



# Genealogical Society of Rockland County Newsletter

Volume 4, No. 4  
May 1990

Genealogical Society of Rockland County, c/o The Historical Society of Rockland Co., 20 Zukor Rd., New City, N.Y. 10956

## PROPOSED SLATE

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers for 1990-1991 (all incumbent):

President: Les Baisley  
Vice-President: Henry Rennie  
Recording Secretary: Joan Brooks  
Treasurer: Peter Krell  
Corresponding Secretary: Sally Dewey

Elections will take place at the May meeting. In addition to elected officers, we are looking for replacements for some committees and need volunteers for the following: Membership (or Programs), and Refreshments.

## NOTICES

✓ The Genealogy Club of the Passaic County (NJ) Historical Society meets (usually the 2nd Sat. of the month) from 10 a.m. until noon at Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, NJ. For information, call Isabel Kerwin (201-256-2773).

✓ For researchers who are homebound, cannot get to libraries, or who prefer to consult books at leisure in their homes, the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) offers as one of its many benefits, the use of a lending library through which members may order books by mail. Although their collection focuses on New England, books on genealogy, local history and other genealogical topics are available for all areas of the U.S. as well as many other countries. Their offerings for New York State are extensive. Membership in NEHGS (101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116) is \$45 annually for an individual member. The book loan service offers access to over 18,000 volumes, which are listed in two catalogs published in 1989 (and updated in the NEHGS NEXUS, a bimonthly newsletter/magazine). Each order for up to 3 books costs \$8.00, may be kept for 2 weeks from the date of receipt, and may be returned at US Postal Service Library Rate.

✓ Reprinted antique maps (U.S., Europe, etc.), including state, area, and city maps are available from Jonathan Sheppard Books, Box 2020/ESP Station, Albany, NY 12220. Write for their catalog, "Selection of Map Reprints for Research."

✓ Regular meetings of the Orange County Genealogical Society are held on the first Saturday

of each month, 10 a.m., at the Historic 1841 Courthouse, 101 Main St., Goshen, NY. Upcoming programs include:

May 12, 1990—10th Annual Family History Seminar at Town Hall, Hamptonburgh, Bull Rd. off Rt. 207. 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dutch Research: Local Resources; Getting Started in Family History Research.

June 2, 1990—Slide program of Old Town of Crawford Homes. Mrs. Jean Vogelbach, Pine Bush, Asst. Historian.

June 10, 1990—Jewish Family History. "Early Settlers of Jewish Faith" by Robert Schwartz, Asst. O.C. Historian. "Jewish Genealogical Research" by Ms. Evan Stolbach, Pres. of the Jewish Genealogical Society of North Jersey.

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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month (except July and August) at the Historical Society of Rockland County, 20 Zukor Road, New City, N.Y.

Meeting time is 7:45 p.m.

May 22..... "Researching in Westchester County" by Marjorie Renino. Ms. Renino is a member of Westchester County Genealogical Society and will be a lecturer at the 10th Annual National Genealogical Society Conference, June 6-9, 1990, Arlington, VA.

June 26 "How to Hire a Genealogist" by Laura LeBarron, Vice President of the Westchester Genealogical Society and editor of their newsletter.

July.....No Meeting.

August.....No Meeting

Sept. 24 .....Regular Meeting

## OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

President.....	Leslie Baisley
Vice President.....	Henry Rennie
Recording Secretary.....	Joan Brooks
Corresponding Secretary.....	Sally Dewey
Treasurer.....	Peter Krell
Membership.....	Peg Dermody
Archivist.....	Pat Kerner
Correspondence.....	Ruth Morris
Genealogical Research.....	Marie Koestler
Librarian.....	Marie Koestler
Program Chairman.....	Marie Koestler
Newsletter Editors.....	Pat Wardell, Peter Krell
Society Telephone Contact.....	Pat Kerner, 914-357-1355

The Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County is published four times a year, in mid-month of September, December, February and May.

The deadline for submitting material for inclusion in the Newsletter is the 1st of the month of the issue date.

## NOTICES

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Orange County Gen. Soc. programs (continued):

Aug. 4, 1990—Orange County Mines with slides and taped interviews of some miners. Nelson Mailler and James Rogers, Monroe Historical Society.

Sept. 1, 1990—Researching your Orange Ancestors in Morris County, NJ, which now includes Sussex and Warren Counties. Howard Case, Sussex, NJ, past President of O.C.G.S.

Oct. 6, 1990—Mamakating, Minsi, Machachemeck, Minisink: Early Dutch Settlers in the History of Orange County. Eugene Kuykendall, Sloatsburgh, NY, publisher of two Dutch Heritage Genealogies.

For further information, contact Benjamin C. Coleman, Vice President, Programs, RD #1, Box 794, Monroe, NY 10950 (914-783-9010).

✓ The Westchester County Genealogical Society, Box 518, White Plains, NY 10603 meets once a month (usually on the second Saturday) from September through June. They publish a monthly newsletter. Write for more information and/or a membership form.

## NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to:

- Lee and Addie Feist, 10 Arcadia Drive, New City, NY 10956.
- Robert L. Protzman, 4 Edith Drive, New City, NY 10956.

## ACCESSIONS

New additions to our Society's collection:

- To Those Who Inherit, a genealogy by Christopher Nuessle, Jr., February 1990. (Donated by Chris Nuessle.)
- The De Witt Genealogy: Descendants of Tjereck Claessen De Witt of Ulster Co., New York. (Donated by the Bergen County Genealogical Society.)

## AT THE NEW CITY LIBRARY

Contributed by Yvonne H. Yare

U.S. Federal Census records for Rockland County, NY available at the New City Library (census on microfilm except where noted; index in book form):

1790 (book) (+ index); 1800 (+ index); 1810 (+ index); 1820 (+ index); 1830 (+ index); 1840 (+ index); 1850 (+ index); 1860; 1870; 1880; 1890 (special schedules); 1900; and 1910.

