



# Apgar Family Association Newsletter

Issue 36

Summer 2015

Price \$3.00 (Free to Members)

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## You are Invited to our 41st Reunion on September 19, 2015, at the Stanton Grange Hall in Lebanon

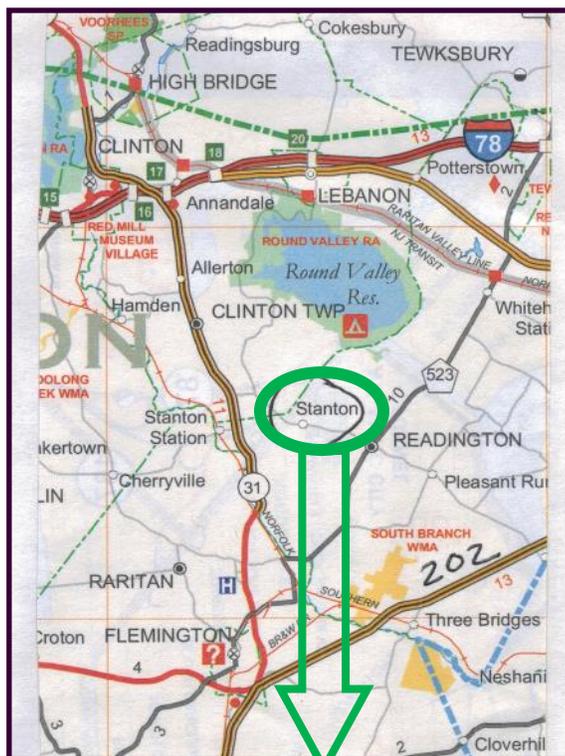
Your 41st Apgar Family reunion will be held on **Saturday, September 19**, at the Stanton Grange Hall in Lebanon, New Jersey. As with all our reunions, this unique coming-together is a time for learning, sharing stories and visiting with old friends and family. It is our annual opportunity to explore our heritage and discover more about who we are as Apgar descendants. Our 2015 theme is **"How to tell our family stories."**

Our main speaker this year will be **Denise McCormack**. She is a professional story teller. Her program will focus on **how to tell our own story**. See page 3 for her background.

The reunion will include a **family style hot lunch** for \$15.00 (half price for children under 10). See page 2 for the menu. You may pay at the door.

There is **no charge** to attend the reunion. Bring your family and friends.—and be prepared for "Show and Tell."

**But, We Need to Know** if you are coming so we can plan how much food to prepare. So, please return the **Reunion RSVP** which came with this newsletter.



## Driving Instructions

The Stanton Grange Hall is at **16 Route 618, in Lebanon (Stanton), New Jersey 08833**. Use this address to set your GPS unit.

Take Route 618 East; from US 31. Exit is about 5 miles north of the Flemington traffic circle (US 202), and about 4 miles south of Interstate 78.

The Grange hall is on the left at the crest of the hill, about 1/4 mile from US 31. Look for the Apgar Family sign and the **tan building**.

## Saturday Schedule

- 10:00 am Check-in: Coffee and Homemade Baked Goods
- 10:40 am Opening Remarks
- 11:00 am Genealogy Exchange, Show & Tell
- 11:30 am Main Speaker
- 12:30 pm Annual Group Photo
- 12:45 pm Family Style Lunch
- 2:15 pm Show & Tell
- 3:00 pm Business Meeting
- 4:00 pm Close: Safe Journey



**Stanton Grange Hall in 2004 with the late George Apgar Sr., our Reunion Greeter, descended from Hanah Pickel and Jacob Apgar Lines.**

## Plans for our 2015 Reunion on September 19th

### Apgar Family Store

Shop at our **Apgar Family Store** for souvenir crocks, coffee mugs, T-shirts, tote bags, and colonial merchandise.



Store Master Robert Apgar is looking for a few volunteers to staff our Apgar General

Store during the Reunion Meeting., starting at 9 am. Contact Robert Apgar at 908.595.1324



Carol Apgar and Kristie Apgar have been store volunteers

### Planned Weekend Activities

- ◆ **Reunion setup** at Grange Hall, Friday evening, Sept 18 at 5:30pm; contact Karen to volunteer.
- ◆ Willing to help George **park cars** (wagons) at the Saturday reunion,? Call George at (732) 297-6686 to volunteer.
- ◆ George is organizing a **group dinner** the Friday (September 18) before the reunion at **The Clinton House** (a real English Tavern) at 2 West Main St in Clinton, exit 15 off of Route 78. To confirm schedule and to secure a reservation (space is limited), call George.



Clinton House in 1920

### Share Lunch with Family—\$15 - half price for children

- ◆ Baked Ham
- ◆ Rolls & Salad
- ◆ Dessert
- ◆ Coffee, Tea & Cold Beverages



### Meet with your Historian and Genealogist

Help keep our records (our Genealogy CDs) up to date. Bring items for show-and-tell such as **photographs, diaries, newspaper clippings, quilts and other family heirlooms**, and original genealogical research.

George suggests we prepare to discuss the prevalent attitude 100 years ago when negative opinion about German-American citizens reflected national prejudice against the German war machine. Many Germans anglicized their names.



### 2015 Store Feature Item

The 2015 Family Crock (with lid) will be available in limited quantities at the Apgar Family Store for \$35.

Alternatively, this item may be pre-ordered by mail (postage is extra) from George at (732) 297-6686.

Limited supply of 2013 (Fractur Goblet \$25) and 2014 (German Barn Goblet \$25) crocks are still available.

**New Apgar Family Crock for 2015—\$35**

### What is a Grange Hall?

The Grange is a fraternal organization, founded in 1867, to help heal the social wounds inflicted by the Civil War. Grange Halls are located mostly in rural areas of Eastern States. The New Jersey State Grange was organized in 1873 and its membership came mostly from farming communities. Activities are planned for family members of all ages, starting at age five.

The Grange has often been described as an organization of farmers with a secret ritual. This probably reflects the backgrounds of the seven founding fathers in 1867, of whom several were masons and all were farmers. the heritage is based on teaching that "grass is the basis of agriculture; without it, the earth would be an arid, barren waste."

Grange meeting places are available to the general community. We are pleased to have been able to hold our reunions for nearly a decade at the **Stanton Grange Hall**.



### Consult with your Webmaster

Not sure what family line you are from? Mary will be happy to search through our electronic records to help you out. She can also scan any documents or updates you bring to the reunion, or can photograph family keepsakes, you'd like to put on display in our on-line Virtual Museum.

And if you have any interest in ethnic knitting (see Mary's article on page 11), you can browse some interesting books from Mary's knitting library.

See page 16 for more information on our web site and how you can order one or more genealogy database CDs.

## A Message from our Association President — Karen Prince-Steinberg

For those who do not yet know me and vice versa, I am looking forward to meeting all of you come September.

Humbled by the confidence you have shown in electing me your President, I want to assure you that the goals of the Apgar Family Association remain the highest priority for all our trustees. Our by-laws direct our efforts to discover, record; update and publish our genealogy; preserve family artifacts, documents, records and items of interest; promote goodwill and friendship among members; hold an annual reunion; and publish and circulate a family newsletter.

It is my belief that promoting goodwill and friendship will facilitate most of our goals. I welcome each idea that brings us closer as family. I hope you noticed and answered the questions in our membership flyer. If interest is there, we will publish an Apgar Family directory.

Our trustees are a wonderful group of dedicated souls who continue to pitch in wherever and whenever needed. They are committed to a three-year term, as per our by-laws. Most have

done so for far longer. It is our hope that we can entice several of you to join us. We look forward to adding your talents and fresh ideas to our talented and industrious crew.

To quote Mike Apgar: "We never let the facts get in the way of a good story." As genealogists, we strive to document our lineage. As humans, we long to hear the story surrounding the facts. Our theme this year is "Telling Our Stories".

It is our hope that we gain the skills that help us tell a story that others just cannot wait to hear.



Karen Prince-Steinberg

*Karen*

## Introducing our 2015 Reunion Speaker— Denise McCormack

In keeping with our reunion theme, "**How to tell our family stories,**" we are pleased to present **Denise McCormack, professional story teller.** Her story telling programs are suitable for all ages and venues.

Denise McCormack delights with traditional, fractured, and original tales as well as classic literature and myth. Through a thematic repertoire of stories, poems, and songs, audiences share a unique experience that fosters communication, learning, and – most importantly,



Denise McCormack  
(Web site photo)

fun. Denise performs at libraries, booksellers, literacy events, museums, street fairs, festivals, schools, and – at the 205 Apgar Family Reunion.

It's been said that storytelling builds character, cultural literacy, comprehension, vocabulary, listening skills, memory & recall.

Denise is a member of the New Jersey Storytelling Network, the Garden State Storytellers' League, the National Storytellers League, National Storytelling Network and Princeton Storytelling Circle.

## Why Tell Stories? by Karen Prince Steinberg

Storytelling is a universal language. Before we had the written word, our ancestors communicated using sound movements and gestures. All cultures use it as a vehicle to pass on their morals, values and customs, as well as impart information. A Cheyenne storyteller describes stories as gifts to be given and received.

Storytelling is the way that we learn naturally. We are "hard wired" for stories. Making the connection between cause and effect is the way we think. As our senses experience the events in a story, other areas of our brains are activated, enhancing our ability to remember and assimilate a story into our own ideas and experience.

We are exposed to stores every day, primarily through television shows, movies and advertising. The media is acutely aware that stories have the power to influ-

ence mood and emotions. Advertisers know that emotional responses win out over rational thought. They use this to influence our purchasing choices and customer loyalty. As narrative theorist Marshall McLuhan wrote "the medium is the message"

**Every effective story contains two essential elements. First it must capture and hold our attention. Second, it must have the ability to transport us into the characters' world. A story that is personally and emotionally compelling engages more of the brain and is better remembered than a mere statement of facts.**

Teachers utilize storytelling as a strategy to increase learning. They have noted positive effects to include: improved listening comprehension and the ability to

form mental images, enhanced memory and increased attention spans, decreased fear of public speaking, enhanced writing skills, heightened sensory imaging, emergence of new vocabulary, fostering of understanding and empathy toward others and the ability to bring characters, settings and events to life.

