



APGAR

Family Association Newsletter

www.apgarfamily.com

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Summer 2007

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Come to Our 2007 Reunion on September 15 & 16

Join us for our 33rd family reunion to be held at the Stanton Grange Hall, 16 Route 618, Lebanon, New Jersey on Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16, 2007. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet old friends and members of our extended family, descendants of the original Apgars who came to Hunterdon County from Ger-many in the 1700s. The following activities have been planned for your enjoyment.

Saturday, September 15

Morning

- 10:00** Greeting, Show & Tell, Genealogy Assistance
- 11:00** Speaker—Mark Pilipski
Determining the Age of Old Barns
- 11:40** Annual Group Photo

Afternoon

- 12:00** Southern Style Lunch
(Adults \$10.00; Children under 10 years \$5.00)
- 1:30** Business Meeting plus
Genealogy Report by Mike Apgar

- 2:30** Auction - Wm. Rogers silverware set
- 2:45** Sing Along—Tunes of our Ancestors
- 3:15** Sharing Mementos of the Past & Genealogy Assistance
- 4:00** Closing Remarks

Plus fun-filled Arts & Crafts Activities for the Children

Sunday, September 16

This year, Sunday will be free for members do whatever they want. A list of local church services will be provided on Saturday, along with written directions for self-guided tours of the historic sites in the area.

Directions to the Stanton Grange

The Stanton Grange Hall is at 16 Route 618, in Lebanon, New Jersey. The Route 618 East exit on Route 31 is about 5 1/2 miles north of the Flemington traffic circle, and about 4 miles south of 1-78. The Grange hall is on the left at the crest of the hill, about 1/4 of a mile from Route 31.



Special Auction at Reunion

At the last reunion, Arthur Koenig and Jean Apgar Koenig donated a set of Wm. Rogers silverware, which had been a wedding gift to Jean's parents. They requested that this set be auctioned at this year's annual meeting to try to keep it in the family. Don't miss this chance to obtain an "instant heirloom" for your family. (Pieces marked with the letter "A.")



Determining the Age of Old Barns

This year the reunion speaker will be Mark Pilipski, who specializes in the renovation and restoration of old stone and timber buildings through his contracting company, "Barns Are Noble." A mason by trade, he is the author of *The Old Barn Book: Building with Timber, Building with Stone*, which should be published soon. An expert in determining the age of old

barns based on observations of various construction elements and reviewing historic records, he will present a slide show and lecture on this subject. Our Apgar ancestors were farmers, and every farm had a barn, so this subject should prove to be interesting to all of us. We have asked Mr. Pilipski to cover German barns in particular as part of his presentation.

Apgar General Store Open on Saturday

The Apgar General Store will be open for business during the first day of our reunion on the second floor of the Stanton Grange. This is your chance to buy Apgar memorabilia. The following items will be available.

Apgar 2007 Family Collectible Vase (stoneware with a cobalt glaze), for \$30. This year's design is a canister with a sketch of the old Puderbach Reformed Church in Germany. If not sold out at the reunion, the vase will be available by mail from George Apgar, Jr., at the address on back page of this newsletter at the same price including shipping. (Make checks payable to George.)

Apgar Family Fraktur House Blessing Artwork.

This is a traditional Fraktur reminiscent of the German House Blessings created by our 18th Century ancestors. This design was created by 21st Century Apgar artist Louanna Rich and is destined to become a family heirloom.

While supplies last—

Polo Shirts - Men's and Lady's, various colors and sizes with crossed flags or family tree logo

Canvas totes with family tree logo

Virginia Apgar lapel pins, post cards, stamped envelopes

Apgar bears

Framed maps of Epgert homeland - Germany

Apgar Christmas ornaments, lapel pins and patches

Message from your President — Lynn Conley

During the past year the Trustees of the Apgar Family Association have been working diligently on various projects to inform and educate our members.

Thanks to the hard work of a new trustee, Mary Carpenter, we are expanding and updating our website as well as getting Volume 1 of our genealogy ready to issue on a CD.

Mike Apgar, our genealogist, continues to expand the DNA research for the family in addition to updating the findings on the genealogical data on our patriarch, Fritz Eggert.

Trustees Henry "Hank" Apgar and Mike took time in September 2006, to represent the New World Apgars at the 750th Anniversary Celebration of Puderbach, Germany, the ancestral home of our forefathers.

David Rich, our treasurer, continues to provide outstanding oversight of our finances.

Louanna Rich, our German heritage expert and corresponding secretary, gathers information regarding the culture and customs of our ancestors by attending various genealogical society events, and makes sure all correspondence is completed in a timely fashion.

Debbie Apgar, our membership trustee, has worked non-stop on keeping our files updated, including doing all the mailings for the association to over 270 Apgar Family members. We must also thank her family for their assistance in this process. Debbie was also instrumental in setting up our Sunday event at the last reunion, which included a private viewing of genealogical data and materials at the Special Collections Room of the Alexander Library at Rutgers University.

George N. Apgar, Jr., our Vice-President, continues to be the motivating force in designing and acquiring our German-style pottery for the store, which he has done for the past 10 years. George

also attends many New Jersey historical events, which provide the association with new leads and information regarding the Apgar Family.

Judy Beck, a former trustee, continues to serve as the Family Historian. Judy has the responsibility of collecting local historical data, such as birth and death announcements, along with other pertinent information regarding the family.

Two of our newest Trustees, Wendy Rumrill and Dolorita Cronk, assist with reunion events in conjunction with the other trustees, since it takes a team to make things happen.

The final thanks goes to Roger Flartey, our recording secretary and newsletter editor, whose literary skills provide the venue for these words.

Without the hard work and dedication of these individuals, the Apgar Family Association might fade away into family lore. Instead we continue to grow and expand the knowledge of the ancestors whose DNA and life adventures made us who we are. I therefore say thank you to all the individuals mentioned for their hard work and time.

Our ancestors provided an abundance of effort and sacrifices so we could have life; therefore it is only fitting that we honor them by finding and preserving their names and contributions for future generations.

Genealogy is the Gift of Family and it is magical when we bring ancestors back to life. The astronomer Dr. Carl Sagan explained it best: "You have to know the past to understand the present." Genealogy is the telescope of time and we are the time travelers that view this wondrous past.

