



Apgar Family Association Newsletter

APGAR Family

Summer 2020

Price \$3.00 (Free to Members)

Our 2020 Reunion has been Cancelled

What's inside... Page

Reunion Cancelled	1
President's Address	2
Union Forge	3
N J Women	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Historical Happenings	6
Departed Trustees	7
Last Year's Reunion	8-9
2019 Business Meeting	10
German Westerwald	11
Get Lucy	12
Elderberries	13
Family Homestead	15
Directory of Trustees	16

Our Officers and Trustees have found it necessary to cancel plans for the **45th Annual** Apgar Family Association Reunion, initially scheduled for **Saturday, September 19, 2020**, at the Stanton Grange in Lebanon, NJ.

This was a tough last-minute decision, since plans had already been made for a robust family program, but the uncertain forecast for a healthy virus-free environment, coupled with expected travel complexities, made it necessary to cancel in the best interests of your health and well-being. Our Marriott room block has been cancelled.

We were fortunate, however, in being able to reschedule this year's keynote speaker for next year's reunion, now planned for **September 18, 2021**.

Carol Simon Levin, independent historian, author, illustrator, singer, professional re-enactor and storyteller of women's history will honor us. She is a New Jersey Council Public Scholar for the Humanities, a member of the New Jersey Storytelling Network, and the National Women's History Alliance. Carol will address, "**Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey's role in the fight for women's suffrage.**"



Carol Simon Levin, next year's planned Keynote Speaker

2020 is the centennial anniversary of women finally obtaining the right to vote in the United States. New Jersey's first state constitution, in 1776, enfranchised some women to vote. Unique among the new states, our first constitution assured that all inhabitants who could credibly declare a personal worth of 50 pounds were eligible voters.

See our companion article in this issue of the newsletter by Lynn Conley, entitled "**New Jersey Women—the First Suffragettes,**" on page 4.



Virginia Apgar, MD, (1909-1974)

After succeeding in getting a US postage stamp (Great American Series) issued to honor Dr. Virginia Apgar in 1994, your association continued to campaign to get her recognized by the **New Jersey Hall of Fame**.

Just before going to press, we learned that she had been nominated to the 2019-2020 ballot in the Public Service category.

All AFA members, for whom we had a working email address, were advised of this one-time opportunity and how to cast their vote before June 30. The results have not yet been announced but when it is, we will advise all members through our new Facebook website (see below).

Or, you can check with their web site at <https://njhallof fame.org/2019-nominee-voting/>

September 19, 2020 Reunion Schedule

9:30 Check-in: Coffee and homemade specialties
10:00 **REUNION CANCELLED**
10:30 Keynote Speaker
11:30 Genealogy Exchange, with Show & Tell
12:30 Annual Group Photo
12:45 Family Style Lunch
2:15 Genealogy Research
3:00 Business Meeting
4:00 Close

Follow AFA on New Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ApgarFamilyAssociation>

President's Address Mike Apgar

Dear Family,

This year marks the Centennial anniversary of women finally attaining the right to vote in the United States. Enactment of that right into law was certainly a milestone event. While contemplating how we might incorporate this right into our annual reunion, we discovered that at the time of the American Revolution women (at least some women) in New Jersey were able to vote. A description of that unique authorization is described on page 4 by Lynn Conley. Historian and storyteller Carol Simon Levin was scheduled to tell the tale this year as our principal reunion speaker.

When I first composed this message we were at the front end of the coronavirus pandemic. As the number of cases and deaths in the US grew alarmingly, we tried some drastic medicine—shutting down personal movement in the hope of controlling the outbreak. Unfortunately, too many Americans prioritized their own personal freedom above the common good, and the virus was more transmissible and longer-lasting than some predicted. The result is a situation where both the economy has been devastated and the number of virus infections are setting records.

Reading the current-events listings in the local newspaper seemed like an exercise from an inverted future. It was a schedule of things meant to be—only in this case one which history will record did not occur. Consequently, your family association Trustees believed that the safest course was to cancel the annual Apgar Family reunion this year.

My original column was a rah-rah pep talk on how our ancestors have passed through worse disease outbreaks, including the Black Death (which killed a third to half the population of Europe from 1347-1353) and the 1918 "Spanish Flu" (which killed more people than the First World War). Despite the suffering and economic disruption, I had hoped we would emerge more united a country. However, as the problem of structural racism in the U.S. has become highlighted by nationwide protests, it seems timely to mention that issue as it relates to family history.



I grew up believing that our Apgar ancestors had consistently been on the "right" side of the issue of black slavery. They had come to this country seeking a better life and helped their new country wrest itself from a foreign monarch with the declaration that all men were created equal. A century later, at least 150 Apgar family members fought for the Union to establish that this country was indivisible — a concept tested to perpetuate the evil of black slavery.

Superficially, this put our family on the moral right side of history. Little did I realize that our immigrant patriarch's oldest son, Herbert, had slaves, and that he gave a young slave boy to his brothers in his will. It also failed to dawn on me that some of our family members expressed in their letters to family that they were unwilling to fight for black emancipation. Unfortunately, Union victory resulted in neither equal rights nor economic independence for black people. We still live with the legacy of racial discrimination and resultant inequality.

For white people raised in a nearly all-white world, it is difficult to wrap our heads around the incredible burden placed on black people in America. Their ancestors were forced to come and labor for centuries to build this country without compensation. Their lives had been and continue to be restricted by discrimination and marginalization in health care, housing, education and jobs. Black and brown people are stopped, searched, abused, killed, and incarcerated at much greater rates than white people. Surely we as a society can do better.

While we will eventually emerge from this virus pandemic, the issue of racial inequality will be much more difficult to resolve. The beginning involves recognition and awareness that this issue exists. We have a responsibility to admit and to avoid acting in discriminatory fashion. Think about it!

Hopefully, progress will be made, and we will be able to celebrate our family accomplishments next year. Chins up. Let's resolve to do our parts. See you at our next Apgar family reunion on **September 18, 2021**. Mark your calendars and I'll see you then.

Mike

A note to Members

All 530 members are receiving this newsletter—not just those 260 members who had been paying annual dues (prior to 2018).

In May of 2021, we will be mailing a questionnaire to your last known postal address to confirm that address and to confirm your email address which will assure we can reliably reach you in the future.

This mailing will also include our annual dues explanation and request.

Room Discount at Marriott Courtyard in Lebanon on Route 78

Carol Kinnaird has again negotiated a room discount for any night between September 16 and 20, 2021 at \$149 per night. Call the hotel at (908) 236-8500 or email at reservations@marriott.com and request the discount. Cut-off date to reserve is August 19 as the room block expires after that date. This is the closest hotel to the Grange Hall.

ROOM BLOCK CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR

New room block next year for September 18, 2021, reunion



The Union Forge (High Bridge) by William (Bill) Honachefsky

Speaker at 2019 Apgar Family Reunion; article by Hank Apgar
extracted from the Honachefsky paper, "Three Hundred Years of Solitude," and other sources



Bill Honachefsky, author and speaker

Our featured speaker last year was Hunterdon County resident and noted author, **Bill Honachefsky**. Bill is a passionate advocate for the protection of New Jersey's natural environment and historic heritage.

He is founder (in 2002) of the Union Forge Heritage Association (UFHA) and author of the popular book, "High Bridge," one of the Postcard History Series.

The **High Bridge** saga began as early as 1664, when James, the Duke of York, conveyed the portion of land which eventually became New Jersey to Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkley, friends and advisors to the King. Lord Berkley eventually sold his half and hence divided the territory into West Jersey and East Jersey. In 1688, the resident proprietors

created the West Jersey Council of Proprietors and, soon afterward, the West Jersey Society. The original area, known as West New Jersey, was inhabited by the Lenape Indians who settled there around 1700.