As individuals, telling our stories helps us internalize and integrate what we have learned. It can help us make meaning of our lives as well as satisfy our need to be seen and heard. Telling stories strengthens our imagination (the basis for creativity), which in turn enhances our problem solving abilities. It supports both our speaking and listening skills. Because storytelling conveys both information and emotion it lends to creating intimacy between the teller and listener.

With practice, as we respond to the cues of our listeners, it can help us to be more spontaneous.

The very best excuse for telling a story is that it's FUN

## Meet Your Trustees and Officers for 2015

### Karen Prince-Steinberg, President (Trustee)

Like many others, Karen began her genealogical journey with the help of online resources. Then, a trip to the Round Valley Methodist Cemetery was where she espied a monument that indicated she had Apgar lineage from the Jacob line.



A Facebook message to her childhood neighbor, Linda Apgar, provided the impetus to call George and attend her first Apgar Family Reunion in 2012.

A trustee since then, Karen has recorded our re-union minutes in the absence of a Recording Secretary. As President, she coordinates the efforts of our officers and trustees to ensure the objectives of the AFA.

An RN for over 28 years, Karen is now enjoying time out of the work force. The mother of three grown children (1 son and 2 daughters), she resides in Raritan, NJ.

### Mary Reilly, Vice President (Trustee)

Mary began her genealogy journey in 2011 on ancestry.com. It was the Hunterdon Historical Society that suggested she contact George. At his invitation, she attended her first re-union in 2012.



A member of the Jacob line, she has Pickel lineage as well.

Hailing from Mt. Arlington NJ, Mary is blissfully single.

As a medic in the Navy she has lived in Maryland, Illinois, Georgia, Athens Greece & Philadelphia. Upon leaving service, Mary became an RN, working many years in the NYU neurosurgical unit. She continues to work per diem.

She is an avid baker—known for her international cookie confections.

### Mary Carpenter, Recording Secretary and Webmaster (Trustee)

Mary's first exposure to Apgar genealogy was at family picnics where the family tree was displayed, first on the side of the barn at her great aunt's house and later along the fence at her grandmother's home.



That interest grew in the 1990's during evenings spent using the on-line resources, while she adjusted to the quiet life of a single mother of a disabled child. Mary's first web-site, started in 2005, was of course for her family genealogy now named [www.maryfamilytree.me](http://www.maryfamilytree.me).

Development of that site brought her to a trustee meeting later that year and subsequently her first term as a trustee in 2006. Mary is descended from the Herbert line.

### David Rich, Treasurer (Trustee)

Dave has been a trustee since 2004. At the same time he was elected to the office of treasurer.



Dave was born in Philadelphia, Pa. He moved to Hatboro at age of 23, where he continues to reside.

He worked for a railroad labor union for forty years until his retirement in 2006. He worked as an auditor for the union which required him to travel from Maine to Florida checking the financial records for each union local lodge.

Once retired Dave became interested in local activities within the borough of Hatboro.

Those activities continue to keep him busy.

### Jeanette Lesinski, Corresponding Secretary (Trustee)

Jeanette Lesinski has been a trustee since 2008 presently serving as Corresponding Secretary. Both



she and her husband Tom are life-long residents of New Jersey.

On reunion day, she has helped out at the Apgar General Store as well as with setup and cleanup.

Interest in Apgar family genealogy began when she received many old family pictures and memorabilia from her paternal grandmother, who was born and raised in Califon NJ. In addition to researching her German ancestors she also enjoys searching for records from her maternal Italian ancestors.

### George Apgar Jr., Trustee

George Jr. was our first Secretary and has since served as Vice President, President, and Newsletter Editor. He has been a trustee since 1996.

Since 2007, George Jr. has been greeting and parking reunion attendee cars (wagons) at the Stanton Grange.

George is descended from German (Apgar Jacob line), Scottish, and Polish ancestors. He realized an interest in colonial history while in high school. Then, while attending a college lecture by Alex Haley, he realized his real interest was in genealogy.

He currently works as a living historian in his 18<sup>th</sup> century Jersey Palatine descendant village, appearing as Jersey Poor Palatine Patriot Georg. Each year, George designs a new family crock for sale in the Apgar Store.



## Meet Your Trustees and Officers for 2015

### Mike Apgar, Genealogist (Trustee)

Mike attended his first Apgar Reunion in 1991 as a Civil War re-enactor. At the time, Mike insists that he was 6'10" and considering a pro basketball career. However, within a few years, he was lured into becoming a Trustee by the promise of a large salary (which has yet to eventuate). Life, gravity, the burden of lots of family knowledge (and of course the disappointment over AFA pay), have whittled Mike down considerably.



After researching Apgars' in the Civil War and participating in identification of our family patriarch and German genealogy, Mike, a retired geologist, has arranged for the location of our immigrant ancestors on the Homestead and delved into our deeper roots through DNA.

Mike is descended from Herbert, John Peter, and Catharine. lines

### Robert Apgar, Store Master (Trustee)

While attending the Branchburg County Fair in 2010, an encounter with Wayne Apgar was the spark that brought Robert to his first AFA re-union. Already in the process of investigating his genealogical roots, he discovered he is descended from the Johannes Adam, Catherine & Herbert lines.



Originally from Irvington, he currently lives in Branchburg with his wife & daughter, Bridgett. As an employee of Johanna Foods for 31 years, he has made many historical/Apgar connections.

An avid reader, who likes history & gardening, Robert is an active church member. He has been a trustee since 2012.

### Henry (Hank) Apgar Jr. Newsletter Editor (Trustee)

Hank has been a trustee since 1999 and has served several tours of duty as Newsletter Editor.



Although a native of New Jersey, Hank now lives in Southern California. During his spare time, he enjoys travel and photography.

His curiosity with Apgar family genealogy was stimulated during his Air Force assignment to Germany during the 1960s, enhanced during a 1997 search for Apgar roots in the German Palatine area (around Epgert), and seasoned during a 2006 trip with Mike and Carol Apgar to represent AFA at the 750th anniversary of Puderback.

Hank is descended from the Conrad line.

### Lois Pfeffer, Trustee

On a senior bus excursion to St. Augustine Florida, Lois became aware of the AFA through a woman who shared a copy of our newsletter.



Our website brought her in contact with George, who invited her to our reunion.

A member of the Herbert line, Lois is an active member of the Emanuel Evangelical Congregation in Bethlehem, NJ.

An employee of the State of NJ, Lois worked at the Belvidere Court House before retiring in 2002. The mother of 2 daughters, Lois has lived in the same house in Phillipsburg since birth.

Lois enjoys her Puggle Harley, scrapbooking and bowling with the Seniors of the Warren League.

### Debbie Apgar, Membership (Trustee)

Debbie became a trustee in 2003, when she accepted responsibilities of Membership Chair following Barbara Apgar. She attended her first reunion in 1974 at the Geist Family homestead after her brother spotted an announcement in her local newspaper.



Debbie assumed responsibility for making the afghan/blanket each year for our annual raffle after the work of Eleanor Hankinson, who started the tradition.

Helping the Newsletter editor, Debbie (with help from Mary Carpenter, family and friends) produces our annual newsletter by arranging for the printing and doing the mailing.

She enjoys learning about American history and the contributions that the Apgar family has played - particularly by Dr. Virginia Apgar of the Conrad line.

Debbie is descended from the Jacob line.

### Judy Beck, Historian

Judy became interested in the Apgar Family Association through her Father, William Walters.

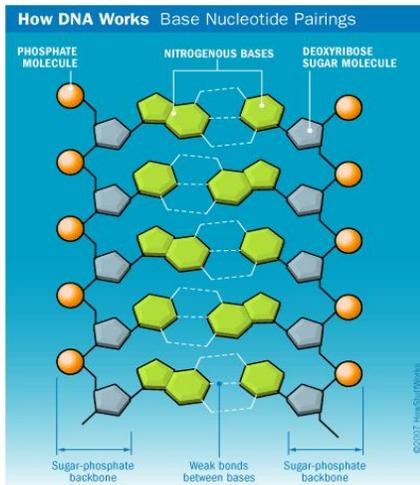
Upon his retirement, he started working on his genealogy and attended Apgar Reunions which Judy would often attend with him.



Judy, a Johnson & Johnson retiree, has a son, Ken, a daughter-in-law, Kelly, and two terrific grandsons, Kenny and Kevin. She is a Hunterdon Hospice and American Red Cross volunteer, is active in the Clinton Presbyterian Church, and is on the Board of her Homeowners' Association.

A former Apgar Family Association trustee, Judy is descended from the Jacob line.

## “Snakes, Snails and Puppy Dog Tails” - The Apgar DNA Project by Mike Apgar



One of the initial objectives of our family DNA project was to determine whether we are close relatives of “Otzie the Iceman”, the Copper-age guy whose remains were discovered frozen in a glacier near the border of Italy and Austria. Such a finding might have supported the old family tale that the Apgars came to Germany over the Alps from Italy. It turned out that we aren’t Otzie descendants.

DNA testing is a popular means of solving crimes and paternity tests. “DNA” is shorthand for a complex molecule carried in each cell of every living organism on Earth. It functions as the instruction manual for assembly and operation of every living thing and can be likened to a “bar code” to identify each one of us. At conception we inherit half our DNA from each of our parents. As a result, our genetic makeup is a random arrangement derived from each of our ancestors.

