

APGAR

Family Association Newsletter

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Our 26th Annual Reunion, Cokesbury, NJ

More than 100 descendants of Johannes Peter Apgard gathered on Sept. 16, 2000 at the Cokesbury United Methodist Church to celebrate the Apgar family.

The beautiful weather added to the excitement of the day. There were many new faces this year as news of our family association is spreading via our own website. They were anxious to learn more about their connection to our patriarch and to meet new cousins.

George N. Apgar, Jr. brought a supply of 2 qt. canisters for sale and they were gone by lunchtime. The prototype of this canister was raffled off - the winner being George's father, George N. Apgar, Sr.!

Our guest speaker was local historian and author, Maude Kenyon. We were treated to a short program before lunch as she told of her experiences as a "Ghostbuster."

President John C. Apgar III called the yearly business meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Vice President Mike Apgar made the following nominations of officers for the 2000-2001 year as follows:

President: John C. Apgar, III
Vice President: Mike Apgar
Treasurer: Wayne Dilts
Secretary: Judy Smith

Wayne Dilts, Steve Tiger, Howard Apgar, and Hank Apgar were re-

elected for three year terms, as the "class of 2003." Hank Apgar accepted the responsibilities of Newsletter Editor.

Maude Kenyon was our keynote speaker for the afternoon. This time, her



talk focused on what Hunterdon County was like when Johannes P. Apgard first came here in 1734.

George N. Apgar, Jr. presented gifts to the following:

Oldest Gentleman: Newton Apgar, age 88

Oldest Lady: Ruth Apgar, age 85 (Mrs.

Henry E. Apgar, Sr.)

Longest Married Couple : Mr. & Mrs.

Newton Apgar, 57 years

Largest Family in Attendance: Al and Fran Tiger and family

Youngest: Ozzie Apgar, aged 4

Traveled the farthest: Charles and Mary Apgar Pratt of Milford, OH

Wayne Dilts, past president of the association, was presented with a plaque in honor of his service.

Our next reunion is being planned for September 15 and 16, 2001.

Apgars in the Revolutionary War: Two Profiles

Peter A. Apgar, Sr.

by Mike Apgar

Peter (1.2.) was the oldest son of Herbert Apgar, and the first grandson of Johannes Peter Apgard, family patriarch in America and immigrant from the Palatine region of Germany. Peter was born on the family homestead farm near Cokesbury, New Jersey on April 30, 1758. During late 1775 or early 1776 (on the eve of the Revolutionary War), eighteen year-old Peter joined the local militia. He enlisted as a Private in the Lebanon Battalion, Fourth Regiment of the Hunterdon County, New Jersey Militia, commanded by Colonel John Mehelm. Major Godfrey Rhinehart commanded the battalion, and Captain Benjamin Cooper commanded Peter's company.

On June 3, 1776, Peter marched with a battalion

consisting of five Hunterdon County and three Somerset County companies under Colonel Philip Johnson to reinforce General George Washington's army, which was entrenching on Long Island. In late August, a large British and Hessian army attacked the Americans. Early in the morning, the left side of the outnumbered American force was flanked and driven in confusion from the field. On the right, Peter and his fellow Jerseymen stood their ground and narrowly avoided capture, finally being ordered to retreat well after the rout was on. American casualties totaled more than a thousand men. As a result of his performance during the Battle of Long Island, Peter was elected Sergeant by his comrades.

The Jersey militiamen returned home in the fall of 1776. Most were farmers, or in Peter's case, older sons of farm families, who were needed to

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Conrad Apgar, Sr.

by Mike Apgar

Conrad (10.) was the ninth (next to youngest) son of Johannes Peter Apgard. Conrad was born and raised County. New Jersey on January 3, 1755. By the age of twenty, he was living in Alexandria Township, probably with or near his brother. Heinrich, and his wife and children. Conrad was confirmed in the Alexandria Reformed Church on August 6, 1775.

During the spring or early summer of 1776, Conrad enlisted as a Private in the battalion of Captain Cornelius Carhart, Second Regiment of the Hunterdon County., New Jersey Militia, commanded company marched to Amboy, where they stayed for a month before returning home. In August 1776, the men were called out again. Conrad and his company, now led by Captain Metier, marched to Bergen on the Hudson River, where they camped for six weeks, In late August, American forces (which included Conrad's nephew. Peter S. Apgar) were defeated on Long Island and retreated towards New Jersey. During September, Conrad's company marched to a fort on Paulus Hook, but withdrew after being bombarded by British ships on the Hudson River. From there, it was back to their farms.

The following year, Conrad participated in a skirmish against British troops on Staten Island with

part of Washington's Continental Army under Colonel Frederick Frelinghuysen. As Washington's army moved south into Pennsylvania to confront the British up the Chesapeake Bay, most of the militia, including Conrad, went home.

In the late summer of 1778, with the American

army pursuing the British withdrawal across New Jersey. Conrad's militia unit was called out again. They arrived at Monmouth too late to participate in the battle there, but did assist in burial of the dead. Shortly thereafter, Conrad served as a wagoner with Washington's army for several weeks. He reportedly was good friends with General William Maxwell, who

commanded New Jersey troops under Washington,

Conrad was also called out on several occasions during the war to "hunt" Tories (British Loyalists) in the New Jersey countryside. This was part of the nasty civil war within the Revolution, where neighbors with conflicting allegiances raided each other.