English iron investors: **William Allen**, a Supreme Court justice and possibly the wealthiest man in Philadelphia; and **Joseph Turner**, a sea captain also active in politics; initially leased 3,000 acres from this West Jersey Society along the South Branch of the Raritan River in 1742 and founded what became known as **Union Ironworks**. Later, the Allen and Turner partnership purchased 10,849 acres that included parts of today's Bethlehem Township, Clinton, Clinton Township, High Bridge and Lebanon Township.

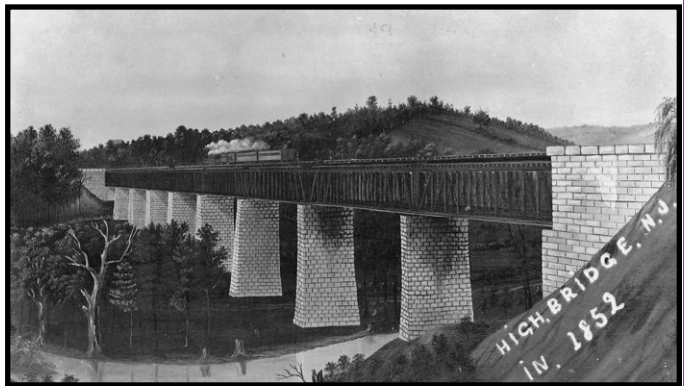
The area was predominately wilderness containing deposits of high quality iron ore, abundant timber to make charcoal, and plenty of water to power the ironworks.

After a few years of turmoil and conflict between Native Americans, squatters, and land speculators, Allen and Turner established two furnaces and two forges, each with two stacks, a trip hammer and a flatting hammer in the area of present day High Bridge. Allen's enthusiastic statement of 1761 echoed, "Wood and water we can never want. Indeed we want nothing but good workmen." Col. John Hackett became the first superintendent of the Iron Works, living adja-

cent to the operation in a modest residence,

An Irish immigrant and former schoolteacher, **Robert Taylor**, became superintendent of the Ironworks (in 1769) and set to work casting cannonballs for the Revolutionary forces. By 1803 Taylor had become Works Manager, purchased control of the company, and changed its name to **Taylor Iron Works**. Taylor later purchased more land and changed the name to **Taylor Iron and Steel Company (TISCO)**, located at the site of High Bridge's present-day **Custom Alloy Corporation**.

In the mid nineteenth century, the Central Jersey Railroad Company brought new life to TISCO, which by then depended on anthracite coal for fuel. To meet the demand for superior forgings, the company imported the newly invented, steam-operated **Nasmyth Hammer** from England in 1854. TISCO began producing rails and wheels to support western railroad expansion into Pennsylvania.



"High Bridge" on the Central New Jersey Railroad (1852 photo)

High Bridge grew up a company town. At one time, nearly every citizen was associated with TISCO - the longest continually operating iron and steel company in the United States.

If they did not work directly for TISCO or any of its derivatives directly, residents were part of the support system of the company employees who needed clothing, commerce, medicine, transportation and all the other accommodations of everyday life.

High Bridgers watched vaudeville at the **Rialto Theatre** and lodged and dined at the **American Hotel**. They worshipped at Dutch reformed and Methodist Churches, or at St. Joseph's Catholic Church (whose cornerstone is from **St. Brigid's Abbey** in County Cork, Ireland). These churches are still with us today; the theatre and the hotel were demolished in the 1970s.

In 1912, TISCO purchased William Wharton Company, changing their combined corporate name to **Taylor-Wharton Iron & Steel**.

Continued on page 14

New Jersey Women - The First Suffragettes by Lynn Conley



1880 engraving by Howard Pyle from Harper's Weekly, captioned "Women at the Polls in New Jersey in the Good Old Times."

When the Apgar's arrived in New Jersey in 1740, women's roles focused on the family, religion and the father's business or occupation. Unlike families in some of the other original 13 colonies who had to worry about hostile Indians, families in New Jersey maintained a peaceful coexistence with the local Lenni-Lenape. At this time, family life in New Jersey was influenced by English law that ruled the colony, however women had more freedoms than in Europe due to several factors.

Hunterdon County, in the year 1745, less than 45% of the population were women, thus with more men compared to women, females were able to select who they wished to marry. The high mortality rates of women also caused them to have a more accommodating lifestyle. When the male, the head of the household, passed away and the female was still alive, she gained control of land and therefore, gained much economic power. However, ultimate power for New Jersey women came in 1776 when they gained true independence with the Right to Vote.

New Jersey, on July 2, 1776, became the fourth American Colony to adopt a constitution declaring independence from Great Britain. With Patriot and Tory factions plotting and battling each other, New Jersey was a state at war and was nearly a state at civil war. Composed in a span of five days and ratified only two days later, during this state of emergency, the New Jersey State Constitution reflects the turbulence and uncertainty of the moment. Its primary objective was to provide a basic governmental framework that would preempt New Jersey's fall into anarchy. Among other provisions, it granted unmarried women and blacks who met property requirements the right to vote. although the delegates considered it a temporary charter, it remained New Jersey's State Constitution for sixty-eight years.

Women were very instrumental to the war effort, especially through their boycott of English goods. Following the war, few women expected gender fairness, but many hoped for increased representation as citizens. In *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: With Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects*, Mary Wollstonecraft emphasized the immorality of a society that excluded women "from a participation of the natural rights of mankind," and articulated a collective desire to

vote. Female voters echoed Wollstonecraft's sentiments in the 1800 presidential race between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, when nearly every woman eligible to vote, no matter her race or class, participated in the New Jersey election.

Some men as well in New Jersey embraced women's rights to vote. This reflected their belief that women would advance their respective political parties, rather than new conceptions of gender ideology. As the Patriots, Federalists, and Republicans successively sought to gain control of the New Jersey government, each party looked for support from marginalized populations, namely women. In "The Petticoat Electors": Women's Suffrage in New Jersey, 1776-1807, Judith Apter Klinghoffer and Lois Elkis write that the "Federalist party was not only tolerant of female suffrage, they encouraged the political participation of women and expressed their desirability as voters. Women eligible to vote were regarded as an asset to their male relatives, who many presumed influenced their political opinions."

For three decades after the American Revolution, the women of New Jersey had equal voting rights with men. The state was the first and, for a long time, the only state to explicitly enfranchise women.

NJ laws passed more than a century before the 19th Amendment preserved the principle of gender equality at the polls in the United States Constitution. Most other states' revolutionary-era constitutions limited the vote to "freemen" or "male inhabitants." But New Jersey's gave the right to all "inhabitants," as long as "they" could credibly declare they had property worth 50 pounds. A 1797 statute made things even plainer, explicitly referring to voters as "he or she."



NJ poll lists, which give names in the order in which voters presented themselves, the names of women are mostly grouped together, as on this 1801 list from Somerset County, N.J. (It will be interesting to see how many Apgar family names are on the lists.)

Continued on page 5



New Jersey Women, continued from page 4

Fifty pounds (the dollar had yet to be established) was a sizable but not exorbitant sum. And it ruled out most married women, who typically surrendered control of any property or income to their husbands, under the English legal principle known as coverture. But the law enfranchised many women, and not just white women. "Our constitution gives this right to maids and widows, *white and black*," one lawmaker wrote in a newspaper in 1800.

"The New Jersey exception," as it's sometimes called, has been puzzled over by historians, who have debated whether it represented a deliberate, widespread experiment in gender equality, or an accidental legal loophole whose importance was greatly exaggerated by the era's partisan press. But curiously, there has been little to no direct evidence that more than a handful of women had actually cast ballots, until now. After scouring archives and historical societies across New Jersey, researchers at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia have located poll lists showing that women really did vote in significant numbers before the right was taken away in 1807.

Marcela Micucci, curatorial fellow in women's history for the museum, went through archives across New Jersey and discovered the hard evidence of women's names written down in the poll lists. The lists, which record the voters in the order they presented themselves at the polls, also show a striking pattern: Women's names almost always appear clumped in groups. Sometimes they are female relatives. Other times, they are women whose names, the researchers discovered, are also associated in other documents like church records, suggesting that they were friends going to the polls together.

