



THE DUTCHESS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 708, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602-0708

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

Vol. 15, No. 2

Winter, 2006-2007

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President's Notes

Linda Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

I wish more of our members had been able to attend our Fall Seminar on Saturday, October 28. Keynote speaker Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak made two excellent presentations, talking about DNA use in genealogy research. The most common type of DNA testing today is used for surname studies to determine if people share a common ancestor. But one thing that surprised most of us is how many people are participating in testing, building up databases, which makes it even more likely that researchers can make connections, as well as eliminate unproductive research.

These talks also reminded me that not only has technology made changes in the traditional venues of genealogy (like computer programs for record-keeping, and digitizing original documents for easy access for many), but it can also head off in directions we have never been able to follow before - literal DNA proof of the "blood" relationships that genealogy research seeks to prove via paper records.

The problem, of course, is how to keep ourselves up-to-date and learn about all this new "stuff". Actually, I think that may be one characteristic that most genealogists have - a joy in learning something new. We are learning all the time - not just about more connections in our families, but how to find them and to use new resources to help us. Most of us are self-taught, and willing to share what we have learned with others. In talking with beginners, I try to suggest ways to extend their skills and keep up with new resources and ideas. Below are some of the things I have come up with over time:

- > Join your local genealogical society for their publications, program meetings, and to meet local members who have the same interests you do.
- > Join genealogical societies that are based in areas where your family lived in the past - for their publications, knowledge of the local area, and direct help they can give you.
- > Read "how-to" books - Many bookstores now stock genealogy-related titles. Catalogs from genealogical publishers

and suppliers are available on-line or by mail, including for example -

- Ancestry (www.ancestry.com),
- Genealogical Publishing Company (www.genealogical.com),
- Heritage Books (www.heritagebooks.com),
- Frontier Press (www.frontierpress.com),
- The Memorabilia Corner (<http://members.aol.com/TMCorner/>),

and many others. Borrow books at the local library, on interlibrary loan, or through borrow-by-mail programs (one is offered by New England Historic Genealogical Society).

- > Attend seminars, conferences, and workshops.
- > Take Home Study courses: the National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22204-4304, Fax: (703) 525-0052, <www.ngsgenealogy.org> offers a comprehensive course that you do more or less at your own pace at home using CDS, either with self-correcting tests or with the option of having professionals grade and give you feedback on assignments and tests; they also offer shorter online courses such as "Introduction to Genealogy". Brigham Young University offers correspondence courses.

> Read on-line "basic courses", blogs & weekly columnists who have plenty of tips and techniques relating to specific topics. Some examples are: Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at <<http://eogn.typepad.com/>>, Ancestry.com's 24/7 Family History Circle at <<http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/>> and Genealogy Blog sponsored by Everton Publishers at <www.genealogyblog.com/>.

> Read magazines: Quarterlies and newsletters are published by genealogical societies we belong to; general interest genealogy magazines are available by subscription or at bookstores including: *Family Chronicle*, *Family Tree Magazine*, Everton's *Genealogical Helper*, and *Ancestry Magazine*. On-line publications are posted online periodically or may arrive as e-mail: GenealogyMagazine.com <www.genealogymagazine.com/>.

> Don't underestimate the life skills you have already learned from occupations and hobbies such as librarian, technical writer, scrap booker, collector of antiques, photographer, paralegal, quilter, computer technician, etc.

> Cyndi's List at <www.cyndislist.com> will have categories and links to Internet sites that relate to all of the above suggestions.

> Use your local public library. You can get access via your home computer or a computer at the library to online databases available through many local public libraries (explore their websites, especially in the "Reference" sections). Don't confine yourself to the "genealogy" section of the library or its databases. You can learn about the countries your immigrant ancestors came from; study the social life of nineteenth-century ancestors who farmed in the mid-West; discover how the mill-wrights of 1750 built a mill and depended on water power for their business; pore over print topographical, historical, military and migrant trail

maps and atlases - among many other topics and types of resources.

> Explore the expensive commercial genealogy websites even if you don't have a subscription. Most offer at least some free resources, including a few free databases or indexes, and weekly columnists or articles on a variety of genealogy topics. They also have online stores selling supplies, books, videos, CD-ROMs, etc. Examples include Genealogy.com <www.genealogy.com> and Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com>.