New York State Census records for Rockland County available at the New City Library:

1860, 1865, 1875, 1880, 1892, 1905, 1915, 1925.

New books of interest at the New City Library include the following:

- Guzik, Estelle M., Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area. Jewish Genealogical Society, 1989. A comprehensive guide for New York Metropolitan area, including New York City's five counties, Long Island, Westchester, Northern New Jersey counties and the state capitals of Albany and Trenton.

- 1890 New York Census Index of Civil War Veterans or their Widows. Compiled by Bryan Lee Dilts, Index Publishing, 1984.

- Davis, Norman, Westchester Patriarchs: A Genealogical Dictionary of Westchester NY Families Prior to 1755.

- Mutrie, R. Robert, 6,000 NY Ancestors: A compendium of Mabie Research.

- Jones, E. Alfred, Loyalists of New Jersey, their memorial petitions, claims, etc., repr. 1927 from English records.

- Palen, Margaret Krue, Genealogical Research Guide to Germany. Heritage Books, 1988.

- Rubincam, Milton, Pitfalls in Genealogical Research. Ancestry, 1987.

- Worden, Jean D., New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Subject Index for Vol. 51-142, 1897-1988.

- Worden, Jean D., The American Genealogist: Index to Subjects in Vols. 1-60, 1922-?

- Howe, Barbara J., Houses and Homes: Exploring their history, AASLH, 1987. How to examine design and history of residential structures and how to relate the building itself to its environment.

- Burke, Kate, Searching in New York: A

(continued on page 3)



(At the New City Library, cont'd)

Reference Guide to Public and Private Records, ISC Publishing, 1987. Includes adoption agencies for each county.

• Gormley, Myra Vanderpool, Family Diseases: Are You At Risk? Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989.

• Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources, 1989.

• Talley, Oh. What A Grand View. A house-by-house history of Grandview (no index, unfortunately, and no map).

## QUERIES

*Queries will be published in the newsletter as space permits. It would be helpful if querists would submit their queries beginning with surnames concerned in the query listed alphabetically. Please keep queries clear, but concise. Send queries to Pat Wardell, GSRC Newsletter Editor, 78 Edgewood Road, Allendale, NJ 07401.*

*When answering a query, please send a copy of the answer to the Genealogical Society of Rockland County for our files and for possible inclusion in future newsletters. Many thanks.*

**CONKLIN, DENNY**— Need any info on Amy CONKLIN who married Henry DENNY after 1820. She was the widow of Ezekial CONKLIN who died in 1811. She was listed as a widow in the 1820 Census. She and Henry sold their farm in 1824.

Kenneth W. Conklin, 82 So. Airmont Rd., Suffern, NY 10901

**CONKLIN**— Need any info on Phebe Jane --?--, born 1790, who married Matthew CONKLIN. Phebe was listed as 60 years old in the 1850 Census. Matthew died about 1854.

Kenneth W. Conklin, 82 So. Airmont Rd., Suffern, NY 10901

**SPRINGSTEEL, HEDGES**— Need information re: William R. SPRINGSTEEL, b. 7 Nov 1838; d. 23 Dec 1871; buried Mount Repose Cem. in Haverstraw. He married Melissa HEDGES of Haverstraw, NY on 30 Nov 1864. Need information on his parents. Was Remsen SPRINGSTEEL his father?

Patrica E. Mullaney, 236 Myrtle Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801

**CONKLIN**— Looking for any information on Nicholas N. CONKLIN, who owned property in Pine Meadows and died approx. 1815.

Brad Conklin, 91 Cedar Flat Rd., Stony Point, NY 10980

**LAKEVIEW**— Where was/is Lakeview? I have found a reference, c. 1910 to a place by this name, which was probably in the Bergen Co.-Rockland Co. vicinity. Can anyone tell me the location?

Pat Wardell, 78 Edgewood Road, Allendale, NJ 07401

**CONKLIN**— Need any information on brothers or sisters of Nicholas CONKLIN who lived in New Hempstead and Haverstraw. Born 1781; died about 1854.

Brad Conklin, 91 Cedar Flat Rd., Stony Point, NY 10980

**CONOVER**— Looking for information about Charles CONOVER, son of William CONOVER and Mary A. --?. The family lived in the Town of Ramapo, 2nd Election District (I find them in census records from 1850-1880). Where did they live previously? Charles was born about 1846 in Rockland County. Did he marry and have children?

Pat Wardell, 78 Edgewood Road, Allendale, NJ 07401

**COOPER, DeNOYELLES**— Ancestry of Nathaniel COOPER, b. c. 1820 Greene County, NY, died 10 Oct 1875 Haverstraw, Rockland Co., NY. Ancestry of Amelia DeNOYELLES, b. c. 1820, married c. 1840 Nathaniel COOPER, died 26 July 1864 Haverstraw, Rockland Co., NY.

Sally Dewey, 394 Kings Highway, Tappan, NY 10983

**FROST, HAMMOND**— Ancestry of Joseph FROST, born c. 1804, and of his wife, Catherine HAMMOND, b. c. 1806, died 1890, daughter of Joseph and Mollie HAMMOND. They appear in 1860 Brooklyn, NY census. Joseph HAMMOND lived in Stony Point, Rockland Co., NY during the Revolutionary War.

Sally Dewey, 394 Kings Highway, Tappan, NY 10983

**FELTER, TEN EYCK**— Ancestry of Clarence A. FELTER, born Rockland Lake, Rockland Co., NY, married Annie TEN EYCK, had children Harry, Leonard F., Richard R., Ella, Arthur T., Ethel J., Mable E., Everett T., and Lillian M.

