



# APGAR

## Family Association Newsletter

www.apgarfamily.com

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Summer 2009

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## Come to Our 2009 Reunion on September 19

The 35th annual reunion will be held at the Stanton Grange Hall, 16 Route 618, Lebanon, New Jersey on Saturday, September 19, 2009. 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. Come and celebrate with us!

Our speaker this year will be David Kemp. Dave has done a lot of research on the earliest recorded property transactions in the area surrounding the Apgar homestead. He presented his research on a map of early New Germantown at a Tewksbury Historical Society meeting early this year. Dave currently is researching historical ownership in the Round Valley area. His talk at our reunion will be titled "Mapping Fritz Eggert's Descendants". He will show us the purchases progressively made in northern Hunterdon County by Fritz's children and grandchildren as they moved off to start their own families during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This should be a very interesting and impressive presentation.

Lunch will consist of tossed salad, rolls, chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, string beans, ice tea, coffee and graham cracker chiffon dessert. (Auf Deutsch: geworfenen Salat, Rollen, Huhn, Kartoffelpuree mit der SoBe, Bohnenstangen, Ei-stee, Kaffee und Cracker-Chiffon-Nachtisch von Graham bestehen.)

### Schedule—Saturday, September 19

- 10:00 am** Coffee & Check in
- 11:00 am** Show & Tell plus Genealogy Assistance (all day)
- 11:30 am** Speaker – David Kemp, "Mapping Fritz Eggert's Descendants"
- 12:30 pm** Annual Group Photo
- 12:345 pm** Lunch – (Adults \$13.00; Children under 10 years, \$6.50)
- 2:15 pm** Genealogy Update & Dr. Apgar tribute
- 3:00 pm** Business Meeting
- 4:00 pm** Closing Remarks

### Volunteers Needed

If you can help set up tables on the evening of September 18, or help take them down after the reunion, please call George N. Apgar, Jr. at (732) 297-6686.

### 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.

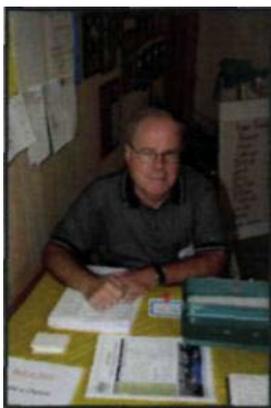
The Grange hall is on the left at the crest of the hill, about 1/4 of a mile from Route 31.



# Your Trustees and Officers at the 2008 Reunion



Left to right: Back row—Henry Apgar, Jr., Lynn Conley, Mary Carpenter, Richard Murray, Louanna Rich, Debbie Apgar, David Rich. Front row—Jeanette Lesinski, Judith Beck, Mike Apgar, George N. Apgar, Jr.



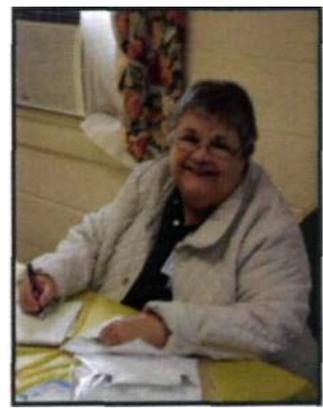
Dave Rich



Debbie Apgar



George Apgar



Louanna Rich

# A Message from the Association President

The 34th Apgar Family Association Reunion was another wonderful day that allowed us to celebrate our family history, including the 300th anniversary of our family patriarch, Friedrich (Fritz) Epgert. In spite of limited personnel and resources in preparing for this special event, a great day was had by all in attendance on September 20, 2008.

As I complete my final year as President it is appropriate that I leave with some words about honoring our ancestors. These people are directly responsible for the DNA that make each and every one of us special and unique. They were pioneers during times of transformation, societal reformation and revolutionary conflicts but they persevered, overcoming obstacles and arduous times. Our ancestors never gave up and thus provided life for the next generation. We exist because our forebears wanted a better life, one with independence and

freedom. They came to a new land with dreams; they imagined a life with no boundaries, just possibilities.

We are their possibilities; we are the embodiment of the gifts passed down to us by a myriad of extraordinary individuals. Therefore, to honor our ancestors we must be kind, caring, strong and resourceful, so we can leave the next generation with the hope that they also will have a truly remarkable future like the one given to us. We must honor our ancestors by making our dreams a reality and by using every special ability and talent we were given. So find your ancestors, find your gifts and live your dreams.

**Lynn Conley,  
President of the Apgar Family Association**

## Let's Keep These Family Reunions Going For Another 35 Years

by George N. Apgar, Jr.

As challenging as things are these days with our economic difficulties, our forefathers faced far greater problems. Just think how it was when Frederich and Anna Schaefer Epgert arrived in Philadelphia on September 20, 1740, to start a new life in the Colonies. Imagine how rough their voyage from Europe could have been?

There were no passenger ships in the eighteenth century. People sailed on cargo ships, or merchantmen, just as the Mayflower passengers had done in 1620. Cargo ships sailed at a slow speed causing discomfort and distress to the passengers.

Our immigrant ancestors were farmers and it is unlikely that they had ever even seen the sea before they left home. Coming to the land of promise under crowded and miserable conditions was far from a pleasant experience.

Why did they take this voyage? Who had made the decision to sail to the Colonies? Would they have been better off at home in the Palatine? Even if were to starve to death in Europe, would it have been better to die among family and friends than to be buried at sea with only strangers to mourn? And who would take care of the orphaned children if the parents died? It is not likely that we will ever know the answers to questions like these, but they are interesting to contemplate.

As descendants of Frederich Epgert, let us make our reunion on September 19, 2009 another successful one. Continue to support our trustees and let's hold a celebration this year that brings well over 100 family members to the Grange.

Take the time and help spread the word about the reunion. Just think what Frederich would have said in his native German if he knew how many descendants would be honoring him after all these years.

## The Apgar General Store

Thanks to the efforts of George N. Apgar, Jr., the store will be open again this year at our reunion. As soon as he finishes directing traffic in the parking lot, George will become the proprietor of the store. Among the items for sale will be the 2009 edition of the Apgar ceramic crock commemorating 35 years of reunions, Apgar notepaper, Apgar homestead sketches, and a detailed old map of the area showing properties owned by family members.

Be sure to stop by to see what else may be available.



## Phyllis Apgar, Past President of the Apgar Family Association

It is with sadness that we must report that one of our past Presidents, Phyllis P. Apgar, age 80, passed away on January 27, 2009, at her home in Long Valley, New Jersey. Many of us re-member how Phyllis and her husband, Willard S. Apgar, helped to keep our Association going in the 1990s, when the reunions were held at the Cokesbury church. The following information was taken from the obituary notice published in the Morris County Daily Record on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

Phyllis was born in Newark, New Jersey, a daughter of the late Russell H. and Ella Lucey Palmer, and had resided in Mendham, New Jersey before moving to Long Valley in 1963. She was formerly employed as a secretary at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, New Jersey. A graduate of Morristown High School in 1946, she was a charter member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Bernays Apgar Post #342 of The American Legion in Chester, New Jersey.

