



THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

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

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

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1

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Preserving family history | 1 |
| September 2010 meeting | 1 |
| Name search volunteers <i>still</i> needed | 2 |
| November 2010 meeting | 2 |
| Missing member? | 2 |
| FTM for Macintosh | 2 |
| NSDAR Workshop – Patriot Lineages? | 3 |
| William Ring house & museum, Mapleton, Iowa | 3 |
| Membership listings | 4 |

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Valerie LaRobardier

Tracing ones roots drives home the improbability of ever being born the persons that we are. My father's ancestors go back to the Revolutionary War and beyond in America. My mother was born here, but her parents and oldest brother and sister came from Sweden. Both of my grandfathers, unlikely as this might seem, are named Oscar. And so it was that **Oskar Teodor Johansson's** daughter married **Oscar Byron Porter's** son. But...if my mother had found a sweetheart in her native Wyoming she would have never struck out alone across the country to live and work in pre-war Washington DC and would have never met my father. Her father came to this country to prepare the way for his family. What if he had died along the way? What if my grandmother had not the courage to follow him? My father was born in Maine. If his mother had not divorced her husband and left Maine, my father would not have met my mother. If my grandmother's father had not bought a farm in Virginia her sisters might not have gone before her, and she may have chosen another place to move her family. And so on and so on. It all turns on a dime.

The further back in time we go, the more our ancestors' choices increase the unlikelihood of us ever being born. The choices that they made, the history of their lives—that is what enabled our very existence. Yes, we are responsible for what we make of our lives—but the fabric of our character and the resources we use come from the layering of many generations and many different families' contributions.

And so in this season of blessings and miracles, let's all take a moment to reflect and thank our Higher Power for the great blessing that against all probability we came to be here now in this time and place.

Preserving Family History

Valerie LaRobardier

My siblings and cousins have lately been discussing how to preserve our collections of family manuscripts and photographs in addition to genealogy research files. We wonder if anyone in the generation below us is likely to carry the torch when we are gone, or will the legacy of our grandmother and parents die with us?

It is wise to clearly designate a repository for your research files, so that should no one in your family wish to have them they are not discarded. You can specify that this is a last resort so that should a budding genealogist materialize they might be entrusted with the material. Creating scrapbooks and oral histories that will appeal to family members even if they do not share your love of genealogy is another way to insure that your legacy endures.

The DCGS is fortunate now to again have a full board. Our Vice President of Education, Mary Ann Zatlukal, has begun laying the groundwork for a program with both short and long-term goals that will eventually touch both ends of the age spectrum to meet the challenge of preserving heritage. In the beginning we will be reaching out to senior centers and libraries to promote a "Genealogy 101" class. The target audience is both those who have an interest in but not the knowledge of genealogy research to help and guide them, and those who simply want to preserve what they know of their family history. Later we hope to extend the program to elementary school children—naturally with a different focus and method to accommodate the audience. We hope to attract members with this program, but also to provide a service of making preservation more accessible.

DCGS meeting of September 2010

Mark Nelson, Senior Software Engineer with IBM Security Design and Development, gave DCGS members an insightful and entertaining talk in September on Internet security. He illustrated practical tips for keeping oneself safe while researching on line by comparing them to sayings we all recall hearing from our mothers, like "Don't talk to strangers."

Valerie LaRobardier;

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

- ❖ To conduct name searches in the DCGS Library collections
- ❖ Training provided by experienced researchers
- ❖ Set your own hours!

If you would like to learn more about Dutchess County genealogy and help other family genealogists

Contact us at:

DCGS

PO Box 708

Poughkeepsie NY 12602-0708

Or visit: <<http://www.dcgsgen.org>>

DCGS MEETING

Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 7:30 P.M.

**"A Wonderful, Accessible Online Library:
Finding Family History in Google Books"**

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer discussed how Google Books, an online library of digitized books, can help your research. Google has contracts with major libraries such as Harvard, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the New York Public Library, and many more, to digitize books from their collections and make them available on the Internet. Google doesn't say how many books are accessible on its site, but the number is in the millions, and books are constantly being added. The books are from libraries all over the world, so you may find information about non-American ancestors, as well.

To get to the web site, go to <http://www.google.com>. In the choices at the top of the page, click on "More," and then click on "Books" in the dropdown menu. In the "Search Books" box at the top of the page, type in the name of an ancestor, an ancestral location, or other word(s) that might bring up information about your line. If the ancestor's name is common, include a location where s/he lived, as well (e.g., "James Smith" AND "Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania").

