



# APGAR

## Family Association Newsletter

www.apgarfamily.com

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### Come to Our 2006 Reunion on September 16 & 17

Join us for our 32<sup>nd</sup> family reunion to be held at the Stanton Grange Hall, 16 Route 618, Lebanon, New Jersey on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17, 2006. (Directions to the Stanton Grange are on page 2.) Take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet old friends and members of our extended family, descendants of the original Apgars who came to Hunterdon County from Germany in the 1700s. The following activities have been planned for your enjoyment.

#### Saturday, September 16

- 10:00** Greeting, Show & Tell, Genealogical Assistance
- 11:00** Speaker (Henry Apgar—Puderbach's 750th Anniversary)
- 11:40** Annual Group Photo
- 12:00** German Style Lunch (Adults \$10.00; Children under 10 years \$5.00)
- 1:30** Business Meeting plus Genealogy report by Mike Apgar

- 2:30** Palatine Auction (tricky-tray)
- 3:00** Sharing Mementos of the Past & Genealogy Assistance
- 4:00** Closing Remarks

*Plus an all-day, fun-filled, Children's Program*

#### Sunday September 17

- 9:30** Church Service - Lebanon Reformed Church, Lebanon, NJ (Early church of Apgar Family in Hunterdon County-1747)
- 11:00** Drive to New Brunswick, NJ
- 12:00** Lunch at Somerset Diner, 1045 Easton Avenue, Somerset
- 2:00** Family Research - At the Rutgers Library - Alexander Special Collections Room. Open only for Apgar Reunion Attendees
- 4:00** Closing Remarks

Make the Reunion a special day for your family. Meet your present relatives and those of the past!



## Directions to the Stanton Grange

The Stanton Grange Hall is at 16 Route 618, in Lebanon, New Jersey.

The Route 618 East exit on Route 31 is about 5 1/2 miles north of the Flemington traffic circle, and about 4 miles south of 1-78. The Grange hall is on the left at the crest of the hill, about 1/4 of a mile from Route 31.

## Special Palatine Auction Coming to the Reunion

The "Apgar Elves" are busily putting together items for our first Special Palatine Auction (Tricky Tray) to be held at our next reunion. There will be about ten baskets of goodies (something for everyone, young and old) to bid on. A Tricky Tray works like this. You can buy a block of tickets and use them to bid on any item or group of items that are on display by putting one or as many tickets as you would like in the container beside the item. A ticket will be picked for each basket and the lucky winner will go home with a nice prize. So stop by our Tricky Tray and see what prizes will be on display and bid away!

## Dorothy Apgar Dies in Florida

*by George N. Apgar, Jr.*

Dorothy Elizabeth Apgar- Jacob Line  
(1923-2005)

Dorothy Apgar was born in Woodsville, New Jersey to John and Prudence Young. After she retired as a schoolteacher she spent many years working on our family genealogy and also was the family historian for 31 years. Dorothy loved to research the lines of Apgars originating from Apgar's Corner, Cokesbury Road, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Along with Helen Apgar and Robert O. Apgar, Dorothy was a founding member of the current series of family reunions, which began 32 years ago at the Geist family home in High Bridge, NJ.

In 1986, as book editor, Dorothy published Johannes Peter and His Descendants, our first recorded genealogy since the Fanny Gunderson version printed in the 1960s. One month before her death on December 13, 2005, family members received her last publication titled Descendants of Herbert Apgar and John Peter Apgar. Dorothy's daughter, Mary Wolfe, was technical advisor to this 2005 publication, which includes an article on "Another Apgar Family Patriarch." Her last book was well received by family members.



Dorothy touched many of us with her love of our family genealogy at many family reunions until her move from Flemington, New Jersey to Florida in 1993. We want to hear your stories on what Dorothy meant to you. If you wish to share your stories, contact any Trustee listed on the back of this newsletter. Some of these may be published in our next newsletter publication and also may be displayed at our September 2006 Reunion.

Dorothy was a member of the Memorial United Methodist Church in Lake Placid, Florida. She was preceded in death by husbands William C. Farrow and Robert O. Apgar and is survived by daughters, Mary E. Wolfe and Ruth J. Fillebrown, along with sons John S. Apgar Jr. and William C. Farrow, and 12 grandchildren.

With Dorothy's passing at her home in Lake Placid, Florida, our Apgar Family Association has suffered a great personal loss. We shall never forget all that Dorothy did to both record and keep alive our family genealogy. As the result of her book publications, future generations of Apgars will be able to learn and study about the family for many years to come.

# Message from your President — Lynn Conley

## President's Message:

The past year for the Apgar Family has been one of great joy and great sadness. Our sorrow is due to the loss of a truly outstanding women and leader of our family, Dorothy Apgar. Dorothy, our Historian Emeritus, was a driving force that put the Apgar Family Tree to paper, helping to produce more than seven genealogy books. She also was instrumental in making sure the Apgar Reunions, which started in 1923, were revitalized in 1974 and continue to this day. Dorothy Apgar, by virtue of her love of family and genealogy, will be fondly remembered in perpetuity. Our prayers and deepest sympathies go out to her family and friends.

Our joy for the past year comes to us by way of technology. Through the advances of the internet, DNA and ground penetrating radar, we are learning more and more about the family called Apgar. Church records, census records, wills, land documents etc., now can be accessed via the computer or copied by digital cameras. We then have the ability to analyze and review every miniscule detail of a document and find new facts about our family history. I am still amazed at the amount of data that was collected for the family by old-fashioned legwork and

pencil. However, I am sure that the collectors of this data were very frustrated when they were told it was closing time.

Even now, when a genealogist hears those words it is the most depressing moment of the day. New technology has at least made closing time less gloomy and provides an opportunity for vast amounts of data to be collected. In the past it was impossible to write down everything a genealogist could read at an archive - there just was not enough time. Technology now allows us to transform this material to digital formats, which increases the quantity and content of what we collect, consequently changing our knowledge of the past. Technology also gives us the ability to meet new relatives anywhere on the planet, which supports the Apgar Family Association's growth.

