

# Mecklenburg Messenger

## Summary of Activities

from the Board of Directors

### Archives: WE HAVE ONE!

An Archives Task Force recommendation to lease space in the Merchandise Mart on Independence Boulevard in Charlotte was approved at a special meeting of board members following the July general meeting. The contents of our storage room were moved on Saturday, July 23.

After many years, the society has taken the initial step in providing accessible, conditioned space for housing all of the society's holdings that will better allow the Archives/Library Committee to:

1. Maintain a file of the lineage charts of the Society's members.
2. Maintain a catalog of all genealogical materials, books, and other publications acquired by the Society, as required in the bylaws.

Following a period of organization it is the intent to allow access to these materials for those doing Mecklenburg County research.

We are grateful for the extra effort provided by Jane Rezac in seeking out locations, following up on the suggestions of various members and coordinating the lease with the Merchandise Mart. The participation of Lynn Bancroft, Ellen Poteet, and Scott Treadwell is also appreciated. At its July 25 meeting, the board approved a motion to make the Archives Task Force the Archives/Library Committee. Discussions on operations are ongoing. Your continued comments will be welcomed by this committee. Members having materials belonging to the society are asked to contact a committee member to arrange pickup or drop off.

We are indebted to the Archives Task Force - Bob Alexander, Alden Davis, Marilyn McGill, Jane Rezac, Ronald Touchstone - for their work in finding a location. Special thanks should go to Scott Treadwell for coordinating the move and the help of Ted Lucas, George Timblin, Mic Treadwell, and Ron Touchstone. Extra special thanks go to Robert Chapman, Mic's boss, and his company Flexible Express/DHL for providing a truck for our move.

### A Generous Donation

OMGS has received the donation of a computer and printer/copier/scanner from John B. Hackler of Charlotte for use in its Archives. Corresponding Secretary, Sandra Howie, has been doing a

### OMGS Meetings

The August 2005 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 10 August 2005 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. We will have Norm Lindsey and his topic is "Organizing the Mess." In September we will have Daniel Patterson, and his topic is "Bigham Stonecarving in Mecklenburg County." Don't miss these great programs!

There will be no Hopewell meetings until September. Have a great summer and see you back in the fall.

commendable job of handling our correspondence and sales of publications using her own computer which recently died. This was not only a generous but timely donation.

### Notes on July Meeting

by Mary Utting

Latta Plantation, the last remaining Catawba River home and a historic resource for Mecklenburg County, was the topic for the July program of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society.

Kristin Toler, a representative from this living history farm and museum in Huntersville, said that James Latta came to America from Northern Ireland about 1785. He left behind a wife Elizabeth, whose fate is unknown. She never came to the New World, but it is unclear if she died or was just left behind.

There were two children from this first marriage, who never lived at the plantation, as they attended boarding school. In 1796, Latta married Jane Knox, who bore him two children before they moved into the plantation and two after. The Latta house dates to about 1800.

Latta became a merchant who traveled frequently to Philadelphia via the Great Wagon Road and also to Charleston, S.C., during the first 15 years in this land. As he accumulated wealth, he bought land from Moses Hayes and built the Federalist-style home that has been restored to its original appearance. As the years passed and travel became

too difficult for him, Latta started to shut down some of his business, which was taken over by an Irish-born son, Robert.

From 1812 till 1817, he started a cotton plantation. His original purchase was 100 acres, but he eventually expanded this to 700 acres, and he also bought more slaves in order to work the land. The speaker described one female slave, Suky, purchased as a girl in 1812, who apparently lived in the house. When she married an older male slave, she moved to the kitchen and served as the family cook.

James and Jane Latta outlived all their children. Faced with failing health, Latta sold or gave away most of his slaves and moved out of his plantation home. He died in 1837. The property was purchased by David Harvey, who never occupied it. In 1853, William Sample and wife Jane took over the property. The road on which the house is located is known today as Sample Road.

The Samples, who had seven children, had six living when they moved into the plantation. Their four sons, who all fought for the Confederacy, married shortly after the move, so they did not occupy the house for long. The Samples called the home "Riverside."