Conrad married, probably during 1777, Mary Pickel, daughter of Meindurt Farley and Barbara Van Dieren. Their first child was born in 1778. As soon as his military service was completed. Conrad moved back to Cokesbury, where he took over from his brother, Adam, the proprietorship of the Cokesbury Tavern or Hotel. This hotel had been built by John Farley prior to 1778. Although the first tavern license was issued to Adam Apgar in 1779, he did not own

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Dear Association Members, Family and Friends,

Happy New Year to all of you from the desk of the President! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and got to spend lots of time with your families and experience the joy of the season.

For some time now, there has been discussion among the board members that the time has come for us to "modernize" the reunion. Many ideas were passed around ranging from "leave it alone" to "Apgar Weekend" with many events and activities. In October 2000, the board of trustees met in special session to discuss the reunion and solidify the future format of our annual event. We had representation from all trustees at this meeting as well as invited association members, former trustees and potential members. As a group, we compiled and analyzed feedback and information given by many of you. We met for hours and talked about the reunion and what we want it to accomplish. There was, of course, some disagreement among the trustees about what we should do and where we should go. We knew that some of the membership was opposed to a new location or format change. There were also some of you that loved the idea of a new format. Needless to say, it was tough coming to a decision.

After weeks of discussion, the board of trustees came to a unanimous decision to move the reunion from Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Cokesbury to the Whitehouse Methodist Church in Whitehouse, NJ. The date of the reunion will remain the same. There were many factors that led to this decision, but the primary benefit to us is the size of the church. The facilities in Whitehouse are exponentially more convenient than Cokesbury's. There is ample parking, a large sanctuary, many rooms available to showcase family displays and hold workshops, a large yard and play area, and many other benefits. For those of you who are concerned about having the reunions at a family historical site, do not fret, as an Apgar spent time as a minister of that church many years ago, so the family does have a legitimate connection to this church. Additionally, I want to stress that we will not be abandoning Cokesbury altogether, as we will continue to visit the church there for our Sunday morning family service.

The board of trustees is very excited about the changes that are taking place. I want you all to know that this decision was made unanimously and was made with input from as many sources as we could solicit from. I hope that you share in my excitement about these changes. We want to open this experience to a new group of Apgars and we truly believe that we are heading in the right direction to accomplish that. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, suggestions or input.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the September reunion in Whitehouse. Detailed information will be given to you as the event draws nearer and plans are finalized.

John C. Apgar III

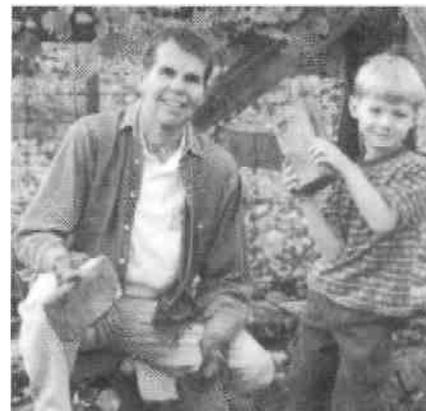
Coming Soon: Your Chance to Own a Piece of the Homestead!

Your Apgar Family Association has acquired some old bricks and siding boards, which were once part of the original Apgar Homestead (built by Johannes Peter Apgard shortly after his arrival at Cokesbury NJ in 1734). These relics have been lying in a corner of the yard of the Apgar Homestead for years. Dave Mills, current owner and occupant of the property, reports that the bricks and boards were removed during a renovation project several decades ago.

The bricks are rather crude and irregular, containing numerous lumps and flaws in a red clay matrix. The age-darkened boards have been identified as white pine, probably rough-cut in an old mill. They have multiple layers of peeling blue paint and the rusted remains of old-fashioned nails. While these bricks and boards may not have been incorporated into Johannes Apgard's original

building in the 1730s, they may have been added during the 18th century-and, thus, were part of the first family home for two centuries. An attempt to determine the approximate age of these materials is underway.

We plan to cut these materials up into fragments suitable for mounting on a plaque. These "Apgar Homestead plaques" will be offered for sale as a fund-raiser in the future. Please forward any information on the age of the bricks or boards or ideas for design of the commemorative to Mike Apgar. (address on last page.)



Mike and Ozzie Apgar holding bricks from the Homestead.

The Life of a Farmer's Wife

This is the life of a farmer's wife. She rises before the dawn. Emptys the ashes, lights the fires And puts the kettle on.

Then away to the barn she goes, With a lantern on her arm. She milks the cows and feeds the ewes, For such is life on a farm.

She hurries in the breakfast to get The children are still in bed; She fries the ham and bakes the cakes, For her family must be fed.

She opens the door to the old kitchen stairs And calls up through the gloom, "Hi, there children, it's time to get up Don't lie abed till noon."

The youngsters come bounding down the stairs With, "Mother, button my frock," And, "Mother, where did I put my shoes?" And, "Mother, I've lost my sock."

Finally - they all are dressed; At the table they cluster around. Ham and eggs and buckwheat cakes, What better can ever be found.

Mother is busy packing their lunch, Away to school they must go. Each little face must be shining and clean, Hair must be combed just so.