Given the din of controversy over women voting (not to mention the fact that voting often took place in taverns awash with drunkenness and guns), did they go to the polls together for safety? We can really ask if this is the beginning of some sort of organization among women, she said." The remarkably progressive law lasted almost 30 years. Then,

that portion of New Jersey's constitution was modified by the passage of an election law in 1807 that 'reinterpreted' the constitution's suffrage clause and passed an election law that redefined voters solely as adult white male taxpaying citizens. See: <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/exhibits/special-exhibits/when-women-lost-vote-revolutionary-story>.

The emphasis on party politics rather than gender ideology in assessing female suffrage explains why New Jersey women suddenly lost the right to vote 1807. Following Republican Thomas Jefferson's victory over Federalist John Adams in the 1800 presidential elections, Federalists came to believe female voters benefitted the Republican cause.

More Republicans lived in towns, and as it was easier to engage voters in urban areas, Federalists thought female disenfranchisement would limit the number of votes Republican candidates received, without hurting their own party so the New Jersey constitution was changed to exclude women from voting.

The political exposure that was provided to women in New Jersey, and later revoked, inspired a fight for suffrage in the years to come.

First wave feminism was already in motion, and suffrage and disenfranchisement in New Jersey incorporated nearly all women into the cause for women's rights, as many of their grandmothers had been eligible to vote at one point. While American women from 1807 to 1919 would never experience the right to vote, the struggle for suffrage that began during a revolution, ultimately culminated in the passing of the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920.

.\$ 6,808.99- Balance in checking acct 09/01/19

Receipts

\$ 881.00 - Luncheon and Donations
92.00 - Raffle Sales
50.00 - 50/50 Prize Awards

\$ 1,023.00 - Total

Expenses

\$ 100.00 - Donation to Lebanon Hillsborough
658.00 - Lunch Expenses
579.12 - Newsletter Expenses
100.00 - Payment to 2019 Reunion Speaker

\$ 1,437.12 - Total

Treasurer's Report by David Rich, Treasurer

\$ 6,394.87 - Balance in Checking
Account 5/31/20

8,142.40 - Balance in C.D. effective 05/31/20

\$ 14,537.27 - Value of Apgar Family Assoc Assets 05/31/20



Dave

Historical Happenings by Judy Beck, Historian;

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

DEATHS:

APGAR, Arnold (3.7.1.9.5.1.), 88, died 12/30/19. Res: Long Valley, NJ
APGAR, Bruce T. (6.4.3.6.4.3.1.4.), 68, died 10/25/19. Res: Prophetstown, IL
APGAR, Carl C. (Conrad Line; s/o Lawrence Benage), 81, died 5/7/07. Res: West Chester, OH
APGAR, Catherine B. (w/o 6.10.1.1.1.2.8., Theodore), 80, died 12/18/19. Res: Benbrook, TX
APGAR, Charles Frederick (8.4.1.3.1.1.2.), 98, died 6/10/19. Res: Tampa, FL
APGAR, David L. (unknown line; s/o George J), 73, died 12/27/19. Res: Kutztown, PA
APGAR, Delvin "Del", (3.11.2.6.1.6.3.), 62, died 5/31/19. Res: Cincinnati, OH
APGAR, Don (unknown line), 83, died 6/9/19. Res: Mission Viejo, CA
APGAR, Donald W. (10.14.6.3.5.1.), 97, died 7/16/19. Res: Pineville, SC
APGAR, Donald Ross (unknown line), 83, died 6/8/19. Res: Costa Mesa, CA
APGAR, Donna A. (Conrad Line; w/o Carl C.), 88, 2/10/20. Res: Fairfield, OH
APGAR, Donnie M. (unknown line; likely w/o Calvin M.), 84, died 2/26/20. Res: Columbia Cross Roads, PA
APGAR, Dorothy Martin (w/o 3.7.1.7.5.4.3.; William I.), 92, died 1/30/20. Res: Bunnell, FL
APGAR, Eden Nicole (d/o 8.4.1.3.1.1.2.4.; James H.), 21, died 8/28/19. Res: Tallahassee, FL
APGAR, Edward W. (3.5.3.4.14.2.1.), 76, died 6/22/19. Res: North Plainfield, NJ
APGAR, Franklin V. (unknown line), 57, died around 6/3/19. Res: El Paso, TX
APGAR, Fred S, Sr (1.2.11.5.3.3.1.3.), 78, died 10/21/19. Res: Bloomsbury, NJ
APGAR, Gladys Perry (w/o 1.2.11.8.5.2.2.), 87, died 5/21/19. Res: Epsom, NH
APGAR, Loretta E. (w/o 6.10.3.6.1.1.1.; Albert M.), 93, died 5/4/20. Res: Bethlehem, PA
APGAR, Marion Ewing (unknown line; w/o Ross), 94, died 7/2/19. Res: Coral Gables, FL
APGAR, Martha Brown (w/o 3.5.3.4.12.3.2.; John N.), 91, died 2/28/20. Res: North Readington Beach, FL
APGAR, Pamela Jean (6.4.3.6.4.3.1.5.), 52, died 10/2/05. Res: Lockport, IL
APGAR, Richard Perry (1.2.11.8.5.2.2.) 79, died 1/9/08. Res: East Derry, NH
APGAR, Robert M. (s/o 6.10.3.6.1.1.1.; Albert M.), 70, died 11/22/19. Res: Easton, PA
APGAR, William Mettler (9.5.9.5.1.2.), 91, died 9/10/19. Res: San Marcos, CA

APGAR, William Oscar "Bill" (6.12.9.5.4.3.), 83, died 5/19/19. Res: Dover, FL
APKER, Wesley L. (s/o 10.1.1.13.4.3.; Earl), 83, died 12/21/19. Res: Tacoma, WA
ALPAUGH, Ruth E. (6.5.7.4.1.2. & w/o 1.2.2.4.4.7.2.), 103, died 3/10/20. Res: High Bridge, NJ
ATKINSON, Betty (d/o 7.4.3.2.5.; Bertha Ramsey Welsh), 102, died 1/14/20. Res: Lebanon Township, NJ
BALDWIN, Jay A. (s/o 1.2.3.7.2.4.1.; Agnes Sliker & 2.1.5.1.4.2.4. Uzal Baldwin), 88, died 3/17/20. Res: Palmer Township, PA
BARROWS, John C. (unknown line; father-Clayton Apgar), 90, died 12/18/19. Res: W Hartford, CT
BERGEN, Nancy A. (Adam Line; mother-Evelyn Apgar Bergen), 70, died 4/11/20. Res: Reading, PA
BOWLBY, Donald Sherman (s/o 1.5.3.1.4.1.1.; Harvey Apgar), 87, died 7/17/19. Res: Paradise Valley, AZ)
CARVATT, Willard John (3.11.1.3.1.2.1.2.), 68, died 7/21/19. Res: Centennial, CO
CLUTTER, June Hunsaker (7.1.4.6.4.4.), 90, died 7/15/15. Res: Celina, OH
FARLEY, Yvonne Marie (w/o 6.7.7.1.3.3.; John E.), 73, died 2/24/20. Res: Oxford, NJ
FOSTER, Phoebe Apgar (3.7.7.2.1.7.1.), 94, died 7/25/18. Res: York, ME
FRANCE, Carole L. (d/o 7.1.4.7.5.1.; Ernest Apgar), 75, died 10/14/19. Res: Jackson, MI
FOX, Shirley L. (unknown line; d/o Lillian Apgar Schenk), 90, died 1/23/20. Res: Clark, NJ
HAMILTON, John Roscoe (h/o 7.1.4.6.4.2.), 84, died 3/3/2006. Res: Mendon, OH
HAMILTON, Nellie Hunsaker (7.1.4.6.4.2.), 93, died 5/2/16. Res: Mendon, OH
HANKINSON, Judith G. (3.5.3.1.4.4.1.2.), 71, died 6/28/19. Res: Phillipsburg, NJ
HEADLEY, Douglas Harris (h/o 3.3.5.4.3.1.1.1.; Laura Eick), 88, died 3/23/19. Res: St Mary's, KS
HOFFMAN, Eleanor Ann Apgar (6.4.3.6.6.1.2.), 84, died 9/17/19. Res: Tewksbury Twp, NJ
HOFFMAN, Janet Alyse DeMott (3.5.3.2.6.1.2.2.), 63, died 1/7/20. Res: Bath, PA
HOFFMAN, Kathleen Alice Trimmer (3.7.7.2.3.2.5.3.; w/o 1.2.3.4.3.2.3.2.), 76, died 9/18/19. Res: High Bridge, NJ
HOFFMAN, Richard Bradley (1.2.3.4.3.2.3.2.; h/o 3.7.7.2.3.2.5.3.), 80, died 1/13/20. Res: High Bridge, NJ
HUNSAKER, Harold "Gene" (7.1.4.6.4.10.), 77, died 7/26/2012. Res: Celina, OH
HUNSAKER, Helen "Sis" (w/o 7.1.4.6.4.10.), 81, died 2/24/18. Res: St. Mary's, OH
HUNSAKER, John James "Bud", Jr (7.1.4.6.4.5.), 60, died 8/15/1987. Res: Roanoke Rapids, NC
HUNSAKER, Mary Katherine (w/o 7.1.4.6.4.5.), 81, died 7/12/2007. Res: Roanoke Rapids, NC