These twelve months have again given us many new facts about our Apgar Family, and many new cousins, an outcome that would please any group. Thank you again for another great year as your President; being a part of the Apgar lineage truly is a happy and rewarding experience.

Lynn Conley

President of the Apgar Family Association

## Apgar General Store Open on Saturday

The Apgar General Store will be open for business during the first day of our Reunion on the second floor of the Stanton Grange. This is your chance to buy Apgar memorabilia. In addition to wearing apparel and accessories, the following special items will be available.

- Apgar 2006 Family Collectible Vase, made of stoneware with a cobalt glaze, for sale at \$30. This year the design is a 24 ounce canister with an inscription reading "Apgar-Apger-Apker 1734-2006"
- Apgar Family Fraktur House Blessing Artwork. This is a traditional Fraktur reminiscent of the German House Blessings created by our 18th Century ancestors. This design was created by a 21st Century Apgar artist (Louanna Rich) and is destined to become your family heirloom.

If not sold out on September 16, any member who would like to purchase the Apgar 2006 Family Collectible Vase after the reunion should contact George Apgar Jr., at the address on back page of this newsletter. The cost will be \$30 including shipping. (Make checks payable to George Apgar, Jr.)



# The 2005 Reunion - September 16, 2005

The 31st in the current series of Apgar Family reunions was held on Saturday, September 17, 2005, at the Stanton Grange hall. Seventy people attended, representing branches of the family from New Jersey to Alaska.

During the morning, there was ample time to browse the various displays of Apgar memorabilia, and to reminisce and renew old acquaintances. After a fine luncheon prepared by Grange members, a business meeting was held in the afternoon. President Lynn Conley called the meeting to order at 1:25 P.M..

Debbie Apgar reported that there currently are 226 paid members of the Association.

Vice President George Apgar announced that church services tomorrow will be held at the Lebanon Reformed Church followed by a presentation by the DAR.

Dave Rich gave the Treasurer's report showing a checking account balance as of August 31, 2005 of \$2,360.37, and a CD worth \$6,338.91 on September 3, 2005, for a total of \$8,699.28. A copy of the full report is filed with the minutes of the meeting.

Corresponding Secretary Louanna Rich re-requested that full information concerning anything donated to the Association be sent to her via regular mail or email so she can send the appropriate acknowledgment.

Trustee Hank Apgar reported that he was stepping down after six years as editor of the newsletter, and that Roger Flartey would be the new editor. He requested that all news article submissions and photographs be sent to Roger in the future. (President Lynn Conley thanked Hank on behalf of the Association for the fine job he had done with the newsletter over the years.)

Genealogist Mike Apgar gave his report, which included the results of the ground-penetrating radar project, in which three graves were located on the original Apgar homestead property. He also discussed the possibility of exploring the use of DNA technology to identify our ancestors and collateral relatives.

Historian Judy Beck expressed her thanks for the help she has received from Dorothy Apgar and Judy Hankinson. She requested that members contact her in the cases of births, marriages and deaths in the family.

George Apgar spoke in memory of all the Apgar members who had passed away since the last meeting.

The following individuals were presented with prizes in the categories indicated.

- Oldest male: Raymond Roberts, age 85.
- Oldest female: Joyce Apgar Garrison, age 80.
- Longest married: Paul and Joyce Garrison, 59 years.
- Traveled farthest to attend: Breena Apgar Kurtz, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Youngest child present: Johnathan Lake, age 16 months.
- Largest family group present: Howard Apgar, 17 members.
- Newest "Mom": Karen Lance, due next April
- Most recently married: James and Leah Apgar, July 30, 2005.
- Earliest response to reunion invitation: Preston Apgar, Jr.

President Lynn Conley stated that the bylaws of the Association call for eleven Trustees, but presently there are only eight, so she asked for volunteers to fill the vacancies. Wendy Rumrill said that she would be willing to serve. Lynn announced that the nominating committee had proposed that the current slate of officers be retained for another year. There were no additional nominations from the floor and as a result of the vote of the members in attendance, the individuals listed on the back of this newsletter were elected to the offices indicated.

The Afghan made by Debbie Apgar was won by Megan Krainski, and the table runner made by Lois Dege was won by Judy Beck.

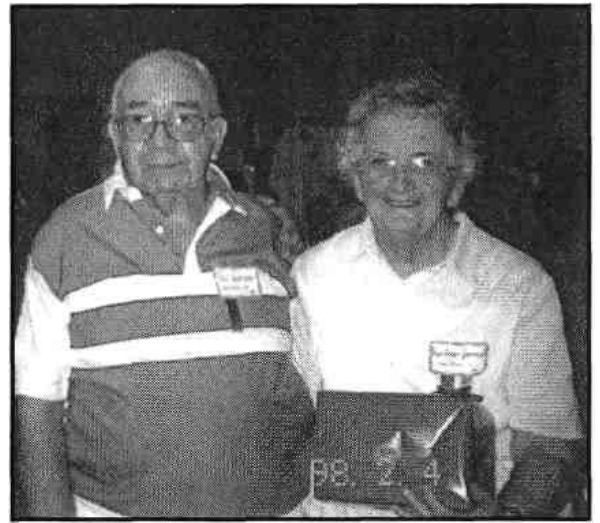
The meeting was adjourned at four P.M., when Jim Wade gave an interesting talk about the Lenape Indians who lived in central New Jersey at the time of the arrival of our Apgar ancestors.

## Do you want to help plan our 33rd Annual Family Reunion?

You are invited to attend a Reunion Planning Workshop to begin planning the September 2007 Family Reunion. The workshop will be held at Chelsea's Restaurant and Pub, 10651 Route 22 East, Lebanon, NJ, from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon on a Saturday, November 4. Please call George Apgar Jr. (732) 297-6686 or Lynn Conley (201) 460-9292 if you'd like to participate.