There are several possible displays for the books in the list that comes up. If a book was published before 1923, it will usually be available in "Full Text"; however, if it was republished after 1923, full text probably won't be available. For books published after 1923, the display may be "Preview"

(many full pages from the book available, but not all); "Snippet View" (a few lines visible from pages that include the text you searched for—but not necessarily the lines that include that text); or "No Preview" (no part of the book is available to view).

When you choose a book to look at, you'll find links that allow you to see if used or new book sellers have copies available for sale and locate libraries that own it. If the book is Full Text, you can look at the entire book. You can search for words or phrases within the book—a useful capability even for a book you own, if it is not indexed. You can save the book to an online library that Google will maintain for you, so you can easily access it again, or you can download it to your computer so you can have that copy of the book available without getting on the Internet.

Many of the participating libraries own published genealogies and local histories, and you may be surprised at what's on this site. Sit down sometime with a list of your brick wall ancestors, and see what you can find! -----

-- Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer Hyde Park, NY

Author of: Long-Distance Genealogy: Researching Your Ancestors from Home

Missing member?

Our last newsletter addressed to

Nancie S. Davis

1808 Jumper St.

Cayce, SC 29033

was returned marked as deceased. We are not able to verify this and would like to have further information if possible from anyone. A death notice or obituary web URL would be most appreciated. Nancie was a Life Member and a published genealogist.

News from Ancestry.com

J. Douglas Leith, Newsletter ed.

jdleith@verizon.net

Got a Mac? On November 4, Ancestry.com announced the launch of **Family Tree Maker for Mac**, the new Mac version of the world's No. 1 selling family history software. It is available for purchase online starting at \$69.99. The program is also available in select retail stores, including Apple stores, Amazon, Office Depot, and Office Max.

Some Q&A from Amazon:

- What type of Mac will the application run on? You will need an Intel-based based Mac running Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later.
- I have been using the PC version of Family Tree Maker. Will I have to start over? Family Tree Maker for Mac includes a migration utility (used on a PC) that will convert your Family Tree Maker Windows files (2010 and 2011) so they can be opened on a Mac (and vice versa).

- How is the Mac version different from the PC version? The Mac version has the same functionality as Family Tree Maker 2010.
- Can I download the software from the Family Tree Maker website? No, at this time the software is available on CD only.
- Can I import a tree I created in Reunion? Yes. You will need to export your file as a GEDCOM and then import it into Family Tree Maker.
- I am used to using the PC version of Family Tree Maker and don't want to learn a new program. How different is the Mac version? The Mac version is based on Family Tree Maker 2010, so if you've used Family Tree Maker 2008, 2009, or 2010, the transition will be easy.

Chancellor Livingston Chapter NSDAR to hold Lineage Research Workshop.

Do you have a patriot of the American Revolution in your family tree? Ever wondered if you did?

The Rhinebeck chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is holding a Lineage Research Workshop for anyone interested in delving into their family history in search of patriot ancestors on Saturday, April 30th, 2011 from 11AM – 2PM downstairs at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck.

Renowned genealogist and Rhinebeck Town Historian Nancy Kelly will be on hand, as well as many other members of the Chancellor Livingston Chapter, NSDAR, to assist you. Although run by the Daughters, this workshop is open to men and woman as we will also have on hand representatives from the Sons of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution organizations.

Refreshments will be served, genealogy research materials will be for sale, and the collections of the Starr library will be available for help with on-site research. Please bring any information you already have about your family tree and any possible ancestors who might have had a hand in securing our Nation's independence from Britain.

See our Rhinebeck chapter website
<http://www.northerndutchessdar.org/> or the
SAR: <http://www.sar.org/>
DAR: <http://www.dar.org/> or
CAR: <http://www.nscar.org/> websites for more information about us. Contact Chancellor Livingston Chapter Regent, Sarah K Hermans for details on the workshop at sarah@44parkave.com or (845) 518-4008.

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Gilbert B. Leach
Corresponding Secretary

Last September, my wife and I had the opportunity to visit an old family homestead which is now a museum dedicated to the life and times of the man who pioneered to Western Iowa, settled there and built this house. He was **William Lewis Ring**, born in 1815 in Dutchess County, the second oldest child and oldest male of 8 children. His parents were **Dr. Lewis Ring** and **Elenor DuBois** who married in 1811 and lived in Hyde Park and Red Hook until 1832, when they settled into the home and farm in Pleasant Valley, that Elenor inherited from her father, **Koert DuBois**. Six generations of the Ring family lived in this home until 1975, when it was finally sold out of the family.