Continued on page 13



In Memory of Departed Trustees

This past year, we lost three trustees. Judy Hankinson and Jeanette Lesinski were honored at our 2019 reunion. Robert Mettler passed away since our 2019 reunion.

Judy Hankinson (1948-2019)

Judith Grace Hankinson, trustee from 1996 through 2003 and 2018 through 2020, (Adam Line 3.5.3.1.4.4.1.2), died on June 28, 2019, in Phillipsburg.

Judy was born on February 8, 1948, in Somerville, daughter of the late Donald and Eleanor Perry Hankinson. She lived most of her life in Hunterdon County before moving to Phillipsburg a few years ago.

She graduated from High Bridge High School as co-valedictorian of her 1966 class. Judy worked at New Jersey Property-Liability Insurance Guaranty Association in Basking Ridge until her retirement.

Judy was a member of Cokesbury United Methodist Church and later a member of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.

In addition to serving as trustee, she also served as AFA

Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and as Historian - helping members trace their personal ancestry. Genealogy was her passion.

She is survived by two daughters; Melissa Smith of Phillipsburg and Amanda Whitney of Shelburne Falls, MA.

Mike Apgar, AFA President, remembers: "I fondly recall working with her on family genealogy and history...and all those wonderful books!"

Amanda, her elder daughter, shared with us: "The Apgar family history was a passion of Mom's for as long as I can remember. I went to Apgar reunions with her as a kid and those hardbound red books full of names and dates were a feature on our bookshelves."



Jeanette Lesinski (1944-2019)

Jeanette Joyce Lesinski, trustee from 2007-2015, (Jacob Line 6.2.2.2.2.6.1.1.4), died on September 10, 2019, in Bridgewater.

Jeanette was born on September 1, 1944, in Plainfield, daughter of the late Paul and Mildred Strani. She lived most of her life in Bridgewater. She graduated from South Plainfield High School and soon was employed by the Buffalo Tank Division of the Bethlehem Steel Company in Dunellen.

Jeanette married Thomas Lesinski in 1963 and is survived by her husband of 55 years. She is also survived by her son, Thomas Lesinski and his wife Emily of Middlesex, daughter

Laura Kasica and her husband Edward of Bridgewater, as well as five grandchildren. She is also survived by brother Paul Strani, another brother Robert Strani, and a sister Laura Tuma.

In addition to serving as trustee, Jeanette served as Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary.

Jeanette's interest in Apgar family genealogy began when she received old family pictures and memorabilia from her paternal grandmother. Subsequently, she researched her own German and Italian heritage.



Robert Mettler (1943-2020)

Robert Stokes Mettler, trustee from 2019 through 2020, (Frederick Line 9.3.7.3.3.1), died on March 9, 2020, in Somerset.

Robert was born on June 12, 1943, in New Brunswick, and was a life-long resident of Somerset. He attended the Lawrenceville School and Dickinson College. Robert was employed as a realtor at Berkshire Hathaway Properties in Hillsborough.

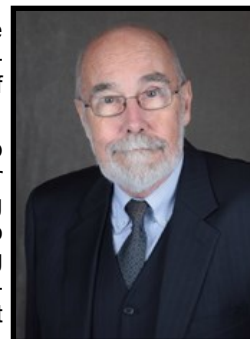
Robert was the son of the late Thomas Holcombe Mettler and Irene Mettler. He is survived by his wife Aruna Dolly Mettler, step-son Siddhartha Prasad and his wife Banu Prasad, step daughter Devlyani Mercado, and four grandchildren.

Robert was a leader of Hillsborough Reformed Church

and an elder in the East Millstone Reformed Church, as well as an elder delegate to the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

Robert served Franklin Township as Councilman and deputy Mayor for several terms and as Mayor during 1979-1980 and 1989-1990. He also was a member of the Planning Board, Historic Preservation Commission, and the Redevelopment Agency. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing chess.

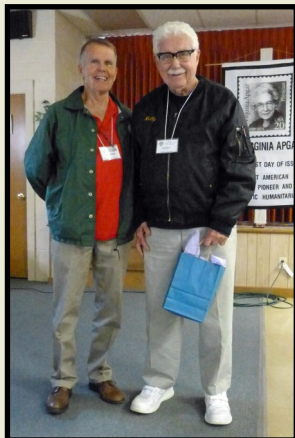
His friends described him as a "statesman, scholar, historian, and gentleman farmer."



Views of our 44th (2019) Reunion



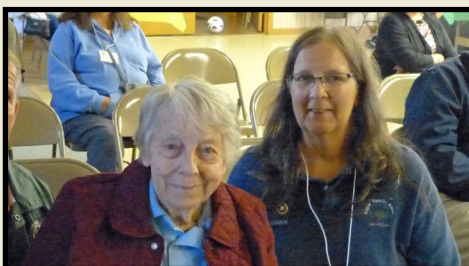
Traveled Farthest
(Alabama) Carol Kin-
naird (with Mike)



Senior Gentleman – Jim Kelly (with Mike)



Largest Family (4) - Johnnie, Tracy, Jacob,
John Apgar (Ohlo) - (with Mike)



Senior Lady – Mary
Apgar (with daughter
Debbie)



Dolorita Parker —
Jelly Bean counter

Attendees at our 44th Reunion (2019) at Stanton Grange Hall, Lebanon, NJ.





Millicent Moore wins quilt made by Debbie Apgar

Jim Apgar describing his "Visit to Westerwald"



Judy Beck wins special basket; Johnnie Apgar drew her winning raffle ticket.

Longest married (59 years) - Charlotte & Jim Kelly (with Mike)



Photo by Jim Pickell



Minutes from our October 5, 2019, Reunion Business Meeting

Submitted by Lynn Conley, Recording Secretary

Present: Trustees - Mike Apgar, Hank Apgar, Debbie Apgar, David Rich, Lynn Conley, Carol Kinnaird, Lois Pfeffer, Robert Mettler, & Judy Beck (Historian) plus 26 members of the Apgar Association; Absent: Mary Carpenter.

The Meeting was called to Order by Mike Apgar at 3:07pm on October 5, 2019.

