

KILTS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

2010 Kilts Family Association Newsletter

Dear Cousins and Friends:

Mark your calendar for the Kilts Reunion August 15, 2010. This will be held at Glimmerglass State Park once again. www.nyparks.state.ny.us Come early and enjoy the park. Lunch is potluck and grilled hamburgers & hotdogs.

The 2009 Kilts Reunion was held at Glimmerglass State Park, Cooperstown, NY. Our Reunion is always the 3rd Sunday in August. There were 30 members who attended with 28 descendants of Philip Kilts and 2 descendants of Nicholas Kilts. A pot luck picnic lunch was enjoyed by all. The rent of the pavilion was \$80.

The park offers swimming, hiking, and playgrounds for the children. Games and activities were planned for young and old. The "pass-the-hat" donation collected \$77.12. Oldest male attending was Louis Kilts, Oldest female was Dorothy Konchar, youngest male was Jonathan Kilts and youngest female was Skylynn-Dokota, longest married were Jody & Barbetta Rothmeyer. The farthest traveled was Tammy & Frank Afanasewicz. There were 2 new births Yonnie Kilts & Crystal Luther had a baby girl Kayla Ann and Brandy Stevens & Jonathan Carmona had a baby boy, Jonathan David

New officers elected:

President – Jody Rothmeyer
rojo12547@yahoo.com
Vice President Crystal Stockigt
Secretary Barbetta Rothmeyer
barbettef@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Joe Stevens/Barbetta Rothmeyer
Registrar Joe Stevens
Genealogist – Herman Witthoft
Hospitality Bobby Kilts
Newsletter – Nancy Cioch with Joyce Berry

The Kilts Association has reprinted "The Eighteenth Century Kilts Family of the Mohawk Valley" by David Kendall Martin (\$20). The books compiled by Herman Witthoft can be obtained on CD from Edward Kipp

edward.kipp@gmail.com.

Nancy still has a few copies of the "Diaries of Willard Kilts"(\$20).

Our condolences go out to all family members who have lost a loved one. Please let us know of deaths, births, & marriages so our records can be current. It is a constant struggle to keep email addresses and regular mail addresses current. Please let us know.

Our newsletter will be posted on <http://nancyscorner.net>. If you would like this mailed send us a dollar or two for postage. I hope to see you in August.

Sincerely,
Nancy Timmerman Cioch

ncioch@yahoo.com

PS: It would be remiss to not mention the financial problems of New York State. General Herkimer Home is on a list to close and so is Sir William Johnson's Home & other state sites unless the budget is figured out. Please check on NYS Historic Park Sites before traveling there.

**Other Related Events in the
Mohawk Valley & Special Events**

June 6, 14th Annual Rhubarb Festival
at Nellis Tavern

June 17, 18, 19 300th Anniversary
PalAm Conference, Fishkill, NY

June 25-27 – Loucks Family 300th
Anniversary – York, PA

July 4 11am Fort Herkimer Church
Independence Day Service

July 4 – Fort Klock strawberry festival
and militia encampment

July 18 – Nellis Family Reunion at the
Nellis Tavern

July 31 4pm-dark ice cream social at
Snells Bush Church

August 1 – Snell-Zimmerman-
Timmerman Family Reunion at the
Snells Bush Church

August 6 – Memorial of the 1777 Battle
of Oriskany at Oriskany Historic Site

August 7 – Klock Family Reunion at
Fort Klock

August 15 Kilts Reunion

August 15 – Commemorating the Life of
Gen. Herkimer – Herkimer Home State
Site

August 21 & 22–Fort Stanwix 75th
Anniversary of the National Monument

Sept 11 & 12 – Fort Klock annual craft
fair

October 3 – Herkimer Homestead Day –
Herkimer Home State Site

December 5 – Fort Klock St. Nicholas
Day

***Directions to Glimmerglass State
Park:***

*From the west: Thruway (I-90)
east to exit 30 at Herkimer, Route 28
south to Richfield Springs, Route 20
east to East Springfield. County Route
31 south to park entrance.*

*From the east: Thruway (I-90)
west to exit 25A to I-88. One exit on I-*

*88 to Duaneburg-Cooperstown exit.
Route 20 west to East Springfield.
County Route 31 south to park
entrance.*

WHO WERE THE PALATINES?