However, only males possess a Y-chromosome, which is what determines their sex. This chromosome is passed from father-to-son, generally without any changes. Periodically a copying error or random mutation occurs during transmission. Thus, the Y-chromosome can be used to trace paternal ancestry. According to the convention of our civilization, men pass on the family surname to their sons, so the Y-chromosome is evidence of family history.

A decade ago DNA testing became commercially available for hobbyist genealogists as a means to uncover deeper family history than could be gleaned from the few centuries (at most) of historical documents. The analysis was made of a limited number of “marker” sights on the

Y-chromosome.

Our Apgar family lines are derived from descendants of each of the children of our immigrant ancestor, Friedrich “Fritz” Eggert. Fritz arrived in Philadelphia in 1740 from his homeland in what is now in the Rhineland section of the modern German state Rhineland-Pfalz. Fritz, his traceable German ancestors, and his American descendants should all share the same Y-chromosome.

Consequently the initial step in our project was a comparison of the DNA (Y-chromosome only) of a few individuals representative of several of our family lines. Each analytical result differed by only a single point in a 37-marker test. This proved that that each of the men tested were descended from the same individual ancestor about 10 generations ago (in accordance with our painstakingly assembled family genealogy. The observed variation was anticipated at the expected rate of mutation. To our great relief, it also was evidence of the faithful conduct of every one of the Apgar women. None of the tested representatives were descended from another sperm donor (such as a straying neighbor, the travelling tinker or the milkman)!

Our family Y-chromosome is a member, in genetic jargon, of Haplogroup R1b. This is the most commonly carried Y-chromosome in the current population of Western Europe. The results excited the geologist in me, because they have been most useful in identifying our “deep” family history. This includes both the position of the “Apgar marker gene” on the human family tree as well as the wanderings of our earliest ancestors as they spread across the globe from Africa.

Based on many thousands of tests on people around the world, the expert opinion is that our Apgar Y-chromosome has made quite a trip (as outlined in the table). It was carried by the initial Homo sapiens hunter-gatherers to reach Western Europe, about 33,000 years ago. These were the “Cro-Magnon” people who left the earliest figurines (mostly frequently rotund female figures) and remarkable cave paintings. It also turns out that ancestors must have lived south of the Alps, where they were forced to seek refuge from the last great Ice Age. (Remember those poor shivering characters the next time you complain about cold winter weather!)

**A further tidbit, obtained from National Geographic’s Genographic Project is that the Apgar Y-DNA bears evidence of descent from several more ancient, once-thought extinct, human species. This includes 1.4% Neanderthal and 0.4% Denisovan markers.**

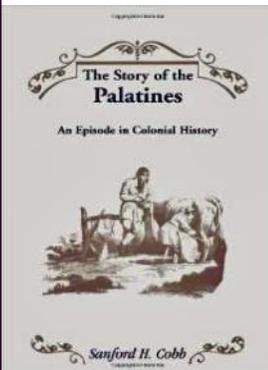
Subsequently we have purchased additional DNA tests, identifying us by the more-detailed code R1b1a2aa1a1. There are no really close matches (ancestors) known at this time, but intriguing matches (distant “cousins”) are continuously being added by our contractor FamilyTreeDNA. Their website FamilyTreeDNA.com contains a wealth of information on genetic genealogy. Our results have also been added to several regional genealogical database projects, including German DNA.

Event/location	Approximate Time (years ago)	Number of Generations ago
Arrival in America	<300	10
Adoption of agriculture	4,000	200
Repopulation of northern Europe	10,000-12,000	600
Last Maximum Glacial advance (refuge in Spain or Italy?)	25,000	1,300
Entry to Europe	33,000	1,700
Southwest Asia	40,000	2,000
Shore of Persian Gulf	50,000	2,500
Exit from Africa	60,000	3,500
Homo sapiens appears in East Africa	200,000	10,000
Genus “homo” evolves in Africa	2,000,000	>100,000

## The Genealogy Reference Shelf

### The Story of the Palatines (1897) by Hank Apgar

In the last newsletter, Lynn Conley described the book, "Germans in New Jersey, which was later used by the author, Dr. Peter Lubrecht, as the basis for his presentation at the 2014 reunion.



I found another book of similar interest which I would recommend to genealogists and to anyone interested in the history of German Palatines before their emigration to America. "**The Story of the Palatines—An Episode in Colonial History**" by Sanford Cobb, was originally published in 1897. I was able to order a reprint from Amazon.

The book covers the Palatine communities in Germany, their great exodus to the American colonies in the early 1700s, and their eventual settlement in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the Carolinas, and Virginia. The German author was a minister who served in the Palatine churches and then emigrated to the colonies.

The first major contingent from the Palatinate to America was of a small company of Lutherans who, in 1705, fled from persecution at Wolfenbuttel and Halberstadt. They went first into Holland and then, in 1707, embarked for New York – a three to five month journey. Due to storms at sea, their vessel was driven South and ultimately found harbor in Philadelphia. Still determined to get to New York, they set out overland but soon were distracted by the beauty and fertility of the Schooley's Mountain range (at the border of what is now Morris County) and decided that no more desirable place of habitation could be found. Neither the crown nor the provincial government seemed concerned about them so there they stayed.

Shortly, the size of the companies and the frequency of the ships bringing Palatinates to the colonies increased rapidly. Cobb reports that, in 1710, about three thousand Germans emigrated West, including one fleet of ten very crowded English ships sailing from Holland.

We know, from other sources, that Friedrich "Fritz" Eggert arrived in Philadelphia on September 30, 1740, on the ship "Robert & Elizabeth" sailing out of Rotterdam.

### Tillers of the Soil (2014)



by George Apgar Jr

In her 7<sup>th</sup> history book, Hunterdon County Historian Stephanie Stevens has profiled 40 Hunterdon families who have farmed their land from two to 10 generations (many were Palatinates). This 94-page book, with photographs, salutes farmers as keepers of the harvest and sustainers of life. Stevens wrote the book as a tribute to the county's farming heritage as the county celebrates its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Most farmers in the book have preserved their land to assure continued agriculture use. Farms in every township in the county are represented.

Unfortunately, the book does not seem to be conveniently available from internet bookstores such as Amazon but can be purchased (for \$7) from the Planning Office in the County Complex off Route 12 in Flemington.

## Researching in Hunterdon County

by Karen Prince-Steinberg

Did you know that the Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library, located in the Hunterdon County Historical Society building on 114 Main Street in Flemington NJ, has the largest collection of historical and genealogical material in Hunterdon County ?

They are open to the public every Thursday 12-4 PM and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 10-4 PM.



Come prepared to take notes armed with your pencil and a note pad. Digital cameras and laptop computers are also permitted. Ink pens are prohibited, as are food & drink. In consideration of others cell phones use is not allowed.

Visit their website @ hunterdonhistory.org to see in advance if their collections will meet your needs.

## Genealogy Meetings by George Apgar Jr.

In **November, 2014**, George Apgar (Poor Palatine Geog) represented the Apgar Family Association at the **300th Hunterdon County Celebration Committee** luncheon held at the Oldwick Tewksbury Inn.

The group later toured the local **Zion Lutheran Church**. Before Lebanon Reformed Church was finished, early Apgars had to travel from Cokesbury to New Germantown (now Oldwick) to worship. Zion is the oldest Lutheran Church in New Jersey, founded in 1714.

Next year, **June 13, 2016**, the Zion Lutheran Church will host the **New Germantown Valley History Conference** with the theme, "**1713 Palatines begin to settle colonial New Jersey.**" Call (732) 297-6686 (George Apgar) or (908) 439-3054 for more information.



Zion Lutheran Church in 1906

Another meeting of interest this year (June 6, 2015) is the **Pennsylvania German Society 125th Annual Meeting** at Lancaster Church of the Brethren, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.. The theme is "**A Century of Pennsylvania Dutch Research 1915-2015.**" local contact: (717) 597-7940.

## September 20, 2014 Apgar Family Association Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 2:50 P.M. by 2014 President Lynn Conley. In lieu of reading the minutes from the 2013 Apgar Family Reunion, it was recommended that members refer to them in their newsletter, either online or hard copy.

**Mike Apgar** made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Dr. Larry Frazee seconded the motion and they were accepted as written.

The report of Apgar Officers was started by **David Rich**, our treasurer. He presented a written report that stated our balance as of 09/01/2014 was \$7,807.53. Our receipts (lunch deposits, membership dues, & donations) totaled \$3,906.00. Our disbursements (Stanton Grange luncheon, 2012 & 2013 Reunion Speaker Fees, Memorial Donation to Stanton Grange, other reunion expenses, expenses for 2013 & 2014 newsletter/invitation printing & postage fees) totaled \$4,979.15. This gave us a balance of \$6,734.38. Including the current balance in our C.D. of \$8,123.46, the Apgar Family Association has total assets of \$15,924.86.

**Debbie Apgar**, Membership, noted that will have about 85+ attendees at today's reunion. We currently have 185+ paid members. She noted that dues have not been raised for many years, she took time to recognize and thank the 27 members who have made extra donations during this past year. She also noted that our dues are spent largely on the printing of our newsletter and our reunion. Debbie also shared that she was sent a copy of the Alumnae Quarterly from Mount Holyoke College, recognizing our own Virginia Apgar, who is herself an alumnae "29" and hold many of her papers and personal items. Debbie had also received communication from descendants of George & Sharon Epker who had hoped to come from California to attend but were unable, they sent along a kitchen towel from Apgar Village in Glacier National Park to include with our artifacts. **George Apgar** suggested



that we find someone who could copy the design so we could sell it at the Apgar store. Debbie agreed to look into this. **Karen Prince-Steinberg** questioned if an unauthorized reproduction might constitute a copy right infringement and others talked of coming up with our own design.

