betty Griffin

• **Next DCGS Meeting**  
Tues 15 Jan 2002, 7:30 p.m.  
at the LDS temple  
204 Spackenkill Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY