



# Apgar Family Association

## 2021 Newsletter

Issue 42

Spring 2021

Price \$3.00 (Free to Members)

### Our Reunion will go “Live” on September 18, 2021

#### What's inside...

Pg

President's Address	2
Dr Virginia elected to NJHOF	3
Visit our Website	4
Apgar Origin Myths	5
Historical Happenings	6
In Memory	7
<b>Reunion Details</b>	7
Early Family Reunions	8
Children's Book Review	9
Treasurer's Report	9
Meeting Minutes	10
High Bridge Apgar Family	11
Lizzie Shurts Apgar Family	12
Cemeteries Almost Lost	13
Times Changing—1921	14
Officers and Trustees	16

Despite all rumors that we were contemplating cancelling our reunion for the second year in a row, the dark clouds rolled away and New Jersey announced a general resumption of public meetings and assemblies. So, we are good-to-go for the Stanton Grange Hall on the third Saturday in September. See page 7 for the details.

However, we all need to prepare for what New Jersey protocols might be in effect then and be prepared with a mask. The trustees recommend also that you be vaccinated by then.

We were able to reschedule our planned 2019/2020 keynote speaker for our 2021 reunion.



**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.”**

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.

Just before going to press with last year's newsletter, we told you that Dr. Virginia Apgar had been nominated to the New Jersey Hall of Fame on the 2019-2020 ballot in the Public Service category. We then notified members by separate email (if we knew your email address) on how to vote for her.

The New Jersey Hall of Fame (NJHOF) honors individuals from the state of New Jersey who have made contributions to society in the world beyond. This is the highest state honor bestowed on one of its citizens.

Well, thank you all—it worked! Our own “Dr. Virginia” was elected and the full story appears on page 3.



**Carol Levin “in character” for her story**



#### September 18 Reunion Schedule (details on page 7)

- 10:00 Check-in: Coffee and Home-made Baked Goods
- 10:40 Welcome
- 11:00 Genealogy Exchange, Show & Tell
- 11:30 Main Speaker, Carol Levin
- 12:30 Annual Group Photo
- 12:45 Family Style Lunch
- 2:15 Yankee Auction
- 3:00 Business Meeting
- 4:00 Close: Safe Journey Home

**Access AFA website at: [www.apgarfamily.org](http://www.apgarfamily.org)**

**Follow AFA on new Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/ApgarFamilyAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/ApgarFamilyAssociation)**

## President's Address Mike Apgar

Dear Family,

The past year-and-a-half has been a trying time indeed. Besides what other matters we've each had to contend with, the illness, death, fear and restrictions due to covid pandemic. I certainly hope that each you and your loved ones were able to navigate through this disease without much personal damage.

Due to the rapidly improving situation with the virus and the evolving health guidelines and state requirements, your Trustees decided (in May) to proceed with a live in-person reunion. Of course, by September, we expect all attendees to be vaccinated. We may have to be socially distanced and masked, so be prepared by bringing one of your by-now-extensive mask collections. Hopefully we will be back to what was considered "normal" by reunion time.

Honestly, we had—until late spring—contemplated offering a virtual ZOOM reunion. I don't know about you, but virtual meetings just don't have the same panache of a physical gathering.

Many of us have been taking school courses and webinars by ZOOM, but a lot of you may not be familiar with that on-line technology. That was a big concern for hosting a virtual program.

On the other hand, I personally have been in more frequent contact with my far-flung brothers, cousins and sons (in Alaska, Spain, Arizona, Minnesota and Florida) than before the pandemic. Our twice-weekly ZOOM meetings have kept us more in-touch than ever before. Hopefully, we will continue to enjoy this contact as one of the advantages of the pandemic. It's been something we should all take advantage of if you haven't already.

If you haven't been to an Apgar Family reunion, this September **will be** a great time to check it out. My first reunion was 30 years ago. I became interested because the guest speaker was to address NJ in the Civil War. He came dressed as a Civil War soldier, and since I was interested in history and was involved with Civil War re-enacting at the time, I bit. The speaker modified his presentation to accommodate me...and because he assumed that I knew everybody. Not true, they were all strangers!

Anyway, I had a good time, met some **very nice** distant relatives, and learned a bit about family history. Before leaving, I was cajoled into volunteering to work on an 'Apgars in the Civil War' project. After diving into the subject, including spending countless hours reviewing files in the

National Archives, I asked who else was working on this effort. Surprise, I was the only one. **Doh!** ...and after compiling a far notebook and several storyboards on that subject, here I am.

So, if you have an interest in history—and early American and Women's history in particular—or just want to **enjoy** a great storyteller, you will enjoy this get-together. Heck, if you interested in early American attire—or even want to wear some (if you happen to have any)—then come on down to the Stanton Grange September 18 for a real fun and memorable experience. I



**President Mike - Lunch break on the set of Gettysburg - the Civil War got Mike to his first AFA reunion.**

truly look forward to meeting you there.

I can't stress enough the need for you to pay your membership dues and update or confirm your email address. The costs of printing and mailing the Newsletters (especially postage) have gone up substantially, so we can't keep mailing them without a nominal contribution. Our Newsletters have been acclaimed for their professionalism and are worthy of being collectables, so please keep up your support. If you do not want a hard copy, you can save the Association some expense by looking at it on our website ([www.apgarfamily.org](http://www.apgarfamily.org)).

We need your email address to be able to contact you about any last-minute changes to the reunion event and protocol. If we are forced by circumstances to cancel or otherwise modify the place or time, we will notify you —by email or website notice.

Finally, your Apgar Family Association—like any other volunteer organization—needs creative trustees, committee chairs and other skills - for the sake of family history. We need visionary leaders, researchers, data managers, newsletter writers/editors, and reunion planners/workers.

The Apgar family is more than capable for such tasks. Please contact me ([maapgar123@gmail.com](mailto:maapgar123@gmail.com)), or any of our Trustees, to get more involved.

**Mike**

### Note to Members

We are sending Newsletters to 483 family members on our mailing list, although only 280 paid their annual dues during the past year. Unfortunately, our income has been shrinking while costs have risen substantially. In fact, printing and distribution of the Newsletter now costs more than \$2000 (double

the cost of only a few years ago). Consequently, your Trustees have had to decide that, If you pay dues this year, you can expect a hard copy of the Newsletter mailed to you next year. If not, you have to wait for it to be posted on our website. Please support your family association by sending in your dues—and any donations—in the envelope enclosed.



## Dr. Virginia Apgar Inducted into NJ Hall of Fame (NJHOF)

By Lynn Conley, Trustee

Dr. Virginia Apgar was inducted into the **New Jersey Hall of Fame** on October 18, 2020 in a virtual ceremony celebrating the Class 2019-2020. Virginia Apgar was honored in the category of Public Service. The New Jersey Hall of Fame is an organization that honors individuals from the state of New Jersey who have made contributions to society and the world beyond. The selected individuals are a who's who of some of the Garden State's best and brightest.

The Apgar Family Association and Dr. Virginia Apgar's extended family were honored by her induction. Virginia is a true New Jerseyan as her Apgar ancestors arrived in New Jersey in 1740. Dr. Virginia Apgar is credited by health professionals as doing more to improve the health of mothers, babies, and unborn infants than anyone else in the 20th century and it all started in Westfield, NJ on June 7, 1909.

Virginia "Ginny" was the youngest of three children, the daughter of Helen May (Clarke) and Charles Emory Apgar, of the Conrad Apgar line. Her father was a business executive, inventor and amateur astronomer whose amateur radio work exposed an espionage ring during World War I. Her older brother died early from tuberculosis, and her brother Lawrence had a chronic illness. The family was a musical one and Virginia learned to play the violin as a child at age six and continued throughout her life, which included making her own instruments.

Her early interest in science and medicine may have been inspired by her father as he taught Virginia to read at age three or by the illnesses of her brothers. However, by her high school years, she had already decided to pursue a medical career. Ginny was an excellent student in the sciences, but did poorly in her home economics courses, and (according to several friends) never did learn how to cook. She graduated from Westfield High School in 1925, knowing that she wanted to be a medical doctor.

At a time when few women even attended college, upon graduation from Westfield High School Virginia enrolled at Mt. Holyoke College. While there, "Ginny" played on seven sports teams, reported for the college newspaper, acted in dramatic productions, and played violin in the orchestra. Even with all these activities, her academic work was exceptional; in her last year, her zoology professor and advisor noted, "It is seldom that one finds a student so thoroughly immersed in her subject and with such a wide knowledge of it."

Upon graduation from Mt. Holyoke College in 1929, she went on to earn her medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in 1933, graduating 4<sup>th</sup> in her class of 90 with only 9 women. Determined to become a surgeon, she won a surgical

internship at Columbia and performed brilliantly. Nevertheless, the chair of surgery, Dr. Alan Whipple, discouraged her from continuing because other women surgeons failed to establish successful careers. He recommended a career in anesthesiology.



Virginia, age 10 (1919)

In 1938, Dr. Apgar returned to Columbia University as the director of the division of anesthesia. In 1949, when anesthesia research became an academic department, Dr. Apgar was appointed the first woman full professor at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She began studying obstetrical anesthesia—the effects of anesthesia given to a mother during labor on her newborn baby—where she made her greatest contribution to the field - the Apgar Score.

Between the 1930s and the 1950s, the number of infant deaths within the first 24 hours after birth remained constant. Apgar noticed this trend and began to investigate methods for decreasing the infant mortality rate specifically within the first 24 hours of the infant's life. As an obstetric anesthesiologist, Apgar was able to document trends that could distinguish healthy infants from infants in trouble.

In 1949, Virginia Apgar developed the Apgar Score System (presented in 1952 and published in 1953), it was a simple five-category observation-based assessment of newborn one minute after birth. Using Apgar's name as a mnemonic. Appearance (skin color), Pulse (heart rate), Grimace (reflex irritability), Activity (muscle tone) Respiration (breathing) it was quick and easy test.

Before the scoring system was adopted, newborns who had trouble breathing or were small and blue were often labeled as stillborn as it was assumed, they would be too sick to live and, unfathomably, were simply left to die. Apgar's score revolutionized the birthing process, it is no surprise that the work of Virginia Apgar had a far-reaching impact.

Her gifts to the world did not end with the Apgar Score. From 1959 until her death in 1974, Dr. Apgar worked for the March of Dimes Foundation, serving as vice president for medical affairs and directing its research program to prevent and treat birth defects and the problems of premature births. Virginia became an advocate for universal vaccination to prevent mother-to-child transmission of rubella which caused birth defects as well as promoting effective use of Rh testing, thus preventing a miscarriages.

It thus can be said that for the last 70 years and for years to come all newborns are viewed through the eyes of Dr. Virginia Apgar. Thank you all for voting Dr. Apgar into the **New Jersey Hall of Fame**.



Senior Year Picture at Mt Holyoke College (1929)

## Visit our Website to Jump-Start Your Genealogy Research

### www.apgarfamily.org (Updated reprint from our 2015 newsletter)



Mary Carpenter,  
Webmaster  
marycarp@optonline.net

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

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

The following database **CDs in pdf format** are available for purchase on the web site; price is \$25 each including shipping. Or, pick up at next reunion.

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

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

Part 1: Herbert, John Peter and Heinrich

Part 2: Johannes Adam and Catharine

Part 3: Jacob and William

Part 4: Peter, Frederick and Conrad



An example of a family tree downloaded from our web site: Friedrich 'Fritz' Epgert (aka Frantz Apgardt and Frederick Apkert). Fritz arrived in the New World on September 30, 1740.

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

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

Children by second marriage, in the New Jersey colony:

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



## German Surnames

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

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

**1. Occupational.** This is the most common form of German family name and can often be identified by its ending, such as **-er** (as in Geiger, one who played the violin), **-hauer** (hewer or cutter, such as Baumhauer, a tree cutter), **-macher** (one who makes, as in Fenstermacher — one who makes windows), and **-man/-mann** (as in Kaufman, one who sells, or a merchant). Some other examples of family names from occupations include: Bauer (farmer), Becker (baker), Fleischer or Metzger (butcher), Klingemann (weapons smith), Maurer (mason), Meier (farm administrator), Mueller (miller), Schmidt (smith), Schneider (tailor), Schulze (constable), Wagner (cartwright), Weber (weaver).

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

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

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



## Apgar Origin Myths: Crusaders, Norman noblemen, Italians, Hungarians, Armenian King? by Mike Apgar, President

How many of us remember our great- or great-grandparents and know where they were born? After more than a century had passed, apparently nobody in the Apgar family knew either. As a result of this loss of our origins, family myths were born, exaggerated and circulated into this century...despite several very serious efforts by intelligent genealogists.

Today we are confident that our family immigrant ancestor was **FRIEDRICH "FRITZ" EPGERT** who hailed from the Westward region of what is now Germany. Based on records of the Evangelical Church in the village of Puderbach, he was born in the nearby hamlet of Daufenbach, the son of Johann Adam Ebger and Anna Sophia (Klein?). Based on census records of 1663 and 1669, it appears that Fritz's paternal grandparents were Johannes Ebger and Margaretha. The Puderbach church records also include Fritz's first marriage (to Anna Juliana Haag), his four children's births and two of their deaths, Juliana's death in February 1739, and Fritz's second marriage (to Anna Eva Schaefer) in **November** that year.

We have a copy of Fritz's "notice of immigration" in July 1740 and his signature of the passenger list of the ship "Robert & Elizabeth" in Philadelphia in September 1740.

Fritz arrived in Philadelphia (at age 35) almost certainly with his second wife (33), and the two surviving children from his first marriage Johannes Herbert (7) and Johannes Peter (5). Unfortunately, women and children passengers were not recorded **at that time**.

Shortly thereafter, Fritz and family arrived in Hunterdon County, NJ. In 1742, "Friedrich Apkert" was one of six men named as defendants in a NJ Supreme Court case for "trespass". (This case was never heard, perhaps due to settler unrest/insurrection) which occurred in that area during the mid-1740s.) His family homestead (with additions) is still visible near Cokesbury on the Lebanon-Cokesbury Road.

Apologies for this lengthy introduction but remember that story. It's the correct one. But now, with our immigrant patriarch firmly documented, let's turn now to some of the amazing alternative tales spun over the years concerning Apgar family origins. They are a testament the we Apgars haven't always been accurate, but we have been inventive!

During the late 19th century (1896), Theodore Chambers published a tome entitled "The Early Germans of New Jersey, their history, churches and



Figure 1, Norman Nobleman, Ralph de Apchier's, 1180 coat of arms.

genealogy", in which he claimed that two brothers named Ebger came over the Alps from the borders of Lombardy, Italy to Philadelphia in 1749. (Ironically the ship he arrived in was "The Two Brothers". Anyway, Johan Adam, who settled in Hunterdon County and had "10 sons and a daughter" was allegedly the Apgar family patriarch.

The following year (1897), Major Allen Stoddard Apgar, a Civil War veteran turned NY banker, hired a professional genealogist, who traced the Apgars to a Norman nobleman (Ralph de Apchier in 1180) and Crusader-knight (Guillaume Apgard in 1271). The **former's** coat of arms is shown in Figure 1.

During the early 20th century, numerous Apgar origin myths arose. Marjorie

Breitschneider of Oshkosh, Wisconsin catalogued many of them in 1967. She summarized them with "Germany, Armenia, Holland, Italy or Prussia—take your pick."

Her most interesting tale was of a "King Apkar" (I've **seen it spelled** "Apgarus") of Armenia. He was a contemporary of Jesus and sent messengers to correspond with Jesus for him. Sometime after Jesus' death, this king supposedly became a Christian.

Once as a joke, yours truly sent out a Christmas card claiming our family's most illustrious ancestor may as well have been the "King of Asparagus" (aka "The Jolly Green Giant")...HO, HO, HO! Get it?

In my younger days I recall seeing a claim that we were Hungarians, descended from a Magyar figure resembling a blood-thirsty Vlad the Impaler. (Fortunately, that picture disappeared long ago.)



Figure 2, Grandpa Clarence Apgar's acquired Apgar coat of arms

My grandpa, Clarence Apgar of High Bridge, NJ, claimed that we weren't related to any of the other Apgars in the area. However, he did leave me with an intriguing "Apgar Coat of Arms," shown in Figure 2, that he probably acquired from an unscrupulous vender during a trip he took. **It's pretty** impressive looking though, right?

In 1984, Apgar family genealogists made a reasonable, educated guess that our family patriarch was Johannes Peter "Apgard" (or "Antger"), whose name appeared on a register of passengers on the ship "Hope" in 1734. A few years ago, a German genealogist informed me that this name should have been translated "Amptget" and that he can from the village of Ameroth. Ooops!

## Historical Happenings 2021

By Judy Beck, Historian; [judithbeck0612@gmail.com](mailto:judithbeck0612@gmail.com); 908-823-0413



Please forward marriages, births, deaths and noteworthy events to Judy; new and updated information is helpful. Due to new ways to communicate (social media), newspaper obituaries aren't utilized as frequently as in the past – so your assistance in keeping us informed will be even more appreciated than ever; and important to our recordkeeping. Further, should you know something about a person listed as "unknown" below, it would be great to hear from you.

### DEATHS:

**APGAR**, Andrew S. (2.3.1.2.1.2.2.2.), 53, died 9/9/20. Res: Ingleside, IL  
**APGAR**, Anna Williamson (w/o 1.2.3.11.8.1.), 100, died 4/13/20. Res: Chester, NJ  
**APGAR**, Arthur N. (3.7.7.2.14.1.), 85, died 11/18/20. Res: Newark, DE  
**APGAR**, Betty Sue (w/o Donald R who was s/o 9.11.14.1.1., Lennis Apgar), 83, died 4/19/21. Res: Mission Viejo, CA  
**APGAR**, Charles S. (s/o 3.7.7.6.4.1.1., Charles C), 80, died 3/1/21. Res: Somerville, NJ  
**APGAR**, Charles W. (s/o 6.12.8.2.2., William Murray), 97, died 2/15/21. Res: Poway, CA  
**APGAR**, Deborah Louise (d/o 6.12.8.9.1., Mervin), 70, died 2/4/21. Res: N. Brunswick, NJ  
**APGAR**, Donald R. (s/o 9.11.14.1.1.), 83, died 6/9/19. Res: Mission Viejo, CA –*update from '20 newsletter entry*  
**APGAR**, George H. (7.13.1.1.3.1.1.4.), 78, died 10/2/20. Res: Ithaca, NY  
**APGAR**, George M. (6.10.3.3.4.3.1.), 92, died 4/10/21. Res: Oldwick, NJ  
**APGAR**, Helen M. (w/o 7.13.1.1.3.1.1.2., Paul), 67, died 10/29/01. Res: Lansing, NY  
**APGAR**, John F. (unknown line), 85, died 12/6/20. Res: Titusville, FL  
**APGAR**, John "Jack" Wilbur, Jr (3.7.7.2.7.7.4.), 76, died 10/4/20. Res: N. Palm Beach, FL/Waynesville, NC  
**APGAR**, Julia M. (w/o 3.7.1.7.5.2.3., Harry Ellsworth), 91, died 8/20/13. Res: Gardnerville, NV –*update from '14 newsletter entry whereby she was listed as "unknown line"*  
**APGAR**, Karl W. (3.5.3.4.12.3.2.4.), 62, died 12/24/20. Res: Somerville, NJ  
**APGAR**, Paul E. (7.13.1.1.3.1.1.2.), 64, died 3/25/1995. Res: Lansing, NY  
**APGAR**, Robert H. (7.13.1.1.3.1.4.1.2.), 65, died 2/2/21. Res: Ithaca, NY  
**APGAR**, Stanley J. Sr (1.8.7.1.2.1.1.2.), 88, died 12/16/20. Res: Wharton, NJ  
**APGAR**, Susan Scott (w/o 3.7.7.2.7.7.4., John W), 62, died 7/5/2008. Res: N. Palm Beach, FL  
**APGAR**, Wayne R. (unknown line; s/o Russel A. Jr), 67, died 10/12/20. Res: Phillipsburg, NJ  
**APGAR**, Willard S. (3.7.9.12.2.1.4.), 93, died 3/16/20. Res: Long Valley, NJ

**ANGLE**, Philip H. (unknown line; h/o Mildred Arolyn Apgar), 91, died 5/24/20. Res: Bethlehem, PA  
**BLAZEJ**, Charles (h/o 10.14.1.2.3.3.1.), 89, died 2/2/2017. Res: Fayetteville, GA

**BLAZEJ**, Sue VanHouten (10.14.1.2.3.3.1.), 79, died 7/9/20. Res: Roswell, GA  
**BURD**, Carl R. (h/o 6.7.1.6.3.5.), 74, died 12/18/2002. Res: Califon, NJ  
**BURD**, Sylva H. (6.7.1.6.3.5.), 93, died 1/26/21. Res: Califon, NJ  
**DOURIS**, Carol B. Apgar (likely d/o 7.1.1.2.3.6.), 90, died 9/18/20. Res: Jefferson Twp, NJ  
**ECKARDT**, Ellen L. Apgar (3.5.3.4.14.2.3.), 74, died 4/9/21. Res: Pitman, NJ  
**FISHER**, Steven E. (gs/o 7.1.4.7.5.1.; Ernest D. Apgar), 43, died 5/22/20. Res: Jackson, MI  
**HALL**, William Richard (9.5.1.5.1.1.2.), 94, died 12/18/20. Res: Brevard, NC  
**HOFFMAN**, Daniel Arthur (6.4.3.6.6.1.2.1.), 64, died 5/1/21. Res: Bath, PA  
**LAKE**, James Robert (unknown line; s/o Anna Margaret Apgar), 83, died 11/21/20. Res: Bettendorf, IA  
**LANNING**, Olga Caroline (1.2.3.3.10.2.4.), 95, died 8/19/20. Res: Woodglen, NJ  
**McGIFFIN**, Dorothy L. Apgar (3.7.7.2.7.7.2.), 86, died 4/12/19. Res: Summit & Lavallette, NJ  
**PHILHOWER**, Lester III (3.7.7.7.5.1.2.1.), 67, died 5/16/21. Res: Califon, NJ  
**RAMSEY**, Linda Lee Kettler (3.7.2.9.1.2.2.1/10.13.9.1.2.2.1.), 65, died 7/25/20. Res: Goshen, OH  
**REILLY**, Richard J. Jr, (h/o 1.2.11.13.1.2.4., Gail Apgar), 84, died 5/14/20. Res: Teton County, ID  
**RICHARDSON**, Wayne F. Sr (unknown line; h/o Lillian E. Apgar), 76, died 9/26/20. Res: Marcus Hook, PA  
**RINEHART**, Jean Allison (w/o 3.5.11.1.1.3.), 95, died 11/16/20. Res: Hackettstown, NJ  
**SCHAUB**, Charel Young (4.1.3.1.5.2.8.), 89, died 4/26/21. Res: Basking Ridge, NJ  
**SCHAUB**, Mark Y. (4.1.3.1.5.2.8.2.), 61, died 2/18/21. Res: Lower Makefield, PA  
**SCHAUB**, Richard F. (former h/o 4.1.3.1.5.2.8.), 88, died 5/12/20. Res: Bridgewater, NJ  
**SIBIGA**, Edna L. Emery (d/o 4.5.8.3.8.1.), 90, died 1/6/21. Res: Branchburg, NJ  
**WAGG**, Shirley Pauline Barnhardt (unknown line; d/o Meda Louise Apgar Barnhardt), 84, died 9/5/20. Res: Akron, IA  
**WACK**, Steven B. (1.2.3.6.8.3.5.1.1.), 59, died 10/28/20. Res: Wyalusing, PA  
**WEBB**, Judith Apgar (9.5.5.6.5.2.2.), 76, died 5/20/20. Res: Covington, LA  
**ZIEGENFUSS**, Joyce I. (Frederick Line; d/o Earl J. Apgar), 93, died 1/10/21. Res: Morris, IL

### MARRIAGE:

Mathew Kennedy Apgar (1.2.11.13.1.3.1.1.) and Vita Peterson were married on 7/11/20 in Stamford, CT

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





## In Memory Jean Rinehart (1925-2020)

Jean Eleanor (Allison) Rinehart passed away peacefully on November 16, 2020, after a brief illness. [Adam line 3.5.11.1.1.3]. She was 95 years old. Born on February 10, 1925, in Arlington (now Kearney) NJ, the daughter of the late Walter B. and Lorette (Hurty) Allison, she was a graduate of Kearney High School and she studied at Rutgers University and Princeton University. In 2012, she was inducted into the Rutgers Living History Society.

During WWII, she was employed in the Chemical Division of E.I. DuPont Company, Arlington, NJ, where she worked on the Manhattan Project. Her daughter, Jean Sproul, remembers that, "Mom kept her involvement with the Manhattan Project to herself. I don't believe that anyone working on this project knew what they really were working on. Mom kept to heart the phrase, 'Loose lips sink ships'"

On February 14, 1948, she married John Alfred Rinehart and they purchased the Rinehart Family Farm from the estate of her husband's late father, J. Emmett Rinehart in Oldwick, NJ. When the farm was sold in 1985, it had been in the Rinehart family for 200 years. John Rinehart had been the mayor of Tewksbury Township during the late 1950s.

Jean had been a Sunday school teacher, Girl Scout leader, and 4-H leader.

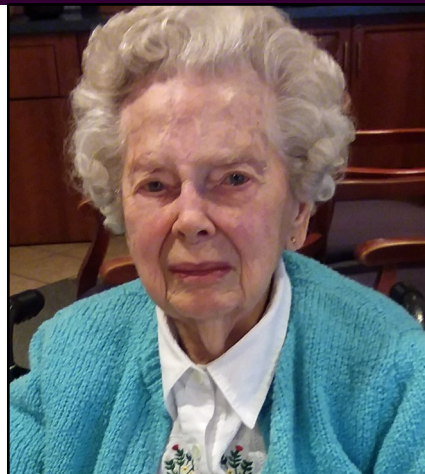
She had been a resident of Heath Village, Hackettstown, NJ, for nearly 20 years.

Jean loved genealogy and had been a charter member and archivist of Tewksbury Historical Society. She was an active member of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey and was very active in the Apgar Family Association., where she loved helping AFA members connect with their ancestors and extend their family heritage.

Judy Beck, AFA Historian, remembers working with Jean on researching the Adam family line.

As a long-time member of Zion Lutheran Church in Oldwick, she organized their 200-year collection of birth, baptism, and death records.

Jean, herself, is directly descended from Friedrich and Anna Eva (Schafer) Apgar and is related to Captain Godfrey Rinehart, 1776 owner of what is now the Tewksbury Inn, in New Germantown, according to George Apgar Jr.



**Jean Rinehart at her 95th birthday, Feb 10, 2020.**

## September 18, 2021, Reunion Details

**Location:** Stanton Grange Hall, same as previous years; **see map;** between routes 78, 202, 523, and 31; Tan building on North side of County Route 618.

**Lunch menu:** Chicken dinner, with salad, desert and beverage.

**Schedule:** 10am—4pm (see schedule on page 1)

**Fee:** includes lunch and offsets for our venue costs:

- ◆ \$15 per adult, plus children 11 and older
- ◆ \$10 per child ages 5-10
- ◆ free per child under 5

Advance **reunion registration** is necessary, since we need to purchase fresh ingredients in advance; use the enclosed envelope to mail your RSVP and check.



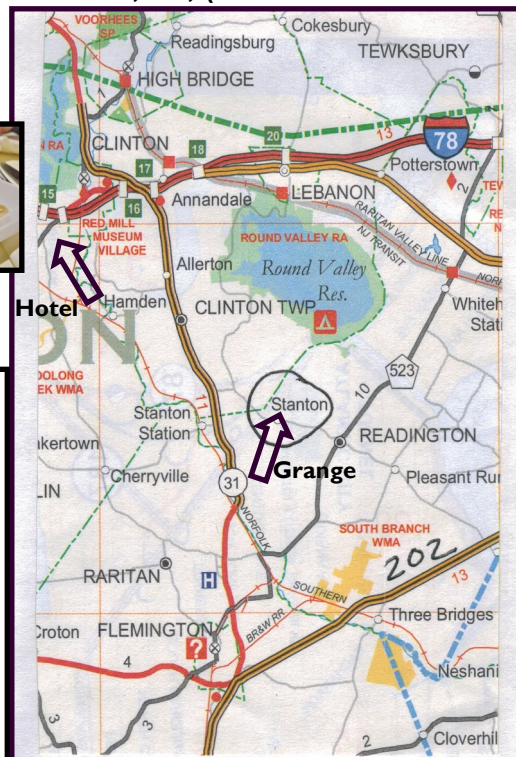
## Room Discount at Hampton Inn in Clinton

16 Frontage Rd, Clinton NJ 08809; off Rt 78; exit West of Lebanon



Carol Kinnaird has negotiated a nightly room rate of \$119 plus tax, breakfast included. Call the hotel directly at (908) 713-4800 and mention code "AFA." Cut-off date to reserve at this rate is August 20. as the room block expires after that date. Free wi-fi; **see map.**

**GPS Address: 16 County Road 618, Lebanon, NJ; (1/4 mile East of US 31)**



## Early Family Reunions, by Hank Apgar, Editor

Our current ("modern-day") series of annual family reunions were reestablished in 1975 following an earlier series ("early-day") of reunions in the 1920s and 1930s. Our first annual newsletter was published in April 1981 and our first volume of the Apgar Family Tree was published in 1984..

This year, we will hold our 45th (first virtual) reunion.

In 1980, we held our **sixth (of the modern-day series) annual reunion** at the **Cokesbury United Methodist Church** with lunch provided to the 140 attendees in the Wesley Room by the "ladies of the church." Robert Apgar was President, Richard Apgar was Vice President, and George Apgar Jr. was Secretary. Debbie Apgar donated her hand-made afghan for as a raffle prize. Members approved a motion that future reunions would be held on the third weekend of September.

Entertainment was provided by a slide show with member pictures contributed from the four previous meetings.

The first topic of discussion was the need for an association newsletter; another was the need for a genealogy number system for the evolving Apgar family tree to be published four years hence. Peggy Kinnaird distributed family work sheets intended to collect critical genealogy information for the publication.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed a hay-ride, towed by Perc McCatharn's tractor.

Cokesbury Church was an appropriate meeting place since several ancestral Apgars are interned in the adjacent burial grounds and the original Apgar Homestead is across the street. Subsequent meetings were held at the Whitehouse Methodist Church (since 2001) and at the Stanton Grange Hall (since 2004).

More information on early-day meetings (mostly held in



**Cokesbury United Methodist Church, built in 1851 — with adjacent family cemetery.**

Hunterdon County) can be found on our family website ([www.apgarfamily.org](http://www.apgarfamily.org)) which provides reunion ledgers and some minutes for many early-day reunions between 1923 and 1939. Newspaper articles in those two decades reported attendance regularly exceeded 300 members!

These current series (modern-day) reunions restarted in 1975 after a war-time hiatus; the early day reunions had been held between 1921 and 1939. Early-day reunion programs from scheduled more time for "sports" than on business - for the 1932 reunion, 4 1/2 hours of sports and "amusement" with 1/2 hour for business!

The initiative to restart the reunions can be credited to our "Group of Ten," a previously-distinct group of Apgar Family researchers who met while copying tombstone data in 1975 in the Cokesbury Cemetery. Helen Apgar (from Califon) suggested to Dorothy Apgar (later our Book Editor) suggested a restart of the family reunions. These two school teachers (who were appointed Historians) seized the opportunity by finding a place to meet (the home of Preston Geist of High Bridge) and sent out notices to all known Apgar family addresses. Sixty family members attended and Robert Apgar was elected President, an office he held until 1981. the Number 1 goal of the rejuvenated association was to publish our family genealogy within ten years. The publication was to be based on earlier research by Fanny Gunderson, George Bloom, Marjorie Bretschneider, and others.

Our **April 1981 newsletter** (issue 1) was edited by George Apgar Jr. and included detailed plans for the upcoming 1981 reunion as well as the 1980 reunion minutes. Association expenses (such as for printing and mailing of the newsletter) were met through donations collected at each meeting, rather than through member's dues. \$373 was donated in 1982.

**Continued on page 9 ...**

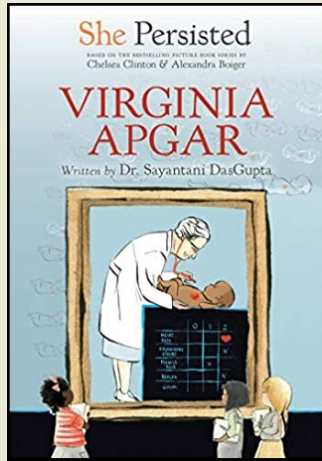


**1930s Reunion Photo—courtesy of Apgar Family Association**



## Children's Book Review, "She Persisted - Virginia Apgar"

**Virginia Apgar - She Persisted** by Dr. Sayantani DasGupta, Interior illustrations by Gillian Flint, Philomel Books, 2021. Ages 6 - 9. 54 pages—Reviewed by Carol Kinnaird



Not many women tried to become doctors when Virginia Apgar attended medical school, but that didn't stop her from becoming an anesthesiologist. Virginia "Ginnie" Apgar (10.14.4.3.3) was born on June 7, 1909, in Westfield, New Jersey into a family that, in her own words, "never sat down."

Her father, an amateur inventor, taught her to read when she was three years old, at six she started violin lessons.

What inspired her to study medicine? Maybe it was her father's amateur scientific work, or her eldest brother who died from tuberculosis, or her brother Lawrence who suffered from chronic eczema.

The author covers Dr. Apgar's busy life in high school, college and medical school, as well as her financial challenges to pay for college and medical school. Despite these challenges, she persisted and achieved wide recognition for her work in neonatology, and birth defects.

In 1949 Dr. Virginia Apgar would change medicine forever with her score for newborn babies. The 5 measures were recorded at one minute and 5 minutes after birth. Some doctors used her name to remember the 5 measurements:

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

Dr. Apgar was known throughout her life for her warmth, energy, enthusiasm for her subject, and a wicked sense of humor. Her life was filled with teaching medical students, playing her violin with chamber music groups, and even building 4 violins. She took flying lessons, saying that she wanted to fly under the George Washington bridge. She taught at Johns Hopkins University and Cornell University and worked with the March of Dimes. Dr. Apgar helped create the field of neonatology and neonatal intensive care. She published scientific articles, essays and received many awards.

Dr. Virginia Apgar died on August 7, 1974, at age sixty-five. The final section of the book suggests ways for young readers to honor Virginia Apgar's legacy.

Buy a copy for each of your children and grandchildren.

### Early Family Reunions, Continued from page 8

Our **December 1982 Newsletter** (mailed to 475 members) reported on our September 1982 reunion (our eighth), attended by 250 family members. Pre-publication sales of the "Apgar Family Tree" planned for 1984 had already generated \$595 in revenue. Helen Apgar, Historian and Book Editor, told a story about the first **early-day reunion** (1921). "The 1921 meeting was held off David Post Road around noon on the Bill Teets Farm in Mount Grove. There was no need for name tags for

everyone present knew everyone else."

Our **December 1984 Newsletter** reported that volume I of the Apgar Genealogy had been published and that volume II would be published before the 1985 reunion.

We invite members to consider becoming trustees and helping us continue development of important educational products for our members. Ask any current officer or trustee for more information.

**\$ 6,394.87 Balance in checking acct 6/01/20**

Receipts: None

#### Expenses

\$ 1059.00 - Print 2020 Newsletter with Dr Apgar insert  
870.78 - Labels, postage, envelopes for 2020 newsletter

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\$ 1,929.78 - Total Expenses

### 2021 Treasurer's Report



**\$ 4,465.09 - Balance in Checking Account 4/3/21**  
8,144.85 - Balance in C.D. effective 4/30/21

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**\$ 12,609.94 - Value of Apgar Family Assoc Assets 4/30/21**

**Dave**

## Minutes from our Past Year Business Meetings

Submitted by Lynn Conley, Recording Secretary & Genealogist

In June of 2020, the Apgar Family Association Trustees by emails determined that it was nearly impossible with all the Covid restrictions and for the safety of the members, the 2020 Apgar Family Reunion would be cancelled. It was decided that the news of the 2020 Reunion cancellation would be placed in the newsletter and on the Apgar Family Association Facebook page.

On the Tuesday night, July 14, 2020, a ZOOM meeting was held, present on the call were: Mike Apgar, Hank Apgar, Carol Kinnard, Margaret Kelly and Lynn Conley by speaker phone. David Rich had a conflict and was therefore absent along with Debbie Apgar, John C. Apgar III, Joseph Fabian, Idaleen Hasenauer and Lois Pfeiffer.

It was agreed that the Association would [cease?] accepting dues and donations and any dues submitted this year (2020) would be accepted, although without having made an appeal, the payments would likely be limited. There was a discussion regarding resuming a request for dues and donations in March 2021. Dues have been \$12 per family and \$8 per individual. Since the benefits of both categories are the same, we discussed consolidating them to \$10 but didn't vote on that.

The Trustees on the call decided by general consensus to keep the current Officers/Trustees in place until we could have the annual in-person reunion on September 18, 2021 at the Grange.

The Trustees also agreed that the AFA would not wait any longer to hear from the NJ Hall of Fame whether Virginia Apgar had been elected to the Hall and that the newsletter should go out. The



**Debbie Apgar—  
Corresponding  
Secretary**

Newsletters would be printed with a page 1 notice that she had been nominated. On Thursday morning Lynn took the Newsletter in electronic format to the printer. Later that day we were notified that **Dr. Virginia was elected to the NJ Hall of Fame** (joining other stars including Albert Einstein and Frank Sinatra). The awards ceremony will be sometime in October. Format and representation were undecided at this point. Unfortunately, the printer was so efficient that he printed 530+ copies of the Newsletter by

Thursday afternoon (too efficient!). Lynn prepared an insert announcing that Dr. Virginia had won the election (thanks to all the effort made by members of AFA) which would be placed in the Newsletter. The newsletters were mailed that weekend. Planning for the in-person September 2021 Reunion was started, beginning with a discussion on a possible speaker.

At a ZOOM conference on April 15, 2021, at which Hank Apgar, Carol Kinnard, Debbie Apgar, Lois Pfeiffer and Mike Apgar were present, it was decided that the reunion scheduled for September 18, 2021 also had to be cancelled due to the risk of covid and restrictions imposed by the State of New Jersey.

It was decided that AFA would offer a 2-hour virtual reunion (by ZOOM) at noon-2pm (Eastern Time) on Saturday, September 18, 2021. We realize that this is not an optimal situation, but it is an attempt to make the best of a bad situation. It will allow interaction with and between members and possibly attract new attendees, who do not have to face the time and expense to attend in person.

Tentatively, the reunion agenda would include at least:

- a brief business meeting with introduction of officers, officer reports and an election of new officers,
- a members' Show and Tell (with at least a handful of solicited items of family interest, e.g., family hymnals and bibles, possessions, etc.),
- a presentation on Virginia Apgar, including her postage stamp, induction into the NJ Hall of Fame, and Children's book about her,
- a presentation on Fritz Epgert and the family homestead.

Each of the sessions will allow members to ask questions or provide input. The 2021 Newsletter will include an explanation on the reunion and include an insert: a post-paid envelop requesting dues/donations, updates including email address, and an invitation to the virtual reunion. It will explain that if anyone expresses an interest in attending the reunion, a ZOOM invitation will be sent to them in the month prior to the reunion. If this virtual forum is successful, we could offer another or several shorter ZOOM sessions, each on specific topics like help with genealogy, Apgars in the Revolution and/or Civil Wars, DNA information, famous Apgars, our German origins, the AFA Website, the AFA Facebook page, and nomination and election of Officers.

For this virtual reunion to be successful, many of us will assume responsibility to make it so. We will need: an updated list of members with their emails, coordination with invitations, assistance with sign up/sign in problems, coordination of the program itself (introductions, keeping questions and comments on time and target, and managing the schedule, someone to monitor/field participants' to questions and comments during or after presentations (using the "chat" function), backup with slides and videos if the presenters are having technical difficulties.

The notes and minutes of the Apgar Trustee's 2020/2021 Meetings are respectfully submitted by:

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

*Lynn*





## Tribute to One High Bridge Apgar Family

By Joe Fabian, Trustee

I wanted to thank the Apgar Family Association for giving me the opportunity to write an article to preserve as small bit of family history before the information is lost to the sands of time.

In the photograph are pictured my mother Alice Apgar (Fabian) on left, Norman Apgar and Mildred Apgar. The photo was taken outside my great grandfather Melancthon Lambert's house at 240 Cokesbury Road at the intersection of Cokesbury High Bridge Road and Cokesbury Road.

On the association website, his last name is misspelled on a list regarding the 1894 Christmas president trunk. The house still is occupied and constructed in circa 1780. I visited in many times before it was sold in 1975. The kitchen had a handpump for the sink and hand dug basement.

How did the three wind up there? An interesting story. Their parents both died very young. Their father Norman Apgar, a house-painter from Mountainville, was born in 1892 and died in 1935. Their mother Sadie Mae Lambert was born in 1901 and sadly passed away in 1931. The three children were initially taken in by my great Aunt Viola Lambert (Wise), 1905-1989, in Flemington.

Somehow, their grandfather "Grampy" Lambert and his wife Annie Mae Wolverton Lambert obtained custody of them.

Grampy Lambert (1877-1964) rejected Depression era government assistance for the three. I recall him in his 80s as a dapper self-reliant old school fellow. A house painter, farmer and railroad employee from Jersey Central Railroad. In his garden, he grew among other crops rhubarb, a tart unpleasant vegetable best eaten cooked with lots of sugar like in a pie. He was good with a shovel not only with his garden. He dug out the basement of his old house.

More significantly, he dug graves at the Mountain View Cemetery where many Apgar's were laid to rest. One tale was he was digging a grave there during a thunderstorm and hit by a bolt of lightning. My mother told me he avoided going outside after that incident during thunderstorms.

Grampy's wife was Annie Mae Wolverton Lambert (1884-1957). She passed away just before I was born in 1957. Her parents were also locals from Cokesbury Richard Wolverton and Margaret Woolverton. Both are interred at the Mountain View Cemetery. Annie Mae was the sister of Sadie M. Lambert who was my grandfather's wife.

The community center seemed to be the Cokesbury United Methodist Church. I do not recall the locals were very religious. After our last reunion, I managed to obtain the key to the church having never been inside. My parents Alice and Joseph Fabian were married there. I enjoyed looking around with another attendee from the reunion-Millicent Moore.

Uncle Leslie Apgar had lived across the street from the church in a parsonage house. **See photo of old wooden**

**block** from the church's beam. Since the Apgar's were originally squatters, they settled away from the commerce of High Bridge which is along the South Branch of the Raritan River. A fine history of High Bridge entitled simply "High Bridge NJ" by William Honachefsky, Jr. is worth a read.

High Bridge was basically a company town anchored by the steel foundry Taylor Wharton. But many Apgar's moved to nearby Lebanon. A hidden cemetery sits off Cherry Street there.

I understand my grandfather Norman and his brother Les with whom he worked were painting contractors on projects like the Anandale Reformatory.

Returning to the threesome in the picture, Norman, the son, was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Europe during WWII. He shot in combat in Northern France. Most of his unit were killed. The family was upset as he was reported for a time as missing in action or MIA. But he managed in the chaos of combat to struggle into a makeshift army field hospital. He was wounded to the back of his upper legs.

In the picture, his two sisters are helping stabilize him after he was discharged. He eventually recovered without a noticeable limp. I know he was haunted like many soldiers by his wartime experience. He became an auto mechanic and eventually worked as a school janitor. His late wife was Doris Van Pelt. The couple lived in Liberty Corner NJ and had two sons Norman and Vernon known to all as Lee.

Mildred Apgar, my aunt, never married and lived out her life at the Cokesbury home. She was a bookkeeper at the Taylor Wharton steel plant in High Bridge. When the plant closed in 1971, she commuted to the company's Leigh County Pennsylvania office.

She was a pleasant woman who never married. Her boyfriend Ken was an Irish Korean War veteran. They enjoyed annual summer vacations at Virginia Beach and sailing a small boat on the two nearby Hunterdon County reservoirs. I would be remiss in describing her, if I did not mention one interesting thing about her. She was a softhearted cat lady and had 26 cats many feral when she died in 1975.

My mother Alice was a homemaker. She died in 1995 a few days after my older son Alex was born. She refused to pass away until my wife Carolyn and I brought her first grandchild to the hospital to see and hold. I have a photo of that occasion. Alex is an electrical engineer designing power plants. So, the story of our family continues.



**L to R: Alice Apgar (Fabian), Norman Apgar, Mildred Apgar**



**Old wood block from Cokesbury United Methodist Church**

## A Personal Story - Lizzie Shurts Apgar (7.11.1.1)

*Memories from Carol Kinnaird, Trustee (7.4.7.10.1.1.1) and (7.11.1.1.1.1.1)*

Clotted milk in cloth drained over a bowl in the sink. Dressed as always in an ankle length skirt, Lizzie S. Apgar's hands deftly shaped cottage cheese balls, placing them into a bowl of salted water to cool in the spring house. Her youngest granddaughter, Charlotte aged 4, stood beside her, watching silently, too short to see over the edge of the sink.

Born October 7, 1862, Lizzie Shurts, was the second oldest and only girl of four. Only Lizzie and her older brother Austin lived to adulthood. Her parents, Mary Hoffman Shurts and Samuel J. Shurts were prosperous middle-class residents of Lebanon, New Jersey. Samuel, an ambitious man, purchased land in and around the town, planted a commercial peach orchard, rented pastureland to farmers, purchased the general store of Christopher Kline at 63 Main Street and ran it for twenty plus years. Much of the land in the center of town was owned by Samuel. He was a prominent lifelong member of the Lebanon Reformed church, an Elder, an organizer, and supervisor of the church Sunday School for more than thirty years, President of the New Jersey Telephone Company and a director of the First National Bank of High Bridge.

Lizzie and Austin grew up in a two-story house behind the Shurts' store. A milk cow was kept behind the house. When big enough, Lizzie's job was to milk the cow each morning. Feeling resentful one day about this chore, she kicked the milk pail over and refused to milk the cow. Her father, Samuel, is quoted as saying, "you should have been a boy." No one remembers if the chore was re-assigned.

Oscar Apgar (7.4.7.10) a skilled carpenter and house contractor ran a successful millwork business in a large building on one side of his property on Main Street where he employed four men, turning out decorative spindles for the many Queen Ann Victorian homes he and John Stryker built in Lebanon, High Bridge and the surrounding Hunterdon County. A fine example of his work is the beautiful house that he built in 1890 for Lizzie Shurts.

Lizzie Shurts and Oscar Apgar were married October 6, 1892. In 1893, Lizzie, heavily pregnant, fell down the cellar stairs, a baby daughter was still born. A small white marble marker for this tiny child is part of the family cemetery plot.

Her living children, Ruth (my grandmother) Ted, and Leslie worked daily around the small farm. Oscar's farm consisted of a large corner house lot on Main Street, 8 acres stretching west from the house, a double tenant farmer house, his large millwork shop, a brick spring house, a two story horse and carriage barn, an outhouse, a cow shed and chicken house, and the orchard. Pigs were raised on the property, too. When pigs were slaughtered, the family and friends sat around the kitchen table to cut up the bits and pieces, later rendering and pressing the fat.

Lizzie's everyday household management activities ranged from purchasing food supplies, such as flour, sugar and 30 pounds of butter annually, to washing clothes to hang out, to killing a chicken for dinner, and pressing lard after a pig slaughter.

There was a creative side to Lizzie. Before marriage, she painted landscapes in oils. Did she have art instruction? Her

style is very like the "Hudson River" school landscapes of the Adirondacks. One story says that she wanted to go away to study painting but that her father would not allow it. Another story has her on a trip to Saranac Lake, New York, where she painted several landscapes. Whichever is true, she produced and framed a least

3 better than competent landscapes and various other small pieces on china. Embroidery by daylight or kerosene lamp was something else she enjoyed. Her first grandchild, Peggy, received an embroidered alphabet book, but she also sewed her own and her children's clothes on a foot powered pedal sewing machine in the west window of her dining room. A collection of small china teacups and saucers that caught her eye over the years were displayed in her dining room. Her interest may have been sparked when her parents gave her a child's bone china strawberry tea set in the German Bayreuth style. She hung a large ceramic beaded curtain, an unusual touch, at the top of her front stairs. Two decorative stained-glass windows designed by Lizzie were built into her house, one visible on the front

porch, and the other at the top of the front stairway. All three children received music lessons.

Ted, age 12, and Leslie, age 10, her boys, shared a BB gun. Early one morning Lizzie killed a hen for dinner. As she plucked the feathers she found BB's under the skin of the chicken's tail. Immediately, she picked up the small woodpile hatchet and chopped up the wooden stock of the BB gun. Her boys never shot at her chickens again.

Creative activities might have overwhelmed her responsibilities, but they did not. Lizzie loved animals, had a series of dogs, and a pet goose. She and the children did most of the gardening. Near the back door stood a large vegetable garden not far from the back door, a fruit orchard with apples, cherries, peaches and plums. There was a wide variety of flowers and trees in the yard. She planted the first pair of red Japanese maples seen in town in her front yard that are still alive at 51 Main Street today.

Ruth, Ted, and Leslie, Oscar and Lizzie frequently rode the train west from Lebanon to High Bridge for high school and beyond to Easton, Pennsylvania for shopping, the dentist, and secretarial school. They rode the train east to visit Oscar's brothers and their families in Newark, Dunellen and the Oranges.

Leslie, her youngest son, was interested in generating electricity and played pranks. Like all housewives, Lizzie hung her wet laundry on a wire clothes line. To Leslie's delight he was able to generate an electric current through her clothesline one day as she hung wet laundry on the line. This story has no remembered ending, but it isn't difficult to speculate on an ending. It was December 30, 1918, a quiet evening before the New Year's holiday. The war was over, the Spanish Flu had not yet touched the town. Twenty-three-year-old Ruth commuted by train to Easton for secretarial classes.



**Lizzie Shurts—in her 20s**

**Continued on page 13 ...**



**Lizzie Shurts Apgar** Continued from page 12...

Ted, twenty years old, worked with his father's millwork business, and was enlarging the chicken flock to sell eggs at a market in "the city." Leslie had graduated from High Bridge high school in the spring. That evening Oscar and Leslie were at Stryker's Confectionary store. The sudden sound of an enormous explosion rattled the windows, and a red glare momentarily showed in the windows on the east side of the house. The sound and the glare came from Stryker's store. It was a gas explosion. Nine men, including Oscar died in the explosion. Leslie, badly burned, died several days later in a hospital. Neighbors attempted to douse the fire with buckets. There was no fire company in the town at the time. Ted recalled that "she held the lamp (kerosene) steady," as she, Ted and Ruth ran toward the sound of the explosion to find her husband and son. Afterward she dedicated a large stained-glass window to Oscar and

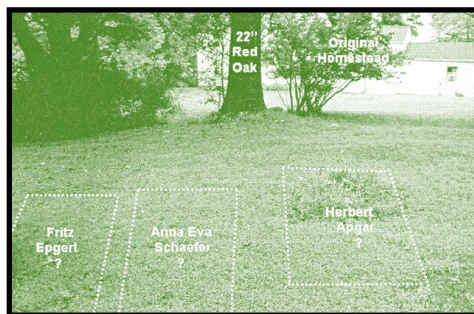
**"Saranac Lake" by Lizzie Shorts, 1885**

Leslie at her church, the Lebanon Reformed church.

Lebanon was full of family and friends who surrounded and supported Lizzie, Ruth and Ted in their loss. Ruth completed secretarial training and found work in an office to which she commuted by train until she married a few years later and had three children, Lizzie's only grandchildren. Ted continued to enlarge his egg business as well as work as a machinist at Bendix Corporation. Lizzie Shurts Apgar, known as Nana to her 3 grandchildren, was "laid out," in the front room of 51 Main Street, the beautiful Queen Ann Victorian house built in 1890, by her loving husband, Oscar Apgar, dead for seventeen years. Charlotte asked her mother, Ruth, to be lifted up to see Lizzie. It was November 2, 1935.

The house that Oscar built for Lizzie, at 51 Main Street, was owned by her family until 2007. The acreage and outbuildings were sold in 1984 and subdivided for new homes.

## Cemeteries Almost Lost, by Lynn Conley, Genealogist

**Apgar Homestead Graves, 201 Cokesbury Road, Cokesbury, NJ.**

It seems you can't drive anywhere in New Jersey without passing a cemetery; after all, there are more than 2,500 of them in the state. It's nearly impossible to ignore the larger ones, especially if you're superstitious as you're driving by and believe a per-

son must hold their breath when passing a cemetery or they will breathe in the spirit of someone who has recently died. There are eight cemeteries in New Jersey which have more than 50,000 interments each, three of them have more than 125,000 recorded burials. .

But scattered throughout the state are hundreds of small cemeteries, many of which are family burial grounds where just a few people were laid to rest on their properties. Some are no longer ac-

cessible, lost in areas so rural that the land may have re-

**Schomp/Schamp Cenetery, 51 Readington Rd. Readington, NJ.**

claimed the headstones. Some, sadly, were vandalized and markers no longer exist. In these cases, their history may be gone forever, however a few in Hunterdon County have survived and are no longer lost, included among them are the graves at the Apgar Homestead. Some other family cemeteries that have survived include, Pickell, Schomp/Schamp, Vroom-DeMott, Hankinson and the Smith Burying Ground.

**Pickell Cemetery, 347 Mountain Rd, Readington, NJ Mountain Rd, Readington, NJ.****Vroom-DeMott Cemetery, 49 Redington Rd, Readington, NJ.**

Continued on page 15...

## Times Were Changing-1921 by Lynn Conley, Trustee and Genealogist

In 1921, life in Hunterdon County, as well as in the entire county was changing. One major factor for the massive change was the end of the Great War. Young and old people wanted to forget the horrors of the war and enjoy life again. Women after WWI had also gained a new level of independence, they were attending college, earning wages and had been given the right to vote. Young men and women of the 1920's were viewing life with a fresh perspective. Traditional lifestyles prior to the war were transforming in the rural countryside as well as in urban settings of crowded cities.

The most substantial contributor for the lifestyle change was the Automobile. In just 13 short years, after Henry Ford debuted his Model T car, there was now 1 car for every 10 people in the USA. It was these car owners who were now "roaring around" in their new vehicles, that led to this new way of life. It thus became known as "The Roaring Twenties". The period of the Roaring Twenties witnessed many Political, Eco-



**Traveling the Roads of America in 1921**

nomical and Social changes.

The Roaring Twenties era was characterized by technological advances and prosperity with new labor-saving inventions such as the telephones, the radio, motion pictures and electricity. People challenged traditional ideas and the new morality glorified personal freedom, nonconformists and youth. The transformation of this new age was seen in the fashions and lifestyles of the "flappers" who danced the Charleston to the new music of the Jazz Age in the urban speakeasies.

The automobile changed the way people worked, conducted their business, and shopped for needs and wants. Doctors were among the first to buy cars, which made it easier for them to make house calls. Police officers could now answer calls more quickly than on foot or horseback. Cars also changed how people spent their leisure time. It gave people easy access to the world beyond their neighborhoods, cities, and even their states. With a car, some extra income, and more leisure time, motor vacations became popular

In 1921, Congress and Senate passed the Federal Highway Act for the building of an interstate system of Highways and the number of automobiles on American roads surpassed the 10 million mark. American roads however for the

most part and were inadequate to accommodate them, especially in rural areas. The railroads and inter-urban commuter companies stood in opposition to tax dollars being expended to improve them.

The bulk of intercity passenger traffic, whether for business or pleasure, traveled by rail. Oil companies and automobile manufacturers supported improved roads, making travel requiring their products safer and cheaper. More and more Americans took the opportunity to travel for pleasure, using their ever more cheaply obtainable automobiles, thus creating the American tourist.

There were few roadside hotels in 1921 and the term 'motel' remained several years in the future. Roadside restaurants, once outside established communities, simply didn't exist. Many towns didn't have signs to identify themselves to an approaching motorist. They were deemed unnecessary, since the residents knew where they lived. A stranger would have to ask or determine where they were from the Post Office or Railroad Station.

Road maps were in their infancy, and most roads beyond the major highways carried few signs, even at intersections. Gas stations too were scarce, their hours of operation often dictated by the whims of the operator. Finding one open on a Sunday, especially in small towns, proved problematic to motorists.

A vacation trip by car required meticulous planning, and the vehicle needed to be self-sustaining. Even trips of just a few hundred miles required extensive preparation. The car needed to carry extra tires, tools to change tires, and an air pump with which to keep them at the proper pressure. Food and water, the latter for both car and driver, needed to be available. Chains or stout rope, to be used to extricate the vehicle from miry roads and ditches, as well as a shovel, added to the traveler's burdens. Obviously, a vacation by car was not



**Auto Camping in 1921**

for the meek. Yet in 1921, more Americans traveled by car than in any prior year, and their vehicle often provided overnight shelter as well as transportation to their destination.

Autocamps evolved as tourist and migrant worker slept in the automobiles. Car camping gained popularity in 1921 as a way to avoid the expense of hotels. Many Americans chose to camp in 1921, making state and National Parks a popular tourist destination. Tourists camped alone on the side of the road or in open fields when they could obtain per-

**Continued on page 14 ...**



## Times Were Changing - continued from page 14

mission of the landowner. In parks, they clustered in camping areas which became known as motorist camps. Enterprising landowners opened sections of their land for the purpose of offering an area for the motor camps. Campsites were rented



**Flemington, NJ, Automobiles in a Parade**

and amenities such as firewood, food, and water made available for motorists. In some communities, town squares allowed visitors to camp overnight, and local merchants and restaurants catered to their guests.

The popularity and relative affordability of camping rendered outdoor areas very popular. Yosemite became one of the most popular tourist sites west of the Mississippi. Visitors to the park teemed the grounds during the warm months. Also, in 1921, the Evergreen Lodge opened about a mile from Yosemite, offering visitors private cabins, a main lodge for gathering and illicit liquor. In this same year, Ansel Adam who was just beginning his storied career as a photographer, came to Yosemite to take the earliest of his many famed photographs in the park. Improved roads, some built to support the construction of the nearby O'Shaughnessy Dam, made Yosemite accessible, adding to its popularity as

a tourist destination throughout the 1920s.

Despite the misgivings of moralists over what they regarded as amoral clothing and behavior, visiting shorelines became a popular pastime in 1921. A tourist in Florida, along the Gulf Coast, and on the West Coast frequently combined camping and beachcombing for their annual vacations. Along Florida's undeveloped beaches, Americans camped within a stone's throw of the shore, often in their cars. Further north, in locations such as Virginia Beach and Cape May, resort hotels appeared. Virginia Beach proved so popular in the 1920s, that by the middle of the decade a luxury resort hotel, the Cavalier, opened with its own train station, with non-stop luxury service direct from Chicago. California's Bruce's Beach, near Manhattan Beach in Southern California, became popular in 1920-21, it was one of few beaches in the country that was practicing full integration. In other resort areas along the Gulf Coast and the South Atlantic coast, most beaches were segregated. Even Cape May, New Jersey, offered segregated beaches, as well as restaurants and hotels in 1921. That did not deter Americans, from all races, from traveling to the seashore in 1921, during which changes to swim wear often drew scandalized comment. Although most swimsuits were made of wool or cotton fabrics, they became racier in terms of the amount of skin exposed, as well as in the snugger fit which grew ever snugger as the 1920s went on.

The automobile gave name to a new era and our ancestors lives were changed forever. Cars became more affordable, roads became paved and new road features were pioneered, such as jug handles and traffic lights. As a result, many of our family members who had never been farther than the outskirts of their hometown could now travel around their state and to places they had only seen in books. Possibly no invention affected American everyday life in the 20th century more than the **automobile**.

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### **Cemeteries Almost Lost**, continued from page 13.



**Hankinson Cemetery, W. Woodschurch  
Rd Raddington, NJ.**



**Smith Burying Ground, 149 Pine Bark  
Rd, Whitehouse Station, NJ>**

## Directory of Association Officers and Trustees (2021)

### Current Officers / Trustees

(showing years as officer or 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, Genealogist)

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 or 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 17, 2022**