In 1922, the home was purchased by Crescent Land (now owned by Duke Energy), and the place was occupied by tenant farmers for a number of years. In the 1970s, when it was empty and decaying, Chalmers Davidson was among a group that decided the historic site should be restored. A Heritage Center is a recent addition that welcomes visitors. Toler showed slides of the house as it appears today and also during various stages of restoration.

Tours of the home include a chance to look at outbuildings, barns, gardens, crops, and historic livestock. Among programs offered are historic experiences for children, special holiday events, and other opportunities to learn about colonial life on a plantation. The site also includes a Nature Center, an Equestrian Center, and the Carolina Raptor Center, where birds of prey may be viewed. Injured birds are taken there for care and rehabilitation.

## **Hopewell District News**

by Tina Brown

At the May meeting it was decided to suspend meetings for the Hopewell Branch beginning in June. We will start back up in September. At this time I hope to have Tim Berly speak on the Sons of the American Revolution. Also, hopefully we will have a tour of burying grounds in Lincoln Co. this

fall. Don't forget we will start meetings once again in September. Please pray for Jeff & Vickie.

## **New From the Carolina Room**

by Jane Johnson

6-22-2005 to 7-27-2005

To view the Public Library's catalog for a complete list of holdings, go to <http://www.plcmc.lib.nc.us/online/catalog/>.

These are new titles of interest to genealogists in the Carolina Room, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC.

*The Last Strong Hold: The Campaign for Fort Fisher (NC Civil War)*

*Court Order Book A, Hart County, Kentucky*

*Coffee County (TN) Wills, June 1836-August 1906*

*More Coffee County (TN) Marriages*

*Orange County (NC) Records, Vol. VIII, Deed Book 5 Abstracts*

*Graves Co., KY, Marriage Records, Vol. Two*

*Marriage Records, Graves County, KY 1852-1859*

*Genealogy of the Barnette, Cook, and Allied Families*

## **Dear Cousin**

by Cousin Sally

My dear cousin, I am remiss that I have not written in such a long time. I have been doing a lot of research however, and wanted to take just a few lines to let you know about a website that has helped me with some of my research.

It is the website for the Godfrey Memorial Library up in Connecticut. The web address is [www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org), and with a subscription fee of only \$35 you can access their databases. No, that is not a misprint—it is only \$35!

With the Godfrey Scholar card (that's what you get if you join) you will have access to Heritage Quest Online, which has the censuses. I've found the Heritage Quest census images clearer than those found at Ancestry. A word of caution though: The Heritage Quest index is not complete, and it only lists the head of household. They also have many books that you can browse through online.

One thing that Godfrey has recently added to their resources is the OCLC WorldCat database. This database contains records located in thousands of libraries around the world! Now you can search for another copy of that genealogy that Aunt Rosemary did, and perhaps a library closer to you will have a copy of it!

Now if you can't afford the \$35 fee for a Godfrey Scholar card, you might still be able to access Heritage Quest. Go to your local library and see if you can gain access to Heritage Quest with your

local library card. If you can, then you can at least have access to Heritage Quest.

I must run, I don't know where the time goes anymore. I will try not to take so long in writing next time, but keep up your research and let me know how things are going for you.

## Upcoming Events

The Society for Women and the Civil War is seeking proposals for presentations for its 8<sup>th</sup> Conference on Women and the Civil War. The conference will be held at Hood College in Frederick, MD, July 21-23, 2006. For more information on this conference contact Virginia Mescher at [vmescher@cox.net](mailto:vmescher@cox.net), or visit the website, [www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org).

2-5 September 2005 The First Worldwide DILLINGHAM Reunion, an event to mark the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Dillingham to settle in the New World, will be held in Dillingham, North Carolina, on September 2-5, 2005. This reunion is for ALL Dillingham descendants. Visit the Dillingham Project 2000 website at <http://www.dillinghamproject2000.com>

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference, September 7 - 10, 2005, The Salt Palace, Salt Lake City, UT. Expected to be one of the biggest genealogy conferences in the United States, more information can be found at <http://www.fgs.org>.