PART 5 - Dutchess County Census Notes

(continued from DCGS Newsletter Vol.14 #3 Spring, 2006)

Linda Koehler <lckoehlr@optonline.net>

1840 Census

> The Sixth United States Federal Census began on 1 June 1840. Federal Marshals had nine months to finish the census, although this was extended to eighteen months to finish and return the results to Washington. There were 2 copies of this census - the original and one handwritten copy; neither was posted for public review. One was sent to the clerk of the federal district court and one was sent to the U.S. Secretary of State. Enumerators were supplied with uniform, pre-printed forms to record names, so that we have column headings on every page.

Data:

> The 1840 census had the same questions as the 1830 census, with a few additional questions about Revolutionary War pensioners (both veterans and veteran's widows). Again, this census concentrated on counting people and collecting some social statistics - counting those who were in school, and those who had certain handicaps - deaf & dumb, blind, insane or "idiotic".

> There were no slaves enumerated in Dutchess County in this or later censuses.

> Place information includes only the name of the town and county (no villages are separately enumerated except the village of Poughkeepsie within the town of Poughkeepsie) and is written sideways in the first column of each page that has the names of the heads of household.

Questions asked:

"First" page:

Name of the head of the household; number of free white males and number of free white females (with 13 columns of age categories for each, same as 1830 - under age 5; age 5 through 9; age 10 through 14; age 15 through 19; age 20 through 29; age 30-39; age 40-49; age 50-59; age 60-69; age 70-79; age 80-89; age 90-99; age 100 and up);
Free colored males and free colored females (with 6 columns of age categories for each: under age 10; age 10 through 23; age 24 through 35; age 36 through 54; age 55 through 99; age 100 and up).

"Second" page, questions for the same household continue -
Number of male slaves, number of female slaves (with 6 columns of age categories for each: under age 10; age 10 through 23; age 24 through 35; age 36 through 54; age 55 through 99; age 100 and up);

Total for the household;

Number of Persons in each family employed in [columns for each]: mining, agriculture, commerce, manufacturing & trades, navigating the oceans, navigating lakes & rivers, learned professions and engineers;

Pensioners for Revolutionary War or Military Service included in the foregoing [columns for]: Name, age;

Number of deaf and dumb white persons: under 14, age 14-25, over age 25;

Number of Blind and Insane White Persons [columns for]: Blind, Insane & Idiotic at public charge, Insane & Idiotic at private charge;

Number of deaf, dumb and insane colored persons [columns for]: deaf & dumb, blind, insane & idiotic at public charge, insane & idiotic at private charge;

Schools etc [columns for institutions and number of students]:

Colleges & universities, Academies and grammar schools, Primary and common schools, White males over 20 who cannot read and write.

Pensioners: The names and exact ages of the Revolutionary War pensioners collected in the census were separately published by the government in 1841 as *A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services, as Returned Under the Act of Taking the Sixth Census in 1840*. This printed report was microfilmed as NARA publication T498 Roll 3, along with the printed 1790 census and this microfilm is available in our DCGS library. A reformatted, retyped version of this publication is available online at

<<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/colonial/census/1840/index.html>>. The report is also available online at Ancestry.com as part of its Military Records collection as a database titled *Revolutionary War Pensioner Census, 1841* with digitized images of the original pages.

Known transcriptions: I am not aware of any print or online transcriptions of the 1840 census for Dutchess County.

Online Digital Images: Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest Online and Genealogy.com all have online digital images of the original microfilmed pages for the 1840 census record. At this time, only Ancestry.com has an index for 1840 with links to the digital record. The index includes the names of Revolutionary War pensioners even if they are different from the head of the household they are living in.

Miscellaneous comments:

> In Dutchess County, the towns which existed at the time of this census were: Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, Fishkill (including present East Fishkill and Wappinger), Hyde Park, La Grange, Milan, Northeast, Pawling, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale, and Washington.

> Census entries for each household ran across 2 large facing pages, so each page was microfilmed separately. The same holds true for the digitized images, only 1 page is shown at a time, and 2 images are needed to show the entire 2-page household entry.

> For Dutchess County, every page is numbered separately. A handwritten page number can be found in the upper left corner of

the "first" facing page and a consecutive handwritten page number is in the upper right hand corner of the "second" facing page. However, quite often the even-numbered page number is not actually written down, and you only see the odd numbers. This paging is different from 1830 when both facing pages were counted as "one" page number.