**Mary Carpenter**, our Technology Coordinator and Webmaster, noted

that we are patient people. Her health and work concerns are both improving and now she can devote time to the Apgar Association Website and DVD projects.

**Judy Beck**, our Historian, has asked us to keep her abreast of any events such as births, deaths, anniversaries. She noted that the use of a woman's maiden name is not used as routinely in obituaries as it had been in the past, making our female descendants harder to track. We therefore need members to send in obits for their family members, epically for our women descendants.

**Mike Apgar**, our Genealogist, also made note of our patient nature. The **grave markers** the association had ordered for **Fritz Apgar, Anna Eva Schaffer and Herbert Apgar**, which have been in storage in Flemington, are at the reunion. The grave markers have been at the monument maker since a year after the graves were identified by a geophysical survey in 2005. They are in the back of his station wagon should anyone want to view them. The Apgar Association is working on getting them placed in the cemetery plot located at the homestead. [See associated story on page 13.]

**Karen Prince-Steinberg**, came forward to thank the Association for the lovely spray of flowers sent in November 2013 to comfort the passing of her mother, whose lineage brought her to the Apgar Family.

### Name Match Game

Prior to the business meeting, a matching game of famous Apgars with their

contributions to our nation was played. The winners of our **Apgar in America Game** were:

1. **James Apgar** from Highland



Park with 11 correct answers

2. **Kristy Apgar** with 9 correct answers.

[Imagine if we had included ancestors and descendants who no longer carry the Apgar surname to

the list of individuals who have made a significant difference in our nation's history.]

### Raffle and Prizes:

**Michelle Apgar Mazingo** held lucky



raffle ticket # 792130, drawn by Moira Apgar, to win the Hunterdon County Tercentennial Throw.

Prizes were given to attendees in the following categories:

- Most Senior male: **Howard Apgar**, 92, of High Bridge, NJ.
- **Doris McDowell**, 90 years & 7 months, who was born in the Apgar Homestead, and drove here today to join us. What a joyous surprise.



- Youngest Member: **Moira Apgar**, of Oakdale, MN.



- Travelled the farthest: **Shannon Kurtz Apgar** from Alaska, born in Anchorage
- Newest Married: **Howard Apgar & Diane Fowler** of Florida (May 2014)



- Newest Members: **Patricia & Ronald Barber** from Glen Gardner
- Largest Family: **Chris Apgar, Moira Apgar, Gavin Apgar, Shannon Apgar-Kurtz, Lesley Apgar, Jim Apgar, Kristie Apgar, Leah Apgar, James Apgar, Howard Apgar, Diane Fowler, Doreen Apgar, Olin Apgar, Kim Apgar, Mike Apgar, Joyce Apgar, and Kim Costa.**



Photos on these two pages were provided by **Megan Krainski**. Thank you, Megan!



**New Business:**

1. On the 3rd Saturday of September, we will hold our 2015 reunion again here at the Stanton Grange. All those willing to help with planning and set up are welcome, please let us know if you can be of assistance.

2. **Darlene Sidie** will no longer be able to help us with our newsletter as Editor and a volunteer is needed to be fill this committee position. The job of Editor consists of putting the articles/pictures in the format of a newsletter and sending to the printer.

3. We would like to go forward with laying the gravestones in the portion of land that is deeded to our Association as a cemetery plot on the **Apgar Homestead property located on Cokesbury Road.**

We have already paid for the stones and their placement. The owner **Dave Mills**, had only requested that the stones lay flat so that he could mow over them.

Sadly, Dave Mills has passed on however and we are doing our best to work out the particulars with his widow. It is clear that a cemetery plot is in the deed and therefore must remain a cemetery. One of our attendees was wondering if we would need a right of way to visit them.

4. In 1986 our Apgar Family Association became incorporated. Our treasurer is required to submit a report each year to the State of New Jersey. Since this time we have done genealogical research and discovered that our patriarch was in fact Fritz, not Johann Peter. **Lynn Conley** made the suggestion that we might want

to look into revising the preamble to our Certification of Incorporation to merely change the name of our patriarch only. We would need to publish our intent in our next newsletter, vote on it at our 2015 Apgar Reunion Business Meeting, so that it could become official the following year, 2016.

5. **Lynn Conley** read from the Apgar Family By-Laws which outlines our stated purposes:

- a. To discover, record, update and publish the Apgar family genealogy.
- b. To preserve Apgar family artifacts, documents, records and items of interest.

c. To promote goodwill and friendship among all Apgar family members.

d. To hold an annual Apgar Family Reunion.

e. To publish and circulate an Apgar family newsletter or bulletin on a regular basis.

f. To do all other things necessary or proper to carry out the purposes and related purposes. Lynn noted that, as per the by-laws, we are a non-political organization and we gather as an Association because we all share the same DNA.

**George Apgar**, made a motion that we change the name of the Association. Our President, Lynn Conley, explained the process for such a proposal. There was no second to the motion.

6. As for next year's Trustees, **Lynn Conley** noted that we still have need for a vice-president & a secretary. She went on to announce that she would be stepping down as both President and a Trustee of the Apgar Family Association. She has asked that if you wish to volunteer for any of these positions you should give your name to **Karen Prince-Steinberg**. In the interim, the remaining trustees will decide who will take on the various positions.

**George Apgar** suggested that someone form our Association work with the Family History Center (908-548-1080) of the LDS to put our Haag/ Schaeffer ancestors into their data base. It was noted by several individuals that old church records have already been microfilmed by the LDS. **Mike Apgar** noted that we have done our research in Germany and have already documented this for our Association. It was mentioned that there are very few church records beyond the early 1700s.

**George Apgar** also brought to our attention that available at the Apgar Family Store was a children's book titled "Skirmish at Van Nest's Mill." It is written by our cousin Shirley Carvatt and depicts the role of Sgt Peter Apgar in the American Revolution and is for sale for \$7.00.

A motion to close the meeting was made by **Mary Carpenter** and seconded by **Howard Apgar** at 3:35pm.

Submitted by **Karen Prince-Steinberg**, 2014 Recording Secretary.

## Telling your Ancestors' Story (Our Reunion Theme) - by Lynn Conley

Learning about our ancestors is a collection of many primary and secondary documents, such as birth, marriage, death, census, wills, military and land records. However, to tell the complete story of our ancestors it requires us to look at the times and locations where they lived. The goal of telling your ancestor's story is to find the who, what, where, when and why about the ancestor. Accomplishing this goal requires 4 steps.

### **Step 1-Establishing a Timeline**

The best way to begin this task is to develop a basic timeline for your ancestor from the documents you have acquired. Gather the documents you obtained for this individual and begin to examine each document for new clues.

A birth certificate may have godparents names, a father's occupation, addresses, mother's maiden name and the location of the event. Marriage, death and land records may also have many clues which at first glance may have been overlooked. Check for witnesses and relatives listed in the documents, look for notes in the margins that may have been made by the recording individual. Using sibling data can also help with establishing and confirming your timeline.

Census records provide a great wealth of information in bringing your family member back to life, as these records are a microcosm of a specific time and place.

Clues such as a parent's occupation may provide the first look into how your ancestor may have lived. The life of a farmer is far different from that of a coal miner or railroad man. Taking inventory of the people around your ancestor may provide great insight into their life. Were the neighbors relatives, were they of the same ethnicity, did they all work for the same employer, could you relative read and write? All of these questions afford evidence regarding the family member.

### **Step 2-Enhancing the Data**

Once you have a basic timeline, it is time to start enhancing your data. Record on the timeline all locations and dates where your ancestor lived as established from your documents. A simple google of an address may produce a picture of the home/area for your timeline. Your search then continues by getting immigration records, obituaries,

newspaper articles, school records, military records and looking up local town histories. Military records can actually tell where your ancestor may have been on a specific day. Battle records and declassified information, which can be found in books and the website *Fold3*, can provide detailed information on the dates and places of service for your ancestor.

**Records that should not be overlooked include, church committee meeting records, society membership lists, bank records, family stories and other genealogies. Keep extending and enhancing your timeline with your new found facts. Writing your ancestor's story is a ongoing process.**

### **Step 3-Adding History**

The third step in telling your ancestors story, adding history, might be the most important since it effected life during that era. Begin with an overview, the large-scale data, such as in 1812 a war between the United States and Britain commenced. Secondly, narrow the focus to the region, state and then town of your ancestor. In telling your ancestor's story you should never over look the economic impact, family turmoil, new laws, and diseases that may have developed due to the historical event. Major events in history impacted the daily lives of our ancestors thus becoming part of their story.

Learning about the social aspects of a community are extremely important to the story. Questions to explore may well include: Did your ancestor live in a farming community? What were the crops? Did they own livestock? What goods were common in the home? Did they make whiskey? What were the religious beliefs of the area? Where did your rela-



tive go to church? Answers to these questions become the narrative for your story.

Once you have the large overview of the times, research and collect data on a local level. Find out the size of the town where they lived, the employers, the politicians, celebrations and the overall development of the town. The internet is a great and easy source to initiate this task, however, a visit to the town's local library may hold the majority of valuable data and insight concerning the life of your ancestor. The next great source for this research are books, other people's biographies, autobiographies and history books in general.

### **Step 4-Telling the Story**

After you gather as much information as you can, it is time to construct a word picture regarding your ancestors life; his or her story. Reading stories of immigrant ship conditions or war conditions, that may apply to your ancestor, afford feeling to enter your ancestor's story.

As you drawn conclusion about your ancestor life from the history of the period, the story and experiences of your ancestor begin to come alive. Such life conclusion are needed to tell his/her story, however you must always keep the facts as the permanent structure of story. Always make your conclusions based on as many facts as possible, the more details you accumulate permits the most detailed picture of your ancestor. As you write your ancestor's story do not forget to include pictures and evidence that back up your conclusions. Happy Writing!