October 8, 10am – 2pm, High Point Public Library, there will be a “GenFest One.” There will be a “Ask-the-Experts” Panel, vendors, SWAP Table, and Door Prizes. For more information write PO Box 2530, High Point NC 27261-2530, or email [ncroom@highpointnc.gov](mailto:ncroom@highpointnc.gov)

October 15-16, 2005, there will be a Conference on Early American Genealogical Research at the DAR Library, Washington, DC. Contact Eric G. Grindset, Library Director, at 202-879-3229 or email [egrundset@dar.org](mailto:egrundset@dar.org) for more information.

October 22, 2005, the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society will be presenting “Port of Baltimore Naturalization Records and Military Records” at Bowie, MD. For more information call 732-606-6032, or email [dmkuster@comcast.net](mailto:dmkuster@comcast.net).

## Want to Join OMGS?

It's easy to join. Annual dues are \$20 for an individual membership, \$25 for a family membership, \$40 for a sustaining membership, or you can pay \$225 for a lifetime membership. Make a check or money order payable to Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society and send it along with your name, address, phone number, email address, and names you are researching to OMGS, P.O. Box 32453, Charlotte, NC, 28232-2453. Our email address is [omgs1775@yahoo.com](mailto:omgs1775@yahoo.com) and our website is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs/>

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 32453  
Charlotte, NC 28232-2453

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**DATED MATERIAL INSIDE**

**OMGS Publications for Sale**

<i>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 1: North Mecklenburg</i>	\$32.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 2: South Mecklenburg</i>	\$32.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 3: East Mecklenburg</i>	\$37.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 4: West Mecklenburg</i>	\$37.50 PPD
<i>1800 Census, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>	\$15.00 PPD
<i>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC (Includes separate index)</i>	\$17.50 PPD
<i>Index to 1850 Census</i>	\$ 5.00 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>	\$8.00 PPD
OMGS <i>Quarterlies: 1983-2003</i>	\$21.50 PPD (4/year) \$8.50 PPD (single) \$2.00 PPD (index)
<i>Cabarrus Revolutionary Patriot Roll, by Cabarrus Gen. Soc.</i>	\$19.00 PPD
<i>My Hometown Pineville, by Joe Howard Griffin, Sr.</i>	\$30.00 PPD
<i>The Presbyterian Gathering at Clear Creek, by Russell Martin Kerr</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>The Spirit of a Proud People, by Lois Moore Yandle</i>	\$40.00 PPD
<i>They Married Confederate Officers: The Intimate Story of Anna Morrison, Wife of Stonewall Jackson, and Her Five Sisters, by Kathy N. Herran</i>	\$24.95 PPD

**Books by Herman W. Ferguson**

<i>Mecklenburg County, NC—Minutes of the Court of common Pleas &amp; Quarter Sessions</i>			
<i>Vol. I, 1780-1800</i>	\$30.00 PPD	<i>Vol. V, 1841 - 1850</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Vol. II, 1801-1820</i>	\$32.50 PPD	<i>Vol. VI, 1851-1860</i>	\$28.50 PPD
<i>Vol. III, 1821-1830</i>	\$27.50 PPD	<i>Vol. VII, 1861-1868</i>	\$28.50 PPD
<i>Vol. IV, 1831 - 1840</i>	\$25.00 PPD		
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Genealogical Deed Abstracts Books 10-14</i>			\$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC- Abstracts of Deed Books 15-23 1794-1830</i>			\$35.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Will abstracts, 1791-1868, Books A-J/Tax Lists 1797-1799, 1806-1807</i>			
			(transcribed by Ralph B. & Herman W. Ferguson) \$32.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: A Petition, 1792; Tax Lists 1797-1799, 1806-1808, 1810-1811, 1815, 1823-1824</i>			
			(transcribed by Ralph B. & Herman W. Ferguson) \$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg &amp; Cabarrus Counties, NC: Decedents for Whom Loose Estate Papers are Extant</i>			\$16.50 PPD

North Carolina residents please include 7.5% sales tax. Send name, address, order, and payment to

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 32453  
Charlotte, NC 28232-2453