Lynn Conley,
President of the Apgar Family Association



Apgar Association Trustees

Left to right: Mike Apgar, Mary Carpenter, George N. Apgar, Jr., Lynn Conley, Debbie Apgar, David Rich, Dolorita Cronk, Louanna Rich, Roger Flartey. (Not pictured: Henry Apgar, Jr., Wendy Rumrill.)

The 2006 Reunion - September 16, 2006

The 32nd annual Apgar Family Reunion was held on Saturday, September 16, 2006, again at the Stanton Grange Hall, with 105 members in attendance. Once again, states from New Jersey to Alaska were represented.

The morning was devoted to viewing displays of Apgar memorabilia, exchanging information, shopping at the Apgar "store," and a special presentation by Mike Apgar about his recent trip to Puderbach, Germany, during the celebration of the 750th anniversary of the founding of that town, which he attended with his wife, Carol, and Henry Apgar, just a few days before the reunion. This town is in the immediate vicinity of the villages believed to be the homes of our ancestors.

At about two o'clock in the afternoon, President Lynn Conley opened the annual business meeting and discussed the significant events that had occurred during the year. These included the death of Dorothy Apgar, who had served as a Trustee, Family Historian and book editor; the successful search for graves on the old Apgar homestead; and the new information that resulted in the designation of Fritz Epgert as family patriarch in place of Johannes Peter Apgard. Lynn also announced a decision by the Trustees to increase the annual dues to \$8 from \$6 for an individual, and to \$12 from \$11 for a family membership.

Recording Secretary Roger Flartey read a letter from Mary Wolfe, a daughter of Dorothy Apgar, in which she said she would continue her mother's efforts as book editor.

Corresponding Secretary Louanna Rich reported that all donations to the Association had been acknowledged in writing.

Treasurer Dave Rich reported a checking account balance as of August 31, 2006 of \$1,931.36, and a certificate of deposit worth \$6,467.12 maturing on February 22, 2007, for a total of \$8,398.48. (A copy of his report is filed with the minutes of the meeting.)

Historian Judy Beck requested that members contact her in the cases of births, marriages and deaths in the family.

Debbie Apgar reported that there were 221 members.

Vice President George Apgar announced that cemetery at the Lebanon Reformed Church had again become overgrown and in need of maintenance. Since this was the first church attended by our Apgar ancestors in America, he thought that a plaque to this effect may be put there in the future. George asked for a moment of silence in memory of those of our family who had passed away during the year, and then gave a eulogy for Dorothy Apgar.

Genealogist Mike Apgar gave his report, in which he said that many families came from the Westerwald and the rest of the Palatine area of Germany. He has identified Wolfgang Epgert as possibly the last male

descendant of our ancestors still living in Germany, but has been unable to obtain a DNA sample to confirm this. DNA samples of other current male Apgar descendants show a 50% chance of a common ancestor within the past ten generations.

President Lynn Conley announced that the nominating committee had proposed that the current slate of officers be retained for another year, and this will be confirmed by the Trustees. Debbie Apgar, Henry Apgar, Jr., David Rich and Roger Flartey were nominated as continuing Trustees. Mary Carpenter and Dolorita Cronk were nominated as new Trustees. There were no additional nominations from the floor and as a result of the vote of the members in attendance, the designated individuals were elected as trustees. In order to achieve the balance mandated by the bylaws to have one-third of the trustees elected each year, Mary Carpenter and Dolorita Cronk will serve initial terms or one year.

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

- Oldest male: Leo Hornsby, age 82.
- Oldest female: Joyce Apgar Garrison and Jean Rinehart, tied at age 80.
- Longest married: Paul and Joyce Garrison, 59 years.
- Traveled farthest to attend: Breena Apgar Kurtz, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Youngest child present: Logan Kotch, age 34 months.
- Largest family group present: Frank Conley, 13 members.
- Newest "Mom:" Cheryl Kotch (with child)
- Most recently married: Ken and Joyce Apgar
- Most grandchildren: Carol and Larry Frayze, 17

After the business meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM, a "tricky tray" auction was conducted with various prizes awarded to the lucky winners.

Pictures of some of the reunion participants and activities are on the facing page.

Do you want to help plan our 34th Annual Family Reunion?

You are invited to attend a Reunion Planning Workshop to begin planning the September 2008 Family Reunion. The workshop will be held at Chelsea's Restaurant and Pub, 10651 Route 22 East, Lebanon, NJ, from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon on Saturday, November 3. Please call George Apgar Jr. (732) 297-6686 or Lynn Conley (201) 460-9202 if you'd like to participate.



Looking for Ancestors.



**Paul and Joyce Garrison,
Married 59 years**



**Newlyweds Ken & Joyce Apgar.
married 59 years.**



Leo Hornsby, 82



Jean Rinehart and Joyce Apgar Garrison, tied at 80.



Logan Kotch, almost 3.



Largest Family Group, Frank Conley, 13



Brena Apgar Kurtz, Anchorage, Alaska

DIE BETTEIT¹

by Louanna Rich

The diversity of the eighteenth-century English and German culture within the American colonies might seem trivial in our era of multicultural blending. Whether rye bread versus white bread or thick goose feather comforters encased in duvet covers instead of the traditional pieced fabric quilts, all are as American as apple pie. Such mundane aspects of American culture, however, would have provoked debate and social critique by Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush, M.D. Both founding fathers, proud of their English heritage, wrote extensively of their dislike of the German culture imported into the British colonies by the flow of refugees from the Palatine. Both Franklin's Almanac and Rush's medical texts expressed concern about cultural diversity and its feared outcome.

Cultural controversy was evident in the choice of bedding. "Germans loved and defended their feathered bed cover which the English feared and despised."² Bedsteads and bedding were the most expensive items in any eighteenth-century home. Double bedsteads measured 72" long by 53" wide - a three-quarters bed by twenty-first century standards. Bedsteads were portable and could be dismantled and reassembled to accommodate the small living spaces of eighteenth-century farm houses. Hemp rope stretched across bed rail pegs provided a base for the bedding.

Dr. Franklin and Dr. Rush would expect their beds to consist of a soft under-mattress stuffed with goose feathers, two linen sheets, multiple bolsters, pillows, and woolen blankets topped with pattern quilts of pieced fabric.