### **Example**

Eber Johnson was not a rich man. Sober and industrious, he was a veteran of the 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery. Though he served in the Civil War for less than a year, those months took a toll on him. According to John Murnahan's affidavit in Eber's pension application, "Since his return from the U.S. service he is still a sober man but unable to perform any manual labor to amount to anything." Eber, my great-great-grandfather, was a farmer, which means that the 1860 and 1870 agricultural schedules can shed some light on how Eber made his living before and after the Civil War. *by Amy Johnson Crow.com*

## Connecting With my Roots Through Knitting: My Journey by Mary Carpenter

While I learned to knit over 40 years ago, it's been during the last 5 years that I have embraced it with a passion (some might say obsession). I was told it might help with the arthritis in my fingers and since lighter weight yarns would be easier to work with, I decided to learn to knit lace. I invested in a new set of needles and my journey began.

The first time I shopped for yarn, I was overwhelmed with all the choices. I now know that for lace you want to stick with natural fibers so they can be blocked to best show off the design. Blocking is the process of shaping a piece after knitting it. And yes, the yarn I bought for my first project was not natural fibers. But instead of becoming discouraged with the results, I knew that I just needed to re-search things the same way I did when I started on my family tree.

My early research introduced me to the beautiful, intricate lace patterns of Estonia (Baltic region) and Orenburg, Russia. My new goal was to get good enough that I could knit one of the lace shawls. But I knew I needed to start much smaller!



I picked up a few reference books and took an on-line class. Five years later, my knitting library has grown, I've lost count of the classes I've taken and I have a new network of friends. I'm not quite ready to start that shawl yet but each project teaches me something new and I'm getting closer. Plus I am thoroughly enjoying my journey.

After a number of successful projects, I thought about knitting something to be raffled at the reunion. I had learned that knitting styles were regional so began to research what type of knitting was done in the Rhineland-Palatinate region of Germany, where our Apgar ancestors emigrated from.

### German Knitting

Pattern books are to knitting what recipes are to cooking. They are the knitting books most prevalent today and started in German. The earliest pattern book published was for embroidery in 1524. Books for other crafts soon followed.

**Knitting in Germany** is dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century based on the appearance of a knitting Madonna in a painting by Master Bertram of Minden, completed in 1390. Minden is in Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia region, which is just north of the Rhineland-Palatinate.

When I think of traditional German knitting what comes to mind are the **intricate sock and stocking patterns** that are part of folk costumes. These were common in the alpine regions of Germany and Austria. North Germany was known for more somber knitted fabrics and carpet knitting was the specialty of south Germany.

**The term carpet** refers to densely knit fabrics that would have been used as wall hangings and table clothes as well



floor coverings.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, carpet knitting became prevalent in Alsace. Even though Alsace was conquered by France in 1639, its' located on the eastern banks of the Rhine River close to today's Germany and Switzerland borders. Of all the regions I read about, it was the one **closest to Puderbach**. So perhaps that's what our ancestors knitted.

### Lessons Learned

The picture above shows something that I knitted for myself. It is called **Margaret's Cape** from one of the ethnic pattern books now in my library; *Knits from the North Sea, lace in the Shetland tradition*.

I've gifted most of what I have knitted so far to others. And in each piece I knit I realize that I leave a little part of myself. I can't imagine a better way to continue to pass down my family history.

And if you are interested in ethnic knitting, stop by my table at the reunion – I'll have some of my books with me.

## Ratifying the Bill of Rights: A Story About New Jersey; submitted by George Apgar Jr

How appropriate that New Jersey was the **first state in the new nation to ratify the Bill of Rights**. That distinction is a fitting keystone in our state's 350-year history of serving as the crucible for American innovations, enterprise, culture, and our prized role on the forefront of American history: from the crossroads of the American Revolution to the cutting-edge of the 21st century.

The freedoms and liberties ratified in the Bill of Rights are engrained in the

American experience with a continuing appreciation that this opportunity has been maintained in war and peace. The Constitution and its Amendments are revered by our citizenry and emulated by countries around the globe that seek the same freedoms we have enjoyed in the United States.

The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, enhances personal freedoms, limits the strength and reach of government, and

reserves powers to the states and the people. These rights preserve our sacred liberties and enable the free exercise of our beliefs, both political and religious, and strengthen the debate that has continuously moved our nation forward from the 18th to the 21st century. The Bill of Rights continues to stand the test of time.—for the past 225 years.

*Extracted from an address by New Jersey Congressman Leonard Lane*

## Gathering an Oral History by Karen Prince-Steinberg

At the 2010 Apgar Family Reunion, Rev. Stephen Yon delivered an amusing take on our theme of "Apgars Are a Patient People." Apparently, we are a curious lot as well. It has driven us to extensive genealogical research, through which we have meticulously documented the who, what, where and when of our Egbert ancestors.

A good oral history should be carefully documented. Whether you record an interview in an audio (less intrusive) or video (ideal) format, it should be transcribed afterwards. During the interview, take notes to clarify non-verbal cues, gestures and ambience.

Where to begin? We all have one family member who keeps in touch with every distant relative, can name each person in the family photo album, or had an interesting past - all good candidates. Memories can fade and time slips away. Practicality may steer us toward our more elder members. Our seniors may be reticent to share as they may not want to seem repetitive or boring. They assume you already know what they know. Generally, though, they enjoy remembering. As they age, they may begin to review their lives. This process can reveal information once suppressed and may prove cathartic.

**Telling their stories can make them feel more positive about themselves, reaffirming a productive and valuable life. Grandparents feel a responsibility to pass along traditions to the next generation. You will not regret speaking to a senior family member; however, you may regret missing the opportunity.**

First, contact the person you desire to interview for an oral history - whether through phone, mail, or email will depend on the sensibility of your subject. Be persuasive, not pushy. Explain you would like to preserve their memories for the next generation. Emphasize the importance of their place in the family. Assure them they can skip any question they'd like; there's no need to divulge family secrets, although you'd love hear them. Sending a list of questions beforehand will help your subject know what to expect. Send a release form, detailing what you intend to do with the infor-

mation. To avoid fatigue, keep your interview to around an hour. As your subject may need some time to remember all pertinent details, you may obtain better results if you spread your interview over several sessions. It may take some time for the interviewer and interviewee to establish a rapport before difficult questions can be asked and candid answers can be offered.

For inspiration, consider listening to stories about others of the same ethnic background and age. Sources include Ellis Island Oral History ([www.nps.gov/ellis/](http://www.nps.gov/ellis/)) and [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org). Other references include *Doing Oral History* by Donald A Ritchie and *The Smithsonian Folk Life and Oral History Interviewing Guide*. Educating yourself with a timeline of events occurring during your subjects' life can facilitate questions and jog memories.

Consider using memory triggers like birth, death and marriage certificates, photos, a family tree chart, music from their era, a favorite food or recipe, and objects that were given to them or are special to them.

Confirm the time and date of your interview before hand. Double check that your equipment is in working order. Conduct your interview in a quiet space free of distractions (not during a family celebration). A one-on-one interview is ideal and may evolve into conversation. Involve other members of the family by asking them to contribute questions in advance.

At the beginning of the interview, state your name, the date and the name of the person being interviewed. Express your gratitude. Stay organized; a chronological approach will keep your subject focused. Cover as much biographical data as possible, with questions like: "where and when born, when and where married, names of relatives, places of residence, schools attended, school memories, career and employment, military service, immigration history and where are your relatives buried?"

Questions concerning habits, relationships and particulars can include: "what

foods did you eat, what did you wear, who were your neighbors, who were your friends, what fads do you remember, special events and how they were celebrated, medical conditions, advice for family, what would you like others to re-

member about you? Encourage your subject to use proper names rather than "grandma" or "grandpa." You may need to prompt with "and her name as...". Keep your questions short and simple; avoid complicated or multiple part types. Open-ended questions yield more elaborate responses



than questions requiring a yes, no, or one-word response. Use sentences that start with: "Tell me about and what was it like?" Avoid leading questions. Keep your opinions out of the interview. Never interrupt or contradict.

If answers seem overly brief, use a follow up question to clarify and elicit further information. Patience pays off. Allowing a bit of silence after a short response can offer your subject time to reflect and add more details. Simple gestures like eye contact and head nodding may encourage the speaker to continue. If the conversation starts to take an unplanned path, go with it. It may lead to surprising discoveries.

Photograph your subject and copy any photos or objects that were shared during the interview.

At the conclusion of your interview, thank your subject again for the time taken and the insights shared. Make closing announcement to end the interview.

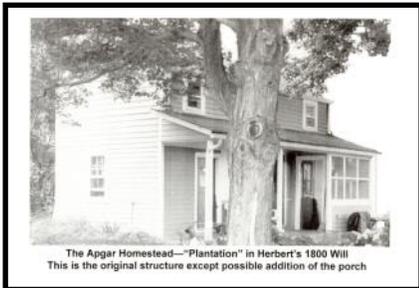
As soon as possible, preserve what you have learned. Label all recordings and transcribe them while still fresh. Fact checking to verify the story can include historical research and consulting with members of the family. Bear in mind that age, birth order, gender, and life experience can influence perspective.

As a happy consequence of the interview, you may form a new relationship or deepen an existing relationship with a family member. You may even have added to your own sense of identity.

## The Continuing Saga of our Homestead Grave Monuments by Mike Apgar

The Apgar Homestead, situated just south of the village of Cokesbury, was first mentioned (as "my plantation") in the will of Herbert Apgar in 1800. That will "exempts out one square rood where Herbert Apgar, deceased, is buried." This exemption has appeared in all subsequent deeds to the property.

It is believed that Herbert agreed to be buried on the Homestead because his father, Friedrich 'Fritz' Epgert, and his stepmother, Anna Eva (Schaefer), were already interred there. Over the subsequent two centuries the precise location of this family plot was forgotten. This old photo shows the original Homestead building.