She was the author of a book entitled "Barney's War," a tribute to her brother-in-law, Bernays Apgar, who died in Luxembourg while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. Phyllis was also president of the Apgar Family Association from 1990 to 1997.

Mrs. Apgar and her husband, Willard, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in July 2008. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a niece, Brenda Zimmerman, of Peapack, New Jersey.



**Willard and Phyllis Apgar  
July 4, 2008**

## Why Study The 1710 Palatine Migration To Colony Of New York?

by George N. Apgar, Jr.

On September 30, 1740, Frederich and Anna Eva Schaefer Eggert arrived as immigrants in the Port of Philadelphia, Colony of Pennsylvania. Eventually they made their way to Apgar's Corner, Cokesbury, in the Colony of New Jersey. Although they were early settlers in this area, they were a generation removed from the initial wave of migration from the German Palatinate region which took place in 1709.

To understand this migration of this earlier group, a good book to read is *Becoming German: The 1709 Palatine Migration to New York*, by Philip Otterness, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, May 2004. It tells the intriguing story of the largest and earliest mass movement of German-speaking immigrants to America. During this time perhaps as many as thirty thousand people left their homes, lured by rumors that Britain's Queen Anne would give them free passage overseas and free land in America.

The Palatines journeyed down the Rhine River and eventually made their way to London, England, where they settled in refugee camps. The rumors of free passage and land proved to be false, but in an attempt to clear the refugee camps, the British government finally agreed to send about three thousand of these Palatines to the Colony of New York in exchange for several years of labor.

After their arrival, the Palatines refused to work as indentured servants and eventually settled in autonomous German communities near the Iroquois Indians of central New York. Becoming German tracks the Palatines' travels from Germany to London to New York City and into the frontier areas of New York.

The author demonstrates that the Palatines cannot be viewed as a cohesive "German" group until after their arrive in America. They came from dozens of distinct principalities in the Holy Roman Empire that made their migration even more interesting. It was only when they refused to assimilate into British colonial culture and maintained separate German-speaking communities on friendly terms with the Native American Indians that the Palatines became "Germans in America."

This book is well worth purchasing for some good summer beach reading!

# Albert Einstein & J.W. "Bill" Roberts: You Can Go Home Again!

by Lynn Conley

Last year, the day after our annual reunion, J.W. "Bill" Roberts, one of our most distinguished family members, took a trip down memory lane by visiting the university that he attended in 1943. On Sunday he went to visit his alma mater, Princeton University. He was delighted to revisit his old dorm, the dining hall and the Princeton Tiger, thanks to the kindness of Jim and Dottie Pickell, who provided transportation and accompanied him on this fun journey. Visiting the school brought back many terrific memories, in fact, Bill wrote a playful letter about his trip to his first great-granddaughter, Hannah, and his own words encapsulate the enjoyable excursion.

"Dear Hannah

"...

"I attended Princeton University with Albert Einstein 65 years ago. He was a little older than me at the time but not now. I am older now than he was when he died in 1955. He had more brains than me

at the time but I have more brains now. He was considered to be a genius, but I am smarter than he is now.

"Oh well, enough is enough. Einstein is remembered for a statement he made at one time, 'Imagination is more important than knowledge.' How do you fit in?

"One of his revelations was the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second. He used to walk around the campus eating an ice-cream cone."

Who says you can't go home again and who knew that Albert Einstein walked around the Princeton Campus eating ice-creams cones. Bill has provided a wonderful new image of a very famous man; an image that reflects the idea that it is the simple things in life that bring us the greatest joy. The simple things such as ice-cream cones, reunions and walks with friends that afford time to reminisce. Bill is a catalyst who reminds us that it is never too late to go home again and enjoy the memories of the past.

## Die Birne Kuchen

by Louanna Rich

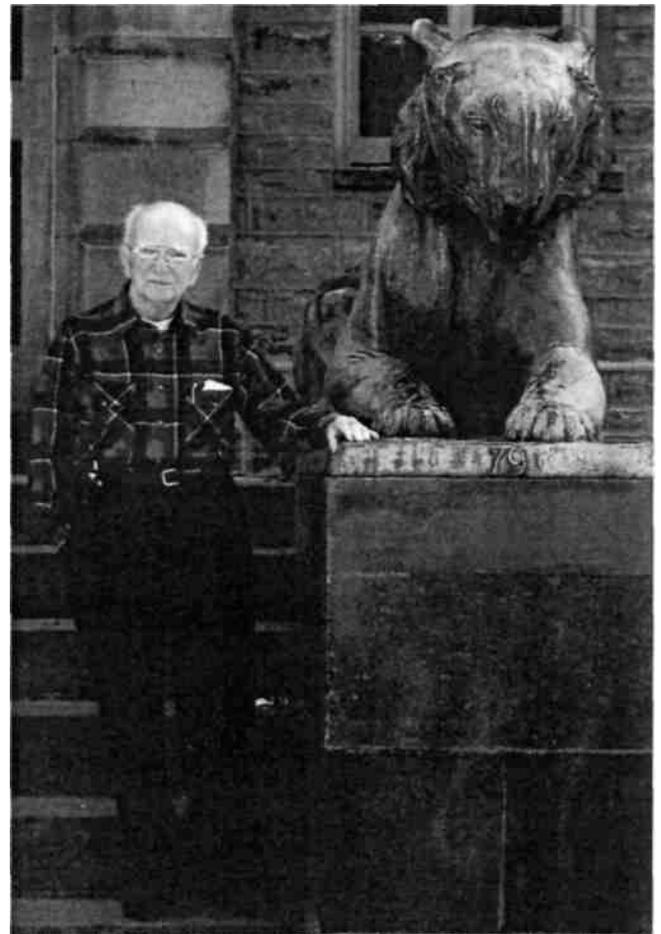
Pastry dishes were popular with 18th century German cooks. Simple to prepare and appreciated by all, "fruited dough" is popular today.

The Pear Cake ("Die Birne Kuchen") is a family recipe, updated for the 21st century.

Dough 1 cup flour  
2 tablespoon sugar  
2 teaspoon baking power  
¼ cup butter  
6 tablespoon milk  
½ teaspoon powdered ginger

Filling 7 cups peeled, cured pears cut into eighths  
¾ cup sugar  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
4 tablespoon butter  
½ teaspoon mace

Prepare double, place in a rectangular cake pan. Create an indentation in the center of the dough and prepare filling. Place the filling into the indentation in the dough. Preheat oven to 350 F. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes. Cool to room temperature before serving.