The German immigrant concept of comfort was a firm straw mattress covered with one sheet of linen or wool topped with a thick canvass bag filled with nineteen pounds of goose feathers encased in a linen slip case, with multiple bolsters and pillows.

The English slept on their feather mattress; the Germans slept under their feather mattress.

Travel in eighteenth-century America was an adventure wrought with fear and often uncomfortable learning experiences. The most constant complaints were culinary and bedding. Charles West Thompson,

who spent one night in a "German" public tavern in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, wrote in his travel journal, "Here the Dumb Dutchman did not know how to make a bed. There was just one sheet on the bed, no upper sheet, with the mattress on top of the bed not on the bottom." The German tavern owner responded "you English people are Fools!! You lie on the bed to keep warm. The best way is to have the feather bed [cover] on you."

Even in the most immaculate eighteenth-century house-holds, whether English or German, bedding was laundered only twice a year. The traditional house-cleaning events were conducted in spring and fall. Bedsteads were dismantled, bedding stripped, and straw removed. Sheets and cases were boiled in lye soap, then dried on rope lines or shrubs. Laundering was an arduous task. Not all households or public taverns had enough time or labor. In between Spring and Fall cleaning, bedding was hung out of the windows and aired, often resulting in damp sheets.

In 1756, Benjamin Franklin wrote "we lodged at our inn. The first night ... I got into bed, but jumped out immediately, finding them [sheets and pillows] as cold as death and partly frozen. She had aired them ... out upon the hedge. Everything else about the bed was dirty ... I was forced to wrap myself up in my Great coat."

As immigration increased, assimilation and acceptance of English customs became the basis for "American culture." English and German customs merged. The twenty pound feathered bed cover was replaced by the thin colorful multi-pieced coverlet of the traditional folk craft, the "American quilt."

By the 1830s, many American families lost much of their old-world German heritage. Decades later in the twentieth century, Americans would discover the white goose down filled comforter tucked within its duvet and matching bed sheet to be both functional and stylish.

1. Eighteenth-century German for "the beds."
2. Author and historian Alan Keyser, an expert on eighteenth-century German-American folk culture.

GENEALOGIST'S PRAYER

*Lord, help me dig into the past,
And sift the sands of time,
That I might find the roots that made
This family tree of mine.
Lord, help me trace the ancient roads,
On which my fathers trod,
And led them through so many lands,
To find our present sod.
Lord, help me find an ancient book,*

*Or dusty manuscript,
That's safely hidden now away,
In some forgotten crypt.
Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts
My soul, when I can't find
The missing link between some name
That ends the same as mine.*

Author Unknown

Music and its Genealogical Connection

By Lynn Conley

Music, according to many sources, predates spoken language and certainly predates written language. It has been found in every culture throughout history.

The first music is believed to have been based on the sounds found in nature, such as birdsongs and the cries other animals made to communicate. Some believe prehistoric music can be heard in the songs of the Native Americans and the Australian Aboriginal tribes. The "oldest known song" was written in cuneiform, dating to 4,000 years ago.

The ancestors of whom we are most aware were listening to music from the baroque period (1600 to 1760) through the twentieth century. Within this time period our relatives also were exposed to folk music that probably had its roots at least as far back as the Middle Ages.

What is important about these facts and their relationship to genealogy, is that listening to period pieces can give us a new perspective on the lives of our ancestors. Music can give great insight into the customs and mores of a generation. It also can be a great interviewing tool, since a certain song or piece of music can bring us all back to a different place and time.

There are several good websites listed below that provide on-line listening and information regarding the songs our ancestors may have heard or sung at gatherings, meetings or while serving in war. Not only can you find old American songs, but also some old German ones. These websites also break down the songs into time periods such as the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War and into categories such as the gold rush, cowboys, and naval or sea songs. I hope you all find them as interesting as I have. Happy listening!

www.contemplator.com/america

www.earlyamerica.com/music/french-indian.htm

www.cvesd.k12.ca.us/finney/paulvm/h5_musicfrmset.html

<http://ingeb.org/Volksong.html>

Show & Tell = Virtual Museum

Each year, members are encouraged to bring in items of special interest for "show and tell" at the reunion. Starting this year, we will take digital pictures of some family treasures, old pictures, artifacts or heirlooms and post them on the Apgar Family website (www.apgarfamily.com) for all to see as part of our "virtual museum."

APFEL FRITTER

By Louanna Rich

Our German ancestors brought many interesting recipes whose origin can be traced to the kitchens of the Middle Ages.

Fruit, especially apples, were a mainstay of the Palatine diet. "Apfel fritter" or apple fritters are popular as a side dish or dessert.

8 Firm apples - Granny Smith
1 1/2 Cups of ale
1 1/2 Cups all-purpose flour
1 Egg
1/4 Teaspoon salt
1 Cup confectioners sugar
1 Teaspoon ground cinnamon

In a deep bowl, sift together flour and salt.

In another bowl, combine egg yolk and warm ale and mix.

Add mixtures, beat to form a light batter.

Allow batter to rest at room temperature for two hours.

Preheat vegetable cooking oil in a deep fryer.

Core and slice 8 apples into 1/4 inch thick slices.

Roll apple slices in sugar, then dip into batter.

Evenly coat each apple slice.

Deep fry covered apple slices until a golden brown color.

Place on absorbent paper and sprinkle with sugar cinnamon mix.

Eat immediately.

Central Jersey Genealogical Club German Research Group

by George Apgar

If you live in the Central New Jersey area and would like to join me in researching our German heritage through this genealogical club, feel free to contact me. Meetings usually are held monthly in the Hamilton Library, Hampton, New Jersey, and are most informative. Help us research our connections to Deutschland. If interested you can call me at 732 297-6686 or drop me a note at 218 Kempsey Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

Enjoy the Summer!

The Apgar Family Patriarch

by Michael A. Apgar

There has been confusion for more than a century about the identity of the immigrant patriarch of the Apgar family in America. The first known published Apgar genealogy appeared in *Early Germans of New Jersey* (Chamberlain, Theodore F., 1895). That account named Johannes Adam Ebert, who arrived in Philadelphia in 1749, as the immigrant from whom all Apgars are descended. This same family genealogy was reprinted separately as a pamphlet entitled "Apgar Genealogy" during the 1930s.