Sally Dewey, 394 Kings Highway, Tappan, NY 10983

**SISMILICH**— Searching for information on SIS-MILICH family, Haverstraw area farm in 1868.

Robert C. Sismilich, 20 Henry Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

**PARKS**— Searching for information on John (?) PARKS family, Haverstraw 1841, daughter Catherine born there at that time. He had a drug-store, was a "Chemist."

Mrs. Carole Kopser, Buroak Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

**VAN HOUTEN, KELLERMAN, CONKLIN**— Need information on Isabelle VAN HOUTEN and Gustave KELLERMAN, who m. Jan 1889 (where?). Isabelle's parents were Mary (CONKLIN) and John VAN HOUTEN.

Mrs. Eleanor F. Winnett, 760 Doane Ave., Bellport, NY 11713

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**LENT, DeRONDE, ONDERDONK**—Catherine LENT, bp. 22 Aug 1705, married Hendrick (Henri) DeRONDE 11 Apr 1725. Had at least one son, Jacob, who married Marie ONDERDONK. Need Catherine's parents, death date, etc.

Jane S. TenEyck (Horak), 1965 Centennial Dr., Louisville, CO 80027

**MATHEWS, MARTHUS, AMOS**—Any information on Phebe Jane MATHEWS (MARTHUS), b. ca. 1824-5, mar. Godfried AMOS, d. 28 Apr 1872, bur. Tappan. Children: Eliza, James, Jacob, John, Dorothy, Susan, Phillip, Godfred, George. Lived Harrington-Old Tappan (NJ) area after her marriage. Possibly b. Rockland Co.

Patricia D. Kerner, 42 Prairie Ave., Suffern, NY 10901

## RESPONSES TO QUERIES

### LENT

According to James Riker (*The Annals of Newtown, Queens Co., NY*, 1852, p. 316) Catherine Lent, who was b. 1705 and m. Henry De Ronde, was the daughter of Ryck Abramsen Lent and Catrina Siboutsen.

Riker wrote that Ryck Abramsen Lent in 1685 bought and settled on a tract of land in Upper Westchester County, NY (known as Ryck's Patent). In his will, he is called a miller. He served as an elder of the Sleepy Hollow (Tarrytown) church.

The Lent family is related to the Riker family, the Lent ancestors being Ryck and Hendrick, oldest and youngest sons of Abraham Rycken. They assumed the name of Lent.

Riker also gives (p. 275) some background information on the Onderdonk family.

## OF INTEREST

✓ Drew University, Madison, NJ is a repository for Methodist records.

Church records for the old United Methodist Church, Fourth Street, Haverstraw, NY (now a Spanish church) are at Drew. Copies of these records are also at New City Library, courtesy of Daniel DeNoyelles.

Some records from the Stony Point United Methodist Church are also at Drew. Some records are on microfilm (as well as originals).

—Marie Koestler

✓ On July 12, 1862 President Lincoln approved the senatorial resolution providing for the presentation of Medals of Honor to army soldiers "who shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in actions, and other soldier-like qualities." Rockland County Medal of Honor winners are (all resided in the Town of Haverstraw):

**Richard Smith**, Civil War, 95th New York Regiment. Captured two officers and 20 enlisted

men of Hagood's Brigade at Weldon Railroad in Virginia. Buried in Mt. Repose Cemetery, Haverstraw.

**Nick Erickson**, Spanish American War. Served on the U.S.S. Marblehead. For cutting cable while under fire in the Cien Fuegos Bay, Cuba.

**Sgt. Michael A. Donaldson**, WW I, Co. I, 69th New York Volunteer Inf., 165th Infantry. Awarded French Croix de Guerre and French Medaille Militaire; awarded the Medal of Honor by the War Department on Feb. 24, 1923 for act of Oct. 14, 1918 at Sommerance—Landres-et-St. Georges Road, France.

Resumes of Past Programs presented at Meetings of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County

## How to Start a Work-Study Group

*Program by Laura LeBarron at the October 24 1989 meeting of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County. Notes by Joan Brooks, GSRC Recording Secretary.*

Laura is Vice President of the Westchester Genealogical Society (WGS), editor of their Newsletter, in charge of the indexing project, and is a member of our Society as well.

The WGS work-study groups had been started before Laura joined the group. The Genealogical Society of Bergen County also has work-study groups (they call them special interest groups). An individual does not have to be an expert to belong to a group. Some of the WGS groups are Beginner, Canada, Civil War, New Jersey/Pennsylvania, Dutch, German, Irish, Italian, New England/England, Westchester, etc. They also have a general interest group which discusses general problems, naming relationships, etc.

About 70 members attend their regular monthly meetings, where they have formal programs with speakers most of the time. Many members come early to talk with their specific group members—they get to know each other better. The groups give people a chance to focus on a smaller area.

Most of the groups meet in people's homes outside of the regular meetings. For the most part, this has been very successful. Once in a while one of the regular meetings is set aside for the work-study groups: this works well for some of the older people who cannot get out more than once a month to a meeting. Sometimes the groups stay after the regular meetings on Saturday mornings. The groups meet as often as the members want to. Some meet once a month, some less often. It depends on what they want to talk about.

The size of the groups ranges from three in the Italian group to forty in the Irish group. Their Irish group is one of the most creative and active groups.



One of the things they have done lately when the groups didn't really know what to do at their meetings was to utilize tapes. The Federation of Genealogical Societies has a catalog of tapes they have available. Laura has a lot of her own and lends them out to the different groups. The members of the Dutch group chipped in and bought their own tapes so they could also listen to them individually. There are tapes on almost every genealogical subject from the Worldwide Conference held a few years ago. Laura owns about fifty tapes of her own and has catalogued them according to specific interest: i.e., Irish, Italian, etc. The tapes are approximately 40 to 50 minutes long and cost from \$6 to \$7.50 each. Some of the tapes have handouts with them, if they are the ones Laura bought at the conferences she went to. People usually take notes while listening to the tapes, and the use of tapes usually stimulates conversation within the group.