**J. W. "Bill" Roberts  
and the Princeton Tiger**

# **Diese Kiste Gehort Zu Mir** **(This Chest Belongs to Me)**

by Louanna Rich

The most important piece of furniture bought to America by our Palatine ancestors was the humble utilitarian wooden chest, the Kiste. Its contents were the foundation of the immigrants' home and livelihood in the new world.

The Kiste was a rectangular box constructed of 6 flat-planed boards, 7/8" thick joined by dovetailing. A flat lid was secured with iron or brass hinges and locks. It was decorated with carved or painted ornaments. Size varied due to function, but most chests measured approximately 20" to 26" in height, 47" to 51" in width and 21" to 28" in depth.

The great tide of Palatine immigration that began in 1683 had swelled at an alarming rate by 1717. On September 14, 1727, the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania felt the necessity to process and regulate the admission of all non-British subjects.

Most of the 60,000 Palatine refugees who entered Pennsylvania through the Port of Philadelphia were bound in indentured servitude to the ship captain in payment for the arduous journey from Europe to the bountiful province of Pennsylvania..

By 1749, the prevalent practice of the ships' crew and port officials of pillaging immigrants' baggage caused the Palatine immigrant and German printer Christopher Sauer to complain in print to Governor Robert Morris. His letters of 1749 and 1755 were ignored, however. The lack of restitution, caused Sauer and other merchants of Germantown to found the German Society of Pennsylvania on Christmas day 1764.

On May 18, 1765 Governor John Penn found the German Society's strong political force justification to sign a law protecting immigrants' goods while at sea and in the port of Philadelphia.

The first permanent homes of the immigrants usually consisted of three rooms, the kitchen, the bedroom and an all-purpose general living room. A Kiste or chest might be found in any room and in the barn.

Cabinetmaker, Abraham Overholt of Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania made pieces of furniture for local customers. By 1791, rural Pennsylvania chests had changed little since the early years of immigration. Unlike European craftsmen who used oak, Overholt used tulip poplar or Black Walnut. When prosperity permitted, painted chests were more popular than varnished black walnut chests. Abraham Overholt painted many chests in solid colors.

By the 1780's many of the same motifs which appear on Pennsylvania German wedding, birth and baptismal certificates (Fraktur) were drawn and painted on the Kiste: tulips, hearts, horses and mermaids

The Palatine custom of the Aussteuer or dowry was still observed. Pennsylvania German families, whether prosperous or poor, gave both men and women marriage chests as part of the Aussteuer. 18th and 19th century wills and account books list the marriage portion in an equal settlement of goods and property. A man's marriage chest might include farm tools, clothes, seeds and money. The dowry chest might include clothes, household textiles, pots, pans and cutlery.

The Kiste gradually passed out of fashion. No longer the most appreciated piece of household furniture, it became a storage item, relegated to the cellar or attic. Although considerable numbers of the German Kiste arrived in the Port of Philadelphia, this mundane furniture piece is rarely seen today.

A surviving descendant of the Kiste is the "hope chest," a creation of quaint Victorian sentimentality. These are factory made simple cedar chests devoid of any decoration or hand craftsmanship - a far cry from their Kiste "ancestor."

## Source

*The Pennsylvania German Decorated Chest*  
Monroe H. Fabian  
c. 1978 Universal Books, NYC.

## **Apgar Family Bibles, Diaries and Pictures**

by George N. Apgar, Jr.

Do you have any old family Bibles or diaries dating from the 18th or 19th centuries? How about tintype photographs of family members? If you do and want to be certain that they are preserved for future generations, please consider donating them to the Apgar Family Association. We will make copies of the historical pages and photos for our "virtual museum" and then donate them to Rutgers University Library in New Brunswick, where they will be available for research in the Alexander Special Collections Room. You may contact our family historian to arrange for any such gifts.

These items give us good insight on how our families worshipped in the Reformed and Methodist Churches and lived day to day in their homes. Old dairies might give us the history of life on the early farms, how the land was developed, homes and barns built and livestock raised.

# Ruth Edith (Lawrence) Apgar (1915 -2008)

by Henry Apgar, Jr.

Ruth Apgar, former trustee, died on September 26, 2008 at Manor by the Sea, Ocean Grove, NJ. She was 93. Ruth was a trustee of the Apgar Family Association during the years 1986-1997, had served as Recording Secretary and helped publish the newsletter. She had been active in many reunions and had supported her husband, Henry Elston Apgar (10.14.6.5.1), former association President, who predeceased her on June 1, 1998.

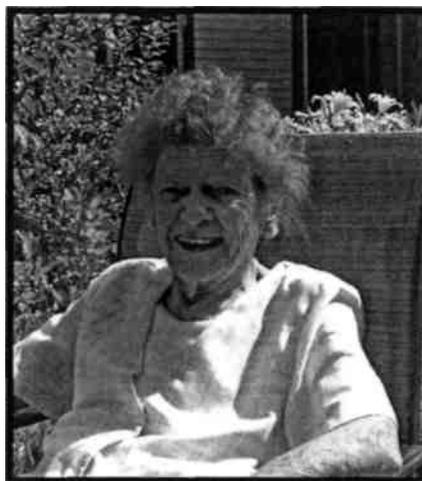
Ruth traveled to Dallas in 1994, as part of the association contingent supporting the U. S. Postal Service release of the Dr. Virginia Apgar stamp.

She was born in Plainfield, NJ, to John Benjamin Lawrence and Mary Krist DeRemer. All eight of her siblings predeceased her. She attended Plainfield schools. In 1935, she married Henry and they settled in South Plainfield, NJ, where she lived for 65 years, before retiring to Manor by the Sea (see photo).

Ruth was employed as an Accountant by the former Montgomery Ward Department Stores in Plainfield and Menlo Park for 23 years before her retirement in 1971. She was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens Council, the South

Plainfield Senior Adult Programs Advisory Council, and a member of the Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield.

She is interred in the family plot at Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains, NJ. She is survived by her three children, Henry Jr. (currently an association trustee), Virginia Henry, and Darlene Sidie, and six grandchildren, as well as three great-grandchildren.



## Mark Your Calendar Now for June 2010 ...

by George N. Apgar, Jr.

From June 17 through 19, 2010, the New York Chapter of Palatines to America, a German genealogy society, will sponsor a 300th anniversary celebration of Palatine immigration to the British colony of New York. This gathering will be held in Fishkill, New York.

Although our Apgar ancestors were not among the first arrivals who sailed up the Hudson River on eleven ships in 1710, some of our Pickell relatives were.

Plans have not been finalized, but there should be many interesting activities for the whole family. This should be a good opportunity to travel to a nearby historical area and learn more about our German heritage. Perhaps we could arrange for a group representing the Apgar family to attend together.

Help represent our family at this gathering.