During the early 1980s the Apgar Association was re-established. Several family members worked diligently for many years to recompile and update our family's ancestry. They found that wills of two apparent "first generation" Apgars (Herbert and John Peter), signed at the turn of the nineteenth century, indicated that they had been born by the mid-1730s. Assuming that an earlier immigrant had been the father of our family, they found the name of Johannes Peter Apgard listed among the passengers on the galley Hope, which landed in Philadelphia in 1734. Other passengers on the same ship were prominent early settlers of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, including names like Neitzert, Albach, and Hoffman. By the time the extensive series of family histories were published by the Apgar Association during the 1980s, Johannes Peter Apgard had replaced Johannes Adam Ebert as the probable family patriarch, and the books were identified as Johannes Peter Apgard and his descendants.

However, during 2002 several family researchers found - independently from different sources simultaneously - documentation that the immigrant patriarch of the Apgar family was Friedrich "Fritz" Epgert. He arrived in Philadelphia on September 30, 1740 on the ship Robert & Elizabeth out of Rotterdam. Fritz was then 32 years old, and his signature is written clearly (and first) on the passenger list.

Copies of church records I obtained from Germany indicate that Fritz probably was the son of Johannes Adam Epgert and his first wife, Anna Sophia. They lived in the same village of Dauffenbach and attended church in Puderbach, both in the German Westerwald. However, the record that apparently shows Fritz's 1708 birth doesn't include the child's name! Sophia must have died before Fritz was one year old, because the records show that his father had another child (Johannes Peter) baptized in 1710, with the wife's name listed as Veronica.

Subsequently, Fritz's name appeared in the Puderbach church book as a witness at weddings and as a godfather. In 1731 he married Anna Julianna Haag and moved in with her at her widowed mother's home in Niederdreis. In 1731 they had a child who they baptized as Johannes Herbertus. That first child (apparently conceived out of wedlock) must have died, because the next year the same couple had another son baptized with the same name. We believe that this second Herbert, born in 1732, was Fritz's oldest surviving son. In 1735, Fritz and Julianna had another son, baptized Johannes Petrus (John Peter or Hans Peter).

In 1737 Julianna's mother died, but a daughter was born to Fritz and Julianna, who baptized her Anna Elisabetha after Julianna's mother. The little girl died when she was only three months old, and two years later in February 1739, Julianna died. In the fall (November 1739) Fritz married again, this time to Anna Eva Schaefer. That winter was cold and spring was unusually cold and rainy. By the end of spring, the couple left for America with Herbert and Hans Peter.

Soon after they landed in America, Eva gave birth to a son or perhaps twins. I feel that it's likely she had twins, a boy and a girl. They named the boy Johannes Adam and the girl (twin or later) Maria Sophia. (Remember, Fritz's parents' names were Adam and Sophia.)

In 1742, Friedrich Apkert was one of six men named as defendants in a New Jersey Supreme Court case. It was likely for occupying land to which they had no title. The others included at least two whose names appeared on plots of land near Cokesbury, New Jersey. That's why I think the land at issue in 1742 was the same land that the "homestead" occupies today. The birthdates - known or inferred - for the other first generation Apgars (Catherine, Heinrich, Jacob, Peter, William, Frederick and Conrad) make it quite probable that they were all children of Fritz and Eva.

An old family legend allegedly said that "two brothers came to America." This could mean Friedrich Epgert and Johannes Peter Apgard. Alternatively, it might refer to Herbert and Hans Peter Epgert, who both arrived as children with their father and stepmother in 1740. Apgar researchers are unaware of any record that Johannes Peter Apgard was ever in New Jersey -or anywhere in America other than on the ship Hope at the port of Philadelphia in 1734.

As the result of the research outlined above, we now consider Friedrich "Fritz" Epgert to be the patriarch of the Apgar family in America.



Sketch of the old Reformed Church in Puderbach, Germany (13th to 19th century).

In Memory of George N. Apgar, Sr.

by George N. Apgar, Jr. and Debra A. Apgar

On March 3, 2007, the Apgar Family Association lost one of its most dedicated members when George N. Apgar, Sr., passed away suddenly at the age of 83, at his home in Middlesex, where he had lived for the last 54 years. If you've attended any of the Apgar Family reunions during the last 15 years, you were certain to have seen George busily directing traffic to ensure that everyone had a safe place to park.

One of our country's "Greatest Generation," George enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in 1942. In 1945 he saw action in the Pacific theater as a B-29 tail gunner with 3rd Photo Recon, part of the 462nd Bomb Group of the 58th Bombardment Wing of the 20th Air Force. Justly proud of his service, he was a member of the Middlesex American Legion Post 306, the VFW Star Richie Post 506 of North Plainfield, and the 58th Bomb Wing Association.

Born in Elizabeth, George grew up in Plainfield and learned the machinist's trade, working for Mack Trucks in Plainfield until 1961, then for R. Hoe Woods and MAN Roland, finally retiring in 1991.

In 1946, he met his wife, Mary Louise Wisniewski, and they married on October 22, 1949.

In 1937 he became a member of the Monroe Avenue Methodist Church of Plainfield and then Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield which he attended regularly until his death.

George is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Apgar; a son and daughter, George N. Apgar, Jr., and Debra A. Apgar, both Apgar Family Association trustees. He also is survived by a brother,

Robert Apgar and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Mr. Apgar was laid to rest in the Fairmount Cemetery. He will be missed.



Marking the Graves at the Apgar Homestead

This picture shows Mike Apgar and Lynn Conley sprinkling soil from Puderbach, Germany, on the gravesite at the old Apgar homestead in Cokesbury. Mike brought back the soil from the "old country" when he returned from his trip there last September.

David Mills, the current owner of the homestead property, has agreed to allow us to mark the graves found there in 2005 as described in last year's news-letter. We also plan to update the road-side marker there to show the name of Fritz Epgert as our patriarch.

Donations towards this project will be accepted during the reunion. (The estimated cost is about \$2000.)



First High Dutch Reformed Church of Rockaway -1762 Records

by Lynn Conley

The records of the German Reformed Church in Lebanon are not just about births and deaths. When we look deeper into the pages we are provided with information about the daily lives of our ancestors. Like many genealogists, we look for dates and names, and sometimes overlook the history related to these vital statistics. Several years ago I visited the Reformed Church Historical Archives at the Gardner A. Sage Library of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and digitally copied many of the Lebanon records. During this past very cold winter, I reexamined some of this data and found some interesting information.