The Irish group has had parties, and just recently Don Devine, a long-distance member of their group who writes a column on Irish history and genealogy, called the group on the telephone at one of their meetings and was on "conference phone" with them. They asked him many questions, and the ones he could not answer just then, he later got the answers for them. This group also gave each other homework and then reported on it at the next meeting. This inspired people to get going on their research.

The Dutch group has had field trips to the New City Library, to Albany, and to a Dutch restaurant. The Westchester group went to Harbor Hill bookstore in Harrison, which sells secondhand books on Westchester history and genealogy.

Each member of a group shares information. For instance, if someone visited another country, that individual would provide any information that he/she had learned. If someone has had success in hiring a researcher, the individual would share the name and address of the researcher, the cost, amount of information gleaned, etc.

Members bring old maps, family group sheets, books, etc. The LDS Library has guides to the records of local areas, as well as foreign countries. Groups can order microfiche from this library.

Someone in the group should take notes as to what goes on at the meetings. As many of these as possible are published in the Newsletter. Some groups have exchanged recipes and have brought the food to a meeting. Some recipes have also been published in the Newsletter. It is also helpful to bring a foreign dictionary and a map to each group meeting.

The WGS tries to keep the beginner's group going. There are usually two or three people who are interested in helping them.

The German group met twice at one lady's house, and she brought a copy machine home from work, so they could copy their information. □

Resumes of Past Programs presented at Meetings of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County

## Bergen County Records

*Program by Maria Jean Pratt Hopper at the January 23, 1990 meeting of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County. Notes by Joan Brooks, GSRC Recording Secretary.*

**Wills, Inventories, Other Legal Records:** All are in separate books in Hackensack (at the Court House). Original wills are located in the Archives in Trenton. Copies can be obtained for 50 cents per page. At State Street in Hackensack, the cost is \$3 per page. In Hackensack, be sure to follow the parking lot lines because the lot does flood in heavy rain. The staff members are very helpful there. If you find the document in Hackensack, you can send to Trenton for it—it's much cheaper.

There is a general index of wills, which lists not only the person whose will was probated, but also the witnesses alphabetically. It is important that both the State Index and the Bergen County Index be checked, since sometimes there are errors.

**Land Records:** In Hackensack, land records cost 25 cents per page; mortgage records are free. The oldest deeds are in a different section called the "Dungeon," and you have to ask where they are. These records were microfilmed. Most records are in "negative" print, but most libraries and courthouses have the machines to convert them to positive prints.

**Deeds:** Some people may still have been living in New York or Rockland County, and bought property in Bergen County. These deeds are located also at the Courthouse in Hackensack. If a person didn't leave a will, look up land records—there might be three or four deeds referring to that person. If someone sold a piece of property for \$1, it would be dividing an estate. The Historical Society of Bergen County has a list of unrecorded deeds.

Mortgage records can be very interesting—sometimes listing all their worldly goods or chattel.

Maria noted that in the past New Jersey was divided into two parts: East and West Jersey (really North and South). There are some records from East Jersey which refer to Bergen County.

**Orphan's Court Records:** These records contain guardianship papers not only for minors, but also for retarded, handicapped, or senile adults. If something can't be found anywhere else, check here.

**Vital Records:** From May 1848 to May 1878 these are located at the State Library in Trenton, Archives & History Bureau, Dept. of Education, Trenton, NJ 08625 (also available at some libraries on microfilm). The search is free. Beginning June 1878 to present (there is a fee to search these) at State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Box 1540, Trenton, NJ 08625. Divorce

Research include:

**Legal Records—Bergen County**

**Administration Building**, corner of Hudson and Main Street next to County Court House (domed building). Important: Legal records are also filed in Trenton. Not all Bergen County records were filed in Trenton, and not all Bergen County records were filed in Bergen County. Check both sources!

**Land Records:** (Searching Vault—second floor, down steps)

**Deeds**, 1714 to present, Grantor and Grantee Index; Delayed recording of deeds; oldest deeds in "Dungeon" and also on microfilm.

Other locations of recorded deeds: State Library Bureau of History, Trenton; East Jersey Proprietors 1702-1776.

Other locations of recorded and unrecorded deeds: Budke Collection in New York Public Library, NYC (particularly boundary papers); Miscellaneous File in Bergen County Historical Society Library (housed at Johnson Library, Hackensack); Private collections.

**Maps:** in Map Room Clerk's Office (left through deed room)

**Road Returns:** ask in clerk's office

**Mortgages:** (second floor, up steps)

Mortgagor Index from 1766 and Mortgagee Index from 1937

Chattel Mortgages (Earliest indexed in Mortgagor Index from 1941 on separate index)

Loyalist Judgments

**Honorable Discharges:** from WW I on (same room as mortgages)

**Probate Records:** in Bergen County

Surrogate's Office (second floor; follow sign for law library)

Index to Docket Books, 1783 ?? to present (check alphabetical listing in front of book for family pages.)  
Docket books, 1783 to present: Wills; Letters of Administration; Inventories (1804-) or Inventory and Account File (prior to 1804); Releases (1814-); Accounts of Executors (1870-). Other books you might be referred to by docket: Bonds, Decrees Barring Creditors; Renunciation and Notification; Application for Letter of Administration. Orphan's Court Records (Surrogate's Office): Guardianships of Orphans; Guardianships of Retarded and Handicapped Adults; Guardianships of Senile Adults; Book of Last Resorts, Orphan Court Maps (map room-clerk's office). □

Resumes of Past Programs presented at Meetings of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County

## Research in Orangetown and Rockland County

*Program presented by Sally Dewey at the March 27, 1990 meeting of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County. Notes by Joan Brooks, GSRC Recording Secretary.*

In order to do research in the Orangetown area, one needs to know that Tappan once included Sparkill, Palisades, Closter (NJ), and Old Tappan (NJ). If Tappan was mentioned in a deed, etc., it could refer to any of those towns. The town of Palisades was known as Rockland Station at one time.