If you would like more information, just call me at (732) 297-6686.

## The "Real" Apgar Store

by Roger Flartey

The Apgar General Store that we have at the reunion is nice, but the "real thing" was run by my great-great-grandfather, Conrad P. C. Apgar (6.4.8.), in Fairmount in partnership with George B. Sutton from 1858 to 1860.

Here's a picture of the old boy with Louisa, one of his daughters. Louisa was born in 1858 and her father died in 1876. Judging from her apparent age in the picture, I estimate that it was taken in the early 1870s.



# Preliminary to Revolution— The Hunterdon County Land Disputes of the 1740s

by Mike Apgar

In the spring of 1740, following a harsh winter and crop-killing heavy rains, our Apgar immigrant patriarch, Fritz Eggert, left the village of Neiderdreis, Germany, in the Palatine region now known as the "Westerwald". With him were young sons Herbert and John Peter and Fritz's new second wife, Anna Eva Schaefer.

We can only imagine Fritz's reasons for taking such action, but among them was likely pursuit of a peaceful life in a place where he could acquire his own land. Law-abiding, reverent, hard-working Germans were being recruited for America with just such promises.

Within months of landing in Philadelphia that fall, the small but growing Eggert family (Anna Eva was likely pregnant, probably with twins) moved to Hunterdon County in the colony of New Jersey. Here, the terrain and climate were similar to those of their homeland, and the area was thinly populated by other German immigrant families from their native Westerwald. Perhaps Fritz arranged to lease a site for a farm on the "quit rent" basis. That is, after 20 years of renting, he could quit renting and own the land.

Unfortunately, Fritz had settled in a hornet's nest of controversy. In February 1742, "Friedrich Apkert" was one of a number of defendants ordered to appear before the New Jersey Supreme Court. According to a State Archivist, the charge probably alleged "illegal trespass," that is, living on land to which they had no title. No further records exist in this case (No. 1242). Apparently, the matter was resolved out of court.

Researching the nature of this legal action led to a fascinating, unfamiliar story of conflict between New Jersey civil authorities and settlers. The land conflict in northern portion of New Jersey during the 1740s became an open case of widespread civil disobedience to established authority that culminated in the Revolution a generation later.

Conflicting claims to ownership of land in "West Jersey" existed from the late 1600s. The various claims to land ownership evolved by four different mechanisms.

- Through the early 1660s, the Dutch West India Company sold land to Dutch settlers (yeoman farmers).
- Following English victory over the Dutch in 1664, King James I gave the land to two well-heeled friends. They in turn gave or sold the land to "proprietors," who were principally Scottish landed gentry. The proprietors sold much of the land to the West Jersey Society, a stock company formed in 1692 by 48 wealthy men, mostly residents of London. The Society divided the area into lots and appointed agents to lease or sell them.

- During the late 1600s and early 1700s, some Dutch and later British yeoman farmers claimed to have purchased their homesteads from the local Native Americans.
- Clearing and building on unsettled land was considered to comprise ownership by German yeoman farmers during the first half of the 1700s.

Settlement on these lands by immigrant farmers during the next century spurred a clash of concepts of ownership. The wealthy parties holding titles to the land considered it part of their vast estates, while the yeomen believed that their efforts to clear and improve their property made them the rightful owners.

The West Jersey Society attempted to evict or extract payment from settlers on their lands. These wealthy proprietors understood that local juries might favor the claims of their neighbors, so they pursued efforts to evict or encumber the settlers in the State's highest courts. The Supreme Court was then comprised of the Royal-appointed Governor and two jurors selected by an assembly of landowners who held at least 1000 acres each. The Governor's son was one of the jurors. Citizen jurors were not involved.

By 1735, some settlers were arrested and carted off in chains to Perth Amboy, where the Supreme Court met. The offenders were jailed, found guilty of illegal trespass and given steep fines. Over the next decade, sheriffs demolished some illegal homes. As a result, the farmers banded together for mutual protection. This led to local disturbances, including fist fights, between yeomen "squatters" and representatives of the authorities attempting to evict them.

Soon the push back against authority became more vigorous and violent. In 1745, hundreds of farmers armed with pitchforks and scythes advanced on the jails of Perth Amboy in support of some of their neighbors who were being held there for illegal trespass. When sheriffs attempted to disperse them, the mob threatened bodily injury and prepared to assault and pull down the jail. The intimidated lawmen then released their prisoners.

Two years later, further arrests were opposed by an even larger armed mob. To quell the unrest, the authorities attempted to call up the local militia to restore order. However, the citizen soldiers refused to confront the protesters. Eventually calm was only restored by the cessation of efforts to forcibly evict settlers.

In late 1742, during this strife-plagued era, two prominent Philadelphians, William Allen and his partner Joseph Turner, leased a 3000-acre tract on the Raritan River on which they established an iron foundry. This

*(continued on next page)*

location was chosen because iron ore had been discovered in the surrounding hills, which were forested with hardwood trees that made ideal fuel.

The original "Allen & Turner" foundry expanded considerably during its initial decade of operation. In 1752, Allen and Turner purchased 10,849 acres in Bethlehem and Lebanon Townships from the West Jersey Society. This was what is now High Bridge and part of Tewksbury Township, including the area on which the "Apgar Homestead" is located.

The land purchase was done over the heads of the resident farmers, who were given no say in the matter. Property disputes remained contested through the outbreak of the Revolution in 1775. During the war, loyalist gentry were forced from their lands by the embattled revolutionaries. Allen and Turner were Tories, but Robert Taylor, an Irish immigrant headed the iron forge operation. The forge, which became the "Taylor Iron Works," supplied armaments to the American rebels.

After the war, heirs of the Turner and Allen lands decided to cash out their holdings. The land was divided into tracts and re-surveyed into lots. The resident farmers were forced to purchase their properties at prices calculated on the improved value. This meant that they were actually charged for their back-breaking labor in clearing the forest, pulling up the stumps, and building stone fences and buildings! In the 1790s, Herbert Apgar, Fritz's eldest son, had obtained title to the land on which the "Apgar Homestead" now stands. By that time, Fritz and his wife Eva were buried in a small family plot in the backyard. Herbert joined them there when he died in 1800.

So what happened to Fritz Epgert subsequent to the charges filed against him with the NJ Supreme Court in 1742? Were Fritz and his co-defendants actually arrested or evicted from the lands on which they had settled? Was Fritz's original dwelling demolished? Was the case simply unresolved in the chaotic period of the Hunterdon County land disturbances?

We can't know the answers to these questions with any certainty, but we can make an educated guess. Besides Fritz, the other named defendants in the 1742 court case were Daniel McKenney, Wm Johnston, and

Hope(?) If they remained neighbors instead of being scattered by the land owners, eventually their descendants would likely intermarry, as young men often found spouses on the closest farms. In fact, at least three of Fritz's great-grandchildren married women with these surnames as listed here and shown in the chart below.