Beginning in 1817, a large brick church was built replacing the log structure that was used when the church started in 1762. It was about 1818, that pews in the new church were sold at various prices. I believe from the data that one can speculate that the cost of the pews may have been based on location. It appears the even-numbered pews were more expensive than the odd-numbered. The even-numbered pews may have been in a better position to see and hear the minister or they may have been closer to a heat source. The question of financial status also may have played a role in pew selection and price. Another possibility is that the aisle may not have been in the center, making the pews on one side shorter than those on the other. Whatever the reason it is interesting to see who sat where and who shared a pew. Those who shared a pew may have been older with smaller families and consequently did not need a full pew, or they may have been unable to pay for a full pew. You can draw your own conclusions from the data below as copied from pages 48 through 51 of the Lebanon Reformed Church Records, which show that the pews were sold at public auction to the persons indicated.

			19	\$70.00	Peter Johnson & Jas. Walker
			20	\$150.00	James Ramsey
			21	\$70.00	William Alpaugh
			22	\$60.00	William Younger
			23	\$50.00	Joseph Nitzer
			24	\$150.00	Matthais Cramer
			25	\$40.00	William Hann
			26	\$110.00	William Welsh
			27		
			28	\$80.00	Lenah VanSickle & John Sickle
			29	\$20.00	William McDaniel
			30	\$60.00	George Eicke
			31	\$20.00	Wm. Allen & Fredrick Apgar
			32	\$45.00	Wm. Cramer
			33	\$15.00	John Welsh
			34	\$35.00	Hannah Ogden
			35	\$10.00	David Cornfield
			36	\$25.00	John Tigar
			37	\$75.00	John Haas Esq.
			38	\$75.00	Benjn Low & sons Cornet & John
			39	\$70.00	John Hoffman Senr.
			40		For the Elders
			41	\$75.00	Timothy Porter & Wm. Jinning
			42	\$75.00	George Cramer
			43	\$75.00	Widow Hoffman
			44	\$150.00	George Apgar
			45	\$75.00	John Emeiy & John Low
			46		Jacob Schultz
			47	\$75.00	John J. Alpaugh
			48	\$140.00	Peter Apgar
			49	\$75.00	Philip Alpaugh & Jacob Hoffman
			50	\$130.00	Peter Hoffman
			51	\$70.00	Harbert Radenbock & Nick Wykoff
			52	\$125.00	Peter TenEyck
			53	\$70.00	Joseph Ramsey onehalf & Joseph C-
			54	\$125.00	Henry Miller & Nathan Stigers
			55	\$70.00	Jospeh Crater
			56	\$125.00	Morris Sharp
			57	\$60.00	Jacob Haas
Pew No. 1	appraised at \$75.00	to John Alpaugh	58	\$125.00	Peter Apgar Jr.
		sen. for	59	\$50.00	Casper Linaberry
Pew No. 2	appraised at \$75.00	to Henry Hoffman	60	\$115.00	Morris Welsh
No. 3	app. \$70.00	Peter J. Young &	61	\$40.00	Charles Frits & Benj. Frits
		Jacob Runkle	62	\$110.00	George J. Rvymer
4		For the Deacons	63	\$35.00	Peter G. Eicke
5	\$75.00	William Miller	64	\$80.00	Robert Taylor
6	\$125.00	Jacob Nitzer	65	\$20.00	Jeremiah Itchly
7	\$75.00	Peter Haver & William Eike	66	\$55.00	David M. Kline
8	\$125.00	Casper Backert & Peter Wycoff	67	\$20.00	Widow Jane B.
9	\$75.00	Joseph Hoffman & John VanFleet	68	\$40.00	David M. Kline
10	\$125.00	John W. Alpaugh	69	\$15.00	John Haas Jrn.
11	\$75.00	William Johnson	70	\$32.00	David & George Gearhart
12	\$125.00	Henry Aller	71	\$10.00	William J. Hoffman
13	\$75.00	Andrew Bray	72	\$15.00	Abel Everitt & lane Shannon
14	\$125.00	Christopher Backer			
15	\$75.00	David Traphagen			
16	\$125.00	John Rockafellar			
17	\$70.00	Henry Rockafellar & David Rockafellar			
18	\$125.00	John & David Sharp			

(Continued on next page.)

Making What's Old, New - the Apgar Family Website *

By Mary Carpenter

There have been a number of changes to the Apgar Family website in the past few months; some more noticeable than others. The most significant of these is the expansion of the "Family Tree" section.

Previously, the site only included a single page that contained information for the first "American" generation. With the assistance of some new software, we now are able to include information on the first four generations - the same information included in Johannes Peter Apgard and his descendants, Volume I, with updates for more recent findings. While the first generation is still visible to

(Continued from previous page.)

73	\$6.00	1/2 space of front stove to John Haas Esq. & Thomas Bowman
74	\$6.00	the other half to Christopher Bowman
		<u>On the Gallery</u>
1	\$12.00	Andrew Van Sickle
2	\$12.00	William Bowman
3	\$12.00	
4	\$12.00	Robert Plumly & Cornet J. Low
5	\$12.00	John Crate
6	\$12.00	
7	\$7.00	William M. Lindsley
8	\$9.00	Henry Rockafellar & Simon Kinney
9	\$12.00	
10	\$9.00	Abraham Shirts
11	\$14.00	Morris Eike
12	\$18.00	
13	\$24.00	George Rolin
14	\$24.00	John Miller
15	\$24.00	
16	\$9.00	John Dennis
17	\$14.00	John Sway
18	\$18.00	
19	\$7.00	John Everitt
20	\$9.00	Jacob Nitzer & Chas. Frits
21	\$12.00	
22	\$14.00	John Everitt
23	\$14.00	John Van Fleet & Joseph Hoffman
24	\$14.00	Simon Hibbler
25	\$18.00	Urias Hoagland
26	\$13.00	In.Lindaberry & Michael Shirts
27	\$18.00	
28	\$24.00	William Hyler
29	\$24.00	Peter Happaugh
30	\$24.00	
31	\$36.00	Henry Aller & John J. Low
32	\$36.00	Harbert Apgar, Peter Alpaugh, George Alpaugh & Paul Apgar

the public at-large, you need a logon ID, which members can request on the main Family Tree page. Once you have logged in, you have access to everything.