**Church Records:** The county histories can give information as to what churches were in existence at a certain time, as well as where some of the records are located. Cole's history in particular has the lists of some of the early records of the Tappan Reformed Church. When the Methodist movement became popular, people began to leave their own churches and some who had no church also joined the Methodist movement. Drew University in New Jersey is the official repository for Methodist Church records. The New City Library also has some church records.

Several books may help to trace Orangetown history or genealogy—the Blauvelt genealogy; the Demarest genealogy; Cole's History of Rockland County; Haagensen's book about Sneden's Landing; Cole's History of the Tappan Reformed Church, which was organized in 1694; the 11 Budke books, which are located in the New York Public Library and are also in most Rockland County libraries.

The first thing to do would be to visit the Surrogate Court in New City and look up wills, letters of administration, guardianship proceedings, etc. The staff there is very helpful. If a reference to a will is found in the index, a special requisition can be completed and presented to a staff member, who will then procure a separate file folder. This file might have a great deal of information in addition to the will, such as the heirs with addresses, cemetery where buried, funeral home, etc. There is not always a file, but it is worth asking. If the exact date of death is given either in the will or in the file, one can then search for an obituary in an old newspaper.

Vital records (birth, death, marriage) are the best sources of information if they can be obtained. Death certificates can be obtained after 1880 from the New York State Department of Health by filing a special form. Some of these records can be obtained from the local Town Clerks, but they aren't always very cooperative.

The Town Clerk in Orangetown has a rolodex of birth records from 1872-1923 (the book on birth records is from 1892); death records from 1881-1913; marriage records from 1921-26. The marriage records will give you parents' names and places of birth—they contain a great deal of information.

In Nyack, Frances Batson has vital records after 1900—she is very helpful. If she doesn't have the records, one can go to Orangetown. The County Clerk's office has marriage records from 1903-1935. Sally noted that if anyone was born or died in Nyack Hospital, the records would be in Ms. Batson's office.

A wonderful source of information is Howard Durie's "Land Records As A Genealogical Source,"



which is on sale at the Rockland County Historical Society. Some place names have changed, but one can ask the title searchers in the Rockland County Clerk's Search Room—they know a lot more than the people who work there and are usually very helpful.

The County Clerk's office has a map index, which includes some old maps (some go back to the 1700's) with individual names of property owners. These maps can be ordered and purchased.

In the New City Library, there are books listing burials in cemeteries; however, one should not assume that a person didn't exist if not listed in these books because some errors were made. If you believe a person is buried in a certain cemetery, contact the Cemetery Association or the Church where the person may be buried. There is a cemetery in Palisades that is not listed in any books. The Rockland Cemetery in Sparkill has a small office and the superintendent knows where everyone is buried in the cemetery.

All cemeteries, except the Palisades, are listed in the Budke collection and also in the Barber book (indexed and done in 1930).

The Nyack Library has a great deal of information in their local history room. On microfilm they have the *Rockland County Journal* series done in 1875 on "Sketches on Oak Hill Cemetery," which tells who is buried in each section.

Nyack Library also has railroad directories, which list names of residents who lived along the rail lines: they also list head of household, occupation, and street address. Anyone who worked is listed in these directories. One should also check New Jersey directories, since people moved back and forth across the border. The library has Richman's Directories of Nyack from 1914-1928.

Oak Hill Cemetery is partially listed in Budke and the other part in Peter Krell's "Clarkstown Cemeteries." The superintendent of Oak Hill at the present time is Mr. Conway. One should call him first so he can do the preliminary research.

Miscellaneous sources of information include: "Muster Rolls of New York in the French and Indian War"—in New City Library. Also there are the Fred Loescher burial records—records of all Veterans buried in Rockland County.

Dutch naming system—middle initial or name of male will often mean it is the first letter or name of the father.

When copying cemetery records, copy the whole list, since families or relatives might be buried in proximity to each other. Do the same with the census. Copy the entire page, since families and relatives often lived close together in those days.

When writing for information, always include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for reply, and include a small contribution. □

## Baptisms—Piermont Reformed Church Record, First Section, 1839-1859

Copied by Sally Dewey, Tappan, NY, 1985.

	Child	Parents		Date of Birth
1.	Louisa	Hezekiah C. Seymour	Mary Sherril	11/22/1838
2.	Emily	Isaac M. Dederer	Ann Eliza Blauvelt	11/19/1840
3.	Adeline Julia	Thos. E. Blanch	Lucilla Van Doren	7/10/1835
4.	Sarah	Hezekiah C. Seymour	Mary Sherril	9/8/1840
5.	Mary Thompson	Eleazer Lord	Ruth Thompson	12/20/1840
6.	Catherine Sophia	James Eckerson	Eliz. Bauvelt	12/2/1840
7.	Mary	David Clark	Margaret Copland	11/24/1832
8.	Edward Copland	"	"	3/5/1835
9.	Charles Carroll	"	"	2/23/1837
10.	David	Cornelius M. Haring	Letitia Dobbs	1/8/1833
11.	Alfred	"	"	8/8/1834
12.	Amanda	"	"	7/3/1836
13.	Samuel VerBryck	"	"	9/25/1838
14.	Ann Maria	"	"	10/23/1840
15.	Abraham	Daniel A. Vervalen	Catherine L. Wilsie	1/27/1843
16.	Clara	Hezekiah C. Seymour	Mary Sherril	2/20/1843
17.	Wm. Ferdon	Cornelius M. Haring	Letitia Dobbs	no dates
18.	Amelia	Hezekiah C. Seymour	Mary Sherril	no dates
19.	Eliz. Pierson	Wm. H. Whitton	Sarah Pierson Lord	3/11/1847
20.	Henry Fitch	Henry Fitch	Harriet Morse	5/8/1846
21.	Henry Cook	Hezekiah C. Seymour	Mary Sherril	2/17/1847
22.	Eliza	Wm. Reynolds	Margaret Flemming	1/2/1847
23.	Margaret Jane	"	"	"
24.	Eugene	John W. Blauvelt	Maria Demaray	2/26/1847