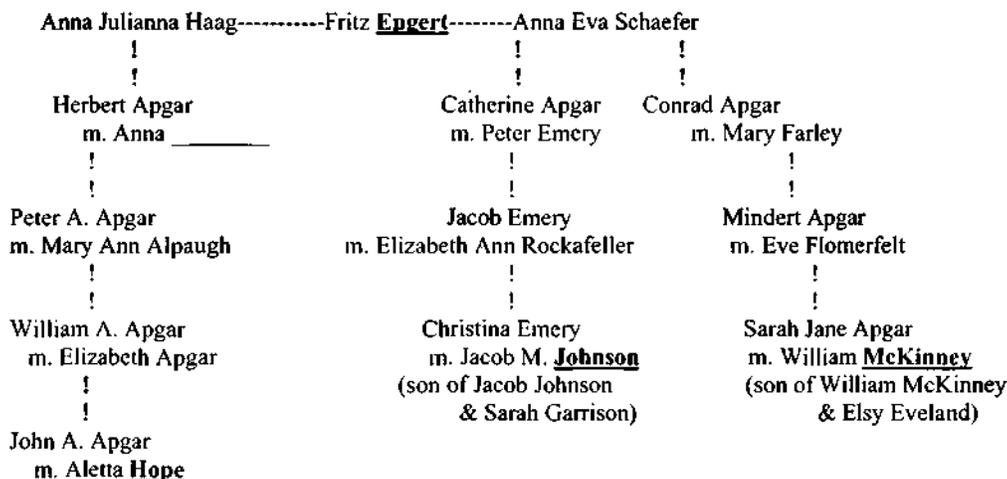
- John A. Apgar (Apgar #1.2.12., Herbert line) married Aletta Hope
- Christina Emery (Apgar #4.5.6., Catherine line) married Jacob M. Johnson
- Sarah Jane Apgar (Apgar #10.5.5, Conrad line) married Wm McKinney

All of these people were born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, although some moved - either before or after their marriages.

These matings may be coincidental, but they suggest that those original pioneer-defendants, named in New Jersey Supreme Court Case 1242, stubbornly clung together on their neighboring homesteads, and that their descendants were still neighbors several generations later. In any case, this legal action in 1742 to evict Fritz Epgert and his family may have been at least one deciding factor for their support of the Rebel side during the American Revolution.

Further recommended reading:

- 1 *Early Germans of New Jersey—Their History, Churches and Genealogies* (1898), Theodore .F. Chamberlain (1999 reprint by Clearfield Co, Inc, Baltimore, MD) 667pp.
- 2 *The Unknown American Revolution - The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America* (2005) Gary B. Nash, Viking Penguin, 517pp.
- 3 *These Daring Disturbers of the Public Peace - The Struggle for Property and Power in Early New Jersey* (1998) Brendan McConnell, 1st paperback ed. 2005 by U. of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA, 318pp.
- 4 *The Loyalists of New Jersey - Their Memorials, Petitions, Claims, etc. from English Records* (1927) E. Alfred Jones (2002 update by A. Van Doren Honeyman), Willow Bend Books, Westminster, MD, 346pp.



# Apgar Family Association Celebrates Centennial of Dr. Virginia Apgar

by Henry Apgar, Jr.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of a famous modern ancestor- Dr. Virginia Apgar (10.14.4.3.3). "Dr. Virginia," as she is affectionately known by association members, was born on June 7, 1909, in Westfield, NJ, to Charles and Emily Apgar and was a descendant of Conrad Apgar.

After putting herself through Mt. Holyoke College in 1929 (she received a BA degree in Zoology), she attended Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and earned her MD degree in 1933. By 1936, she had completed a surgical internship and anesthesia residency at Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. Despite being fourth in her class, she was up against an all-male world of medical doctors, so she returned to Columbia as Director of the Anesthesiology Division.

Dr. Virginia is best known for devising (in 1953) a simple and repeatable five-step examination, known as the "Apgar Score," applied to new-born children around the world to record vital reflexes and responses.

The February 2001 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine concluded, after monitoring the Apgar scoring of 152,000 infants at the University of Texas, that "...the Apgar scoring system remains as relevant today as it was almost 50 years ago."

She lived much of her professional life in New York City, pursuing interests in medicine, chamber music, photography, small-plane flying, roller-skating, and stamp collecting.

She never married.

Years later, she took a sabbatical to earn an MS degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and later headed the division of congenital birth defects for the March of Dimes. Soon after, she co-authored the popular book, "Is My Baby All Right? " At the time of her death on August 7, 1974, she served as Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs for the National Foundation of the March of Dimes.

This newsletter has reported many times on the association's ten-year campaign to convince the United States Postal Service to honor Dr. Virginia on the Great Americans stamp series. With support from the medical profession and many ordinary citizens, we succeeded!

**The 10-point Apgar Score for new-born infants (given one minute after birth and again five minutes later):**

- A - Appearance (skin color)**
- P - Pulse (heart rate)**
- G - Grimace (reflex irritability)**
- A - Activity (muscle tone)**
- R - Respiration**

**The attending nurse assigns a rating from 0 to 2 for each of these five factors.**

On October 24, 1994, twenty-four trustees and members, under the leadership of Association President, Phyllis Apgar, journeyed to Dallas, TX, site of the annual conference of the American Academy of Pediatrics for the first day of issue of the definitive (not just commemorative) stamp. This was a rare opportunity to meet additional Apgar stamp supporters from the medical community. The award ceremony speakers included Dr. Joseph Butterfield, from Children's Hospital in Denver and Chairman of the Apgar Stamp Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics, who hosted the Apgar Family contingent at the unveiling. It is interesting to note that in 1992, Dr. Butterfield had received the Virginia Apgar prize issued by the World Association of Perinatal Medicine.

Other award ceremony speakers included Joan Beck, the other co-author of the book, "Is My Baby All Right? " and Association First Vice President Henry Apgar Sr. who thanked the US Postal Service and the Academy of Pediatrics for honoring our cousin.

*(Continued on next page)*



**Leading the Apgar Family Association contingent at the Dallas Stamp Issuing Ceremony in 1994:**

**First row (L to R):**

**President Phyllis Apgar (holding one of the hand-made instruments), First Vice President Henry Apgar Sr. Second row (L to R): George Apgar Sr., Eric Apgar (grand nephew to Dr. Virginia), Ruth Apgar, Mary Apgar**

The audience was entertained by the Apgar String Quartet, an assemblage of physicians playing string instruments hand-made by Dr. Virginia while at Columbia University. This same group actually purchased (for \$30,000) all four instruments from private collectors and then donated them to Columbia University as a memorial to Dr. Apgar.