Mike thanked everyone for coming and gave a special thank-you to our Guest Speaker William Honachefsky and his talk on the Iron Mine. He also thanked Jim Apgar for his afternoon presentation on his trip to Westerwald and visit with our German Cousins in Puderbach.

Mike then called for the Treasurer's Report, the Membership/Corresponding Secretary Report and Recording Secretary Report.

David Rich -Treasur reported the A.F.A. checking account balance was \$6,808.99. **[See page 6 for Dave's full report.]**

Debbie Apgar -Corresponding Secretary stated, as per her membership report, we have approximately 153 who last paid dues. The membership chair also reported that 51 persons were in attendance at the 2019 reunion.

Hank Apgar-Vice President and Newsletter Editor reminded members that we would need members to write articles especially regarding their family's history. Everyone is invited to help with the newsletter since we need more than just the trustees to participate.

Lynn Conley -Recording Secretary requested the minutes from the 2018 Reunion could be voted, "read and accepted" since they were printed in the 2019 Apgar Newsletter. A vote was taken, all accepted the motion.

Lynn reported that on October 6, 2018, at the Stanton Grange, the Apgar Family Association, Inc. held its Annual Reunion. At the reunion, 72 members were present. At the afternoon business meeting, minutes were taken and posted as in the 2018 Apgar Newsletter. Since the last Apgar Reunion Meeting, 155 newsletters were sent to past paid members. A letter about the 2019 Reunion was sent to 357 additional members. Also produced were the event and memorial programs, name tags and sign-ups sheets for the 2019 Reunion.

Judy Beck - Historian, was called on by President Mike Apgar for her report. Judy reported it was important that members send to her updates on marriages, births and deaths along with any noteworthy events to any of the trustees. Judy also stated that we need volunteers to enter data that has been provided to the association. A few members stated they would assist if a protocol for data entry could be established. Judy stated she would have to speak to Mary Carpenter to determine a system so members could help with the process.

Carol Kinnaird -Trustee, spoke about the work and progress of repairing the Old

Lebanon Cemetery and the need for additional funds. Mike Apgar made a motion which was seconded to give a \$1000.00 donation since many of our ancestors are buried in this cemetery.

Old Business:

Under Old Business, Mike spoke about the Reunion and asked the members present if they preferred the October date for the meeting or would rather go back to the traditional third Saturday in September. A show of hands indicated the third Saturday (in September) was favored.

Mike then began awarding prizes for most senior male, most senior female, newest member/first time at reunion, youngest member, who traveled the farthest, longest marriage and largest family. **[See photos on page 8-9.]**



AFA 2020 Officers and Trustees (at time of 2019 reunion)
Front:: Lynn Conley, Mike Apgar, Robert Mettler (now deceased). Rear: David Rich, Margaret Kelly, Lois Pfeffer, Carol Kinnard, Idaleen Hasenauer. Henry Apgar, Debbie Apgar, John Apgar. Missing from photo: Joseph Fabian.

New Business:

Mike announced that we could use articles for next years newsletter as well as volunteers for the 2020 reunion.

Mike stated that we needed to fill a few vacant trustee positions and asked for volunteers: The following individuals came forward to be new trustees: John C. Apgar, Joseph Fabian, Margaret Kelly and Idaleen Hasenauer. **[See page 16 for a full list of officers and trustees.]**

Mike asked for any other new business, since there was no response, Lynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Hank Apgar. The Meeting was adjourned at 3:47pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Lynn Conley-Apgar Family Association Recording Secretary.

Lynn



**Debbie Apgar—
Corresponding
Secretary**

The German ~~Westerwald~~ — Land of our Forefathers by Mike Apgar

The **German Westerwald**, an area in the northeast corner of the German state **Rheinland/Pfalz**, is heavily forested uplands and cleared valleys on the right (east) bank of the **Rhine River** from Coblenz to Linz and between the Lahn and Siegen Rivers. It was the homeland of our Apgar family patriarch in America, **Friedrich "Fritz" Epgert**. Fritz's father and grandfather had lived in the same small hamlet, **Daufenbach**, since at least the mid-1600s. It is quite similar in appearance to the rolling hills and valleys of Hunterdon County, NJ.

The Westerwald region is a segment of the Variscan mountain belt formed 380-250 million years ago, during the same period of continental collisions that resulted in the folded Appalachians in North America. This crumpling process pushed up a former sea floor, metamorphizing the marine sediments into slate, quartzite and limestone. Much later Tertiary rifting generated volcanic activity including extensive basaltic lava and tuff deposits. The mountains of the Westerwald are part of the Rhenish Massif, one of the most extensive mountainous areas of present-day Germany.

The region was populated by an early human species known as **Neanderthals** several hundred thousands years ago. Beginning about 40,000 BCE modern Homo sapiens arrived through southwest Asia, displacing the Neanderthals who, after some co-mingling, became extinct. These humans were the Cro-Magnons who left the cave paintings throughout western Europe. During the height of the last Ice Age, all people had to move to southern Europe to survive. By about 10,000 years ago, the ice retreated and forests, big game and big game hunters returned.

The **Celts** developed the first known towns in the region, forging iron and farming. The Celtic population was forced further westward by the migration of Germanic tribes during the fourth century BCE. By the dawn of the Current Era a tribe known as the Varisti settled north of the Danube, giving the area the Latin name for the geologic system.

During the relatively enlightened reign of the philosopher emperor Marcus Aurelius, the Varisti seem to have mistaken kindness for weakness and attacked the Romans. As a result they were defeated and forced to resettle in northern Italy where the Romans could keep them under surveillance. Other Germanic people, likely the Franks, possibly the Alemanni, moved into the Westerwald.

By 800 CE the region became part of Constantine's **Holy Roman Empire**. You may be surprised that Christianity did not become widespread until at least the tenth century of the Common Era. The first known term Westerwald ("the western for-

est" in German) occurred in a document in 1048. During the Middle Ages the Westerwald was administered by powerful bishoprics centered in Cologne, Trier and Mainz. A Latin document dated 1256 mentions the village of Puderbach, where the church Fritz attended during his life prior to emigration. Re-discovery of this document, the first known mention of the town served as the trigger for the **750th anniversary celebration of Puderbach** in 2006. (Hank Apgar, Carol and I attended **Westerwald family** and had a wonderful time.)

Mining for clay, slate and iron form the mineral wealth of the Westerwald. The area is rural and agricultural. The hilly terrain prevented widespread migration, with the result that local dialects and sub-dialects serve as markers and barriers between the residents. (The different dialects complicated attempts to communicate and confuse the more recent efforts of genealogical tracking.)

The rich clay deposits (weathered from the slate) are the source of the clay used in famous "Westerwald" gray salt-glazed ceramics decorated with a blue pigment. The Apgar-motif ceramics sold at the annual Apgar Family reunions over nearly two decades faithfully reproduced the appearance and designs of this pottery.

In the Early 16th century **Martin Luther**, a German monk, broke with Roman Catholicism and founded the **Reformed** (or Evangelical) Church. Soon other reformers created their own denominations. Religious intolerance and persecution followed, plunging Europe into a century of religious inquisitions and holy wars. The worst period of violence, known as the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) resulted in the death of a third to two thirds of the population of southwest Germany. The Peace of Westphalia settled that issue by allowing the local ruler to determine the religion of the people of his realm. Religious boundaries determined then are still felt to this day although freedom of worship has been allowed for centuries. However, military incursions, plague and crop failures continued to ravage the population for centuries.

Germany did not become a unified nation until 1876. Before that it was a hodge-podge of small independent states which competed for people and territory, resulting in shifting political borders. The **Westerwald** was ruled for successive periods by Westphalia, the Rhineland, Hesse, Nassau and Prussia. At the time (1740) that Fritz Epgert emigrated the Westerwald was under Prussian jurisdiction. The current state boundaries, were drawn up after WWII, most of the Westerwald is in the state of **Rhineland/Pfalz**.