Child	Parents	Date of Birth
25. -----	Wm. Taulman	Eliz. Blauvelt
26. Abby Louisa	J. A. McWilliams	-----
27. Sarah Auryansen	John Auryansen	Louisa Henderson
28. Jane Gray	----- Avery	Catherine Gahagan
29. Magaret Emma	Wm. A. Verbryck	Rebecca Edwards
30. Ellen Eliz.	William Tauman	Eliz. Blauvelt
31. Charles Octavus	Lewis Jacobson	-----
32. Emma Irene	Archibald Parish	Mary Ann Brown
33. Alice	"	"
34. Edwin Henry	"	"
35. Frank	"	"
36. John Burton	G. Harrison Prettyman	Elizabeth J.
37. James Edward	"	"
38. Martha Louisa	"	"
39. Hester Ann Haring	Henry T. Smith	Martha Ann Haring
40. John Gillond	Robert Dunbar	Catherine Morrison
41. Joseph Westerfield	William Johnson	----- Westerfield
42. Benjamin Franklin	"	"
43. Samuel	"	"
44. Elizabeth Ann	"	"
45. William Howard	Rev. Jacob West	Elizabeth Settle
46. Cornelius	M. M. Dickinson	Anne Bloodgood
47. Julia Thompson	Isaac M. Dederer	Ann Eliza Blauvelt
48. Everett	G. T. Angier	Mary S. -----
49. Alice	Alexander Main	Sarah E. Crandill
50. Charles Curtis	"	"
51. Wm. Alexander	"	"
52. David Louderback	John R. Baker	Hannah Jane Carr.
53. John Jacob	Jacob T. Outwater	Catherine Auryansen
54. Stephen	"	"
55. Edwin	"	"
56. Emma	"	"
57. Maria	James Westervelt	Cornelia Wandle
58. Peter	"	"
59. Isaac	"	"
60. Richard Dickinson	A. D. L. Jewett	Eliz. Dickinson
61. Ervin	Henry S. Sidman	Sarah A. -----
62. Emily Francis	Wm. A. Verbryck	Rebecca Edwards
63. Lucy Dix	John W. Ferdon	Harriet Strong
64. William	"	"
65. Jane Louisa	Frank Spring	----- Crossett
66. Frank Humphrey	"	"
67. Charles Crossett	"	"
68. -----	George Luke	-----
69. Mary Neal	Henry Valk	Catherine Clark
70. Magdalen	"	"
71. Isabella	"	"
72. Mary	Elihu Houghton	Louisa Seymour
73. Eliz. Hall	-----	-----
74. -----	John Goode	-----
75. Isaac	Abraham V. Wandle	Gitty Haring
76. -----	Geo. W. Hendricks	Marietta Van Wart
77. John Alex	John Wolfenden	Sophia
78. Lucy	Frank Spring	----- Crossett
79. Wm. Tenant Rogers	Charles W. Miller	Rachel R. Rogers

In the Record Book at Piermont Reformed Church, the Baptisms are the only complete record. The Deaths start in 1908, and Marriages start in 1863.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND COUNTY**  
**c/o The Historical Society of Rockland Co.**  
**20 Zukor Road**  
**New City, N.Y. 10956**

☐

I wish to become a member and support the activities of the  
Genealogical Society of Rockland County.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

☐

INDIVIDUAL (\$10.00)

(Membership year runs from  
September 1 to August 30.)

☐

FAMILY (\$15.00)

MY SPECIAL INTEREST(S) OR CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT(S) IN GENEALOGY ARE:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND CO.**  
**c/o The Historical Society of Rockland Co.**  
**20 Zukor Road**  
**New City, N.Y. 10956**

records, at Bergen County Court House only from 1959.

Published marriage records include Westervelt, Bergen County Marriages, pub. 1929 (a separate manuscript surname index is available in some libraries; and Nelson, New Jersey Marriages 1665-1800, NJ Archives, First Series, Vol. XXII (this has been reprinted; includes marriages from Hackensack and Schraalenburgh Churches).

**Bible Records:** The Bergen County Historical Society has a collection of these at the Johnson Library in Hackensack (where the BCHS Library collection is housed), 274 Main St, Hackensack, NJ. It has the best collection of Bergen County family Bible records. There is free access to these.

The Genealogical Society of Bergen County Library at Midland Park Public Library (Godwin Ave., Midland Park, NJ) contains Bible records also, but one must be a member to use their collection. They meet the fourth Monday of the month. The Society's librarian is there from 6 p.m. on that evening and on Wednesdays from 10:30-12:30.

The Paramus Historical Society (off Route 17, next to Old Paramus Church, Ridgewood, NJ) has Bible records at their Museum at Glen Avenue, Paramus.

The New Jersey Historical Society has Bible records, including 7 vols. of DAR NJ Bible Collections, at their Library in Newark.

Both The Genealogical Magazine of NJ and the New York Genealogical & Biographical Record have published Bible records periodically.

**Church Records:** The New City Library and the Bergen County Historical Society have records of Hackensack-Schraalenburgh Churches.