That same evening, Apgar Family Association Newsletter Editor Wayne Dilts spoke at the Westfield, NJ, stamp ceremony, which imported 500 first day covers canceled earlier in the day at the official stamp release site in Dallas.

This was an appropriate pilgrimage, as trustees and members of the association were instrumental in having the stamp issued by sending numerous letters to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee in Washington DC, by writing several newspaper articles advocating our



position, and getting New Jersey Bell Telephone to include a "Tele-News Item" in a monthly mailing.

I personally have carried with me, since 1994, one of the original first-day covers postmarked by a special postal service unit in Dallas. I have shown it to many people around the world who associated my name with "the score." I am always proud to tell them that "Apgar" is more than an acronym - that "she" was a real person!

In 1995, Dr. Virginia entered the National Women's Hall of Fame and, just last year, her portrait was hung in the Smithsonian as part of the Women of Our Time exhibit.

*I am indebted to several prominent people in putting together this story, including, Beverly Poelstra, the late Dr. Joseph Butterfield, and previous newsletter articles by Wayne Dilts, Wayne Apgar, Bill Reynolds, Bill Roberts, and Helena Virginia Bunn .*

## Looking for Apgars -the Best Websites

by Lynn Conley

As we search for our ancestors, making connections and finding new facts about our dearly departed relatives, using the Internet is getting easier and better. Some of the best websites are listed below and using them should help with your genealogy endeavors.

[www.ANCensusRecords.com](http://www.ANCensusRecords.com) is a great place to start your search for census records.

[www.AtoZIVlarrriages.com](http://www.AtoZIVlarrriages.com) provides marriage records in a collection of directories and genealogical information for the USA, Canada, and the UK.

[www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) is a 'fee to view' site but they have the most records of any site on the net. I am a subscriber and I think it is well worth the money. It has saved me hundreds of hours and a lot of money as I would have had to travel all over the world to obtain the information received by going on Ancestry. [www.AncestorSearch.com](http://www.AncestorSearch.com) is an interactive directory of genealogy search engines featuring genealogy database searches and lots of search help.

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmil/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmil/index.html) is the Canadian Military Heritage Project, a good site for Canadian Military Records.

[www.CensusOnline.com](http://www.CensusOnline.com) has over 20,000 neatly organized links to online census records, tax lists, city directories, and more!

[www.DistantCousin.com](http://www.DistantCousin.com) has city directories, alumni lists, cemeteries, birth, death and marriage records and more.

[www.GenealogyToday.com](http://www.GenealogyToday.com) allows you to find out what's new in genealogy; includes a meta-search across databases of queries, vital records, GEDCOMs and dozens of helpful articles.

[www.Genhelp.org](http://www.Genhelp.org) is a fantastic site which was created by five experienced and devoted genealogists who are dedicated to helping all genealogists, from novice to advanced, improve their re-search skills. They offer free articles and Genealogy Courses to assist you. It's a great site.

[www.NaturalizationRecords.com](http://www.NaturalizationRecords.com) is the best site on the net for naturalization records.

[www.OHveTreeGenealogy.com](http://www.OHveTreeGenealogy.com) has over 1,500 free databases including ship passenger lists, muster rolls, church records and much more.

[www.TheShipsList.com](http://www.TheShipsList.com) has ship passenger lists for Canada and Australia.

[www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org), the Ellis Island site, is great if you are looking for your immigrant ancestor who came to America after 1892.

[www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com) has over 264,000 links to genealogy web sites categorized and cross-referenced. You can't afford to miss this one.

[www.Familysearch.com](http://www.Familysearch.com) is the LDS Church site and is the largest free genealogy database on the net, with maps, books, helpful tips and more. If you are new to genealogy you should start your search here.

# Historical Happenings

by Judy Beck-judithb@embarqmail.com - (908) 823-0413

(Please note that the e-mail address above is new since last year's newsletter.)

While reviewing prior years' newsletters, it was noted that in most instances, the number of information items received from Apgar Family members has been decreasing. We attempt to capture "happenings" from newspapers and various internet sites. But the very best information - births, marriages, deaths and noteworthy events - comes from you! Hearing from "family" is the best way for the Association to have accurate, current genealogy. When you become aware of a happening, please inform me, our genealogist, or a trustee.

## **Deaths:**

- APGAR, Agnes Quinn - w/o 3.7.9.3.6.3.1., 80, died 5/23/09. Res: Rio Rancho, NM.
- APGAR, Arnold A. (unknown line), 75, died 8/4/08. Res: Smyrna, DE.
- APGAR, Carolyn Caywood Newton (w/o 6.4.3.6.4.3.3.), 69, died 5/14/09. Res: Crete, IL.
- APGAR, Dorothy Hachtmann (w/o 2.3.1.7.6.2.), 88, died 4/24/09. Res: San Antonio, TX.
- APGAR, Dorothy L. (unknown line), 96, died 7/08. Res: Naples, FL.
- APGAR, Elizabeth S. "Betty" (w/o 3.7.7.6.4.1.1.), 94, died 8/11/08. Res: High Bridge, NJ.
- APGAR, Glenn A. (3.7.7.2.1.7.2.1.), 58, died 12/21/08. Res: York, ME.
- APGAR, George (unknown line; s/o George & Ellen Mae Rose), 88, died 7/23/08. Res: Champaign, IL.
- APGAR, Jean Marie Smith (w/o 6.4.3.6.4.3.1.), 83, died 2/11/09. Res: Lockport, IL.
- APGAR, Julia Post (unknown line; w/o Claude), 93, died 11/20/08. Res: Jackson, NJ.
- APGAR, Julia Mary (unknown line; d/o William & Mary), 50, died 10/3/08. Res: Mission Viejo, CA.
- APGAR, Lawrence F. (2.3.1.8.1.1.1.), 65, died 1/23/09. Res: Annandale, NJ.
- APGAR, Phyllis P. (w/o 3.7.9.12.2.1.4.), 80, died 1/27/2009. Res: Long Valley, NJ.
- APGAR, Ruth E. (w/o 9.6.4.3.2.3.), 91, died 6/13/08. Res: Mansfield Twp., NJ.
- APGAR, Ruth E. Lawrence (w/o 10.14.6.5.1.), 93, died 9/26/08. Res: Ocean Grove, NJ.