When you click on a name, you will see the information for that individual, including parents, spouse and children. In addition to personal information, you can generate and view different types of charts for ancestors or descendants.

There is also a feature that allows you to search for significant dates and events in the lives of our ancestors, certain surnames or individuals by name, particular locations - place of birth, death, burial, etc.

Another nice feature is how easy it is for members to provide us with updates to our information. While viewing the personal information for an individual, you can click on the "Suggest" link, where you can provide an update for that individual. The only requirement that we impose is that you provide citations from primary or secondary sources as proof of the updated information.

Broadly speaking, a primary source is a record made at or near the time of the actual event by someone with first-hand knowledge of the event and without a vested interest in what the record says; in short, a contemporary, unbiased record of an event. Primary source records include deeds, wills, court proceedings, birth and death certificates, and church documents that record births, baptisms, marriages, deaths or burials.

Secondary sources include almost all published works, be they county histories, genealogies or indexes and abstracts of original records. If you are interested you can find out more about them at your local library or on most genealogy websites.

As the data in the new Family Tree section expands to include other volumes of the Johannes Apgard series, there are other features that we'll be able to add, like the ability to link documents, photos, and pictures of headstones to an individual or family, view headstones by cemetery and see where primary source records can be found.

The other significant change to the Apgar Family website that you probably haven't noticed yet is the ability to renew your membership or purchase items from the Apgar Store directly on-line.

Once information from all volumes has been loaded there are a number of additional changes planned that you'll see sometime over the next year:

- 1 A change to the Dr. Virginia pages where we will feature other notable Apgars as well.
- 2 An archive of past newsletters.
- 3 Information pertaining to the Puderbach trip last year as well as German research.
- 4 Kinder Corner - a new section geared towards children.

If you have any other ideas of things you would like to see featured on the website, feel free to let us know.

* All of these changes may not have been implemented by the publication date of this newsletter. If not, they soon will be, so check back from time to time at www.apgarfamily.com.

Our Visit to the Fatherland

by Mike, Carol and Hank Apgar

Despite that old adage that you can never go home again, we returned to the area that our immigrant patriarch left a quarter millennium ago and—thanks to the current residents—had the time of our lives! The occasion of our visit was the 750th anniversary celebration of Puderbach. The town is located in the Westerwald, in the northwest corner of the modern state of Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany.

During the past few years, Apgar researchers have determined that Friedrich "Fritz" Epgert was the family's immigrant patriarch. His name appears on several documents in America (a ship's passenger list in 1740 and a New Jersey Supreme Court case in 1742) and many times during the 1730s in records of the German Reformed church in Puderbach. Fritz and his family frequented both the town and church. The church records begin in 1700, so the actual arrival time of our ancestors in this area remains a mystery.

Bernhard Schmidt, a retired Puderbacher, discovered an archived Latin document mentioning Puderbach dated 1255 and signed by the Archbishop of Cologne. This was the evidence that confirmed the antiquity of Puderbach and the basis for the town's 750th anniversary commemoration. Apparently a church parish existed at—and likely prior to—that time. Certainly the squat, Romanesque-style church that the Epgerts attended in Puderbach suggests an even earlier date, as churches of similar style in the area are said to be about a thousand years old.

Intrigued by a notice of Puderbach's 750th anniversary celebration early in 2006, we decided that it would be the occasion for a visit to experience our European roots. We were expecting to tromp through some old graveyards, search through some old records, and see the sites which were familiar to our German ancestors, and search for any "cousins" who might still reside in the old country. We decided to fly to Frankfurt, rent a car, drive (about two hours) to Puderbach, and find a local place to stay. We made inquiries about the festival with local folks including the schedule of events and other Epgerts still living in Germany. Bernhard Schmidt even made a reservation at an inn nearby for us.

From the air we noticed that the Westerwald is still a mostly rural area with rolling hills and shallow valleys, which long ago were cleared for agriculture and homes. The landscape is remarkably similar to that of 18th century Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Puderbach is surrounded by numerous smaller villages, each comprised of clusters of clean, neatly maintained houses, surrounded by fields. The residents live in close proximity to each other, and travel out to the land they farm. The hills and ridges are typically still forested,

without any unnatural development or other visual disruptions.

The Westerwalders we met were very friendly and solicitous, greeting us wherever we visited, translating for us, and, of course, plying us with drinks. They really went all out to make us feel welcome. Our thanks especially go to Bernhard & Adelheid Schmidt, whose kindness went far beyond what we anticipated. From the first hour we arrived, Bernhard voluntarily served as our guide and source of information. They welcomed us into their home daily for discussions and drinks, hosted us at their local restaurant, introduced us to people in the area, gave us royal treatment at the commemoration ceremony, and—after the celebrations—took us to interesting tourist sites. In thanks, Berndt and Adelheid were made honorary members of the Apgar Family.

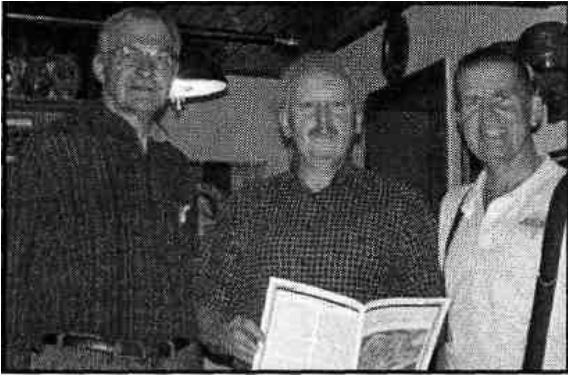
Some of the interesting discoveries that we made were:

- Gravesites were ornate and beautiful, but to preserve the limited space through generation after generation, grave markers are swept away after 30-40 years, making room for new burials in the same plots. (No tracing of ancestors based on gravestone inscriptions are possible!)
- The hamlet of Epgert (which must have been named for our ancestors) was actually in the "Catholic area." As a settlement to the religious wars following the Reformation, the religion of all people in a region was determined by the local ruler. Puderbach and its satellite hamlets were part of a Protestant (Lutheran or German Reformed) territory.

