



# THE DCGS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

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

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## President's Message

*Valerie LaRobardier, President*

### Dutchess County Ancient Documents

The new database of the Dutchess County Historian is now available on line. These documents date from the earliest history of Dutchess County. Many refer to cases in the Court of Common Pleas. You may find nothing more than your ancestor's name with a date and place, in itself a valuable piece of information. In addition, you often find who placed a bond for the person, details regarding the case, and the attorneys for one or both sides. Oh yes! They did have attorneys back in the 1700's handling their lawsuits for debts not paid.

One phrase you will encounter often is "trespass on the case"—it has nothing to do with trespassing. *Trespass on the case is an action brought to recover damages from a person whose actions have resulted indirectly in injury or loss. It is a common-law form of action, otherwise known as "case" or "action on the case," for an injury resulting from a wrongful act other than physical force, or for an injury resulting from nonfeasance or negligence, or for an injury which is consequential, as distinguished from a direct or immediate, result of the wrongful act. For instance, a person struck by a log as it was thrown onto a road could maintain trespass against the thrower but one who was hurt by stumbling over it could maintain and action on the case. If the original force had ceased to act before the injury commenced, the effect is mediate, and the appropriate remedy is*

*trespass on the case.* [USLegal.com] It would appear our roots as a litigious society were well established early on.

You will also find minutes to some of the court cases along with jury members. Another valuable document is the bastardy bond. The practice was to identify the father of a child born out of wedlock. Many times this was done before the child was born. The father then had to post a bond for support of the child. Sometimes the couple later married, but sometimes this is the only evidence you will find documenting the parents of an individual. There are also some deeds and even probate fragments sprinkled here.

Only one phase of the digitizing has been posted on line. We will announce when further phases have been added. If you do not find anything yet do not be discouraged. You will also need to be mindful of the alternate spellings of the surname also. For a beginning search it is best to enter only the surname in the "Party" field and see what comes up. Then try alternate spellings. Wildcard searches are also allowed. "Sm\*th" returns both "Smithon Tripp, Juror" and "Isaac Smith", among many others, for example. The documents are very high quality pdf images.

<http://www.dutchessny.gov/DutchessCountyPublicAccess/HistoricalDocuments.aspx>

This project has been made possible by a grant secured by County Historian Will Tatum.

## Legacy Family Tree

With ancestry.com announcing that it is phasing out Family Tree Maker, many of you are exploring alternatives. I have tried most of the software packages out there and settled on Legacy. The reporting function lends itself easily to customization. If you do have an issue their tech support is one on one and in person—they stick with the issue until it is solved.

There is a free trial version. Upgrading to premium is very reasonable. They put out an e-newsletter with articles, tips and notices of free webinars. Within the family tree software itself is a comprehensive research assistant providing sources and repositories to be searched for each individual in your family tree. There is also a Facebook Legacy user group for users to exchange information and tips on using the software at <http://www.dutchessny.gov/DutchessCountyPublicAccess/HistoricalDocuments.aspx>

You can download the latest version here <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>. They have a helpful link for those of you switching from Family Tree Maker.

## The Dutchess and our VP of Publications

Our long time VP of Publications Ellie Shortle as you know, has retired. Her service in this and other capacities as a board member has been extremely valuable, and we are forever grateful. Hopefully she will continue to offer feedback and attend our events. We managed to get the Dutchess ready to mail with the help of her helper Beth Schneider and a few board members...at the Family History Library. It was an enjoyable social time as well. But getting them to the post office was not so easy until our Recording Secretary Janice Parker stepped up; her daughter was able to take over this duty short term for her high school community service. The long and short of it is that we are in good shape for now but we are very much in need of a long term solution filling this board seat. The duties are not too burdensome and we have hands to help with the quarterly envelope stuffing. Labels are provided by our

Membership VP Roland Ormsby. Please let us know if you would like to fill this seat by emailing us at [dcgsinfo \[at\] aol \[dot\] com](mailto:dcgsinfo@aol.com). If you would like more information, please feel free to call me at 845.849.6025.

## 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](mailto:dcgsinfo@aol.com) with “Volunteer inquiry” in the subject line.

## New Acquisition

*Mary Colbert, VP Library*

Donna Fulton Boyles, Linda Fulton McKay, and Sharon Fulton Beach, Our Fulton and Westhafer Ancestors who Came to American and Thrived, Part One: The Fultons, 2015

John and Elizabeth Teator Fulton settled in Dutchess County in 1771 and the Fulton family lived there for several generations.

The book is available for purchase (\$25.00 plus \$5.00 shipping) from Sharon Fulton Beach, P. O. Box 2 , DeLand, FL 32721-0205.

## New President of NYG&B

*Valerie LaRobardier, President*

D. Joshua Taylor, the prominent genealogist, author, and lecturer, has been appointed President of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, effective February 1, 2016. He succeeds McKelden Smith, who is retiring after serving as its highly-regarded President of seven years.

Jeanne Sloane, chairman of the board of trustees of the NYG&B, said, "We are thrilled that Josh has accepted this position. He brings to the NYG&B dynamic energy and his well-known passion for the mission of genealogical societies in general. He has broad experience as an advanced researcher and riveting lecturer. Plus he has the expertise we require in the innovative use of technology in our field."

Read the full press release [here](#).

## Legacy Family Tree Webinars

*Valerie LaRobardier, President*

Millennia Corporation and FamilyTreeWebinars.com are pleased to announce that registration is now open for its 2016 Legacy Family Tree Webinar Series. Choose from 62 classes from genealogy's leading educators on topics ranging from genealogy technology, to DNA, to in-depth research methodologies.

And not to name-drop, but our series will welcome for the first time genealogy celebrities like Cyndi Ingle of [cyndislist.com](http://cyndislist.com) and John Philip Colletta of [genealogyjohn.com](http://genealogyjohn.com), major genealogy organizations like FindMyPast, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, and New England Historical Genealogical Society; and will explore for the first time countries such as Poland and France. Also learn about DNA, software, lineage societies, the Freedmen's Bureau, FANs, "dirty pictures", BillionGraves, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and so much more.

Sign up (it's FREE!) for one or for all of them today and you will receive a reminder email both one day and one hour prior to the live event.

## Webinar Brochure

[Print the webinar brochure](#) to share with your friends, genealogy society, or Family History Center.

## FamilyTreeWebinars.com memberships

All live webinars (register below) are free and their recordings are free to watch for the first 7 days. With a webinar subscription you also get all of this:

- Access to 1) all the existing 284 classes in the library (428 hours of quality genealogy education), 2) plus the 61 webinars that will be added during the 2016 season, 3) plus any additional bonus subscribers-only webinars (30 of these so far in 2015) - all available for the duration of your membership
- Access to all 1,260 pages of instructors' handouts plus the new handouts of the 2016 season
- Chat logs from the live webinars
- Additional 5% off anything at [FamilyTreeWebinars.com](http://FamilyTreeWebinars.com)
- Chance for a bonus subscribers-only door prize during each live webinar
- Additional members-only BONUS webinars
- Playlist, resume watching, and jump-to features