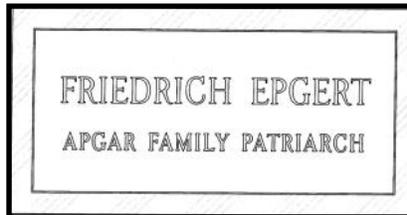


The Apgar Homestead—"Plantation" in Herbert's 1800 Will  
This is the original structure except possible addition of the porch

In August 2005 (how time flies!), Dave Mills, the property owner, approved a search using Ground Penetrating Radar. The investigation, in which he was an enthusiastic witness, identified three sub-surface features resembling graves in a one-square rod area on the lawn approximately 100 feet behind the original home. (as shown in this photo).

After the results of the survey were interpreted, Mr. Mills gave his verbal permission for the placement of three flush-

mounted grave markers. These would not interfere with mowing the grass in that area. The AFA purchased three granite markers through the Flemington Granite Company, one each for Fritz, Anna Eva and Herbert. Another photo shows Fritz's monument.:



Unfortunately, by the time the monuments were finished a series of tragedies befell the Mills family. By the time the formal authorization to place the markers was signed, Mr. Mills had died (in March 2012) and Mrs. Mills was adamantly opposed to their placement on the site. Over the next few years, the markers sat in storage in Flemington while AFA hoped for a change of heart with better times.

**We believe that AFA has a legal right to place the markers on the family founders' graves. Nevertheless, since that time, AFA has followed a "We are a patient people." approach to placement of the grave markers. Two centuries had already passed without markers and we figured that a few more years could expire without creating a stir with the current recalcitrant property owner.**

above the graves! Nevertheless (without realizing the weighty task entailed) I had already made a commitment to pick the stones up on my way to the 2014 reunion. They are heavy!

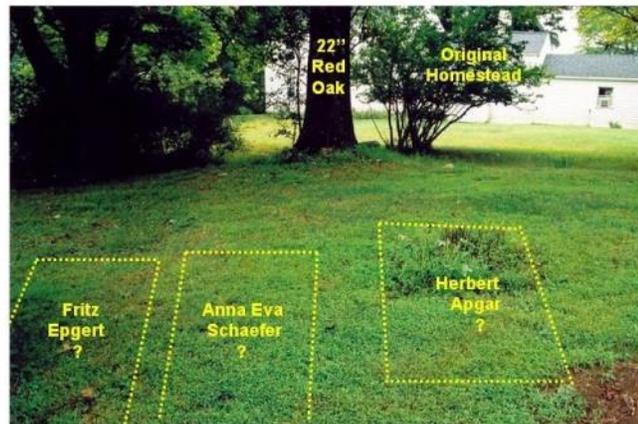
I couldn't keep that granite ballast in the back of my van, so I deposited them in a garage in High Bridge, now owned by my cousin Evan. For the time being they are safe (although Evan's garage is in disrepair and may collapse in a decade or so).

At this point, our course of action will be to work with the Hunterdon County Historical Society's recently activated Cemetery Committee. Pat Barber, a member of the Committee and will present our case to them. Hopefully we can obtain advice and/or assistance consistent with the Committee's efforts to establish access, placement of memorials, and maintenance of other family burial plots surrounded by private land.

The current homeowner, Mrs. Mills, has admitted that she was aware of the stipulation for exemption of the family



Mike, David Mills, and Lynn at 2004 Reunion



Location of three Apgar graves at the Homestead

However, in September 2014, just prior to our AFA reunion I was informed by the monument company that they needed indoor storage space and that our monuments would be moved outside. Duh (as my long-suffering wife informed me) those stone tablets were meant to be weather-proof when placed

burial plot on the Homestead when she and her late husband bought the property in 1968. If, pursuant to our attempts with the Historical Society, Mrs. Mills continues her opposition to the placement of our markers on the grave sites, we would have to seek legal assistance to obtain our right of access. Hopefully we can negotiate or force a favorable outcome. The only alternative would be—to avoid the expense and a potentially distasteful hassle—to continue to wait until a future, more accommodating owner consents. We should be nearer to a decision by our reunion in September.

## Reunion 2014 Scrapbook

**Dr. Peter Lubrecht** was our 2014 Reunion keynote speaker. His topic was "Germans in New Jersey—A History." He is also the author of the book by the same name. Dr. Lubrecht is Program Chairman for the Sussex County Historical Society and Museum.

His book and his presentation elaborated on the following points:

- ◆ German immigrants began moving into New Jersey around 1713 and initially spread throughout the rolling hills of the northwestern part of the state, clearing the heavily forested land and turning the rich earth into traditional farms on which to grow grain and raise cattle for the new settlements. [Editor's note: On my first visit to the Epgert village of the Palatinate, I was impressed by how much the land there resembled this northwestern part of New Jersey.]
- ◆ Family records were usually transcribed into the family Bible – usually a giant volume carried from the old country.
- ◆ Pitiful homeland conditions, advertisements from the New World promising opportunity, and letters from families already living in the colonies drew immigrants on long trips across the Atlantic to an unexplored territory. In later years, the immigrants were specifically seeking refuge from war, famine, depression, and persecution.
- ◆ Most early Germans of New Jersey were said to have come from the Palatine region along the Rhine River (between Cologne and Heidelberg). For these early travelers, the Rhine River was the only avenue for extensive travel; they sailed down the Rhine to Rotterdam and eventually they were loaded onto a ship for the New World.
- ◆ There were scant records kept of the passengers' origins and once on board the ship, only male surnames were recorded as passengers. Many "German" ships were not welcome in New York Harbor; therefore, they landed in Philadelphia and the passengers migrated in all directions from there. Most immigrants were labeled as Palatine Germans because of their routing.
- ◆ Among their many contributions to American society was German lager beer, bearing familiar names as Schlitz, Pabst, Miller, Anheuser Busch, and Yeungling.



Dr. Peter Lubrecht, 2014 Reunion Speaker



Kim Costa & Kristie Apgar



**85+ attendees at the 40th Apgar Family Reunion on September 20, 2014, at the Stanton Grange Hall, Lebanon, NJ**



# Reunion 2014 Scrapbook

2014 reunion photos on pages 4-5 and 14-15 are by Jim (Photographer) and Dotty (Photo Shop) Pickel. Thanks for many years of supporting our newsletter!



Jean & Arthur Koenig



Judy Beck & Mary Reilly



Jean Rinehart & Jean Sproul



Dottie Pickel, Debbie Apgar, Mary Apgar



Lesley Apgar & Chris Apgar



Susan, Madison, Ryan, Daniel Apgar



## Historical Happenings (2015) by Judy Beck, Historian; [judithb@embarqmail.com](mailto:judithb@embarqmail.com); 908-823-0413

Please forward marriages, births, deaths and noteworthy events to Judy or to a trustee; new and updated information is much appreciated. If you know something about a person listed as "unknown", it would be great to hear from you. We are happy to assist with genealogy research.

### Deaths

**APGAR**, Colleen Wilson (w/o 3.5.3.4.8.1.1.), 90, died 11/3/14. Res: Lansdale, PA  
**APGAR**, Cynthia "Ruth" Armstrong (w/o 6.4.3.6.5.3.1.), 79, died 10/31/14. Res: Old Town, ME  
**APGAR**, Dolores Smyres (unknown line; w/o Donald), 81, died 1/25/15. Res: Lake Mary, FL  
**APGAR**, Edith Sedgeman (w/o 3.7.9.12.2.1.5.), 85, died 6/23/14. Res: Denville Township, NJ  
**APGAR**, Edna "Jean" (unknown line; w/o George "Jim"), 69, died 12/18/14. Res: Stonelick Township, OH  
**APGAR**, Eleanor Mahoney (unknown line; w/o John), 74, died 8/20/14. Res: Mt Laurel, NJ  
**APGAR**, Evelyn Froggatt (former w/o 2.3.1.2.1.2.1.1.), 67, died 2/14/15. Res: Plainsboro, NJ  
**APGAR**, Frank H. Jr (1.2.11.5.3.3.1.2.), 73, died 7/5/14. Res: Lopatcong Township, NJ  
**APGAR**, Horace "Hap" Vincent Jr (1.2.11.3.1.1.1.), 91, died 9/13/14. Res: Oklahoma City, OK  
**APGAR**, Jacklynn Mantheiy (w/o 3.7.9.12.4.1.2.1.), 35, died 12/25/14. Res: Glen Rock, PA  
**APGAR**, Jeff (unknown line), 63, died 7/12/14. Res: Olathe, KS  
**APGAR**, Jillanne Demmon (w/o 1.1.11.13.1.2.3.), 80, died 10/24/14. Res: Somers, NY  
**APGAR**, Mildred Wolverton (3.5.3.1.10.2.2.; w/o 7.4.10.1.1.2.), 88, died 9/3/14. Res: Crown Point, IN  
**APGAR**, Richard "Rick" Glen (unknown line; s/o Halford), 67, died 1/31/15. Res: Henderson, NV  
**APGAR**, Thomas E (unknown line; s/o Francis), 57, died 9/16/14. Res: Orlando, FL  
**APKER**, Eugene H (10.1.5.4.2.2.), 91, died 7/8/14. Res: Vestal, NY