**Welcome to the reunion!**



**Paul and Joyce Garrison,  
married for 59 years.**



**Raymond Roberts,  
85 years old.**



**James and Leah Apgar,  
married on July 30,2005**

**Reunion exhibits.**



# The Apgar Family House Blessing

by Louanna H. Rich

In 1740, when Fritz Eggert and his family left the Rhine Valley of the Palatinate, they brought old world customs to the new world. Packed in the family chest, among the essentials required for emigration, were important documents - Taufscheine - baptismal certificates with details of birth and parentage.

Government authorities of 18th Century Europe required proof of identity and permission to cross borders of one province to another. Many farmers could sign their names, but were unable to read and write. In order to begin the long treacherous journey to the new world, Fritz Eggert would have had to present his Taufschein to toll collectors as he traveled on the Rhine River to Rotterdam.

After signing an Oath of Loyalty to the King of England, Fritz Eggert would no longer need to present his Taufschein as proof of identity. The document probably was kept in the family chest until his death. In keeping with old-world custom, the Taufschein would be placed in the coffin.

FRAKTUR is an American term applied to 18th and 19th Century German-American folk art created by the Lutheran and German Reformed clergy, who retained many of the customs of the Palatinate. Although no longer required by the legal authorities or the Church, artistic

representations of documents such as birth and baptismal certificates, marriage certificates and house blessings were popular gifts

Among descendants of the Palatinate emigrants, a Fraktur with a HAUS-SEGEN or House Blessing was given to families when a new home was built.

Since most Fraktur were kept in chests or often nailed to the wall above the fireplace mantle, many did not survive. The old-world culture and custom slowly disappeared as the Palatinate families assimilated into the predominately English culture.

The Apgar Family House Blessing designed by Louanna H. Rich represents a Haus-Segen that could have been given to the children of Fritz Eggert (Apgar) as they settled into new homes in Hunterdon County in New Jersey.

The Apgar Family House Blessing illustrates our emigrant ancestors' ocean crossing, and their settlement in the new world. The blessing is a translation of the 18th Century German text. These hand-worked blessings will be available for purchase at our next annual meeting on September 16, 2006.



# Jim Wade -The Native Americans of Hunterdon County

by Lynn Conley

The speaker at the 2006 Apgar Reunion was Jim Wade, an archaeology archivist at the New Jersey State Museum and a field archaeologist who has worked on prehistoric Indian excavation sites. Mr. Wade began his talk by stating that when the Apgars and other earlier settlers arrived in Hunterdon County, the Native Americans living there were Lenape (or Delawares as the English called them). Many individuals, however, refer to them as Lenni Lenape, but this designation is redundant. The word Lenape in their language means "the original people," and they migrated to what now is New Jersey twenty to thirty thousand years ago. The Lenape tribe was part of the larger Algonquin nation that was found in the eastern United States. The Lenapes in New Jersey were divided into three major groups, the Minsi (men of the stone country), the Unami (fisherman) and the Unila-chtigo (living near the ocean). Each group was represented by a totem or symbol: the Minsi were the wolf, the Unami were the Turtle and the Unilachtigo were the wild turkey. One of the most interesting facts about the Lenape was that they were a very civilized and peaceful people. They were so peaceful that other Algonquin tribes called them old women, and the sachems (chiefs) were called upon to settle disputes between other warring tribes. Many of the Lenape groups lived by Delaware, but during the summer they traveled to the seacoast to gather fish and other seafood, along with seashells that were traded as currency. The Lenape created a number of trails that were used by the new settlers, and some became the roads we now travel by car.

One of these trails went down the Sutton Brook to lower Fairmount and then returned east to Pottersville. Other trails in the area followed current Routes 22 and 80 west to the Delaware River. From the lower Fairmount trail, one continued westward over the back of Hell Mountain. House Rock on Hell Mountain is a boulder about six feet long on top of a rocky ledge that is more than fifty feet long. It is believed to have been used as a campsite, because it gave the local natives a view of the entire area. There are two basins side by side on the rock, and it is speculated that these were used for maize preparation for the entire tribe. On the westward slope of House Rock an Indian Cave was found.

The Hunterdon area has produced many artifacts that prove the use of the land by Native Americans prior to the arrival of our ancestors. Mr. Wade, at the end of his discourse, invited all to view a display of

Lenape artifacts, which were similar to ones found in the area.

## Ich Kochem Was Ich Kann

by Louanna H. Rich

An amusing old German proverb, "Ich koche was ich kann, was mein Schwein nicht fressen, will isst mein Mann." (I cook what I can, what my pig will not eat, my husband will) expresses the German love of food and festive celebrations.

In 1740 when Anna Eva Epgert left her Puderbach kuche (kitchen), she would have brought old-world traditional culinary treats which were unfamiliar to the English neighbors in Cokesbury, New Jersey. For example, KAERSCHESUPP (Cherry Soup) is a traditional sweet soup served either hot or cold when cherries are in season. The recipe printed in 1795 by Friederike Loffler in the Oekonomisches Handbuch is an example of 18th Century Palatine cuisine. The following 21st Century version has been updated by food historian, William Woys Weaver. Try this to see the kind of good food our ancestors enjoyed.

Kaerschesupp - Cherry Soup

2 1/2 pounds of fresh sweet cherries (weigh after pitting)  
1/4 cup unsalted butter  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
6 tablespoons sugar  
2 cups dry red wine (e.g. Zinfandel)  
grated zest of 1 lemon  
1/4 teaspoon ground clove  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
sour cream

Pit the cherries and weigh them. Reserve the excess juice from the fruit. Chop the cherries into pea-size pieces and mix with the reserved juice.

Melt the butter in a deep saucepan and fry the flour until straw colored. Add the cherries and sugar. Stir thoroughly to cover all the fruit with roux. Cover the pan and simmer gently for ten minutes. Then add two cups of water, the wine, lemon zest, spices and salt. Once the liquid has begun to boil, the soup is ready to serve. Serve hot or cold with sour cream as a garnish. Yield will be four to six servings.

My great-grandmother, Ann Bishop Fritts (wife of Joshia Apgar), used peaches instead of cherries for her version of "supp."