John has to have a clean "hanky," Ned must look spick and span, So they patiently wait for each other, And also for slow little Nan.

At last to school they are going, And mother starts in on a run; With dishes to wash and beds to make, When will she ever get done.

She has to attend to the chickens, Then feed the little new calf. The eggs are to clean and butter to make, And this isn't all by a half.

The bread that she mixed the night before, Is ready to form into loaves;

There are pies to bake, an ironing to do, Also press Sam's Sunday clothes.

For tomorrow he goes to the county seat, All the farmers will surely be there; Their having some kind of a meeting, To make ready for a county fair.

As she rushes from task to task, Thinking always of more to do, She watches the clock, because noon time Will find her hardly half through -

With the morning work; There's dinner to get For the men who are tilling the soil. And she thinks the life of a farmer's wife Is surely a life of toil.

As she works, she talks to herself, And this is her conversation - "It's toil and moil from morn till night; She never had a vacation."

"I'm butcher, baker and candlestick maker, I'm nurse maid and charwoman too; In fact I do all there's to do n the house, Then help on the farm when I'm through.

She never has time for afternoon naps, Her work is never quite done. With berries to pick and canning to do, She's just about kept on the run.

And as she performs her many hard tasks, She thinks of an old, old hymn - "Work for the night is coming." And she knows that her changes are slim -

Of ever finishing the many jobs That she has planned for the day. Thought she works with a will she falls far short When the night-time comes her way.

Then after supper when the house is quiet, And the children are all in bed, And the farmer sits in his easy chair, His feet higher than his head.

This humble farm-wife then sits down,

With her needle and her ththread; And mends the shirts, pants and sox, Until it's time to go to bed.

Or perhaps she sits herself down At the sewing-machine to toil. She has to make the children's clothes, So she burns the midnight oil.

When at last she's ready for bed, She commits herself in God's keeping. But she knows at four o'clock in the morn, She'll be doing everything but sleeping.

Although she works hard, and her hours are long, She feels a great contentment, For she is well-housed here on the farm, And toward the world has no resentment.

In the winter by the fireside All content the farm-wife sits. She has no worry - a well filled cellar Makes her smile, as she knits.

Should some guests drop in for dinner, She could spread a royal "banquet," And the nicest part about it, There would be no extra debt.

But to be a real farm-wife She must be a pioneer. At the hardship must not falter, And of labor have no fear.

When comes life's golden autumn And she rests from years of toil, She bows her head and thanks her Maker That she's a daughter of the soil.

Essie Lindabury Apgar, 1934

This poem was read by Judy Smith as her historian's report. The verse appears here with Essie's original spelling and grammar. Essie was a grandmother of George M. Willard, John, Jeanne, and Bernays. We publish this poem with permission from George M. Apgar.

An Apgar veteran of World War II

Harry Crampton's Harrowing Experience

By Howard S. Apgar

Harry W. Crampton (3.7.7.2.1.5.2.) had a harrowing experience during WWII from a vantage point that would have been unbelievable to his great-grandfather, Matthias H. Apgar, a veteran of the Army of the Potomac in the Civil War.

Harry grew up in Mountainville, NJ with his older brother, Lester, and younger sister, Helen. After Harry went to work for IBM at Johnson City, NY, his parents, William and Phoebe (Apgar) Crampton, also moved there.

Harry enlisted in the Army Air Corps and became a radio operator, gunner and photographer on a B-24 Liberator (four-engine heavy bomber). He participated in the bombing of the Ploesti oil fields, one of the most heavily defended targets in Europe, flying in low at fifty feet through barrage balloons and anti-aircraft. Several missions later, on August 16, 1943, he was shot down over Foggia, Italy.

On a videotape made a few years ago, Harry described the "hit" as a huge hole in the wing between engines 1 & 2 and broken gas lines spraying gas all over the place. He said, "the smoke was so thick that you couldn't see your hand before your face. Then it cleared, and we were ordered to bail out. We were at 17,000 feet. I fell about 12,000 feet, rolling around and looking down. We were told that if we bailed out, we could tell when we were close to the ground because the air would be more dense, but I didn't notice any difference. I thought I'd better pull the ripcord. When I did, the ring came off in my hand, and I was startled. Then I remembered that the ring opened a small parachute which then opened the main parachute. I was falling headfirst, and the wind was roaring in my ears. When the chute opened, my feet went past my head, and I thought I had broken my neck. Then, it was quiet."

"All of a sudden a German Messerschmitt 109 fighter plane came straight toward me. I thought he was going to blow me out of the sky. I said Goodbye Harry. He came so close that I could see his face. But

he flew around me and left. Before I could recover, another plane, a Focke Wulf 190 fighter, came toward me, but he too looked me over and flew away. I guess they were giving my position."

"I looked down and saw that I was headed for a burning plane on the ground, so I jerked the lines real hard, and came down in a tree and really hurt my back. But I got down and collected my chute. At first I wrapped my chute around me. However the weather was warm, so I dumped the chute and crawled into a small stream. That took away some of the shock."

"I couldn't walk, so I crawled, but that was all right because there were machine guns being fired all over the place. You couldn't put your hand up without being hit. I crawled for about two hours, but all at once I rolled into a group of 50 Germans and that was it. I was a Prisoner of War."