**BLACK**, Barbara Egerter (3.7.1.8.3.2.3.3.), 63, died 11/24/11. Res: Myrtle Beach, NC

**BUSH**, Elizabeth Philhower

(6.10.2.2.2.4.), 85, died 7/21/14. Res: Walnutport, PA

**BUSH**, Robert F Sr (3.3.5.2.3.3.1.), 89, died 1/16/15. Res: Bethlehem, PA

**DEEMER**, Martin Jr (unknown line; s/o Carol Apgar), 24, died 12/21/14. Res: Easton, PA

**DILTS**, Muriel Layden (6.2.3.5.4.1.1.), 88, died 6/18/14. Res: Pinelake Village, FL

**FARLEY**, Carol Sherrerd (w/o 6.4.3.4.2.1.3.2.4.), 52, died 12/18/14. Res: Clinton Township, NJ

**GOODMAN**, Gail Sheridan (1.7.3.3.3.1.1.1.), died 10/25/14. Res: High Bridge, NJ

**MAGAN**, Helen Edwards (8.4.1.9.1.1.2.), 80, died 2/13/14. Res: Pueblo, CO

**PLATTEN**, Margaret Wyckoff (Peter Line), 95, died 11/5/14. Res: Stamford, CT

**SCHEFFER**, Elsie Coughlin (6.4.7.7.1.1.1.2.), 88, died 1/24/15. Res: Califon, NJ

**SEITZMEYER**, Dorothy L Apgar (6.5.2.1.2.2.2.1.), 80, died 11/1/08. Res: So Plainfield, NJ

**SEITZMEYER**, George S (h/o 6.5.2.1.2.2.2.1.), died 7/26/11. Res: So Plainfield, NJ

**SENECA**, Elizabeth Egerter (3.7.1.8.3.2.3.2.), 68, died 12/7/11. Res: Conway, SC

**VOORHEES**, Carlton "Lefty" (6.4.3.4.7.1.1.), 84, died 1/11/15. Res: Lebanon, NJ



### Marriages

**F. Clayton Apgar** (9.5.6.1.3.1.1.1.) joined hands with Kate Morgan Chadwick on 6/29/13 in St. Helena, CA.

**Howard Apgar** (2.3.1.2.1.2.1.) wed Diane E. Fowler on 5/25/14. They were married in St Peter's Episcopal Church, Plant City, FL.

**Karl Herzog Hausmann** (6.10.4.4.4.3.1.2.) was married to Jodi Kim Ockunzzi on 6/28/14. The ceremony took place in Swan Lake, MT.

**Note:** The following abbreviations are used in reporting historical happenings:

d/o-daughter of, h/o-husband of, s/o-son of, w/o-wife of

## Trustee Meetings This Year (Abridged Minutes)

On **November 15, 2014**, at the first AFA **Trustee Meeting** of the year, the following officers/trustees were elected:

- ◆ Karen Prince-Steinberg, President
- ◆ Mary Reilly, Vice President
- ◆ Mary Carpenter, Recording Secretary
- ◆ Jeanette Lesinskii, Corresponding Secretary
- ◆ David Rich, Treasurer

The following were also confirmed as trustees:

- ◆ Henry (Hank) Apgar Jr
- ◆ Robert Apgar
- ◆ Mike Apgar

- ◆ George Apgar Jr.
- ◆ Lois Pfeffer
- ◆ Debbie Apgar

Plans were discussed for the Reunion. **Mike Apgar** submitted reports on two on-going projects, described further in this newsletter:

- ◆ The Apgar Homestead monuments and the reluctance of the owner to permit AFA to install grave markers.
- ◆ The Apgar Genealogy Project, initiated in 2005 to prove kinship among family members in Germany and the US.

The next Trustee Meeting was scheduled for February 28, 2015.

On **February 28, 2015**, at the second AFA **Trustee Meeting**, the following business was discussed:

- ◆ Final Plans for the Reunion
- ◆ Treasurer's report:
  - \$6561 Checking Account
  - \$8126 CD
- ◆ 33 responses were received from the membership survey
- ◆ Plans are underway to publish a member's directory
- ◆ The next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for June 2015.

## Directory of Association Officers and Trustees (2015)

### Current Officers and Trustees

(showing years as officer and trustee)

Karen Prince-Steinberg (Trustee, President)  
8 Nashaway Dr.  
Ringoes, NJ 08551  
(908) 797-4644  
president@apgarfamily.org  
(2002-2015)

Mary Reilly (Trustee, Vice President)  
76 Mountainview Ave  
Mt Arlington, NJ 07856  
973-398-5427  
vp@apgarfamily.org  
(2015- 2015)

George Apgar Jr. (Trustee)  
218 Kempsey Drive  
North Brunswick, N.J 08902.  
(732) 297-6686  
trustee.georg@apgarfamily.org  
(1986-2015)

Lois Pfeffer (Trustee)  
343 Lincoln St.  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
trustee.lois@apgarfamily.org  
(2010-2015)

David Rich (Trustee, Treasurer)  
P O Box 52  
Hatboro, PA 19040  
(215) 674-0244  
treasurer@apgarfamily.org  
(2003-2015)

Judy Beck (Historian)  
3 Fernwood Ct.  
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889  
(908) 823-0413  
historian@apgarfamily.org  
(2001-2015)

Henry Apgar, Jr. ( Trustee, Newsletter Editor)  
776 Silver Cloud St.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
(805) 402-4132  
trustee.henry@apgarfamily.org  
(1999-2015)

Debbie Apgar (Trustee, Membership)  
416 Runyon Ave  
Middlesex, NJ 08806  
(732) 968-3065  
membership@apgarfamily.org  
(2003-2015)

Mary Carpenter (Trustee, Recording Secretary, Technology Coordinator and Webmaster )  
P.O.Box 1256  
Edison N.J. 08818  
technology@apgarfamily.org  
(2006-2015)

Jeanette Lesinski (Trustee, Corresponding Secretary)  
62 Morton Street  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
(732) 469-1246  
secretary@apgarfamily.org  
(2007-2015)

Robert Apgar Trustee  
10 Kingswood Rd  
Branchburg, NJ 08876  
trustee.bob@apgarfamily.org  
(908) 938-2840  
(2012-2015)

### Former Trustees

(showing years as trustee)

Cassie Apgar (1999-2002)

Chris Apgar (1999-2003)

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)

Wayne Apgar (1988-1995)

Judy Beck (2001-2005)

Lynn Conley (2002-2014)

Dolorita Cronk (2006-2007)

Lois Dege (2001-2004)

Wayne Dilts (1994-2003)

Roger Flartey (2003-2009)

Judy Hankinson (1996-2003)

Wendy Rumhill (2006-2008)

John W. Shuster, Jr. (1990-1996)

Al Tiger (1986-1997)

Stephen Tiger (1997-1999)

Brenda Zimmerman (1991-1997)

### Deceased Trustees

(showing years of life)

Barbara Apgar (1929-2001)

Dorothy Apgar (1923-2005)

George M. Apgar Sr. (1921-2004)

Helen Apgar (unknown-2010)

Henry E. Apgar Sr. (1907-1998)

Louanna Rich (1946-2010)

Robert O. Apgar (1919-1995)

Ronald F. Apgar (1940-1998)

Phyllis Apgar (1928-2009)

Ruth Apgar (1915-2008)



Plan Ahead for Next Year...  
Apgar Family Association 42nd Annual Reunion  
September 17, 2016

## Your Family Surname by Hank Apgar

### Surnames in General

In Western Europe, surnames first came about in Medieval times as civilizations grew larger and it became necessary to distinguish between people.

Sometimes, names were based on occupation: a blacksmith may have been "John le Smith" (John the Smith) which became, over the generations, "Smith," and a person named Appleby lived by or tended the apple orchard. Celebrity Robin Leach's ancestor was probably a physician (because in medieval times, physicians used leeches to bleed people). Actor Christopher Reeve's ancestor, the one to first take the surname, was most likely a sheriff, and Sarah Jessica Parker's early medieval ancestor probably tended a park.

Other surnames were based on location: an Acker, which comes from "acre," lived near a field, and a Hall lived in or worked in a hall of a Medieval nobleman's house. And it doesn't take much imagination to figure out what a forebear named Young or Strong or Gray looked like.

And in many parts of the world surnames derived from men's names. A person named Robertson is descended from someone who was the "son of Robert," and a MacDonald is from a Scottish "son of Donald." Armenian names of this sort generally end in "-ian," and Irish ones are put together a little differently, starting with the prefix "Fitz-."

In Spanish-speaking parts of the world, people often take both their mother and father's surnames. And some families still use family or "house" names that are not surnames at all, like the royal Windsors or Plantagenets.

Asian surnames have different stories. Most of the approximately 100,000 Japanese surnames in use today only date from 1868 and the Meiji Restoration, when surnames were mandated for the first time. There are just a few hundred common Chinese surnames, and 20 of them (which reflect an entire clan or were adopted by nobles) are shared by half the population. There are about 250 Korean surnames, three of them comprising almost half the Korean population, and just about 100 Vietnamese ones, with three making up 60 percent of all names in that country.

### German Surnames

The first Germans to use surnames were the nobility and wealthy land owners. After that, merchants and general townspeople started using surnames, with rural people adopting the practice last. It was two or three hundred years before it was commonplace to use last names, though most people were using them by the late Middle Ages.

German surnames generally started out as one of four different types.

**1. Occupational.** This is the most common form of German family name and can often be identified by its ending, such as **-er** (as in Geiger, one who played the violin), **-hauer** (hewer or cutter, such as Baumhauer, a tree cutter), **-macher** (one who makes, as in Fenstermacher — one who makes windows), and **-man/-mann** (as in Kaufman, one who sells, or a merchant).

Some other examples of family names from occupations include:

- Bauer (farmer)
- Becker (baker)
- Fleischer or Metzger (butcher)
- Klingemann (weapons smith)
- Maurer (mason)
- Meier (farm administrator)
- Muller (miller)
- Schmidt (smith)
- Schneider (tailor)
- Schulze (constable)
- Topfer/Toepfer (potter)
- Wagner (carter/cartwright)
- Weber (weaver)

**2. Patronymic.** Often, a person was distinguished by a reference to his or her father, which eventually turned into what we now know as a last name. A man named Simon whose father was named Ahrend might have become Simon Ahrends (Simon, son of Ahrend). Johann Petersohn was Johann, son of Peter. Patronymics most often come from the northern areas of Germany.

