

Mecklenburg Messenger

Notes on November Meeting

by Mary Utting

According to Walter Klein, who spoke at the November meeting of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, most of the men who founded Mecklenburg County were Masons. Klein, a 32nd degree Mason himself, noted that such men as Hezekiah Alexander, whose home is located on the grounds of Aldersgate, where OMGS meets, were devoted to Masonry. They brought the tradition with them when they migrated to the area from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware.

Indeed, Klein calls the Alexander House the oldest Masonic building in America, dating to 1774. The Masons met at this home, whose design reflects a number of Masonic concepts, including Masonic symbols on the windows. The original plans of the building have been lost, but it is known to be copied from a Maryland home in which Hezekiah Alexander had lived.

Klein wanted to open the cornerstone, which undoubtedly would yield some interesting history, but those in charge of the Charlotte Museum of History which cares for the historic site, feared that removing the stone could bring the old building down. It probably contains coins, early records and newspapers. Klein has had infrared photographs of the area taken from a helicopter, and these indicate further research is needed.

On 28 May 1791, when George Washington visited Charlotte, Cadet Charles Caldwell, 19, was given the honor of escorting the country's first president. Caldwell later said that he asked the President if he had met any signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and Klein believes that Washington's response indicated he knew about the document that had been signed a year earlier than the national document in Philadelphia. General Thomas Polk was host for presidential reception at his home, the house that British General Cornwallis had commandeered for his use during the Revolutionary War.

Klein said that the design for the city of Washington, D.C., was Masonic, even though Pierre L'Enfant, the French officer who drew the plans did not belong to a Masonic order. But George Washington, the Mason, influenced on the result.

Though the Adams-Jefferson correspondence 44

OMGS Meetings

The December 2005 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 14 December 2005 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte**. It is our annual OMGS Christmas Party! I hope you have sent in your reservations for this great holiday event. I believe that at 6:30pm there will be a "social hour" with the dinner beginning at 7pm.

The Hopewell Branch will meet Saturday, 10 December at 11am. We will have our annual Christmas Luncheon. Come out and join us and bring a side dish, drinks or dessert!

years after the Mecklenburg

Declaration casts some doubt on this document, for which no copy survives, Washington himself never expressed any doubt of its existence.

In Charlotte, many items relating to local Masonic history are on display in the Great Hall at the Scottish Rite Temple on Randolph Road. Klein says that the formal records of Masonry in this state can be found at the Grand Lodge in Raleigh. He has done a considerable amount of family research, including 21 family trees, and he has found more than 50 masons among his ancestors.

Klein said that the Freedom Bell, located at the Museum of History, was funded by John Belk, a Mason, who served as Charlotte's mayor. He retired recently as head of family department stores. The bell's dedication brought together many Masons, displaying their confidence in the story of Hezekiah Alexander.

Washington was one of 14 Masons to serve as President of the United States.. Both Polk and Jackson, who come from this area, were Masons, and in more recent times the two Roosevelts, Taft, and Ford have been members. Genealogists might benefit by checking out Masonic records in researching their families. Information on North Carolina's Grand Lodge may be found at its website, www.grandlodge-nc.org/

(Correction: In the November Messenger, I said that Glenn C. Todd was the name of Bruce Baker's

brother. It should have read Glenn C. Baker. My apologies.--Mary Utting)

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

*The holiday season is starting which means our Christmas lunch is fast approaching. I hope each of you will be able to attend and help ring in a very Merry Christmas season. We will meet in A12 (if I remember to reserve it, if not I will send an update as to where to meet) on December 10th at 11:00 AM. I will bring a ham (as usual) and if no one lets me know I will bring the paper goods too.

Everyone else bring side dishes, drinks and desserts. We usually have a wonderful meal and good fellowship, so come out and join us. We even have several who come straight from a Christmas breakfast to our early Christmas lunch!

Let me know if you can bring paper goods and don't forget the drinks! Merry Christmas to all! Please Pray for Jeff & Vickie

New from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

10/25/2005 to 11/16/2005

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

Below are new titles of interest to genealogists in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC.

Battle of Plymouth North Carolina
Marriages and Dissolutions of Marriages: North Carolina 1970-1980
North Carolina Continentals
North Carolina Guidebook for Registers of Deeds
Patriots and Tories in Piedmont Carolina
The Collapse of the Confederacy
The Pirates of Colonial North Carolina
Upheaval in Albemarle-the Story of Culpeper's Rebellion 1675-1689
Abstracts of Wills, Buncombe County, NC 1792-1904
Abstracts of Deeds, Anson County, NC, Book Y & Z
Buncombe County, N. C. Voter Registration 1902-1904
Genealogical Writing in the 21st Century
Miscellaneous Cherokee and Choctaw Records 1800-1900
North Carolina Slaves and Free Persons of Color: Chowan County Vol. Two
North Carolina Slaves and Free Persons of Color: Iredell County
North Carolina's Shining Hour: Images and Voices From World War II
Pocahontas' Descendants

Remembering Concord

OMGS Member Receives Award

OMGS member Joe Griffin, author and recent speaker at the OMGS monthly membership meetings, received the prestigious Willie Parker Peace History Book Award from the North Carolina Society of Historians for his book, *My Hometown - Pineville*. The awards ceremony took place 8 October 2005 in Fletcher, NC.