In a recent telephone conversation, Harry said, "I thought we would be freed when Italy surrendered, but the Germans said that they had shot us down, and we were their prisoners. So they sent us to Germany. We traveled by bus, but our Allies bombed and strafed our column at the Brenner Pass upending the bus directly ahead of us. We were taken back and put on a train bound for Frankfort, Germany. All prisoners had to go to Frankfort first. On a railroad siding in Munich, Germany, we were bombed again—this time by the British."

"On Oct. 12, 1943, I arrived at Stalag 17B, Krems, near Vienna. My sleeve was stuck to my arm. We couldn't bathe; I thought it was just dirt, but it turned out to be my own blood that had dried. My arm became swollen. They said that the arm would have to come off,

but one of the men in the barracks who said he knew first aid got a sharp knife and alcohol and cut and scraped it for me— saved my arm and probably my life. I later learned that he had been a neurosurgeon."

"I stayed at Stalag 17B for 19 months. No one escaped from there. As the war neared the end, we were forced to walk 281 miles until Patton's Army liberated us. We were flown to France on May 8, 1945." Free at last!

Howard is a trustee and former WWII bomber pilot.



Harry Crampton in WWII (left) and today (right)



The B-24 Liberator of WWII

The Sunday Tour

by Judy Smith

Sunday, September 18, was one of the more beautiful days of this fall - no rain, temperatures in the low 70s and a great day for visiting some historical places where our ancestors lived, worshiped and were buried.

When the trustees decided to adopt a new format for the annual reunion, it was hoped that there would be several people interested in spending a large part of a day getting to know each other and in seeing a larger part of the area where Johannes Peter Apgard settled and raised his family.

About 25 of us met at the Spinning Wheel Diner near Whitehouse, NJ. We arrived at a good time so many of us were able to sit together. Those trustees who attended tried to spread out among these tables so we could get to talk with the members present. Conversations flowed easily - most were very anxious to find out about the others sitting with them. I was very lucky to have seated with me four people who never attended our reunions and one who just found out last year that she was an Apgar! Three of them were from the same family line and discovered that they were actually very closely related. Many interesting ideas came from the time we spent at the diner!

We journeyed to the Cokesbury United Methodist Church to attend Sunday service and were welcomed by several members of the church, some of whom were also Apgar family members. Several more people who were not able to attend the breakfast but wanted to worship together joined our group.

Pastor John Bickerstaff greeted us and asked us to stand and be recognized. It's difficult to describe how it felt to actually be worshiping in the same church that our ancestors did 150 years ago!

After church services the ladies of the United Methodist Women graciously provided coffee and a snack for all of us. We had time to catch our breath and fill our stomachs before heading south.

Shortly afterwards Pastor John met us outside by the newly erected sign for the church cemetery. He was interested in knowing more about our ancestors and our association and then spoke to us briefly telling us how great it was that we joined their church service and wished us a good afternoon.



Apgars surround a new sign at Cokesbury Church Cemetery

We divided into car loads and headed to our first destination, the homestead of our patriarch, Johannes Peter Apgard. Located about a mile south from the Methodist Church on Cokesbury Road, the homestead is identified by a large marker near the road. George N. Apgar, Jr., tour director, gathered us around the marker and told us the story of how it came to be placed there. After getting permission from the present owner, Dave Mills, one bright Saturday morning back in the 1980s, George N. Apgar, Jr., Robert O. Apgar, John S. Apgar, and Theodore Apgar met at the homestead to set the stone in place.

The niece and great-niece of Theodore Apgar of Lebanon were with us and were introduced - Charlotte and Marnie Kelly of Yorktown, VA. They were pleasantly surprised to learn of their Uncle Ted's involvement. Two small

American Flags now high-light the marker

which is located on the homestead property out near Cokesbury Road.

The present owner had earlier given us permission to take pictures. The original homestead consists of a large room with fireplace and a small room to the side that was the parents' bedroom. The children slept in a loft over the keeping room. There have been additions made to this home since the original homestead was built in the mid-1700s. We also walked around the house to the area which is believed to be the final resting place of Johannes and his wife and probably also of their first-born child, Herbert, and his second wife.



Apgar family members at the original homestead of Johannes Peter.

Our next stop was the Lebanon Reformed Church. Rev. Janet Johnston was unable to meet us there but, instead Mr. Voorhees, a member of the church, welcomed us and let us in to see the church. While making our way through the social hall to the sanctuary, we stopped to see a map of the old Lebanon Reformed Church Cemetery complete with a listing of the people buried there.



The tour group gathers at the Lebanon Reformed Church.

The Lebanon Reformed Church has a documented three-fold history: as a Presbyterian church, as a German Reformed church, and as a Dutch Reformed church. It has been known by numerous names. On the "3rd day of July, 1747, Rev. Michael Schlatter journeyed to the area called Rockaway." There he received several young persons into the church and the next day, he "administered the Holy Supper in a small church to an attentive and reverent assembly." This was the beginning of what is now the Lebanon Reformed Church.

This church was incorporated in 1788 under the name of "First High Dutch Reformed Congregation in the Township of Lebanon." Included in the names of the trustees was the name Hans Peter Apgar. The church was located on the same property as the old cemetery on what today is called Cherry Street.