# History of the Village of Epgert

by Michael A. Apgar

The origin of the name and founding of Epgert, a small village in the Westerwald region of the modern German state Rheinland-Pfalz, is lost in the mist of time. It is uncertain whether the village was named after the original occupants or the occupants obtained their surname from the village, but there must have been some connection between the village and the family. The name Epgert was mentioned in the trade journal Sieg to the Lahn, in which it was described "the village lying below the heights that intersect at Wiedtal."

This territory was ruled by knights and other minor nobles during the Middle Ages. Members of this nobility lived throughout the region where today castle ruins are reminders of this era. One of the oldest parishes of the deanery Engers-Cunostein, mentioned in 1243 and 1326, was at Niederlahr (now called Peterslahr). This area included the location of Epgert, which is about 3 kilometers to the south. The parish belonged to the Earls of Isenburg, which received it as a "loan" from Kurtrier.

An argument between the house of Isenburg and the monastery in Ehrenstein regarding ownership of the local tithe was resolved on July 17, 1500, and Heinrich the Younger of Isenburg, received the tenth part (the amount of the tithe) in Epgert. This is the first known reference to the village or name Epgert.

When the last of the Isenburg line died in 1664, Peterslahr fell under the administration of Herschbach, but was still owned by Kurtrier. In that year a census was taken, which reported that the population of Epgert was about nine and that two fires had been reported there.

There are several tales of violent crimes committed near Epgert. According to one, a courier for a member of the nobility of Oberwied was traveling the route from Willroth to Bertenau, which parallels the present autobahn route. He was attacked by two robbers. Despite fighting with all his strength, the courier was overcome and mortally wounded. Then a pigeon flew through the trees and the dying man asked it to be his witness to the crime as his life faded away. The robbers took the money and went their way. In the evening they stopped for dinner at a guest house between Horhausen and Flammersfeld. The proprietor, who frequently catered to lowlifes, served them roasted pigeons. When their meal was delivered to their table, the two criminals joked to each other that these birds would certainly not betray them. However, this proved their undoing as one of the other guests who happened to be a servant to the nobility overheard them. He had the

robber-murderers arrested. They confessed to their crime and were hanged.

Another story involved an old stone cross that once stood along the same old road in the forest near Epgert. The cross is no longer there, but it was reportedly erected in memory of a murder victim. According to a death record in the church book of Grossmaischeid, the following entry appears: "The honorable Johann Becker from Kleinmaischeid died on February 11, 1746, without receiving the holy sacraments. He was on his return from military duty on the way near Epgert, when he was killed by his neighbor. He was buried in Grossmaischeid."

As the years passed Epgert grew steadily, but slowly. By 1787 there were 52 people living in the village. The Kurtrier feudal era finally ended in 1803, when the local parish became part of Nassau-Weilburg, then Nassau from 1806-1815. In 1815, the area was ruled by Prussia, which administered it locally through the office of the mayor in Flammersfeld, about 10 kilometers to the northeast.

In 1836, the Obersteinebach-Epgert school board was created. The little schoolhouse in Epgert had only one room and a straw roof. In 1850, the teacher's salary was 70 Taler (a currency which preceded the Deutsche Mark). The donor of the school funds was a lady named A.M. Emmerich. [As a side note, the surname Emmerich was derived from Hummerich, another local village. Emmerich eventually became Emery, and Catherine Epgert, daughter of the Apgar family immigrant patriarch Friedrich Epgert, married Peter Emery in Hunterdon County, New Jersey in 1760.]

In 1860, a decade prior to German unification (the founding of the modern nation of Germany) Epgert had a population of 124. The original, small schoolhouse was replaced by a larger, two-room structure with a teacher's apartment in 1900.

During the Third Reich in 1936, 132 people resided in Epgert. The main income sectors were agriculture and coal mining. During World War II, Epgert remained a sleepy village, although in 1945, the American 1st Army moved through the area from its bridgehead across the Rhine River at Remagen, only about 10 kilometers to the west. On March 26, at least 300 German POWs were collected at and evacuated from Epgert. Also in early 1945, an American 8th Air Force B-24 crashed near Epgert during a bombing raid on one of the German industrial cities.

Today, Epgert hosts more peaceful pursuits. In 1982, the old tradition of erecting and celebrating a



May pole was revived. Other villages are reportedly following Eggert's lead on this. Eggert now has a sports stadium which is home to a soccer team and in summer hosts a renowned annual dog show, which attracts people from all over the world.

This year (2006) Eggert boasted a population of 248. An aerial photo shows the tidy little village surrounded by neat fields, immediately west of the A3 autobahn, which runs from Frankfurt to Cologne.

Note: Most of this information was gleaned from several stories: Kleine Historie des Ortes Eggert (A little history of the village of Eggert) and Das Kreuz im Walde bei Eggert (The cross in the forest near Eggert), which were furnished by Bernhard Schmidt of Puderbach, who obtained them, along with the aerial photograph, from a citizen and historian of Eggert, Willi Becker. The stories were translated by Christel E. Moore of Dover, Delaware.



**An aerial photograph of the village of Eggert, taken in 2005.**

**The view is towards the northeast, across the autobahn (A3).**

# In Their Own Words, Conrad Apgar Sr. (10) and John Apgar for Peter Apgar (1.2)

by Lynn Conley

On June 7, 1832, an Act of Congress established pensions for individuals who served in the Revolutionary War for a total of two years and were not entitled to pensions under the Commutation Law of 1824. There were four general classes of service embraced by this new law: regular troops; state troops, militia and volunteers; people employed by naval service and Indian spies. Previous pension laws were established on August 26, 1776, "which promised half pay for life or during disability to every officer, soldier or sailor losing a limb or being so disabled in the service of the U.S. as to be incapable of earning a livelihood."