The pictures below and on the facing page should give you an idea of our trip, which certainly was an unforgettable experience.



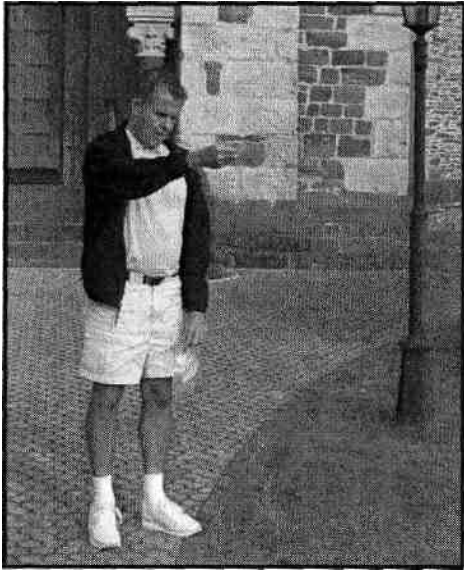
First stop, Epgert—Mike, Berndt and Hank tour our ancestral namesake village.



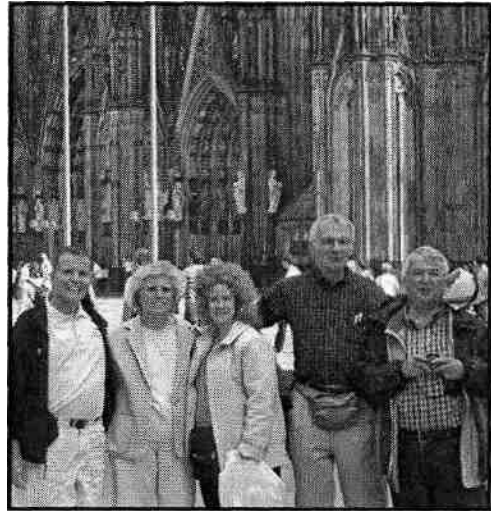
Hank and Mike share 2006 Apgar Newsletter with Willy Becker, the local historian who provided the information for the story about Epgert.



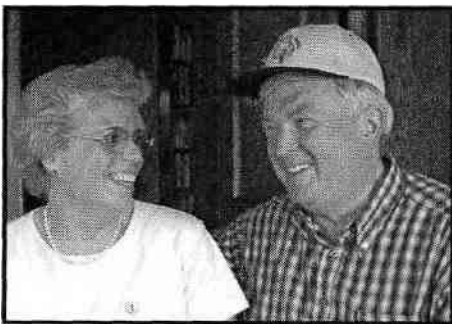
Remains of markers "cleared" from 30-year old graves—so much for history!



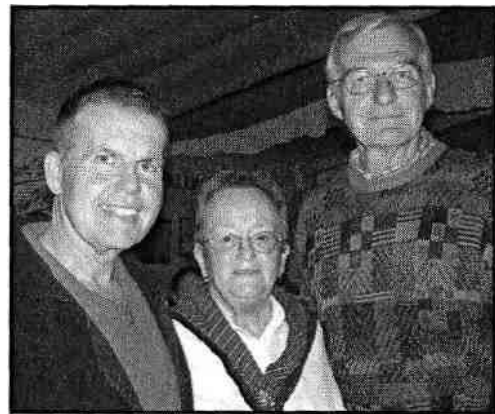
Returning soil from NJ Homestead to the scene of Fritz Epgert's church in Puderbach.



Sight-seeing: Mike, Adelheid, Carol, Hank and Berndt in front of the great cathedral in Cologne.



Honorary Apgars— wonderful hosts Adelheid & Berndt Schmidt wearing an Apgar Family pin and cap.



A distant cousin?: Mike and Hank flank Imgard Steinborn, a lifelong resident of Neiderdreis. (Welcome home boys!)

Historical Happenings

by Judy Beck-judith.beck@att.net; 908-236-2413

The following information is taken from various sources, including the internet. Our best source of information is YOU! Please feel free to contact me or a trustee when happenings occur. This will be greatly appreciated!

Deaths:

APGAR, Arthur, (unknown line), 64, died 5/4/06. Res: Colorado Springs, CO.

APGAR, Bernard M. "Nardy", (unknown line), died 3/13/07. Res: Owensville, OH.

APGAR, Betty Timmons, (unknown line), 61, died 4/20/07. Res: Mooresville, NC.

APGAR, Brian A., (6.4.3.6.4.3.1.6.), 52, died 5/27/07. Res: Joliet, IL.

APGAR, Charles D. "Dave", (6.10.3.3.4.3.5.), 68, died 5/25/07. Res: Andover Township, NJ.

APGAR, Charles E., (unknown line), 89, died 4/18/07. Res: Jefferson County, IL.

APGAR, Dale L., (unknown line), 87, died 12/31/06. Res: Middletown, OH.

APGAR, Donald Ward, (unknown line), 86, died 2/24/06. Res: Bellflower, CA.

APGAR, Doris M. Yurko, (w/o 6.10.3.3..4.7.3.), 77, died 11/25/06. Res: Phillipsburg, NJ.

APGAR, Dorothea T., (Frederick line), 90, died 1/4/07. Res: Rodgers Forge, MD.

APGAR, Edward "Ted" G. Apgar, 74, died 6/10/07. Res: Whitehouse Station, NJ.

APGAR, George N., Sr., (6.10.1.1.1.2.5.), 83, died 3/4/07. Res: Middlesex, NJ.

APGAR, Helen Catherine, (unknown line), 88, died 8/5/06.

APGAR, Janet I., 64, (unknown line), died 4/5/07. Res: Rome, NY.

APGAR, John Nelson, (7.4.7.6.1.1.2.), 89, died 2/11/06. Res: Midland, MI.

APGAR, Henry S., (7.3.6.1.6.3.), 91, died 3/26/06. Res: Hobe Sound, FL.

APGAR, Lawrence Douglas., (6.12.4.4.4.4.2.), 60, died 10/1/06. Res: Bridgeton, NJ.

APGAR, Marvin, (unknown line), 83, died 1/14/07. Res: Anderson, IN.

APGAR, Mary Jane Gifford, (w/o 6.7.6.1.4.1.), 82, died 2/14/07. Res: Salem, MA

APGAR, Mary Lou McCredie, (w/o 3.5.3.4.12.3.1.), died 2/28/07. Res: Edison, NJ.