In 1816 the congregation "deemed it expedient" to build a new church. The new church was built of brick in the same location near the graveyard at a cost of \$7,459.70. Fifty two members in full communion were listed for the first time. Names taken from the consistory minutes written by the Rev. Jacob J. Schultz included those of George Apgar (1.4.), Peter Apgar (possibly 7. or 1.2.), Ann Apgar (1.1.), wife of John W. Alpaugh, Catherine Apgar (6.3.), wife of George Cramer (Kraemer - Apgard), Elizabeth Dilts, wife of Jacob Apgar, and many others who married into the Apgar family.

In 1854 a large frame church was built on the site of the present church at a cost of \$6,000 and it was dedicated on May 31, 1855. By 1883 the membership had grown to 408 members and there were two Sunday Schools with an enrollment of 250. In 1924 the church was electrified and the old windows of the church were removed and replaced with stained glass.

Sadly, on August 19, 1937, this church was destroyed by fire. Lightning struck the steeple for the second time in its history. Firemen were able to save most of the chapel and its contents. On August 23 it was unanimously decided to rebuild the church immediately and the new church was dedicated December 11, 1938.

The last stop on our tour was the old cemetery

on Cherry Street in Lebanon. Many of the stones have been destroyed over the years but records of known burials can be found in the NJ Genealogical Magazine, copies of which can be found in the Hunterdon County Historical Society and several larger libraries. Many of the first generation Apgars are buried there along with many of their families.

As there were several descendants of Jacob and Hannah Apgar in our tour group, they were very

enthusiastic about our discovery of the tombstone of Hannah Charity Pickel, wife of Jacob. There was great excitement when it was found lying on top of another stone.

As keeper of the records of this large family, I was so excited to watch as those new to our family discovered more about their ancestors and the beautiful part of Hunterdon County where



The tour group at the old cemetery on Cherry Street, Lebanon.

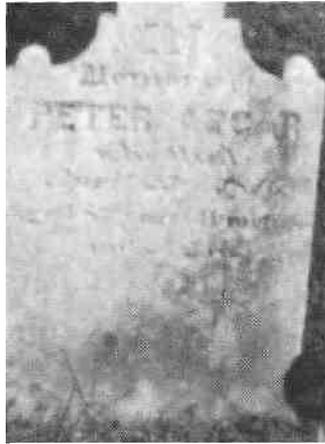
Johannes Peter Apgard began what has turned out to be a wonderful legacy for his descendants! Please come join us next year as we travel to other homesteads of the earlier generations of Apgars and the final resting places of many.

Information about the Lebanon Reformed Church was taken from the booklet printed in 1997 "Lebanon Reformed Church - Celebrating a Legacy of Hope 250 Years of Ministry" written by Judy VanDoren and Kevin DeVries

Peter Apgar

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harvest crops. Peter and the Hunterdon militia were next engaged in a small skirmish with British troops on January 20, 1777 at the Millstone River in Somerset County. Later that year, the militia would encamp at intervals in Elizabethtown, New Jersey to keep the British at Staten Island under observation and deter foraging in New Jersey. Throughout the remainder of the war, Peter participated in skirmishes with local Tories (British sympathizers) in a nasty guerilla war. Peter occasionally performed guard duty at a small bridge on an approach to Union near High Bridge, which months and 27 days" manufactured armaments for the Continental Army.



Stone reads: "In memory of Peter Apgar Who died April Forge (later Taylor-Wharton) 23, 1846 Aged 87 years 11

In 1779, Peter married Mary Ann Alcock. Becoming a family man and head of his own farm household curtailed his military activity. Ultimately Peter fathered twelve children and was an active member of the Lebanon Reformed Church, whose records continued to be written in German until the 1790s. In 1820 Mary died. Peter waited twenty years before remarrying. On August 30, 1840, at the age of 82, he wed a young widow named Christina Anderson. Peter achieved the distinction of being one of the last living veterans of the Revolutionary War. He died on April 23, 1846, a week short of his 88th birthday. He was interred next to his first wife, Mary, and grandson Naum, in the old Lebanon Reformed Cemetery.

In August 1850, Peter's heirs applied for a pension for their deceased father's Revolutionary War service, which amounted to over a year of active duty. It was later rejected. However, Peter's service to his country is remembered. A Veteran's Administration monument was placed at his grave in a dedication ceremony in 1984.

Conrad Apgar

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the building. Conrad soon bought the building from John Farley. Mary died in 1790. With seven children ranging in age from twelve to infancy, Conrad probably wasted little time in finding a new wife. He took Charity Sutton, daughter of John Sutton and Elizabeth Abel, as his second wife. They had seven more children.

In 1813, Conrad sold the hotel back to John Farley for a local farm valued at \$2700. With eight of his fourteen children still at home, Conrad likely considered it preferable to put his boys to work on a farm, as the hotel couldn't have kept them very busy.

Years later, on August 14, 1832, Conrad applied for a pension for his Revolutionary War services. His total time on active duty amounted to about 8 months of active duty. He was granted an award of \$20 per year. To receive this money, Conrad was required to appear in person in Flemington, a round trip of more than 30 miles. When he filed, Conrad was already 77 years old, and the trip to Flemington and back was quite arduous and expensive for him. In addition, the person who took him would lose a day from work, and they would probably have to stay overnight, incurring costs for meals, a hotel room and a stable for the horse. Likely there was little remaining by the time Conrad got home! However, he routinely collected the pension money for several years. Perhaps he enjoyed the outings. The last payment was claimed on September 14, 1837 when he was 82 years old. After that he may have been too feeble to make the trip.