Because some early German records were written in Latin, last names were sometimes written with the Latin ending "-i" (sometimes spelled "-y"), as in Martin Berendi, who would have been Martin, son of a man named Berend.

**3. Descriptive.** Many German surnames are descriptive names based on a physical characteristic, such as Brun/Braun (brown hair or a swarthy complexion), Krause (curly-haired), Klein (small), Gross (big), Schwarzkopf (black headed), and Hertz (big-hearted). Older, non-Christian names are often of this type.

**4. Geographical.** These names derive from where a person lived or came from. They may stem from the name of a city or village or the location of someone's home, such as Kissinger from Kissingen and Schwarzenegger from Schwarzenegg. Someone named Berger may have lived on a mountain.

*We believe that Friedrich "Fritz" Epgert, immigrant patriarch of the Apgar family, was born of parents who lived in Dauffeback and attended church in Puderback. But, Puderbach was only 10km from the smaller village of Epgert, so it is likely that the Epgert family originally "came from" the village of Epgert.*



**Epgert Road Sign**

Since about 1600, only aristocratic families were allowed to use the "von" prefix in Germany. So if someone was baron of a village, his family name would be "von" and the village name. In older names, though, "von" sometimes merely indicated that a person was from an area: Lukas von Albrecht may have been Lukas from Albrecht. German immigrants to North America who used the "von" prefix almost never had used it previously in their native country.

A geographical name could also be one that derives from a landmark (Busch was named after a certain bush, or Spring-born after a spring or well), or a family might have been named after an inn or farm.

**[this article is based partly on material originally published by Ancestry.com; photo by author]**

## Remembering the Past

### Sixth Apgar Family Reunion

In 1980, we held our **sixth annual Apgar reunion** at the **Cokesbury United Methodist Church**, built in 1851, with an attendance of 140 members. Robert Apgar was President and George Apgar was Secretary. Debbie Apgar donated her hand-made afghan to be used as a raffle prize - thus starting a legend that persists to this day. One topic of discussion was the need for an Association newsletter. Following the meeting, there was a tractor-pulled hayride.



**Cokesbury United Methodist Church**

These modern-day reunions restarted in 1975; the earlier-day reunions had been held between 1921 and 1939. Programs from the earlier-day reunions indicated more time was spent on sports than on business. One family member, Francis Asbury, remembered : "The 1921 meeting was held off David Post Road around moon on the Bill Teets Farm in Mount Grove. There was no need for name tags for everyone present knew everyone else."

Our **first annual newsletter** (issue 1) was published in April 1981 with a second issue published in November of that same year.

The 1981 reunion was our seventh and was also held at the **Cokesbury United Methodist Church**. 280 family members attended in spite of the "cold and rainy weather." One topic discussed was the need to establish a numbering system for the growing genealogy database which was planned for publication by 1984. Following the meeting, members enjoyed a driving tour of three local cemeteries. At these meetings, association expenses were met through donations collected at each meeting, rather than a system of member dues.

### The Last Battle - War of 1812

by George Apgar Jr.

Until the summer of 1814, most battles in the War of 1812 had taken place in Canada and in the Great Lakes. British soldiers mounted an offensive into the mid-Atlantic and the South. After burning Washington DC and attacking Baltimore, British troops then invaded our Gulf Coast.

On January 8, 1815 (just 200 years ago), the Battle of New Orleans was our last major battle with the British. This battle was the most decisive victory for the underdog Americans during the tow-and-a-half-year conflict with Great Britain. This battle was actually fought two weeks after the Treaty of Ghent, signed in Belgium in December 2014.

**Do we know if any Apgars fought in this battle?** If so, bring photos or other show-and-tell to 2015 Reunion.



**Battle of New Orleans**

### Jacklynn "Jackie" (Manthey) Apgar,

35, entered into eternal peace on Thursday, December 25, 2014. Jackie, also affectionately known as Jax and Peanut, was born on May 31, 1979, a daughter of Sandra Barnes and the late John "Jack" Manthey.

She graduated from Susquehannock High School in 1997, and in 2006 successfully completed the certificate practical nursing program at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, Md., which prepared her for her professional role as a licensed practical nurse.

Jackie was a very kind and gentle soul with a loving and generous heart; she was always giving to others. She leaves her memories to be cherished by her husband, Richard W. Apgar; her children, Abigail, Jack and Emily; her sisters, Jennifer Bixler and Evelyn Brennehan; her **mother-in-law, Cassandra Apgar (former AFA trustee) brother in law John Apgar as (Past AFA President and trustee)**, and several sisters-in-law, other brothers-in-law and nieces.

Following cremation, a Life Celebration Service was held on Saturday, January 3, 2015 at 11 a.m. at the Immanuel United Methodist Church, 1 New St., Glen Rock, Pa.

The Apgar Family Association made a memorial contribution to provide for her children, Abigail, Jack and Emily Apgar,

### Another Palatine Family Settles in American Colonies

by George Apgar Jr.

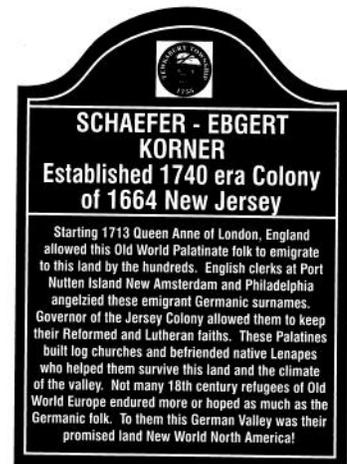


**Elvis Presley**

Had he lived, **Elvis Presley**, the "King of Rock and Roll," would have been 80 years old this year (January 8, 2015).

His Palatine ancestor immigrants arrived at Nutten Island in 1710 with the family name, **Presslers**. This preceded the first arrival of Apgars (Epgerts/Ebgerts) into Philadelphia around 1738-1739.

Also on these English ships, and about the same time, were Buckle (Pickle) descendants who made their way into New Jersey (German Valley / Tewksbury) out of the Colony of New York. They followed Lenape trails along the Raritan River, first stopping at Nine Mile Run and then continuing to homestead on Pickel's Mountain. This was near the Village of Lebanon where they built the log cabin German Reformed Church on Cherry Street.



**German Valley History**

## Have you Visited our Web Site? www.apgarfamily.org

This web site is available to all members at no charge. The first time you access the site, you will need to apply for a password based on verification of your membership. Available information includes:

- ◆ Genealogy of 24,855 names, including 11,593 still living
- ◆ Group photos from past reunions (as far back as the 1930s)
- ◆ Member souvenirs for purchase from the Apgar Store
- ◆ Collection of longer newsletter articles (research-focused)
- ◆ Member statistics, such as average life span of Apgars in the database [66 years, 325 days]

The following database **CDs in pdf format** are available for purchase on the web site; price is \$25 each including shipping.

- **Volume I:** The Immigrants and First Four Generations in America

- **Volume II:** Descendants of the Fourth Generation in America

Part 1: Herbert, John Peter and Heinrich

Part 2: Johannes Adam and Catherine

Part 3: Jacob and William

Part 4: Peter, Frederick and Conrad



An example of a family tree down-loaded from our web site

### Friedrich 'Fritz' Epgert (aka Frantz Epgardt and Frederich Apkert)

The following order of children born to Fritz Epgert and his wives as determined by **German church records**, ages of their children and presumed children, and grandchildren, dates of property acquisitions, and **Hunterdon County**

**church records.** The exact birthdates of Herbert, John Peter, Heinrich, Jacob, William, Frederick, and Conrad are known and it is believed that George was perhaps the youngest. Fritz arrived in the New World on **September 30, 1740.**

#### Children by first marriage, in the state of Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany:

1. Johannes Herbertus, died in infancy
2. Herbert, b. 14 September 1731
3. John Peter, b. 1735
4. Eva Elisabetha, died in infancy

#### Children by second marriage, in the New Jersey colony:

5. Johannes Adam, b. circa 1741
6. Maria Sophia, b. circa 1741
7. Catharine, b. circa 1743
8. Heinrich, b. 1745
9. Jacob, b. 18 July 1746
10. Peter, b. circa 1747
11. William, b. 1752
12. Frederick, b. 7 October 1753
13. Conrad, b. 3 January 1755
14. George

Copies of **older newsletters**, which you may read on-line and download to print.



Mary Carpenter,  
Webmaster

## Apgar Stamp Imperforate? by Hank Apgar

A recently discovered large business envelope mailed in 2002 from California to Florida is franked with what looks like an imperforate (stamp sheet without perforations) example of the United States 20-cent Virginia Apgar stamp.

The suspect Apgar error, a badly torn single, was used in combination with other stamps to pay the postage.

A local stamp dealer reported that "the envelope was rescued from the Goldenrod, Florida, post office waste receptacle where the recipient had discarded it" but was publically just announced this week. The imperforate stamp appears to have been torn from the sheet by a secretary or mailroom clerk who was unfamiliar

with the value of such unique stamps. This discovery was published in the Linn's Stamp News issue of February 23, 2015.

**The stamp, part of the Great Americans series, was released in Dallas, Texas, on October 24, 1994,** during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Twenty-four members of the Apgar Family Association traveled to the stamp release festivities, led by then-President, Phyllis Apgar. Speaking on behalf of the



Association was our First Vice President Henry Apgar Sr. See the full story in the 1995 Apgar Family Association Newsletter.

It is possible that other stamps from the imperforated sheet of 100 stamps are still around, either used or not used. And, it is possible that other full sheets were not perforated and escaped the careful eye of the post office printer. If you stashed away a full sheet of Apgar stamps, you might want to inspect your stash. Then, if you find one, contact a reputable stamp dealer to find out how much it is worth.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Virginia Apgar was a stamp collector.