[[www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/pensions/revwar/classes.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/pensions/revwar/classes.htm)] This act was later changed to include disabilities from wounds and included state troops and militias as well as the Continental soldiers. The act was changed in March of 1783 from half pay for life to five years' full pay in money or interest-bearing securities. Since the new Confederation had no funds, commutation certificates were issued which had no value until the Congress was established under the Constitution. In 1818, the first service pensions act provided that every resident of the United States who served in the Revolutionary War until its close or for the term of nine months or more, could receive a pension based on need. It was \$20 a month for an officer and \$8 a month for the rank of private. In 1780, the widows and orphans' pensions were enacted and in 1836 this provision was expanded to include widows of soldiers who qualified for the 1832 act, as long as they did not remarry. Additional changes also were made in 1848 and 1853, and the final Revolutionary War pension act change was made in 1878.

The National Archives in Washington, D.C., has given us the application data on two Apgars who applied for these benefits. We now have in their own words a recollection of their Revolutionary War Service. These are transcribed below exactly as written, preserving the original spelling, punctuation and capitalization. (Underlined blanks indicate words that were illegible in the original.)

## **Pension Request of Conrad Apgar, Sr.**

On the fourteenth day of August at one Thousand Eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas now setting at Flemington in and for the said County of Hunterdon, Conrad Apgar Sen., a resident of the Township of Lebanon, in the County

of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, aged Seventy Seven years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress papered June 7th AD 1832, Entitled "An Act Supplementary to an act, for the relief of Certain Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution."

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as here in stated-In the spring or summer of the year 1775 or 1776, I do not certainly recollect which while residing in the Township of Alexandria in the County of Hunterdon. I turned out as Volunteer in the Militia under Captain Carhart in the Battalion, I think of Col. Joseph Beavers and \_\_\_\_\_ Dickerson's Brigade. \_ We marched by the White House through Somerville, Boundbrook, and Quibble Town and down to Amboy. \_ I recollect the names of Captains James Hope and Bruderdilke who were out at the same time with me at Amboy. \_

I was out this time more than one month when the Militia were discharged at Amboy and returned to Alexandria. \_ Sometime after that, but I cannot tell presently how long, the Militia were called out; I was Drafted and went out as a private under Captain Philip Mettler. \_ Barnabas Clauson was our Lieutenant, and Abraham Carhart our cousin.

Our Company was attached to the Battalion of Col. Joseph Beavers. We marched this time out to Bergen near the Hudson River where we laid about six weeks; this was the base of the farm, for I recollect we pulled some ears of corn. From hence we were marched to Powles Hook to prevent the English from accessing the North River- we laid at Powles Hook four or five weeks when we were attacked by the ships of the Enemy and obliged to retreat into the interior. Our tour of duty soon after expired and I returned home.

Sometime after his I was again drafted and served it under Captain Swick of Alexandria, our Company was attached to Col. Frelinghuysen's Battalion. - We march this time from Alexandria through Somerville, Boundbrook, and Quibble Town down to Elizabeth Town. We laid there six weeks before we were discharged. -During this time I went on an expedition to Staten Island, where a skirmish took place with the enemy and we retreated- Col. Frelinghuysen was with this expedition to the Island, some of our men were wounded- After we were discharged at Elizabethtown, I returned home again.

I was out at another time for three or four weeks, when Col. Taylor was our commanding officer. -We laid along and near the Raritan River. I do not recollect the names of our other Officers. - I was drafted this time also, I think, but at the same time am not certain whether it was not at a time when the Militia were all called out. \_ I was also out as a drafted man some before and at the time of the Battle of Monmouth. - I do not recall all of the names of my Company Officers, we were marched to Monmouth and arrived there a day or two after the battle-they were engaged in burying the dead when we arrived.

I was out this time several weeks, but cannot tell how long exactly, this is the last time I was out according to my present recollection. - My memory's bad with respect to the times of my service and the exact periods of them, and also with respect to some of my officers. \_ I have kept no record of them - one Christopher Tinchman was our orderly Sergeant at the time I laid at Bergen. - The last time I heard of him he was living somewhere in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey. - But I have no means of procuring his attendance here-

I do not know that any of my other officers are living at this time. \_ I am well satisfied that my whole period of service was between six and seven months and perhaps a good deal more. - I was out very often and without doubt have forgotten to mention some of the times. \_ I have no documentary evidence of my service. I knew very well Gen. William Maxwell. - I also recollect and \_\_\_ Col. Philip Johnson, Captain Frazer and Lieut. Jacob Anderson of the five month troops-we was marching to at the time of the Battle of Long Island we heard the firing while we were at Newark. I do not recollect particularly the Continental regiments or companions which I served. - And I do further declare that I was born on the third day of January AD one thousand seven hundred and fifty five in the Township of Tewksbury in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey. - My age is recorded in the Family Bible, but I do not know where that is now. I was living in the Township of Alexandria and County of Hunterdon at the time I first went into the Service and lived there during the whole of it. - I now live in the Township of Lebanon in the said County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey and have lived in said County ever since the Revolutionary War. - I went into the Service first as a volunteer and after words was drafted for very different periods of Ser-vice as above stated, except it may have been when the Militia were all called out - I never received a regular Militia discharge from the Service. But at the same time, I always served out my full time and until regularly discharged - And I refer the Rev. Mancuis S. Hutton, Pastor of the Congregation to which I belong and David W. Miller

who both live in the County of Morris, but in my neighborhood and also to John C. Salter and John Haas of the County of Hunterdon to all of whom I am and who can testify to my character for morality and to whose judgement I am willing to submit.

And I do hereby relinquish any claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension role of the \_\_\_\_\_ of any state.

Sworn and delivered in open Court this day and year alone-

*Robert K. Reading*

*Conrad Apgar SR*

State of New Jersey Hunterdon County Fr. Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey Conrad Apgar Sr. an applicant for a pension, who being duly Sworn, according to Law deposed and said that since his papers have been returned from the War department for further proof he both inquired for Christopher Tinchman named in his declaration as an orderly Sergeant of the Company to which this applicant was attached, when he laid at Bergen and has been informed and believes that said Tinchman is dead. That he knows no other person living who can prove his services except Christopher Philhower, whose affidavit is herein, annexed. -And he further said that by reason of old age and the consequent lose of memory, he cannot swear positively as the precise length of his Service, but according to the best of his recollections he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For more than one month I served with Captain Carharts Company. For between five and six months I served as a drafted Militia man in several different companies. - First in the company of Captain Philip Mettler, next in the Company of Captain Swink, again when Col. Taylor was our Commanding Officer and last at the Battle of Monmouth, but at this time I do not recollect the names of our officers. - After this I served several weeks as a diver of a Waggon attached to the army and was employed two or three weeks in what was then called hunting for the Tories. - My service I am satisfied were of greater length than I have mentioned, but my memory fails me and for those services more particularly sealed in my original declaration to which this is an amendment to claim a pension.