Our Kilts ancestors who came about 1750 were part of the Palatine Immigration. The first Palatines came in 1710, 300 years ago and settled in the Hudson River Valley. Who were the Palatines? Any German speaking immigrant, who was displaced due to wars, poverty, seeking religious freedom, and the chance of a better life in the New World, came to be known as a “Palatine”. Many came from the Palatinate area along the Rhine River of the modern country of Germany. Queen Ann of England wanted to help these poor people and offered them the opportunity to go to America. They traveled to London by the thousands – more than could be housed there. Her advisors came up with the idea that the Palatines could pay for their passage by working in tar producing camps in the Hudson River Valley and at the end of their indenture, they would be given land. The poor were loaded onto Frigates and suffered greatly in the passage across the Atlantic with many dying. There were some who paid for their passage and they settled in the New York City area. Children who were orphaned were sent as indentured servants to families in the New York area. The rest were forced to stay on Nutten Island until the tar camps could be organized. Livingston Manor was the site of some of the tar camps – East & West Camps were established and small homes were built. They were to process Pine bark and Pine pitch into tar and cut down tall pine trees for masts on the British ships. Normally an indenture was 7 years but the tar

project was declared a failure after only 2 years. It was November and the English told the Palatines that they were on their own. There would be no more food or supplies given to them for support. Many of the Palatines had heard of the Schoharie Valley with its rich land and traveled there to settle. They thought that Schoharie was the "promised land". They walked through deep snow with their meager belongings to Schoharie and built crude shelters. Kind local Indians helped them through the first winter and showed them how to clear the land the Indian way and plant crops. The Palatines were very ingenious and since they had nowhere to go, they were forced to succeed. Within a couple of years, they were trekking over the mountains to Albany to sell their produce and to acquire the items needed to augment their lives. Unfortunately there were issues and they could not get clear title to the land. Many traveled to Pennsylvania, some left for New England, and our Palatines went into the Mohawk River Valley. The Governor of the Colony of New York was William Burnet and he offered the Palatines the Stone Arabia Patent in 1723 and the Burnettsfield Patent in 1725 along the Mohawk River. As you know, the Kilts ancestors came later and went right to Stone Arabia and bought land. The Palatine families tended to inter-marry so many of the descendants of the earliest Palatines married Kilts neighbors.

Wheat became the main crop for sale to the larger cities. The Frontier of New York was wild and the Palatines were rugged hard working people who turned the wilderness into homes, and farms with mills, taverns, blacksmith shops, & trading posts. When the problems between the French and the English caused trouble for the settlers, they fought bravely for the English

rulers to preserve their homes although suffering greatly. Sir William Johnson was the Indian Agent for the English and got along well with the settlers so they fought for him. After his death and the end of the French & Indian Wars, there was a period of peace and prosperity. However the English laws caused unrest and dissatisfaction, eventually leading to the American Revolution.

The Palatines formed a Committee of Safety as did other communities to complain about the laws and treatment of their rights as citizens of the British Crown. On May 21, 1775, the Palatine District Committee of Safety met at the house of Philip W. Fox and wrote a Declaration of Independence which was one year and 45 days before the Continental Congress wrote the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. They vowed to defend their freedom "with our lives and fortunes".

We can be very proud of our early Palatine ancestors who fought and worked to make the United States a great country. Palatines to America, a genealogical organization will be celebrating a 300th anniversary on June 17, 18, & 19 in Fishkill, NY. This will be a national conference with speakers and tours.

For more information you may contact Sarah Timmerman Israel at sarahlisrael@hotmail.com.

In October, the village of Germantown will also be celebrating a 300th anniversary with speakers (Hank Jones & Rev. Jay Webber) and special events and dedications. For more information, you may contact Nancy, ncioch@yahoo.com