Published church records include: Bergen Records (Old Dutch Reformed Church in Jersey City) Holland Society (also reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co.); "Lutheran Church Records" in 1903 Holland Society Yearbook; Hackensack Church Records; Schraalenburgh Church Records; Randolph & Rankin, Paramus Reformed Dutch Church records (these records do not give the mother's maiden name and the baptisms are entered by child's first name; but it does have a good index); Tappan and Clarkstown Baptisms were printed in Cole's History of Rockland County.

There are also a number of "limited-edition" manuscripts (usually either typescript or mimeographed) of church records and gravestone inscriptions copies by Ackerman and Goff. These include records of the following churches: First Ref. Church Hackensack (1943); Four Methodist Churches in Northern NJ (1948); Paramus Ref. Dutch Church (1944); True Ref. Church of Paramus + gravestones (1945); Pascack Ref. Church at Park Ridge + gravestones (1946); Ramapo Reformed Church at Mahwah + gravestones and Ramapo Lutheran Church at Mahwah + gravestones (1944);

Saddle River Ref. Dutch Church + gravestones (1944); Wyckoff Ref Dutch Church + gravestones; Zion Lutheran Churches at Saddle River and Ramapo + gravestones.

The Budke Collection (BC #49) includes the following church records: Bapts. Ramapo Evangelical Luth. Church, 1750-1770; Ref. Dutch Church of West New Hempstead, Rockland Co., NY (Brick or Kakiat Church).

Church records have also been published periodically by the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey and the New York Genealogical & Biographical Record.

A great number of church and cemetery records were indexed by surname. There might be some errors, but they can be cross-referenced with the Budke collection.

Check "The History of Bergen and Passaic Counties" by Clayton, pub. in 1881. It lists the churches in the towns in 1881. It also contains some genealogy. This was considered a "mug" book, in which people paid to have their photos and write-ups in the book.

The New York-New Jersey line was a political line, not a social line. In the late 1860's, there was a big split in the Reformed Dutch Church. Some wanted to have music and the service in English and the others wanted to maintain the old Dutch.

Some newspapers are on microfilm in the Johnson Library in the basement, dating from 1858-1860 and 1861-1919 with a few gaps. Always check the census records.

**Printed Genealogies:** The following are the most outstanding for Bergen County families: Zabriskie (2 vols.); Blauvelt (Vol. I); Blauvelt (Vol. II); Demarest—good index; Durie—shows how to use land records.

Some genealogies must be used with care; they may contain errors. There are also some hidden genealogies contained in other books or magazines.

**Diaries:** Ackerman and Zabriskie—Names and dates were extracted and typescripts are located at the Bergen County Historical Society.

**Other Printed Sources:** The Vervalen "History of Bergen County: does contain additional information from Clayton's.

There is an 1876 Bergen County Atlas, which can be very helpful in locating old towns.

If you refer to Ransom's "Bibliography of Reference Books in Bergen County," you will see that almost every town has a history written about it.

**Directories:** The New City Library has microfilm of the earliest phone directories of Rockland, Bergen, Westchester, and New York City.

The Morristown LDS Family History Center has microfilm records from 1848-1878.

Maria noted that due to budget cutbacks, the New Jersey State Archives is suspending operations temporarily.

Some Bergen County Sources for Genealogical



One of the things they have done lately when the groups didn't really know what to do at their meetings was to utilize tapes. The Federation of Genealogical Societies has a catalog of tapes they have available. Laura has a lot of her own and lends them out to the different groups. The members of the Dutch group chipped in and bought their own tapes so they could also listen to them individually. There are tapes on almost every genealogical subject from the Worldwide Conference held a few years ago. Laura owns about fifty tapes of her own and has catalogued them according to specific interest: i.e., Irish, Italian, etc. The tapes are approximately 40 to 50 minutes long and cost from \$6 to \$7.50 each. Some of the tapes have handouts with them, if they are the ones Laura bought at the conferences she went to. People usually take notes while listening to the tapes, and the use of tapes usually stimulates conversation within the group.

The Irish group has had parties, and just recently Don Devine, a long-distance member of their group who writes a column on Irish history and genealogy, called the group on the telephone at one of their meetings and was on "conference phone" with them. They asked him many questions, and the ones he could not answer just then, he later got the answers for them. This group also gave each other homework and then reported on it at the next meeting. This inspired people to get going on their research.

The Dutch group has had field trips to the New City Library, to Albany, and to a Dutch restaurant. The Westchester group went to Harbor Hill bookstore in Harrison, which sells secondhand books on Westchester history and genealogy.

Each member of a group shares information. For instance, if someone visited another country, that individual would provide any information that he/she had learned. If someone has had success in hiring a researcher, the individual would share the name and address of the researcher, the cost, amount of information gleaned, etc.

Members bring old maps, family group sheets, books, etc. The LDS Library has guides to the records of local areas, as well as foreign countries. Groups can order microfiche from this library.

Someone in the group should take notes as to what goes on at the meetings. As many of these as possible are published in the Newsletter. Some groups have exchanged recipes and have brought the food to a meeting. Some recipes have also been published in the Newsletter. It is also helpful to bring a foreign dictionary and a map to each group meeting.

The WGS tries to keep the beginner's group going. There are usually two or three people who are interested in helping them.

The German group met twice at one lady's house, and she brought a copy machine home from work, so they could copy their information. □

Resumes of Past Programs presented at Meetings of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County

## Bergen County Records

*Program by Maria Jean Pratt Hopper at the January 23, 1990 meeting of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County. Notes by Joan Brooks, GSRC Recording Secretary.*

**Wills, Inventories, Other Legal Records:** All are in separate books in Hackensack (at the Court House). Original wills are located in the Archives in Trenton. Copies can be obtained for 50 cents per page. At State Street in Hackensack, the cost is \$3 per page. In Hackensack, be sure to follow the parking lot lines because the lot does flood in heavy rain. The staff members are very helpful there. If you find the document in Hackensack, you can send to Trenton for it—it's much cheaper.