Sworn \_\_\_\_\_ before me on of the Justice of the peace of the County of Hunterdon this 7th day of May 1833.

*Philip Marshall*

*Conrad Apgar Sr.*

## Pension request by John Apgar for the Family of Peter Apgar (1.2)

State of New Jersey Hunterdon County NJ. Be it Remembered that on this twenty sixth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty before me Robert Foster one of the Judges of the inferior court of Common Means in and for said county personally appeared John Apgar, who being duly sworn according to law touching an application now about being made by heirs of Peter Apgar for a pension for the services of the said Peter Apgar during the revolutionary war on his oath saith, That according to the best of his knowledge and belief he the said deponent is now in the eighty sixth year of his age, that he remembers the times and many of the scenes of the Revolution. Remembers well that Peter Apgar was out in the military service of the Revolutionists at several different time during the war as a sergeant under Captain Benjamin Cooper in his company of militia which said company was under the command of Major Godfrey Reinhard of New Germantown, in the County aforesaid and the Regiment to which it belongs was commanded by Colonel John Taylor of Tewksbury township in Hunterdon County. The said Peter Apgar belonged to Lebanon Township in said County of Hunterdon and as before stated was out in service several different times as sergeant as aforesaid. - That he was in the Battle of Long Island and narrowly escaped with his life. - That he was frequently on skirmishes after the

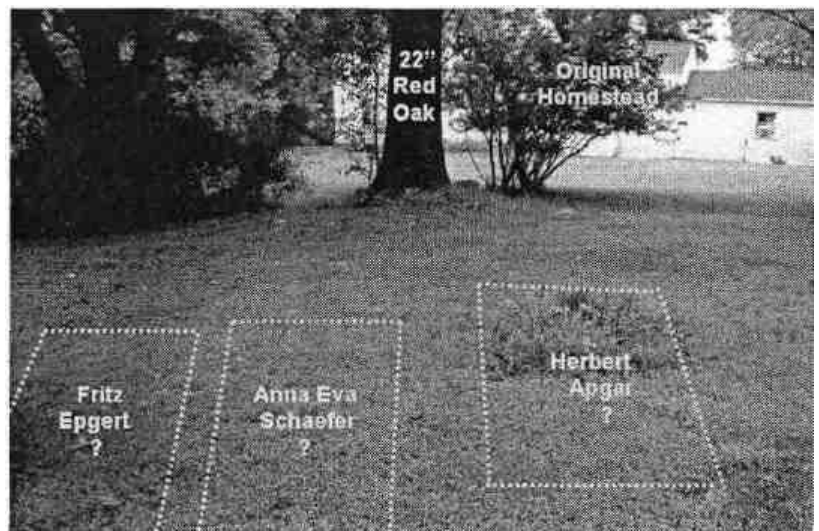
Tories and was out on all call made on him during the war and feels confident that the said services amounted to more than a year during that time. - That the said Peter Apgar was in the skirmish or battle that took place along the Millstone river in Somerset County. - That he lay a part of said time at Elizabeth town and at Amboy. - and besides being under the said Captain Cooper as aforesaid he served under a Captain who lived near New Germantown, whose name this deponent does not now remember. - That the said Peter Apgar died twenty third day of April one Thousand Eight hundred and forty six and according to family records was Eighty seven years, eleven months and twenty three days old, and that said Peter Apgar never applied for or received a pension. - That the said Peter Apgar was a brother to said deponent. That he has living five sons and five daughters VIZ William, Harbert, Peter, John and George Apgar and five Daughters VIZ Anna wife of Peter Allpough- Catherine wife of John Everett, Sarah widow of William Beavers, Margaret wife of Philip Crater and Rachel wife of Peter Apgar, being applicants on this claimant for the pension aforesaid. That the wife of said Peter Apgar who would have been entitled to pension died about thirty years ago. Sworn and subscribed before me this day year above written Robert Foster, Judge  
*JOHN APGAR*

## Identification of Graves on the Apgar Homestead

The "Apgar Homestead" is situated just south of the Town of Cokesbury in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The remains of the immigrant patriarchs of the Apgar family were interred there more than two centuries ago. A mystery, until now, was exactly where they were buried.

The current deed to the property on which the "Homestead" was built, includes a statement "excepting out of the premises above described one square rood, where Harbert Apgar, deceased, is buried." However, a further notation states that: "There is no physical evidence of a grave on Lot 1.02."

In 2005, we arranged for a geophysical survey of the property and identified three graves. They are about 100 feet from the back of the homestead. Because of the arrangement of the graves and other family records, we believe that they are the final resting places of Fritz Epgert, his wife Anna Eva Schaefer, and his oldest son, Herbert. Arrangements to place permanent markers on the graves is being discussed with David Mills, the owner of the homestead.



# Talking Tombstones -What They Can Tell Us!

by Lynn Conley

When researching our family histories it is just about impossible not to venture into a cemetery. Cemeteries can tell us a great deal about our ancestors. Our first encounter with a family member's grave marker starts with the words carved on the stone, creating a be-ginning to their story. The cemetery itself and the placement of a grave in the cemetery can give us some additional background information concerning family relationships, economic status, and maybe even a glimpse into an ancestor's personality. The artwork and symbols found on a tombstone also can provide clues to the ancestor's ideals, profession, associations, religious affiliations, military service or just the attitudes of the time. It is often forgotten that the stonemason who created these works was in the truest sense an artist and some of the sculptures in a cemetery are as good as the ones found in a museum, so a visit to a cemetery can be rewarding on many levels.