Conrad died on March 9, 1839 at the age of 84. He was interred at the Lebanon Reformed Church Cemetery, next to his older brother Herbert's first wife Anne. As Herbert was buried on the family homestead in Cokesbury, this may have originally been his planned resting place. Whether Conrad's wives, Mary and Charity, (who died in 1845) are also buried there is unknown, although there is adequate space for them. Conrad's gravesite includes a monument from the Veteran's Administration attesting to his services at the birthing of our nation.

The information in these stories was based partially on the 1985 reunion brochure and Vol 1 (1985) of Johannes Peter Apgard and His Descendants. Mike Apgar is Vice President of the Association. He is a history buff and he lives in Dover, Delaware. He published two previous articles in our newsletter, "What Did the Apgars do in the Civil War?" and "The Apgars of Apgar (Montana)."

When the Apgars First Came Here

Adapted from a presentation by Maude Kenyon

The Apgar family is one of the largest of Hunterdon County's founding families. When Johannes Peter Apgard arrived here around 1734, he settled in what is now Cokesbury - but what did find here?

The land, heavily wooded, had no real roads. Indian trails helped those early settlers, especially the main Lenape trails running from Perth Amboy, NJ to Easton, PA. There would have been Indians camped along the trail; the settlers had no way of knowing if they were friendly.

When the early settlers reached Potterstown, they found a settlement there - members of what was to later become the Zion Lutheran Church of Oldwick.

Once they left the main trail, travel became more difficult. The travelers would have been happy with what they saw when they reached the crest of the hill. There was an abandoned Lenape village - long ago, the land had been cleared for planting. Later they found another place down, what is now, Bissell Road.

Their early shelters might have been lean-tos. The first cabins, made of rough logs, would have later been covered with split boards. Eventually they built the same type of house they knew in Germany - one with a big cellar, a chimney in the middle, wide kitchen fireplace, and an open storeroom at the other end. Sleeping areas on the first floor were scattered. A loft was added as the family grew.

The Germans had the most efficient cooking and heating system. An oven was built next to the fire for baking. Some chimneys even had a projection near the attic eaves, shaped like a box, which was used to smoke meats.

Many early settlers liked the protection of living in a village, so many newcomers arrived. A road was built along the route the Apgars first climbed the hill. It ran from Lebanon to Oldwick. Roads to High Bridge and Mountainville followed later.

John LeQuear wrote, in his Traditions of Hunterdon (published 1869-70), "At the commencement of the 19th century only four houses stood near the limits of the village. These were the Old Hoffman homestead, the tavern kept by Conrad Apgar, and the house at the end of the mountain where James Farley lived. There was another old



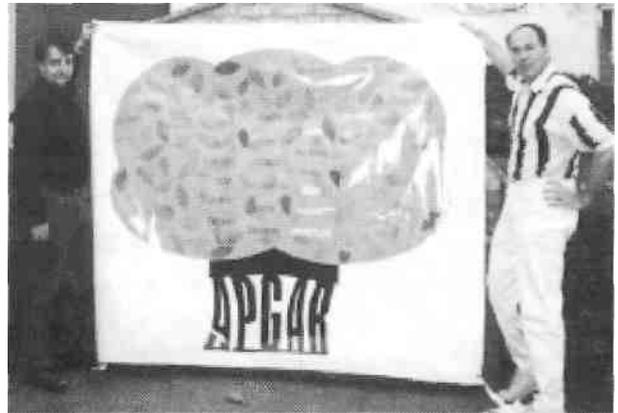
Maude Kenyan speaking.

house, the ruins of which can still be seen, surrounded by some Lombardy poplars, about a hundred yards from the tavern."

Those early Apgars faced unbelievable hardships both getting here and staying to form a settlement. Their courage was an inspiration. As the village grew and prospered in the 1800s it became a living heritage of its founders.

Family Banner

The Apgar Family Association will be displaying the new Family Banner at the 2001 reunion. See the photo below. We need donations to pay for this banner as we had not budgeted for its purchase. If you can help, please mail your donation to Wayne Dilts, Treasurer. Note on your check the reference "Apgar Banner 2001." Thanks.



MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Contact Wayne Dilts to purchase the following items. Prices do not include the cost of shipping.

- 1 Dr. Virginia Apgar magnet: \$3.00
- 2 Apgar Family Association tee shirts, sizes S, M, L, and XL: \$10.00
- 3 Apgar Family Association sweatshirts (navy or white), sizes S, M, L, and XL: \$18.00
- 4 Dr. Virginia Apgar stamp staff shirt (white), sizes S, M, L, and XL: \$20.00
- 5 Dr. Virginia Apgar stamp nylon tote bag (navy): \$15.00
- 6 Golf shirts (light gray) with the apgar Family

Association logo (the family tree) in lilac \$

To order the following, contact Mary Apgar, 416 Runyon Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846 (908) 968-3065

- 1 Hard cover edition of Vol. 2, Part 3, Jacob and William lines: \$40.00
- 2 First day of issue Dr. Virginia Apgar stamp cards: \$2.00

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

The following report comes from various sources. If there have been changes in your family, inform us, including your line, name, address, and full information on the birth, death, or marriage. For clippings, identify newspaper and date of notice. To ensure accuracy of family history and book information, send copies to both Judy AND Dorothy. Questions about information appearing here? Contact historian. By mail, enclose a SASE.