> The handwritten census pages in order of coverage for each town are: Pleasant Valley p.2-29, Fishkill p.30-145, Washington p.146-179, Dover p.180-205, Amenia p.206-231, Stanford p.[232]-259, La Grange p.260-281, Beekman p.282-[299], Union Vale p.300-317, Pawling p.318-340, Northeast p.340-357, Pine Plains p.358-373, Milan p.374-395, Red Hook p.[396]-431, Rhinebeck p.[432]-465, Clinton p.466-489, Hyde Park, p.490-517, and Poughkeepsie p.518-639 (with the village of Poughkeepsie enumerated on p.546-639).

KNOWN ON-LINE ERRORS – Ancestry.com has mistakenly tacked the beginning of the Union Vale enumeration onto the end of the town of Beekman listing. The town of Beekman section should end on p.299, but the images continue through p.303; and the Union Vale images start on p.304 instead of p.300 where the town enumeration actually begins. Therefore, anyone browsing the Union Vale census will miss 2 pages of names. All names are indexed and will link to the correct images, but names that appear on p.300-303 will be identified in the index as residing in the town of Beekman when they are really in Union Vale. A similar kind of error occurs for the towns of Pawling and North East. The first page of the North East enumeration is mistakenly tacked onto the end of the Pawling listing; Pawling should end on page 340, but the images continue through to page 341. Town of North East images do start correctly on p.341, so you will not miss any names when browsing through North East. However, this complicates the index - names on p.341 of the census appear twice in the index, as resident in Pawling and in North East, when they are only resident in North East. There is also a spelling error in the Ancestry.com listing of Dutchess County towns - Clinton is spelled "Cinton".

The DCGS all-day fall seminar was held on **28 October 2006**. Our featured speaker was Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, an outstanding writer and speaker, and a noted authority on DNA and genealogy.

Megan has authored several books including *Honoring Our Ancestors* (inspiring stories about rediscovering our family history), *They Came to America: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors*, and *Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree*. Visit Megan's website at <http://www.honoringourancestors.com/aboutus.html> for more information about her background, including work as lead researcher for the PBS *Ancestors* series, and as consultant with the U.S. Army's Repatriation project using DNA to trace families of servicemen killed or MIA in Korea, WWII and Vietnam. Megan also has a sister website at www.genetealogy.com supporting this brand new field. And as if that wasn't enough, she maintains a genealogy blog online at <http://megansrootsworld.blogspot.com/>.

Ms. Smolenyak gave two hour-long talks: "Trace Your Roots with DNA" – "genetealogy"* (the marriage of genetics and genealogy), what it is and how can we use it to further our genealogical endeavors. She discussed launching and managing a DNA project doing Y-DNA/surname testing, including such considerations as test and vendor selection factors, privacy, and convincing others to participate.

**(that's "je-n•t•••logy" I would guess! - ed.)*

"Beyond Y-DNA: Your Genetic Genealogy Options" followed up with additional options for genetic testing for genealogical purposes beyond the popular patrilineal surname studies that use Y-DNA tests: mtDNA, SNP, BioGeographical and ethnic tests, as well as the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation and the Genographic Project.

In addition to Megan's talks, there were other hour-long sessions, "Genealogical Research on the Internet" by Robin Walsh; "Beginning Genealogy" presented by Linda Koehler; plus "Probing into Probate: What Did Your Ancestors Leave You?" and "Organizing Your Genealogy" both presented by Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer.

On Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at 7:30 PM the DCGS heard **Fire! Flood! Hurricane! Hard Drive Crash! Would you Lose your Genealogical Materials in a Disaster?"** by Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer, with suggestions on how to protect your valuable work from all kinds of dangers. Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer, DCGS Vice-President of Programs, has been engaged in genealogical research since 1979. She is the author of *Long-Distance Genealogy: Researching Your Family History from Home* and speaks frequently on genealogical topics. She is currently librarian at the Culinary Institute of America.

DCGS meeting, November 21, 2006 (written in advance) **"Approaches to Creating a Family Album"** - Kim Scoralick will discuss different approaches to preserving family photographs and memories in an album (scrapbook) that may include only the current generation, or many generations.