One way to determine the time period of your ancestor's death, if it is not inscribed, is to consider the material from which the marker is made. If it is made of slate or common fieldstone, one can approximate the date from 1796 -1830. Flat-topped hard marble usually dates to about 1830 -1849. Round or pointed soft marble with cursive inscriptions more often than not dates to 1845 -1868. Four-sided masonry tombstones began in 1850 and still are used today. Columns, pylons and exotic style monuments are customarily dated 1860 - 1900. Monuments of zinc date from 1870-1900 and granite, which is used today and is very common, started in 1900.

In addition to the time period, symbols on the stone or marker also can tell a story.  
Bible - usually indicates a Christian stone  
Holy Books - on a Mormon headstone indicates the Bible and Book of Mormon  
Chalice - Usually used to represent the Sacraments.  
Crescent - the deceased was probably Muslim  
Crown - represents the soul's achievement and the glory of life after death.  
Heart (sacred) usually found in Catholic cemeteries, represents the suffering of Christ for our sins.  
Mortality is represented by several symbols: the arrow, coffin, figure with a dart, hourglass (time has run out)  
Trade symbols include a bowl and razor for a barber; an axe, steel knife and cleaver for a butcher; a rake and spade for gardener; and a coulter, flail or stalk of corn for a farmer. A symbol for a mason is a wedge and level and a mariner might have an anchor,

sextant or cross staff. A blacksmith could have a crown, a hammer and an anvil; a teacher an open book.

Additional symbols including plants, trees, and animals all have meanings.

During your visit to the cemetery it is important to record the information you have found. The best instrument for recording this data is a photograph. The photograph should be taken with the light behind you and no flash; this will avoid getting a large white spot in the middle of your photograph. If the writing on the stone is too faded there are several techniques that can be used to get a better picture. One is to use a 75-watt black light bulb that can be shone directly on the written words, which will appear miraculously. Another technique is to rub plain white flour into the face of the tombstone, the flour fills in the letters and dates as if it had been painted, and it makes for a good picture. The good thing about the white flour is that it washes away when it rains and does not hurt the tombstones. A final technique that can be used if you do not have a camera is to do a rubbing with white paper and an unwrapped crayon. Just place the paper on the tombstone with some masking tape and rub the crayon sideways over the engraving. It is advantageous to brush the stone with a soft bristle brush to remove any dirt or moss from the marker prior to doing the rubbing. This rubbing technique can produce some very striking images that encapsulate the stonework and textures of the old gravestones.

The final analysis of a cemetery visit should always be "if the tombstones have talked to me, remember the talk could be anecdotal and not fact." Just because something is etched in stone, it doesn't make it accurate. Cemetery markers therefore should be viewed as stepping-stones for further research. All dates and data found should be verified with other sources such as death certificates, wills, church records, birth certificates, census records, etc. I highly recommend a walk in a cemetery; the artwork is beautiful and the conversation is extraordinary, because the tombstones do all the talking.

## Dr. Virginia Apgar Papers Featured on National Library of Medicine's Profiles in Science Site

The National Library of Medicine has collaborated with the Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections to digitize and make available a selection of the Virginia Apgar Papers, including diaries, correspondence, course/training records, writings, Apgar Score material, financial records, biographical information, and photo-graphs. To access this information on the internet, just go to: <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov>.

# Historical Happenings

by Judy Beck -[judith.beck@att.net](mailto:judith.beck@att.net); 908-236-2413

The following information is taken from various sources, including the internet. Our best source of information is YOU! Please feel free to contact me or a trustee when happenings occur. With the passing of Dorothy E. Apgar, there may have been a lapse in the transmission of events; if your information is not listed below, please contact me. This will be greatly appreciated!

## **Deaths:**

- APGAR, Bernard J., (10.14.6.3.2.1.), 72, died 2/25/06. Res: Plainfield, NJ.
- APGAR, Clarence A., (6.4.3.6.6.1.1.), 72, died 9/13/05. Res: Glen Gardner, NJ.
- APGAR, Dorothy E., (w/o 6.12.10.5.2.3./3.7.11.1.2.), 82, died 12/13/05. Res: Lake Placid, FL.
- APGAR, Hazel M., (w/o 1.2.1.6.6.1.1.), 95, died 7/24/05. Res: Bethlehem Township, PA.
- APGAR, LeRoy L., (6.4.3.6.5.2.1.), 78, died 10/10/05. Res: Raritan Township, NJ.
- APGAR, Waldo D., (8.6.7.2.3.3.), 80, died 8/2/05. Res: Muhlenberg Township, PA.
- BISHOP, Ida, (6.7.6.3.1.1.), 71, died 8/6/05. Res: Whitehouse Station, NJ.
- BRAGGER, Lynn T., (unknown line), 52, died 7/9/05. Res: Livingston, NJ.
- BRAY, Clara N., (unknown line), 79, died 12/7/05. Res: Haines City, FL.
- CARVATT, Jr., Willard Apgar, (3.11.1.3.1.2.1.), 80, died 5/9/06. Res: Clinton Township, NJ
- CONOVER, Charles W., (4.1.2.2.5.1.1.2.), 89, died 6/21/05. Res: Holland Township, NJ.
- DESTEFANO, Arline Mae, (3.7.1.7.5.2.1.), 89, died 6/4/06. Res: Bound Brook, NJ
- ESSER, Floyd, (h/o 6.7.6.1.4.3.), 77, died 1/26/06. Res: High Bridge, NJ.
- FARLEY, Jay S., (1.2.2.5.2.5.2.1.), 80, died 4/14/06. Res: Bridgewater, NJ.
- GAYLORD, Mildred C, (1.2.1.6.6.1.4.), 91, died 7/7/05. Res: Easton, PA.
- GODWIN Sr., John W. (Adam Line), 85, died 8/20/05. Res: Lakehurst, NJ.
- HARPER, Mary A., (1.7.4.7.1.3.1.), 85, died 2/25/06. Res: Bethlehem Township, NJ.
- HOEMLEN, Rudolph B. Jr, (3.7.1.9.7.3.1.2.), 52, died 6/2/06. Res: Hackettstown, NJ
- HOFFMAN, Mary E., (1.2.2.4.8.1.2.L), 81, died 3/21/06. Res: Clearwater, FL.
- LANCE, Helen G. Hoffman, (d/o 1.2.3.1.3.7.2.), 83, died 1/2/06. Res: Oldwick, NJ.
- MAZAR, Michael, (h/o 2.3.1.7.1.3.), 83, died 12/15/05. Res: High Bridge, NJ.
- MCCATHARN, William S., (6.4.3.4.2.1.10.), 88, died 7/6/05. Res: Kernersville, NC.
- ORR, Marylou E., (d/o 1.2.3.1.3.7.2.), 70, died 11/3/05. Res: Bridgewater, NJ.
- PAPENFUHS, Brian S., (grandson of 1.2.3.7.2.4.6.1.), 19, died 9/1/05. Res: White Township, NJ.
- PEPLING, Thelma E., (6.10.2.2.1.3.1.), 67, died 7/10/05. Res: Camden, DE.
- RAMSEY, Harold, (s/o 7.4.3.2.2.2./4.1.2.2.3.3.1.), 84, died 2/28/06. Res: Benton, PA.
- RICH, Elizabeth Peale, (Jacob line), 91, died 11/05
- ROWNY, F. Lorraine, (unknown line), 86, died 11/1/05. Res: Raritan Township, NJ.
- SCHUYLER, William J., (unknown line), 76, died 4/13/06. Res: Dunellen, NJ.
- WALTERS, Bertram H., (6.4.7.5.6.3.), 91, died 11/16/05. Res: Brick, NJ.
- WALTERS, Mae M, (w/o 6.4.7.5.6.2.), 93, died 6/19/06. Res: Ocean Grove, NJ
- WELSH, Harlan K., (2.3.1.11.3.2.), 79, died 11/20/05. Res: Tewksbury, NJ.
- YOUNG, George P., (4.1.3.1.5.1.2.), 93, died 4/7/06. Res: Lebanon, NJ.