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Dorothy Apgar, Book Editor
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DEATHS:

APGAR, Roy W., (6.10.1.1.1.2.3.), 79, died 29 July 1999. Int. Rosedale Cemetery, Linden, NJ. **EICK**, Viola, (10.12.2.1.2,4.), 100, died 19 Jan 2000. Int. Union Cemetery, Lebanon, NJ.

SNYDER, Lucille "Sis", (unknown line), 74, died 27 Jan 2000 after being struck by a car in Phillipsburg, NJ.

CRAMER, Helen H. (w/o 1.8.9.8.1.1)(1.2.3.3.6.5.2.), 96 died 14 Jan 2000. Int. Lower Valley Cemetery, Califon, NJ

APGAR, Daniel M. "Bull", (6.7.6.1.4.1.), 78, died 15 Jan 2000. Int. St. Mary's Cemetery, Peabody, MA.

ALPAUGH, Lloyd B., (10.14.3.1.3.2.), 91, died 1 Feb 2000. Int. Mountain View Cemetery, Cokesbury, NJ.

CREGAR, George Abraham (h/o 5.7.8.3.4.1.) (1.2.11.9.7.1.1.), 82, died 8 Feb 2000. Int. Private.

APGAR, Helen Mertie, (w/o 3.5.5.2.2.3.), 95, died 10 Feb 2000. Int. Union Cemetery, Hackettstown, NJ.

CRAMER, Ruth (w/o 1.8.9.8.1.3.)(3.5.3.2.5.1.L), 85, died 25 Feb 2000. Int. Lower Valley Cemetery, Califon.

HOCKENBURY, Catherine E., (1.2.1.6.6.3.2.), 83, died 3 Mar 2000. Int. Bloomsbury Cemetery, Greenwich Twp.

ALPAUGH, Clarence, (2.3.1.12.5.2.), died 4 Mar 2000. Services Private.

EVERHARDT, William J., (h/o 6.10.2.2.2.3.), 72, died 9 Mar 2000. Int. Mountain View Cemetery, Cokesbury.

DUCKWORTH, LeRoy, Jr., (h/o 1.2.11.3.2.4.1.), 79, died 27 Mar 2000. Int. Evergreen Cemetery, Clinton, NJ.

HOFFMAN, Beatrice E. (Housel), (wife of John Hoffman), died 6 Apr 2000 in Raritan Twp., Hunterdon Co., NJ.

APGAR, Richard A., (6.5.2.1.2.2.2.3.), 67, died 7 Apr 2000. Services Private.

VAN SETERS, Dorothy, (d/o 7.3.1.4.1.1.3.), 77, died 17 May 2000. Int. Phillipsburg Cem., NJ.

FARLEY, Joseph, (grandson of 6.7.7.1./6.4.3.4.2.1.3.2.), 70, died 11 June 2000. Int. Mountain View Cem., Cokesbury.

ALPAUGH, Raymond I., (unknown line), 69, died 6 July 2000. Int. Fairmount Cemetery, Fairmount, NJ.

APGAR, Edward, (8.6.7.2.3.2.3.), 48, died 7 July 2000. Int. Northampton Memorial Shrine, Palmer Twp., PA.

ALPAUGH, Betty J., (w/o 3.7.9.12.2.3.1.), 73, died 12 July 2000. Int. Fairmount Cemetery, NJ.

DAVY, Fern-Ann, (3.5.3.4.1.2.1.1.2.), 52, died 26 July 2000. Int. Somerset Hills Memorial Park, NJ.

WERKHEISER, Esther, (d/o 1.9.1.2.1.), 87, died 14 Aug 2000. Services Private.

McCATHARN, Buddy H., (6.4.3.4.2.1.8.4.), 55, died 6 Sep 2000. Int. Fairmount Cemetery, NJ.

HANCE, Carol Elizabeth Apgar, (6.4.6.2.2.3.1.1.), 76, died 14 Sep 2000. Memorial Services in Shrewsbury, NJ.

SLIKER, Helen M., (w/o 1.2.1.1.5.1.1.), 73, died 6 Oct 2000. Int. Lower Valley Union Cemetery, Califon.

APGAR, John W., (9.5.1.10.3.1.), 81, died 12 Nov 2000. Int. Northampton Memorial Shrine, Palmer Twp., PA.

BIRTHS:

HANRAHAN, Jonathan David was born 5 Apr 1996 to Donna Mae Liedl (1.8.8.5.2.3.1.1.) and Stephen F. Hanrahan, Jr.

HANRAHAN, Stephen Patrick was born 22 Dec 1997 to Donna Mae Liedl (1.8.8.5.2.3.1.1.) and Stephen F. Hanrahan, Jr.

APGAR, Raelyn Marie was born 25 Dec 1999 to Jedidiah Apgar (unknown line) and Heather DeFronzo of Hackettstown, NJ.