- APGAR, Susan Scott (unknown line; w/o Jack), 62, died 7/5/08. Res: No. Palm Beach, FL.
- APGAR, Toby - w/o 6.2.8.1.2.3.4710.12.2.1.3.1.4, 87, died 5/31/09. Res: Bridgewater, NJ
- APGAR, Ursula Herta (w/o 3.7.7.2.1.7.4.), 82, died 12/14/08. Res: York Harbor, MA.
- APGAR, William "Bill" (unknown line), 65, died 6/12/08. Res: Upper Allen Twp., Cumberland County, PA.
- BEAM, Peter Mitchell (3.6.3.5.1.3.1.1.), 64, died 12/12/08. Res: Kingston, NY.
- CRONSHEY, Grace F. (6.4.8.8.2.6.), 94, died 9/2/08. Res: Hackettstown, NJ.
- FARLEY, Edgar H. "Irv" (1.2.3.3.2.3.5.1.), 82, died 8/11/08. Res: Lebanon Twp., NJ.
- GARRISON, Helen M. (w/o 1.2.8.6.5.1.), 84, died 3/27/09. Res: Tewksbury Twp., NJ.
- MURRAY, Richard H. (John Peter line), 78, died 5/11/09. Res: Glassboro, NJ.
- MCCATHARN, Sarah "Sally" (w/o Harry, 6.4.3.4.2.1.8., and William, 6.4.3.4.2.1.11.), 92, died 11/6/08. Res: Frenchtown, NJ.
- NYCE, Geraldine (1.2.3.6.3.2.6.), 93, died 1/8/09. Res: Califon, NJ.
- PHILHOWER, Bernard "Bernie" (3.7.7.7.5.1.7.1.), 56, died 6/21/08. Res: Glen Gardner, NJ.
- PHILHOWER, Janet E. (w/o 1.2.1.1.2.3.3.1.), 78, died 10/22/08. Res: Lexington, VA.
- SUTTON, Elsie Mae Clark (w/o 6.10.4.4.4.2.), 86, died 3/22/09. Res: Statesville, NC.

## **Births:**

- APGAR, John Castner IV, born 12/3/08 to John C. III (3.7.9.12.4.1.2.2.) and Crystal Smith.
- APGAR, Madison Faith, born 5/20/08 to Inez and Daniel Apgar (Herbert/Jacob/Conrad lines).
- SPEARANCE, Jaxon Lewis Paul, born 9/3/08 to Tim (3.5.3.1.3.3.1.2.1.) and Faith (Perkins) Spearance.

# Apgar Family Association Officers and Trustees

## Current Officers and Trustees

(years as trustee to end of current term)

**Lynn Conley** (President)  
51 High Street  
East Rutherford, NJ 07073  
(201) 460-9202  
president@apgarfamily.com  
(2002-20011)

**George N. Apgar, Jr.**  
(Vice President)  
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North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
(732) 297-6686  
vicepresident@apgarfamily.com  
(1986-2010)

**Roger Flartey** (Newsletter Editor)  
41 Bassett Avenue  
Mine Hill, NJ 07803  
newsletter@apgarfamily.com  
(2003-2009)

**Louanna Rich**  
(Corresponding Secretary)  
P O Box 52  
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(215) 674-0244  
secretary@apgarfamily.com  
(2002-2008)

**David Rich** (Treasurer)  
P O Box 52  
Hatboro, PA 19040  
(215) 674-0244  
treasurer@apgarfamily.com  
(2003-2009)

**Mike Apgar** (Genealogist)  
114 S. Fairfield Dr.  
Dover, DE 19901  
(302)698-1865  
genealogist@apgarfamily.com  
(1998-2010)

**Judy Beck** (Historian)  
3 Ferwood Ct  
Whitehouse, NJ 08889  
(908) 236-2413  
historian@apgarfamily.com  
(2001 -2005)

**Henry Apgar Jr.**  
776 Silver Cloud St.  
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trustee.henry@apgarfamily.com  
(1999-2009)

**Debbie Apgar** (Membership)  
416 Runyon Avenue  
Middlesex, NJ 08806  
(732) 968-3065  
membership@apgarfamily.com  
(2003-2009)

**Mary Carpenter** (Technology  
Coordinator and Web Master)  
P.O. Box 1256  
Edison, NJ 08818  
trustee.mary@apgarfamily.com  
(2006-2010)

**Jeanette Lesinski**  
(Recording Secretary)  
62 Morton Street  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
(732) 469-1246  
trustee.jeanette@apgarfamily.com  
(2007-2008)

**Richard Murray**  
610 Shaw Avenue  
Glassboro, NJ 08028  
(856) 881-0607  
trustee.richard@apgarfamily.com  
(2008-2011)

**Helen Apgar** (Historian Emeritus)

## Former Trustees

(years as trustee)

Cassie Apgar (1999-2002)  
Christopher Apgar (1999-2003)  
Helen Apgar (1986-1987)  
Howard Apgar (1999-2004)  
John Apgar III (1996-2002)  
John S. Apgar (1997-1998)  
Laurence D. Apgar (1999)  
Mary Apgar (1988-1997)  
Richard Apgar (1986-1990)  
Robert H. Apgar (1987-1994)  
Wayne Apgar (1988-1995)  
Reba Bloom (1986-1990)  
Dolorita Cronk (2006-2007)  
Lois Dege (2001 -2004)  
Wayne Dilts (1994-2003)  
Judy Hankinson (1996-2003)  
Jack W. Schuster (1990-1996)  
Al Tiger (1986-1997)  
Brenda Zimmerman (1991 -1997)

## Deceased Trustees

(years of life)

Barbara Apgar (1929-2001)  
Dorothy Apgar (1923-2005)  
George M. Apgar Sr. (1921-2004)  
Henry E. Apgar Sr. (1907-1998)  
Phyllis Apgar (1928-2009)  
Robert O. Apgar (1919-1995)  
Ronald F. Apgar (1940-1998)  
Ruth Apgar (1915-2008)



**Plan Ahead for Next Year...**  
**Apgar Family Association 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**  
**September 17, 2010**

# The 2008 Reunion - September 20, 2008

by Jeanette Lesinski

Before the annual business meeting in the Grange Hall, Stanton, New Jersey, Stephanie Stevens of the Hunterdon County Historical and Cultural Commission presented a very interesting talk on the "Slaves of Hunterdon County." After another hearty lunch served by the Grange staff, President Lynn Conley showed a documentary movie about how the graves of Fritz Eggert, his wife, Anna Eva Schaefer Eggert, and their oldest son, Herbert, were found on the old family homestead in Cokesbury using ground penetrating radar.

The business meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. The set of Wm. Rogers silverware set donated by Arthur Koenig and Jean Apgar Koenig was auctioned and after lively and competitive bidding it was sold for \$105.00. The silverware is now owned by Cheryl Apgar and her family. Mr. and Mrs. Koenig were very pleased that their heirloom silver now had a new home in the family and were glad that the proceeds from the sale of their gift went to the Apgar Family Association.

Recording Secretary Jeanette Lesinski handed out copies of the minutes from the last annual meeting in 2007 for all to read. The minutes were accepted as read by a motion made by George Apgar, seconded by James Pickell and approved by a vote of the members.

Debbie Apgar reported that there are 199 paid memberships. According to the attendance book, 88 adults and 4 children were present for the reunion.