Westerwald family



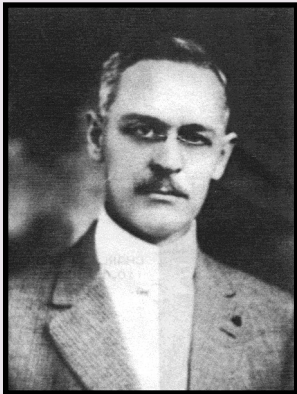
Germany



Puderbach

Charles Apgar Intercepted and Decoded 1915 German Attack Message 'Get Lucy' by Hank Apgar, based on letter exchange with Bob Burchett

One hundred and five years ago(May 7, 1915) , the Cunard Cruise Liner, RMS Lusitania, was sunk in the North Atlantic by a German U-Boat (submarine) . One of our ancestors, **Charles Emory Apgar** (10.14.4.3), father of Dr. Virginia Apgar and ham radio operator, played a crucial role in trying to protect that non-combatant passenger ship.



Charles Emory Apgar 10.14.4.3 intercepted and decoded the German message, "Get Lucy" days before sinking.

The sinking turned public opinion in many countries against Germany, contributed to the American entry into World War I. This story was first reported to us by Bob Burchett, also a ham radio operator, who contacted the Apgar Family Association with his story.

Charles Emory Apgar was an avid and pioneering ham radio operator with rather crude equipment (Edison dictating machines with recording head and possibly the Amplidyne listening unit) even by the standards of 1915 but his talents to assemble random pieces of recording, playback, wax cylinders, radio receivers, transmitters and other parts turned out to be a turning point in

the US being drawn into the war. Consider this story line, as recaptured by Bob in his website, www.GetLucy.org:

- The British passenger ship RMS *Lusitania* (fondly called "Lucy") was being loaded during April 1915 and was apparently observed by German spies to be loading contraband munitions . The ship departed NY harbor, Pier 54, for a 7-day voyage to Liverpool (England) on May 1.

- In April, the German embassy published a warning advertisement in 50 American newspapers reminding Atlantic travelers that "...a state of war exists between Germany (and allies) and Great Britain (and allies)...especially in waters adjacent to the British Isles...and travelers sailing on vessels flying the flag of great Britain do so at their own risk."

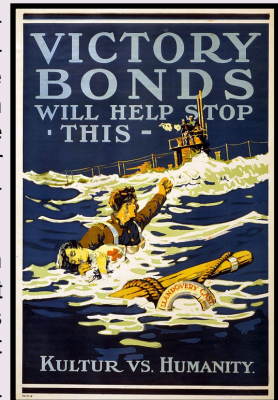
- A German spy reported the violation of neutrality to the German embassy by transmitting the message "Get Lucy" from Sayville NJ. Germany had been waging submarine warfare against the United Kingdom which had implemented a naval blockade of Germany.

- Sometime between the end of April and May 2 , the German message was picked up by Charles Emory Apgar and decoded as it was being relayed to the German High Command in Nauen, Germany and then on to nearest U-Boat within range of the passenger ship.

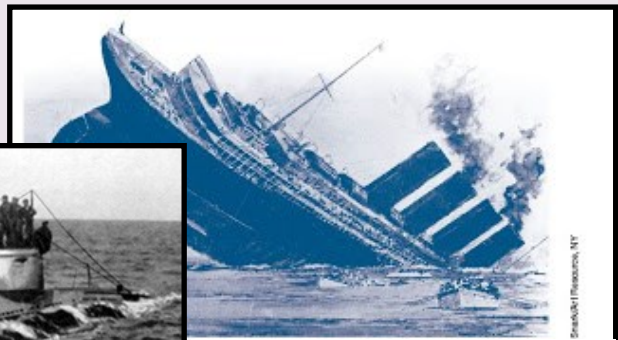
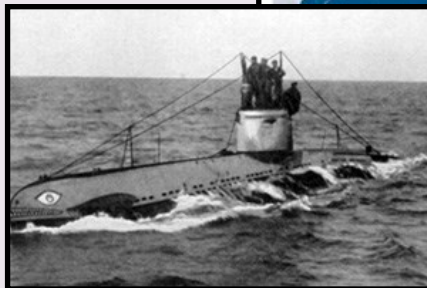
- Charles intercepted and decoded the message, but his attempts to notify the US Navy were in vain. The ship could have been contacted by radio to change course, zig-zag to avoid U-Boats, or take some other evasive maneuvers.

- The British Admiralty had been tracking the movements of U-boat U-20 through wireless intercepts and radio direction finding. As it operated in the Irish Sea on May 6, it had sunk two non merchant steamers: the *Candidate* and the *Centurion*. On the morning of May 7, the U-20 was reported low on fuel and had only three torpedoes left. The Captain of the *Lusitania* was advised.

- On Friday, May 7 1915, the *Lusitania* was positively identified (no national flag but her name freshly painted in golden letters on her side) by the German U-boat U-20 , which fired one gyroscopic torpedo without warning. The *Lusitania* took on a heavy starboard list, followed by a secondary explosion and sank in 18 minutes, just eleven miles off



American patriotic spirit soared by the Lusitania sinking.



Lusitania ("Lucy") was sunk May 7, 1915, by the German U-Boat, U-20.

the Old Head of Kinsale, Ireland. Of the 1,266 passengers and 696 crew members, 1,198 were killed, including 128 Americans. The sinking turned public opinion in many countries against Germany, contributed to the American entry into WWI, and became an iconic symbol in military recruiting campaigns for why the war was being fought.

- Investigation later showed the *Lusitania* was carrying 4 million rounds of small-arms ammunition, 5,000 shrapnel shell casings, and 3,240 brass percussion fuses.

Continued on page 13



"Historical Happenings," continued from page 6

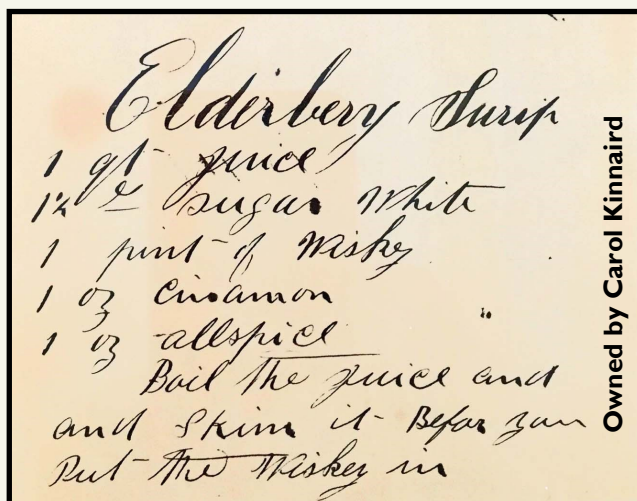
KERR, Bernice Marie Carvatt (3.11.1.3.1.5.3.), 87, died 1/20/20. Res: Gill, CO
KISH, John M. (former h/o 9.11.6.2.2.2.1.; Cynthia Apgar), 66, died 12/19/19. Res: Nockamixon Township, PA
KOHLHEPP, June Apgar (unknown line; d/o Russell), 83, died 5/27/19. Res: Wallingford, CT
KOTCH, JoAnne Apgar (3.5.3.1.3.3.4.), 83, died 4/18/20. Res: Bridgewater, NJ
LESINSKI, Jeanette J. (6.2.2.2.2.6.1.1.4.), 75, died 9/10/19. Res: Bridgewater, NJ
METTLER, Robert Stokes (9.3.7.3.3.1.), 76, died 3/9/20. Res: Somerset, NJ
MILLER, Thomas F. Sr (1.2.5.2.2.3.1.4.4.), 66, died 7/24/19. Res: Phillipsburg, NJ
MOSER, Rosemarie Hunsaker (7.1.4.6.4.1.), 98, died 7/17/19. Res: Celina, OH
RANDER, Marianne "Penny" Konrad (d/o 9.5.1.2.1.5.5.; Beatrice Apgar), 79, died 4/24/20. Res: Bethlehem, PA
SAWMILLER, Kenneth (h/o 7.1.4.6.4.3.), 94, died 4/3/18. Res: Spencerville, OH
SAWMILLER, Mary Lee Hunsaker (7.1.4.6.4.3.), 86, died 5/10/2010. Res: Spencerville, OH
SHAMANKEK, Eileen L. Apgar (likely Frederick Line; d/o Neal D. Apgar, Sr), 69, died 8/29/19. Res: Lehighton, PA
SMITH, Kevin J. (1.2.3.3.2.3.5.2.5.; s/o Pauline Farley), 62, died 9/13/19. Res: Lebanon Twp, NJ
WEBB, I. Jeanne Fink (d/o 6.7.1.6.4.; Iva Apgar), 88, died 11/17/19. Res: Forks Twp, PA
WOLFRAM, Diane L. Miller (1.2.5.2.2.3.1.2.4.), 67, died 9/21/18. Res: Phillipsburg, NJ