William Ring was quite the gadabout, having lived in New York, Charleston, SC, Glens Falls, and several other New York locations. In 1842, he moved to Boston where he remained until 1855. He then made a long trip westward via the Erie Canal, Niagara Falls, and stopped in Janesville, WI, to visit with cousins. He then made his way to St. Louis, where he lingered for several months working and deciding where he might get land and begin farming. In the Fall of 1856, he made claim to 160 acres of land in the Maple Valley, now Mapleton, Iowa. He made a crude hut or shed to live in while he began to work the land and raise some cattle.

In 1865, William built a small house, entirely of black walnut wood. He used his carpentry and cabinet making skills and tools, and the house, though small, was quite a showplace. He crafted every part of the house, including a very ornate stairway. The house had only one large room downstairs, and two small bedrooms upstairs. In December, 1867, William married his first cousin, **Sarah Elizabeth Ring**, who had lived in Glens Falls, NY. They had one child, who died at birth, and was apparently unnamed, as the gravestone says only, "our darling boy".

William was active in county government, serving as the county treasurer and the bridge agent. He also built and sold furniture, built coffins and was an undertaker, all this in addition to running the farm. William died in 1891, and a few years later, Sarah sold the property and moved into Mapleton. She died in 1905, and tragically that ended this branch of the family.

About 1930, a new owner of the Ring house and farm offered the house to anyone who could arrange to move it from the property. The Ladies Civic Club in Mapleton was able to arrange to have the house moved the 4 miles into Mapleton. The 65 years on the farm and several owners had taken its toll on the house. The "Club" obtained donations and restored the home to its original fine condition. After another 65 years, the club disbanded, and the property fell to the city of Mapleton per the club charter. Again time had taken its toll, and the city fathers were deciding what to do with it. By sheer coincidence, it was at that time I had contacted the city hall to find someone

who could help me with the history of this William Ring. I am also part of the family, Ring being my father's maternal side, and I am the Ring Family Historian. I was able to get information and wrote a bio of William for the use of the library there. The High School history teacher heard about the house, and feared it would be removed. He gathered a small committee and met with the city council. They allowed the committee 6 months to formulate plans to save the house. They did, and the city approved. The History Teacher found my bio, and contacted me, and we traded volumes of information over these years. We became very good friends from this experience. When the restoration was complete, I was able to convince the family here in Dutchess County to give many artifacts and archival records to the house for display in its new role as a museum. Significant items were a large portrait of William, another of his father, a large mahogany sideboard, and a coin silver tea service. The latter two items were made in 1811 for William's parent's wedding. Archival records include the will of Koert Dubois giving the Pleasant Valley farm to William's mother, several deeds, additional family wills, a collection of about 50 letters from the period 1808 through 1904, many written by William, and the farm and medical journals of his father.

So, after living through this restoration, grand opening, etc. from afar for 15 plus years, you can imagine our excitement that we were finally going to see this old family home. The Teacher coordinated our visit there, and we met with the full committee on several occasions. We were feted and given mementos including the key to the city, presented to us by the mayor. We were made honorary life members of the Ring House Committee.

Our trip continued westward to the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota. While spectacular, the experience paled in comparison to our visit to the Ring House in Mapleton, Iowa!



The Ring House in Mapleton, Monona County, Iowa

Membership

*Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP
reormsby@optonline.net*

New members and those submitting address corrections or a new set of surnames are listed by membership number.

NOTE: E-mail addresses are updated only if a new US Postal address or surname list is change is included. Names being researched are in **bold** type.

#1861 Jane E. Groves Ridde Hurt
10615 W. 109th Street

Overland Park, KS 66210-1354

E-mail: JHurt@everestKC.net

**Benson, Cooper, Darling, Douthty,
Marshall, Odell**

#1977 Carolyn/Kim Taylor
106 Old Post Rd North
Red Hook, NY 12571

E-mail: mctaylor11@hvcrr.com

Barnes, Proper

#1978 Marianne Archey
2212 Queen Anne Ave N #26
Settle, WA 98109

E-mail: archeym@gmail.com

**Bailey, Decker, Lown, Maloney,
Wagener, Wager, Wagener**

#1979 Jeff Cronk

Martha Cronk-Dryden
3919 S. Delaware Place
Tulsa, OK 74105

E-mail: jcronk@swbell.net

Cronk

#1980 Patricia DeMar Hauver
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Carmel, NY 10512

E-mail:

patricia.demarhauver@earthlink.net

**Ames, Barger, Cobb, Devens,
Eighmie, Fitzpatrick, Hauver, Hamil-
ton, Kilmer, Lent, Reynolds, Veach**