Ms. Scoralick has been a scrapbooking consultant with Creative Memories for seven years, and is also a third grade teacher in the Spackenkill school district.

NEWS FROM THE NYG&B

New books on the NYG&B's e-library site...(October list)
Roney, Lila Russell James:

...*Gravestone Inscriptions of Ulster County, New York,*
Vol. 2, 3 & 4 (1924, 1927, 1928)

Vosburgh, Royden Woodward:

...*Records of the Reformed Church in the Village of Gilboa, Schoharie County, N.Y. Formerly the Reformed Dutch Church in Dyse's Manor, in the Town of Broome; and ...Records of the St. John's Episcopal Church in the Village of Johnstown, Fulton County, NY (1919)*

...Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in Blenheim in the Old Village of Blenheim, Schoharie County, N.Y. (1918)

(November list)

Mapes, Clarence Eugene

...Burials in Howells Cemetery, Howells, N.Y. (1947)

Roney, Lila Russell James

...Gravestone Inscriptions of Ulster County, NY, Vol. 1 (1924)

Stryker-Rodda, Kenn

...McConnellsville, Oneida Co., NY, Cemetery Inscriptions (1955)

Also, n.b., *The New York Genealogical & Biographical Record* has now been loaded through 1960.

UPCOMING EVENTS at NYB&G

Six New York City Repository Tours for 2007 -

The Education Committee of the NYG&B is very pleased to offer a total of six repository tours in 2007. In addition to our very popular visits to NARA, MUNI, NYPL, and the NYG&B Library, we are offering two new tours: the New-York Historical Society and the Brooklyn Historical Society. Please join us for in-depth introductions to the holdings of some of the City's most genealogically relevant collections.

The New-York Historical Society, Wed 7 Feb, 2:00-5:00 P.M.

Nina Nazionale, Associate Director for Library Administration, will provide an orientation on the genealogically pertinent holdings at the Historical Society. Registrants will have time for research, assisted by the wonderful N-YHS staff.

The NYG&B Library, Wed 28 Feb, 4:00-7:00

Our librarians will host a guided in-depth tour of the NYG&B Library. Learn about our extensive holdings, including our unique manuscript collection, and how to access them. Attendees will be provided ample time for staff-assisted research.

The NY Public Library, Wed 7 Mar, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Ruth Carr, Chief of the Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy, will give an overview of Genealogy resources. The group will be introduced to the

Milstein Division 9:30-10:10; Overview of the Map Division 10:15-10:35; Microforms 10:40-11:00; Hands-on access to e-resources 11-12:30.

NY Municipal Archives, Fri 9 Mar, 1:30-4:30 P.M.

Leonora A. Gidlund, Director, and her staff will welcome and introduce registrants to the large assortment of vital records, city directories, photographs, voters' records, etc. The otherwise closed archives will then be available for assisted research.

Brooklyn Historical Society, Thu 15 Mar, 1:00-5:00 P.M.

This is the first time this tour is being offered by the NYG&B. The Brooklyn Historical Society's library is a wonderful resource, for Brooklyn and western Long Island. Closed for several years while undergoing major renovations, the Society is once again open for visitors.

National Archives Northeast Region, Thu 29 Mar, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Rich Gelbke, NARA's resident genealogist, will give a lecture providing an overview of a variety of under-utilized textual and microfilm records available at NARA, plus, a detailed look at examples from these sources. Attendees will be assisted in their research by Roger Joslyn, FGBS, FASG, Leslie Corn, FGBS, and NARA staff.

Registration: Each program \$25 members/\$35 non-members.

Any three programs \$65 members/\$95 non-members

All six programs \$110 members/\$170 non-members

Registration begins Dec. 1, 2006. Session enrollment limited.

HERALDRY PROGRAM

The Committee on Heraldry is pleased to announce that Robin Orr Blair, LVO, WS, Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland, will be the recipient of the Society's Medal for Heraldic Achievement. The award will be presented Mr. Blair at a dinner to be held on Monday, 5 March 2007 at the Society's Ballroom. The award was last presented to Peter Gwynn-Jones, CVO, Mr. Blair's English counterpart, who is styled Garter Principal King of Arms, in 2004.



Genealogy in the comics, thanks to "Monty" - - 8/28/2006.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS -

Membership listings are in the printed Newsletters, but are not published on the web.