There is a general index of wills, which lists not only the person whose will was probated, but also the witnesses alphabetically. It is important that both the State Index and the Bergen County Index be checked, since sometimes there are errors.

**Land Records:** In Hackensack, land records cost 25 cents per page; mortgage records are free. The oldest deeds are in a different section called the "Dungeon," and you have to ask where they are. These records were microfilmed. Most records are in "negative" print, but most libraries and courthouses have the machines to convert them to positive prints.

**Deeds:** Some people may still have been living in New York or Rockland County, and bought property in Bergen County. These deeds are located also at the Courthouse in Hackensack. If a person didn't leave a will, look up land records—there might be three or four deeds referring to that person. If someone sold a piece of property for \$1, it would be dividing an estate. The Historical Society of Bergen County has a list of unrecorded deeds.

Mortgage records can be very interesting—sometimes listing all their worldly goods or chattel.

Maria noted that in the past New Jersey was divided into two parts: East and West Jersey (really North and South). There are some records from East Jersey which refer to Bergen County.

**Orphan's Court Records:** These records contain guardianship papers not only for minors, but also for retarded, handicapped, or senile adults. If something can't be found anywhere else, check here.

**Vital Records:** From May 1848 to May 1878 these are located at the State Library in Trenton, Archives & History Bureau, Dept. of Education, Trenton, NJ 08625 (also available at some libraries on microfilm). The search is free. Beginning June 1878 to present (there is a fee to search these) at State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Box 1540, Trenton, NJ 08625. Divorce

Child	Parents		Date of Birth
25. -----	Wm. Taulman	Eliz. Blauvelt	6/4/1848 (bap. #)
26. Abby Louisa	J. A. McWilliams	-----	12/27/1850
27. Sarah Auryansen	John Auryansen	Louisa Henderson	-----
28. Jane Gray	----- Avery	Catherine Gahagan	-----
29. Magaret Emma	Wm. A. Verbryck	Rebecca Edwards	5/2/1852
30. Ellen Eliz.	William Tauman	Eliz. Blauvelt	-----
31. Charles Octavus	Lewis Jacobson	-----	7/5/1852
32. Emma Irene	Archibald Parish	Mary Ann Brown	10/28/1842
33. Alice	"	"	5/6/1844
34. Edwin Henry	"	"	12/9/1846
35. Frank	"	"	7/29/1849
36. John Burton	G. Harrison Prettyman	Elizabeth J.	12/25/1846
37. James Edward	"	"	4/8/1849
38. Martha Louisa	"	"	8/22/1849 ?
39. Hester Ann Haring	Henry T. Smith	Martha Ann Haring	8/31/1853
40. John Gillond	Robert Dunbar	Catherine Morrison	5/31/1853
41. Joseph Westerfield	William Johnson	----- Westerfield	2/12/1844
42. Benjamin Franklin	"	"	1/17/1846
43. Samuel	"	"	3/29/1848
44. Elizabeth Ann	"	"	10/8/1852
45. William Howard	Rev. Jacob West	Elizabeth Settle	9/21/1854 (bp.da)
46. Cornelius	M. M. Dickinson	Anne Bloodgood	1/5/1854
47. Julia Thompson	Isaac M. Dederer	Ann Eliza Blauvelt	5/4/1854
48. Everett	G. T. Angier	Mary S. -----	3/12/1853
49. Alice	Alexander Main	Sarah E. Crandill	11/22/1849
50. Charles Curtis	"	"	3/12/1852
51. Wm. Alexander	"	"	11/25/1855
52. David Louderback	John R. Baker	Hannah Jane Carr.	1/24/1856
53. John Jacob	Jacob T. Outwater	Catherine Auryansen	1/7/1844
54. Stephen	"	"	11/13/1845
55. Edwin	"	"	2/25/1853
56. Emma	"	"	2/6/1855
57. Maria	James Westervelt	Cornelia Wandle	4/18/1845
58. Peter	"	"	10/6/1843
59. Isaac	"	"	8/22/1854
60. Richard Dickinson	A. D. L. Jewett	Eliz. Dickinson	1857
61. Ervin	Henry S. Sidman	Sarah A. -----	7/9/1856
62. Emily Francis	Wm. A. Verbryck	Rebecca Edwards	4/21/1857
63. Lucy Dix	John W. Ferdon	Harriet Strong	4/23/1852
64. William	"	"	1/14/1854
65. Jane Louisa	Frank Spring	----- Crossett	6/23/1844
66. Frank Humphrey	"	"	12/25/1851
67. Charles Crossett	"	"	12/8/1856
68. -----	George Luke	-----	12/1/1857 (bp.da)
69. Mary Neal	Henry Valk	Catherine Clark	12/5/1847
70. Magdalen	"	"	5/18/1848
71. Isabella	"	"	4/5/1852
72. Mary	Elihu Houghton	Louisa Seymour	4/10/1858
73. Eliz. Hall	-----	-----	-----
74. -----	John Goode	-----	7/1859 (bp. date)
75. Isaac	Abraham V. Wandle	Gitty Haring	8/1859
76. -----	Geo. W. Hendricks	Marietta Van Wart	8/1859 (bp. date)
77. John Alex	John Wolfenden	Sophia	12/1/1858
78. Lucy	Frank Spring	----- Crossett	5/1859 (bp. date)
79. Wm. Tenant Rogers	Charles W. Miller	Rachel R. Rogers	9/5/1859

In the Record Book at Piermont Reformed Church, the Baptisms are the only complete record. The Deaths start in 1908, and Marriages start in 1863.