The judges said, "Not being familiar with the actual town of Pineville, NC, we were taken on a wonderful tour down through the ages when Main Street was a wide dirt road dotted with a few stone buildings and home places... to a currently bustling town with paved roads, modern automobiles, and beautiful structures... We feel that this work is commendable and very deserving of recognition by the NCSH." (Editor's note: If you would like to buy this book, it is listed with the other OMGS publications for sale at the end of the *Messenger*.)

New Publication

OMGS member Bill Barnett of Burkburnett, TX, has compiled the history of the *Barnetts of Mecklenburg County*, a copy of which he has sent to OMGS for its new archives. Starting with Thomas Barnett, Sr. (ca 1710 - ca 1771) who lived and died in Cumberland County, PA, Bill follows the son, Hugh Barnett, to Mecklenburg County and Hugh's descendants who intermarried with the Todd and other Mecklenburg families. Some stayed in Mecklenburg County and others migrated to Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, and Missouri. Bill is still looking for verification that Hugh Barnett was a Revolutionary War soldier. His e-mail address is Barnett31732@aol.com.

Repairing Tombstones

OMGS member, Scot Treadwell, has written an informative article on repairing tombstones, "Broken But Not Forgotten," that appears in the 4th issue of the OMGS Quarterly (Vol. 23, No. 4). He has included photographs of markers before and after they were repaired and described the method used at the Second Site Cemetery at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. The article will also be posted on the OMGS website at www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs within the next few weeks.

In Memoriam

OMGS members in Mecklenburg County were saddened to read of the death of a Houston member, Glenn M. Cook, Jr. He died 19 October

2005, after a six-month battle with cancer. His memorial service was held on November 3 at Charlotte's Sharon Presbyterian Church.

Other members across the country will recognize him as the compiler of the series of real estate notices from 19th century Charlotte newspapers that appeared in several issues of the Quarterly. The complete compilation is now available in the most recent book published by OMGS.

OMGS extends condolences to his widow, the former Alice Birkhead, and his children, son Bill Cook and daughter Sally Woodson. He also is survived by two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, as well as several brothers and sisters. He was a cousin of the late Mel Cook, longtime OMGS member and officer.

Glenn was born in Charlotte on 10 December 1926, attended Sharon High School and served in the Navy during World War II. In 1947, he began a long career as a broadcast engineer, moving to Texas after his marriage in 1950. He worked for the Liberty Broadcasting System, for several Houston radio stations and retired in 1997 from the Senior Road Tower Group.

Dear Cousin

by Cousin Sally

My dear cousin, it has been awhile since I last wrote to you. I hope your genealogical research has been very rewarding.

I wanted to tell you briefly of an experience I had at a local library in the area. The Rowan County Library in Salisbury, NC has a genealogy room that is stocked with genealogical goodies! I went up there recently with a fellow researcher. I was scanning the shelves, not really looking for anything in particular, when I noticed that they had quite a few books on states other than our great sovereign state of North Carolina. I looked for South Carolina as that is where my mama's family is from. I found that they had copies of the South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research. Naturally I was curious so I picked up a volume and flipped to the index. To my surprise, they listed my 2ggfather in there! I had to see what it said about him. I turned to the page indicated and it was a listing of notices from the old newspaper of the day – *The Lancaster Ledger*. The notice that had my 2ggfather's name mentioned the deaths of 4 of his children: Marietta A, John G, James A, and Lewis M – who all died from scarlet fever a few days apart.

The notice listed their death dates and age at time of death, even spelling out months and days old! The oldest was 8 years, 6 months and 3 days old, and the youngest was 2 years and 2 months old.

Cousin, I can't begin to tell you how thrilled I was to read that article! It just goes to show, you can't judge a library by its location! I hope that you will take a look at the genealogy sections of your local public library – this one took me by surprise! I hope that you will be pleasantly surprised too! And, have a great Christmas and wonderful New Year! I'll write again next year to see how you are doing.

A Genealogist's 12 Days of Christmas

author unknown

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me,
Twelve census searches,
Eleven printer ribbons,
Ten e-mail contacts,
Nine headstone rubbings,
Eight birth and death dates,
Seven town clerks sighing,
Six second cousins,
Five coats of arms!
Four GEDCOM files,
Three old wills,
Two CD-ROMS,
And a branch in my family tree!

Upcoming Events

Do you know of an upcoming genealogical event? Let me know and I can publish it here. My email is raney1@earthlink.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 and our website is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs/>

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID CHARLOTTE, NC Permit No.: 426

DATED MATERIAL INSIDE

OMGS Publications for Sale

<i>Real Estate and Legal Notices from Charlotte, NC Newspapers, 1835-1847</i>	NEW!	\$27.50 PPD
<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
<i>OMGS 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 & 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 & 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