Corresponding Secretary Louanna Rich explained that all gift and donation thank you cards were sent as soon as information was provided to her and that we are grateful for all the donations that were made.

Treasurer Dave Rich reported a checking account balance as of August 31, 2008 of \$3,082.22 and a CD worth \$6,902.53, maturing on May 31, 2009 for a total of \$9,984.75.

Webmaster Mary Carpenter announced that work on the first two books of Volume II of the Apgar family history is almost complete and they will soon be available on CD, along with Volume I. She also said that access to detailed genealogical information is on the website for all paid members.

Vice President George Apgar announced that the nominating committee had proposed Lynn Conley, Louanna Rich and Jeanette Lesinski for reelection as trustees for three year terms, and Richard Murray as a new trustee, also for a three year term. These nominations were accepted by the members in attendance.

Genealogist Mike Apgar discussed the materials he received from Barbara Martin, daughter of Mary Lucretia Apgar (6.2.3.4.4.3.) These consisted of letter and pictures of a German hymnal published in 1772, that belonged to Herbert Apgar's daughter Eva (1.10.).

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

Oldest male: Bill Roberts, 87, Moody, AL.

Oldest female: Mary Apgar, 82, Middlesex, NJ.

Longest married: Bill and Lois Roberts, 50 years.

Traveled farthest to attend: Hank Apgar, Thousand Oaks, CA.

Youngest child present: Maura Apgar, 5, South Plainfield, NJ (daughter of Chris and Mary Apgar).

Largest family group present: Howard Apgar, Lakeland, FL, 17 members.

Newest Member: Idalean Hasenauer, New Hope, PA.

President Lynn Conley thanked everyone for coming to the reunion and making time in their busy schedules for the Apgar Family. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Pictures of many reunion participants appear throughout this newsletter.



Jeanette Lesinski with reunion display

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## Do you want to help plan our 36th Annual Family Reunion?

You are invited to attend a workshop to begin planning the September 2010 reunion. This meeting will be held at the Hunterdon County Library on Route 12, just west of Flemington, on Saturday, November 7, 2009, from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. Please call George Apgar Jr. (732) 297-6686 or Lynn Conley (201) 460-9202 if you would like to participate.



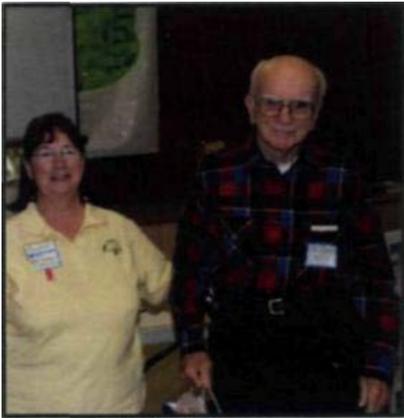
**Speaker Stephanie Stevens**



**Heirloom Silver stays in the family**



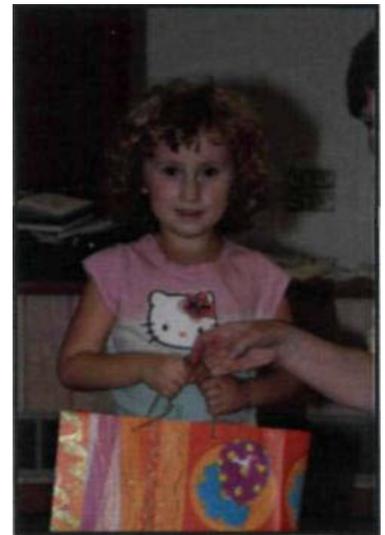
**Genealogist Mike Apgar**



**Bill Roberts, 87**



**Mary Apgar, 82**



**Moirra Apgar, 5**



**Largest Family Group, Howard Apgar, 17**



**Hank Apgar, Thousand Oaks, California**

## More Reunion Pictures



**Dolorita Wright, Harry Wright,  
Dolorita Parker**



**Matt Krainski**



**Dottie Pickell, Bill Roberts,  
Jeanette Lesinski, Tom Lesinski**



**William Sutton, Shirley Sutton**



**Rich Murray**



**Richard Kenyon, Sarah Sahaydak**



**Judy Fury, Bill Fury**



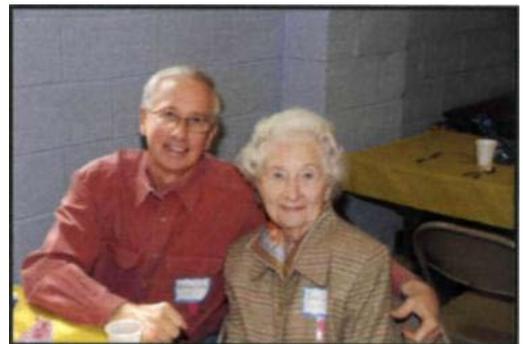
**Horace Apgar**



**Shirley Carvatt, Mary R. Carpenter**



**Ozzy Apgar, Gavin Apgar,  
Moira Apgar**



**Whitney Conley, Doris Conley**



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2009

No. 91

## The Honorable Leonard Lance Statement In Honor of Westfield's Virginia Apgar

I rise today in honor of Dr. Virginia Apgar of Westfield, New Jersey to celebrate her life and achievements with her family and friends, and with my colleagues here in the United States Congress and with the American people.

Were she still alive today Dr. Apgar would have observed her 100th birthday this month.

Born on June 7, 1909, Dr. Apgar enjoyed a long distinguished career in medicine, education, public health and devoted a significant amount of efforts to preventing birth defects of infants around the world.

Educated at Mount Holyoke College and Columbia University, she became the director of anesthesiology at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1938. In 1949, Dr. Apgar became the first full-time professor of her gender at Columbia University, overcoming the challenges for exceptionally talented women in higher education.

While millions of parents around the world in the last half of this century may not have known Dr. Apgar, they do know her last name well. The Apgar Score--which she created in 1952--is a straightforward and efficient system designed to evaluate the vital signs of newborns at birth. It is still in use today around the world.

The method she developed was the first time in public health that addressed the needs of newborns in the very early minutes of their life after birth. The Apgar Score measures a newborn's appearance, pulse, grimace, activity and respiration. It has helped predict newborn survival and reduce infant mortality. Her efforts have changed the lives of millions.

Dr. Apgar was a dedicated advocate of the March of Dimes. She initiated programs to promote rubella immunization for infants and helped convene the first Committee on Prenatal Health, which produced a milestone study on the regionalization of pre-natal care in the United States in 1976.

While Dr. Virginia Apgar is not with us today, I would like to commend her for her lifetime of achievements. Not only do parents around the world appreciate her Apgar Scores, she has made numerous contributions to infant health.

It is my pleasure to remember Virginia Apgar on the anniversary of her 100th birthday and share her wonderful life story with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people.