Judy

Note: The following abbreviations are used in reporting historical happenings: d/o-daughter of; h/o-husband of; s/o-son of; w/o-wife of.

Elderberries Boost Immunity, From Carol Kinnaird

Carol shares with us an original recipe for **elderberry syrup** by the father of Lizzie Apgar, mailed to her mother, Mary Hoffman Shurts. It was penned about 1870.



Owned by Carol Kinnaird

Carol has tested it for you.

For anyone struggling with beautiful old world penmanship, here is a printed version:

1 qt juice (elderberry)
 1 1/2 cup sugar white
 1 pint wiskey [whiskey]
 1 oz cinnamon
 1 oz allspice



Boil the juice and skim it before you put the wiskey in.

"Get Lucy" story continued from page 12

On May 7 each year, ham radio operators worldwide commemorate the telegraphic message 'Get Lucy' via communications with Ireland (the graveyard of the Lusitania) and certificates are issued commemorating radio contacts with them.

Bob Burchett is in touch with the owner of the Lusitania as it sits on the bottom of the ocean in dispute with the governments of Ireland and England who refuse to let him bring up more artifacts.

Lee Apgar, Great Grandson of Charles Emory Apgar, produced an 8-minute YouTube documentary, *The Sinking of Lusitania* in 1967.



Bob Burchett is also working with a Sayville NY museum group to preserve this history. The group is preparing a docudrama of the Sayville role in the saga from the first wireless use of local radio towers by the German embassy from 1906 thru 1915 when the US Navy took them over. Your AFA contributed some information about **Charles Emory** for their project and for Bob's website, .

While we are essentially aware that Charles Emory recorded many of his Edison cylinders with Sayville encrypted radio messages before and after this event and it is widely reported that of the 10+ cylinders said to have existed only 3 are left. It would be possible to record and play back those cylinders so we might be able to recover and conserve those precious messages.

Union Forge (High Bridge), continued from page 3

Taylor-Wharton produced a variety of high-tech products, including technologies to store and transport liquid oxygen and nitrogen. In 1957, they produced the first insulated liquid cylinder. In 1960, they provided cylinders to NASA for the Apollo space mission.

The **Union Forge Heritage Association (UFHA)** established a museum (2002-2012) in the old **Solitude House**. Built by Joseph Turner. Some of Solitude's most famous visitors had been George and Martha Washington, General Lafayette, Colonel Charles Stewart, and Aaron Burr.

It is through this wonderful landscape that a little stream called Spruce Run wound its way southward out of the highlands of Schooley's Mountain, the product of a multitude of shaded spring seeps discharging groundwater from the underlying bedrock below.

By the time it passed under the two lane Route 30 (now Route 31) concrete roadway in Glen Gardner and flowed under **Hurley's Bridge** (now Van Syckle's Road bridge) the gradient of the stream became more gradual, lazily wending its way under the shade of ancient sycamore trees.

Here, its meandering pathway skirted the stone remnants of the historic, iron producing **Union Furnace**, part of Allen and Turner's vast Union Ironworks in the early 1700s. Perched on a nearby bluff just above Spruce Run is the undisturbed 1747 grave of **Nathaniel Irish**, early manager of the Union Furnace whose peaceful interment was about to change dramatically. The construction of **Spruce Run Reservoir** altered this bucolic and historic landscape forever.

By 1781, the forests, which had once provided an acre each day for fuel, were depleted, and the Union Furnace shut down. Loyal to the English Crown, Allen and Turner fled during the American Revolution, and their young superintendent, Robert Taylor then shifted his attention to Union Forge along the South Branch of the Raritan River. In 1811, Hugh Exton purchased the "Union Farmstead", part of the original Ironworks, from Allen's heirs with payment in gold, surprising the settlement agent.

Following a succession of ownership, Hunterdon County acquired ninety-two acres of the farm in 1980, a large part of



Solitude Heritage Museum in the 1760 Joseph Turner Home

today's **Union Furnace Preserve**. Remnants of pig iron production are evident here near the site of a gristmill Exton built along the Spruce Run. The Hugh Exton home lies on the property of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority in Clinton Township, nestled against **Spruce Run Reservoir** with the cornerstone dated 1735. Rubble from the Union Furnace was removed during construction of the reservoir.

After construction of the reservoir, the house was acquired by the State of New Jersey in 1967, which later considered its demolition. Instead, the Union Forge Heritage Association negotiated a lease on the house and immediate property, and began plans to move their museum from Solitude House after extensive renovations to the historic **Turner House** were completed in 2012.

Located at 117 Van Syckles Road in Hampton, the **Solitude Heritage Museum** houses UFHA's extensive collection of artifacts and documentation from the Union Ironworks, along with a wide range of period furnishings and relevant exhibits. Open to the public, May through December on Sundays, the museum is also the site of many events during the year. Among the Union Forge Heritage Association's plans for the future is a nine-mile extension from the current **Historic Greenway** in High Bridge, across Route 31 and down Union Forge's historic path to the museum.

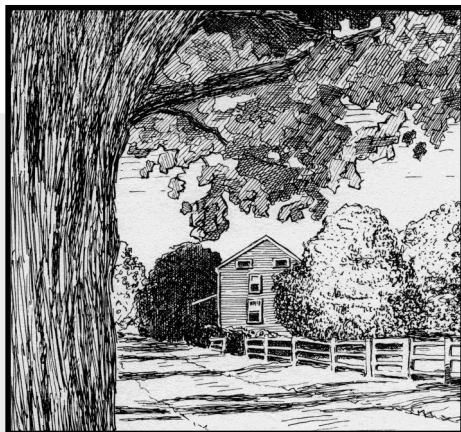
History of the Apgar Family Homestead, Continued from page 15

We have been working with the Hunterdon County Historical Society's Cemetery Committee to gain access to the plot and to place the memorial grave markers on the site, rather than taking legal action to acquire access.

The AFA has studied the homestead for many years. Several AFA gatherings were held at the homestead as part of our annual reunions when we were meeting across the street at the Cokesbury Church. In 1979, we placed a marker in front of the homestead but it incorrectly identified Johannes Peter Apgar as the Patriarch of the Apgar family. A new marker will be prepared to recognize Friedrich Eggert as our patriarch.

Homestead in 2004, after expansion, with additions on either end.

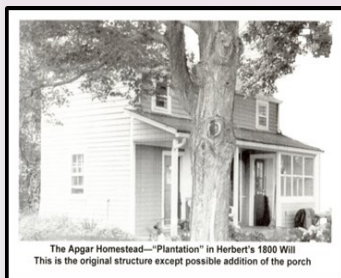




1984 homestead before expansion, in sketch from 1984 reunion pamphlet.

children – all in America. Fritz was born and raised in **Daufenbach**, a small farming village in the Westerwald (literally 'western forest') on the highlands east of the Rhine River. The area has a complex history, but now part of German state Rheinland-Pfalz (whose borders were drawn after WWII).