McGRATH, Macy Elizabeth was born 17 Feb 2000 to Karen Leaver (6.12.10.5.2.3.1.2.3.) and John McGrath of Lancaster, PA.

APGAR, Catherine Teresa was born 19 Mar 2000 to Robert C. Apgar (9.6.2.10.7.1.1.) and Christa E. Rumpf of Hampstead, MD

APGAR, Gavin Christopher was boen 5 Apr 2000 to Christopher Linford Apgar (2.3.1.2.1.2.1.1.1.) and Mary Gilmartin of Highland Park, NJ.

HERRON, Emily Raelyn was born 3 May 2000 to Ray Herron (1.2.1.2.5.1.9.1.10(6.2.5.6.6.9.1.1.) and Tanya

Herron of Easton, PA.

GANNON, Kathryn Mae was born 7 May 2000 to Lisa Kerr (1.2.11.9.7.4.1.4.1.) and Dean Gannon of High Bridge, NJ.

HALL, Vivian Rose was born 23 Jul 2000 to Leigh Hall (son of 1.8.9.8.3.2.2.) and his wife, Krisann, of Raritan Township, NJ.

HANKINSON, Austin Taylor was born 7 Aug 2000 to Daniel J. Hankinson (s/o 3.5.3.1.4.4.1.1.) and Barbara Jean Mueller of Glen Gardner, NJ.

HANN, James Patrick was born 28 Aug 2000 to Michael Hann (6.2.3.5.3.1.1.1.) and Colleen Haffling of High Bridge, NJ.

APGAR-RENTZ, Anthony Paul was born 30 Aug 2000 to Sarah Marie Rentz and the late Anthony Paul Apgar (unknown line) in Brandon, FL.

HASTINGS, Brooke Elizabeth was born 12 Sep 2000 to Wade Hastings (6.12.10.5.2.1.2.1.2.) and Linda Hastings of West Sand Lake, NY.

MARRIAGES:

ALPAUGH, Andrew (6.5.7.4.1.2.1.1.)(1.8.9.4.7.2.1.1.) married Sara Elizabeth Nering on 18 Feb 2000 in Baptistown, NJ.

SNARE, Melanie B. (grdaughter/o 6.10.2.2.2.2.4.) married Hutch A. Novacek 8 Apr 2000 in Pittstown, NJ.

APGAR, Richard Wayne Jr. (s/o 1.2.11.5.3.3.1.4.) married Karen Marie Leshko on 20 May 2000 in Easton, PA.

GILBERT, Deborah Apgar (3.5.3.1.3.3.2.2.) married Michael Nelson 17 June 2000 in Bozeman, MT.

APGAR, Carrielynn (6.12.10.5.2.1.1.1.) married Robert Jay Pecker on 24 June 2000 at her parent's home in West Sand Lake, NY.

TIGER, Jamie Kimble (s/o 1.2.3.7.2.7.3.2.) married Nicole Suzanne Allen 24 June 2000 in Washington, NJ.

SUTTON, Patricia Ann (1.8.8.5.1.1.2.) married Ronald Barber 26 Aug 2000 at their home in Glen Gardner, NJ.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Hazel M. Apgar (w/o 1.2.1.6.6.1.1.) celebrated her 90th birthday on 15 July 2000. She lives in Lopatcong Township, NJ.

Dawn Hall Apgar, wife of Howard Apgar (6.7.6.1.4.2.3.), was elected President of the NJ Chapter of National Association of Social Workers on 28 June 2000. She will serve as the 2000-2003 president.

Sean Robert Apgar (s/o 6.10.10.5.2.1.4.1.) of Weehauken, NJ and Sarah Ann Falcinelli are engaged to be married. The wedding is planned for 30 June 2001.

Amanda W Smith (3.5.3.1.4.4.1.2.1.) was inducted into the Golden Key National Honor Society on 12 Nov 2000. Amanda is a senior at Rutgers University.

Reports and Announcements

Newsletter Report

Nearly 400 newsletters were distributed earlier this year. Judy and Amanda Smith prepared the July 2000 newsletter with submissions from trustees and other members. The trustees plan to send two issues this coming year, one in December 2000 to report on the 2000 reunion and tour and the second in June 2001 to describe the reunion and other activities. Please send comments to: Hank Apgar, Editor.

Please send changes in address to Barbara Apgar (address on last page). Re-sending returned newsletters costs us money!

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the checkbook is \$975.16. A \$5000 CD is still on deposit.

Wayne Dilts, Treasurer

Membership

In the year 2000, a total of 240 individuals and families established membership in the association. Quite a few joined or renewed during the 2000 Reunion. Your participation supports the organization.

To become a member of the Apgar Association please send your name, address and family line (if known) to: Barbara Apgar (address on last page). Enclose a check for \$6.00 for individual membership or \$ 11.00 for family (all members of which must live under one roof) membership.

Membership is open to anyone interested in our association. To be a voting member, however, you must be 18 years of age or older and have paid dues for the current year.

Memberships must be renewed yearly and expire December 31st. Members receive the following: a copy of the annual newsletter, a written invitation to the reunion, and the right to vote at the business meeting.

Barbara Apgar, Chairperson

Apgar Family Association, Inc.

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Deceased Trustees

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Ronald F. Apgar (1940 - 1998)

Henry E. Apgar (1907 – 1998)