APGAR, Ruby C, (w/o 7.3.6.1.6.3.), 85, died 12/19/06. Res: Hobe Sound, FL.

APGAR, Russell Jr., (unknown line), 64, died 4/21/07. Res: Port Richey, FL.

APGAR, Sean A., (unknown line), 17, died 1/21/06. Res: No Whitehall Township, PA.

APGAR, Stephen, (unknown line), died 3/20/07. Res: Miami, FL.

APGAR, Tina, (w/o 9.5.5.6.5.1.2.), 54, died 9/10/06. Res: Manchester, ME.

APGAR, William, (unknown line), 91, died 6/9/06. Res: Fullerton, CA.

APKER, Francis "Ted", (10.1.5.4.2.2.), 85, died 7/2/06. Res: Vestal, NY.

ALPAUGH, Allen Norman, (1.2.11.9.7.4.1.1.), 60, died 6/1/07. Res: High Bridge, NJ.

COLE, Richard H. (s/o 9.5.1.5.1.1.3.), 57, died 8/7/06. Res: LaGrange, GA.

CYPHERS, Shirley B., (4.4.4.7.4.1.2.), 82, died 12/24/06. Res: Laurel, Montana.

EGERTER, Elizabeth Margaret, (w/o 3.7.1.8.3.2.3.), 81, died 1/16/07. Res: Myrtle Beach, SC.

ELLIS, Lillian, (3.5.3.1.4.1.4.), 85, died 3/2/07. Res: Holland Township, NJ.

FLARTEY, Kathleen M., (w/o 6.4.8.14.4.1.1.), 64, died 10/21/06. Res: Denville, NJ.

FOX, Dorothy J., (unknown line), 74, died 2/14/07. Res: Washington, NJ.

FREIBERGS, David Philhower, (3.5.3.2.6.1.1.4.), 49, died 11/27/06. Res: Greenwich Township, NJ.

FULCHER, Charles O., (h/o 1.7.3.3.4.1.1.2.), 70, died 4/3/07. Res: Cokesbury, NJ.

HOFFMAN, J. Kenneth, (6.4.3.1.1.5.2.1.), 79, died 8/31/06. Res: Califon, NJ.

KRUEGER, Astrid M., (Conrad Line), died 6/20/05. Res: Spring Grove, IL.

LINDABURY, Mary Haycock, (w/o 6.4.3.4.5.5.2.), 86, died 6/20/06. Res: New Canaan, CT.

MCCATHARN, Stanley Everett, (6.4.3.4.5.2.1.), 68, died 12/7/06. Res: Live Oak, FL.

METTLER, Doris E., (w/o 9.3.3.7.4.1.), 84, died 9/2/06. Res: Grand Rapids, MI.

RAMSEY, Lester, (s/o 7.4.3.2.2.2./4.1.2.2.3.3.1.), died 6/5/06. Res: GA.

SCHESSLER, Alice Apgar, (1.8.7.9.2.1.), died 12/27/02.

SHINKOS, Jeffrey P., (6.10.2.2.2.2.1.1.), 57, died 6/10/07. Res: Jacksonville, FL.

SHURTS, Norman "Bucky", (1.7.4.3.2.1.1.), 84, died 12/23/06. Res: Rhinebeck, NY.

SHUSTER, Hazel, (w/o 9.5.9.2.1.2.1.), 80, died 4/14/07. Res: Watchung, NJ.

SMITH, Thomas Donald, (6.4.7.5.2.7.2.), 80, died 9/3/06. Res: Millville, NJ.

SMITH, William Dean Jr., (6.4.7.5.2.7.4.1.), 49, died 3/10/05. Res: Millville, NJ.

SNYDER, Harry W., (h/o 6.10.3.6.1.1.2.), 81, died 3/16/07. Res: Pohatcong Township, NJ.

STOUT, Ida M., (6.4.3.4.2.1.9.5.), 59, died 12/30/06. Res: Chester Township, NJ.

VAN DOREN, John M. Jr., (h/o 6.10.3.3.4.3.3.), 94, died 5/16/07. Res: Tewksbury Township, NJ.

WELSH, Mary VanDerbeek, (w/o 7.4.3.2.5.2.), 97, died 8/20/06. Res: Cincinnati, OH.

Births:

WOOTTON, Eric Thomas was born 7/7/06 to Shannon Teets (3.5.3.1.2.3.2.1.1.2.) and Scott Wootton.

Marriages:

David Wayne Hoffman, (6.4.3.1.1.5.2.1.3.) and Dorothy Georgia Martz were married 10/28/06.

Noteworthy Events:

Helen and Lawrence Apgar Sr. (5.7.7.2.1.2.) of Quakertown, NJ celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on 3/1/47.

Muriel Layden (6.2.3.5.4.1.1.) and Leavitt Dilts celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on 9/14/46.

Notes: The following abbreviations are used above.

w/o - wife of

h/o - husband of

s/o - son of

d/o - daughter of

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

Research at the Alexander Special Collections Room of the Rutgers University Library

On the second day of last year's reunion, a group of about 25 family members made their way to the Rutgers University Library on the New Brunswick campus, where they were able to do genealogy research in the Alexander Special Collections Room. Arrangements were made by Trustee Debbie Apgar for this facility to be open especially for our use through the cooperation of Ron Becker, Head of Special Collections and University Archives. Thousands of volumes of genealogical data are housed in this room, plus collections of bible records, cemetery inscriptions and compilations by professional genealogists.

During a subsequent visit, some of the Association trustees were able to gather additional inform genealogical records.



Ron Becker with Apgar family members in the Alexander Special Collections Room.

Gifts to Our Association

by George N. Apgar, Jr.

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

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

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

Please contact me for more information.

Apgar Family Association Officers and Trustees

Current Officers and Trustees

(years as trustee to end of current term)

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Helen Apgar (Historian Emeritus)

Former Trustees

(years as trustee)

Cassie Apgar (1999-2002)
Christopher Apgar (1999-2003)
Helen Apgar (1986-1987)
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Ronald F. Apgar (1940-1998)



Plan Ahead for Next Year...
Apgar Family Association 34th Annual Reunion
September 20-21, 2008