Fritz married Anna Juliana Haag in 1731 and moved into his in-law's home in **Niederdreis**. Anna Juliana died (probably due to complications of childbirth) in January 1939. Unusually cold weather had set in by August reducing crop yields. In December Fritz married Anna Eva. The Spring of 1740 was cool and dry; with the prospect of continuing low harvests. Fritz and Anna Eva, along with the two surviving children from Fritz's first marriage (Herbert and John Peter) abandoned their home and traveled to the New World. They first took a boat down the Rhine River to Rotterdam, Holland, and then boarded the small, crowded English ship, "**Samuel and Elizabeth**," to Philadelphia. We have a hand-written copy of the Passenger List, dated 30 September 1740; Fritz and family were the first to disembark.



Original Homestead photo, before expansion but with porch.

Although the Epgerts were early settlers in America, they were a generation removed from the initial wave of German migration. German migration to America began in 1709 with about 3,000 of the original 13,000 refugees who had flocked to England. Although fewer than half were from the Palatine region, they and all German-speakers who subsequently migrated to America before the Revolutionary War were referred to as "Palatines". These emigrants had been lured by rumors that Britain's Queen Anne would give them free passage and free land in America. Most traveled up the Hudson River as indentured laborers and eventually settled in the **Mohawk River Valley** in autonomous German communities in territory purchased from the Iroquois. However about 350 stayed in New York, some of

History of the Apgar Family Homestead by Hank Apgar and Mike Apgar

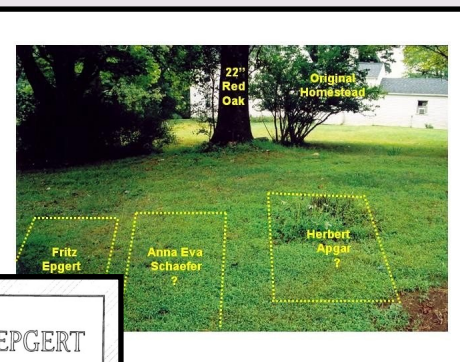
Frederich "Fritz"

Epgert, Apgar Family Patriarch, had two wives, the first, **Anna Juliana Haag**, died in Germany after bearing 4 children (only 2 of which survived); the second, **Anna Eva Schaefer** bore him nine

whom subsequently migrated into central New Jersey.

In the 1730s, 40s and 50s a wave of German immigrants arrived in Philadelphia.

FRIEDRICH EPGERT
APGAR FAMILY PATRIARCH



Grave site and one grave marker behind the homestead

Many moved further west, but some, including the Epgerts, journeyed up the Delaware River to what is now Hunterdon County, New Jersey. They settled in an area of rolling woodland similar to that they had left in the German Westerwald. Eventually it became known as German Valley. Here they could continue to speak German – they even published their own newspaper.

Fritz and Anna Eva became part of this German-speaking community. Eventually they acquired property (probably under a quit-rent arrangement) and built a stone and stucco family homestead.

The original house still stands, sandwiched between large additions on either end on a backroad between Cokesbury and Lebanon. The current house still has a huge fireplace with a full-width room behind, which was probably the parents' bedroom. A (now absent) second fireplace was on the opposite side of the original building which probably served as the children's bedrooms, though some children may have slept in the loft.

The homestead was owned by members of the Apgar family until 1967, when residents Howard Sutton and his wife Zetta Hannah Apgar passed away. There is a private family burial ground on the property, set aside continuously in the property deed from 1800. With permission of the owner, David Mills, the AFA had an investigation with Ground Penetrating Radar in 2006 and determined that three people are buried there – probably Fritz, Anna Eva Schaefer, and Herbert, Fritz's oldest son from his first wife. The burial plot, now part of a lawn, measures one square rod in size and is located approximately 100 feet behind the house.

In 2012, the AFA commissioned three grave markers (Fritz's marker is shown here) for the burial plot in accordance with Mr. Mills authorization. However, he died shortly thereafter and his widow, the current owner, has denied permission to place them.



Continued on page 14

Directory of Association Officers and Trustees (2020)

Current Officers / Trustees

(showing years as officer/trustee)

Mike Apgar (Trustee, President)
114 S. Fairfield Dr., Dover, DE 19901
(302) 698-1865
maapgar@comcast.net
(1998-2020)

Henry (Hank) Apgar (Trustee, Vice President, Newsletter)
776 Silver Cloud St.,
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 402-4132
hapgar@mcni.com
(1999-2020)

Lynn Conley (Trustee, Recording Secretary)
51 High St., E. Rutherford, NJ 07073
(201) 460-9202
comet1996@aol.com
(2002-2020)

David Rich (Trustee, Treasurer)
P O Box 52, Hatboro, PA 19040
(215) 674-0244
davidarich@live.com
(2003-2020)

Debbie Apgar (Trustee, Corresponding Secretary)
416 Runyon Ave, Middlesex, NJ 08806
(732) 968-3065
njgirl1045@yahoo.com
(2003-2020)

Carol Kinnaird (Trustee)
216 Crest Lake Dr., Hoover, AL 35244
carolkinnaird@gmail.com
(2018-2020)

Lois Pfeiffer (Trustee)
343 Lincoln St., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
scrapbook@joimail.com
(2010-2022)

Mary Carpenter (Webmaster)
marycarp@optonline.net
(2006-2020)

Judy Beck (Historian)
3 Fernwood Ct.,
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889
(908) 823-0413
judithbeck0612@gmail.com
(2001-2020)

John C. Apgar III (Trustee)
396 Market St., Highspire, PA 17034
jpjn@apgar.co
(2019- 2022)

Joseph Fabian (Trustee)
220 Westover Dr., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
fabianjcal@aol.com
(2019- 2022)

Margaret Kelly (Trustee)
1090 Red Leaf Dr,
Christianburg, VA 24073
marnkelly@aol.com
(2019- 2022)

Idaleen Hasenauer (Trustee)
6945 Ferry Rd, New Hope, PA
idaleanh@gmail.com
(2019-2022)

Deceased Trustees

Barbara Apgar (1929-2001)
Dorothy Apgar (1923-2005)
George M. Apgar Sr. (1921-2004)
Helen Apgar (unknown-2010)
Henry E. Apgar Sr. (1907-1998)
Phyllis Apgar (1928-2009)
Robert O. Apgar (1919-1995)
Ronald F. Apgar (1940-1998)
Ruth Apgar (1915-2008)
Reba Bloom (1913-2009)
Judy Hankinson (1948-2019)
Jeanette Lesinski (1944 - 2019)
Robert Mettler (1943-2020)
Louanna Rich (1946-2010)

Former Trustees (Living)

(showing years as officer/trustee)

Cassie Apgar (1999-2002)
Chris Apgar (1999-2003)
George Apgar Jr. (1986-2018)
Howard Apgar (1999-2004)
John Apgar III (1996-2002)
John S. Apgar (1997-1998)
Laurence D. Apgar (1999)
Mary Apgar (1988-1997)
Richard Apgar (1986-1990)
Robert Apgar (2012-2017)
Wayne Apgar (1988-1995)
Judy Beck (2001-2005)
Lisa Berman (2015-2016)
Mary Carpenter (2006-2017)
Dolorita Cronk (2006-2007)
Lois Dege (2001-2004)
Wayne Dilts (1994-2003)
Roger Flartey (2003-2009)
Mary Reilly (2015-2017)
Wendy Rumhill (2006-2008)
John W. Shuster, Jr. (1990-1996)
Karen Prince-Steinberg 2002-2017)
Al Tiger (1986-1997)
Stephen Tiger (1997-1999)
Brenda Zimmerman (1991-1997)



**NEXT YEAR'S REUNION:
SEPTEMBER 18, 2021**