## **Births:**

- BLACK, Olivia Maria was born 4/7/06 to Stacy Ken-Black (1.2.11.9.7.4.1.4.2.) and James Black
- CLAYTON, Andrew Paul was born 9/8/05 to Anne Hart-kemeier (10.5.5.2.1.1.1.2.) and Eric A. Clayton
- DIGIACOMO, Angelena Faith was born 4/18/06 to Tara Flartey (6.4.8.14.4.1.1.2) and Dennis DiGiacomo.
- DUNCAN, Alexandra Apgar was born 12/15/05 to Stacey Apgar (2.3.1.8.1.1.2.1.) and Mark McCabe Duncan.
- HANN, Margaret Elizabeth was born 11/22/05 to Michael P. Hann (6.2.3.5.3.1.1.1.) and Colleen Haffling.
- HOFFMAN, Tucker Kurt and Kealey Tate were born 2/15/06 to Kurt Hoffman (1.2.3.11.1.2.2.1.2.) and Melissa Reimer.

MILLER, Kyle Allen was born 1/23/06 to Karin Lynn Apgar (1.8.7.1.2.3.1.1.2.) and Kenneth A. Miller.

### **Marriages:**

John C. Apgar, III (3.7.9.12.4.1.2.2.) and Crystal Candy Smith were married 4/30/05.

Michele E. Apgar (unknown line) and Gary Mozingo Jr. were married 9/4/05.

Gregory R. Novak (1.7.3.3.3.1.4.4./6.12.10.5.2.2.1.4.) and Maryann Miller were married 6/1/04.

Robert Coleman Thome, Jr (3.8.11.1.2.21.1.2.) and Wendy A. Jepson were married on 9/17/05.

### **Noteworthy Events:**

Gerald Apgar (3.5.3.4.1.1.1.1.) and Evelyn Schaffer Apgar of Toms River, NJ celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on 2/7/54.

Barbara Apgar Van Doren (6.10.3.3.4.3.3.) and John Van

Doren Jr. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on 12/21/55.

Notes: The following abbreviations are used above.

w/o - wife of

h/o - husband of

s/o - son of

d/o - daughter of

The last two are used when the order of birth of the decedent is not known.

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## **Bequests to Our Association**

by George N. Apgar, Jr.

Have you considered a donation or bequest (in your will) to the Apgar Family Association? Your trustees urge you to consider two options.

Donate or bequeath, without restrictions, historical materials such as books, diaries, family bibles, photographs, newspaper clippings and other documents. These may be sent to the Association Historian.

Donate or bequeath financial contributions in your name or anonymously. Any amount may be sent to the Association Treasurer.

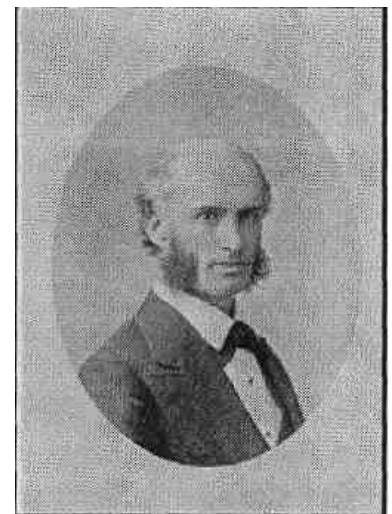
Please contact me for more information.

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## **Help Wanted**

by Roger Flartey

Do you have a flair for writing and the time to do the necessary research? If so, this can be your first assignment. Here's a picture of Ellis A. Apgar, who was the Superintendent of Public Instruction in New Jersey in the 1870s. Find out all you can about him and then prepare an article covering his history and accomplishments for a future Apgar Newsletter. The article can be long or short, depending on how much information you discover. If you are interested in doing this, please contact me before starting, to avoid duplication of effort.



# Apgar Family Association Officers and Trustees

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**Plan Ahead for Next Year...**  
**Apgar Family Association 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion**  
**September 15-16, 2007**