

Mecklenburg Messenger

OMGS Archives Hours

10-12 AM Tuesdays, 1-4 PM Thursdays
Visit the website for additional information.

Genetics and Genealogy: Exploring the Mysteries, Exploding the Myths

The Robinson-Spangler Carolina of the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County and Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society will present Cynthia Wells, Regional Speaker for the International Society of Genetic Genealogy.

Mrs. Wells will conduct a three-hour workshop on March 25, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on the use of DNA as a tool for genealogical research. The workshop is free, but registration is required. Registration begins on February 1, 2006. You may register by calling the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room at (704) 336-2980.

The program will be held at the Ray Hall Community Center of the Aldersgate Methodist Retirement Community on 3800 Shamrock Drive in Charlotte.

Notes on January Meeting

by Mary Utting

Because the scheduled speaker, historian Michael Scoggins, was ill, the January program turned into a time of sharing various research projects for Mecklenburg County.

Pinny Cook, second vice president, found that Jim Hemphill, a resident of Aldersgate, the Methodist retirement community where OMGS meets, was working on a history of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. She therefore invited him to share some of his findings and future plans.

Hemphill, who has spent many years as an architect with the firm his father founded in 1916, has focused on the physical characteristics of the Queen City. He has studied old maps and looked into buildings of the past, as well as what the area was like before the first British colonists found their way this far inland. He said that the city's current site was a center of transportation and commerce before the white settlers arrived. It is common knowledge that Trade and Tryon streets

OMGS Meetings

The February 2006 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 8 February 2006 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. Remember the "social hour" begins at 7pm with the meeting following at 7:30pm. We will have Cullen Ferguson, recently retired news anchor from WSOC-TV Channel 9! He will talk about his Ferguson family. In March we will have our very own Paul Buckley! He will talk to us about some interesting things he has come across in his research. Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet Saturday, 11 February 2006 at 10am. We will have as our speaker the Rev. J.E. "Didi" Wayland. In March we plan to have a tour of Lincoln County's graveyards with Darrell Harkey. Come out and join us!

were trails used by the Native Americans of the pre-colonial era.

Hemphill noted that the Atlantic coast lands were the first place that the Scots-Irish stopped, so that area was settled by 1740, and it was another 20 years before they moved inland. Thomas Polk migrated to the area along the Old Wagon Trail, which extended from Philadelphia to Macon, GA. Because the land was forested, the newcomers naturally walked along the paths created by the Indian tribes. He also mentioned that Polk was the representative for the area in the Assembly at New Bern, then site of the Royal government.

Hemphill is interested in the layout of the town into four wards when Charlotte was one square mile in size. What was to have been Main Street was named instead for Governor Tryon. Trade Street, he pointed out, was the center of activity for the new community.

Ellen Poteet next reported that OMGS had ordered records of 13 Revolution pensioners who received their money from North Carolina rather than the Federal government. This information is to be extracted and published in the Quarterly.

She also told of a Tennessee researcher who was trying to decide which of two men named Pleasant

Rogers was the one she was seeking. When she identified him, she learned that his second wife moved to Oklahoma, where she testified before the Indian Commission that her husband's father was Indian. Documentation did not support this wife's claim, but researchers in the family would not accept the correction. The testimony was obviously given so that the wife could get funds for which she was not legally entitled.

Rosemary Lands then told Jim Hemphill that she had a project at the Carolina Room of the Public Library to list the origin of Charlotte street names. This study seemed to tie in with his efforts at recording facts about early Charlotte.

Ron Touchstone reported that the OMGS Archives were to be open 10-12 on Tuesday mornings and 1-4 on Thursday afternoons. Special appointments may be arranged if necessary. He also noted that the church buying the Merchandise Mart wants tenants to remain, at least for the next couple of years. He said that there was one special value to the Archives that visitors might find most beneficial: the knowledge of the volunteers working there. He believes that researchers can learn much from their discussions.

Finally, Scot Treadwell described his interest in Mecklenburg streams and rivers. He noted that the Catawba River was an important factor in this area, and it also was a hindrance at times. He said the first bridge to Gaston County was the Rozzelles Bridge. Ferries also took people across, and others managed to ford the waters in low areas. Before the Civil War, he has found 15 ferries in operation, but no fords were below Mountain Island, as the river apparently was too deep. He noted that the first railroad began after the Civil War.

Time to Renew!

This is the last Messenger for those who haven't yet paid dues! Please check your mailing label to see if you have renewed for 2006. Don't let your membership expire! Dues remain at \$20 for an individual membership, \$25 for families. Send your check to our P.O. Box to continue to receive your publications and hear about the latest on our Archives, new publications and upcoming events! Membership questions? Call Lynn Bancroft at 704-364-26930 or LCBancroft@mindspring.com.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

In January the Hopewell Branch got a real treat. We went on a tour of the Hugh Torance House and Store with a really big difference. Belle Banks allowed us to tour Cedar Grove also. A group of about 15 learned a little about the history of the store and the Torance family. Then we walked over

to Cedar Grove and toured one of the most amazing homes in Mecklenburg County.

On February 11th we will be back at Hopewell for our meeting. We have a real learning experience coming up with the Rev. J.E. "Didi" Wayland as our speaker. Didi served the north end of the county as a Presbyterian minister for over 45 years. His stories will bring to life what it really was like here in Mecklenburg County.

Our March meeting "should" be a tour of graveyards in Lincoln County. Darrell Harkey has promised us the tour, just not which Saturday.

New OMGS Members

by Lynn Bancroft

Please help us welcome the following new members to Olde Meck:

- Patricia Nesbit Charlotte, NC
- Michael Brown Charlotte, NC
- Priscilla Clarke Albemarle, NC

We wish you all Happy and Prosperous Researching!

New from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

12/23/2005 to 1/23/2005

New on CMStory.org! Begin your Confederate research by reading Dr. J. B. Alexander's rosters of 21 companies from Mecklenburg County, NC. Hear the "Rebel Yell" as performed on WBT radio by 5 Confederates. <http://www.cmstory.org/civilwar>

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.

Life in Antebellum Charlotte

Legacy – A Step-By-Step Guide To Writing Personal History

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations V20 Pt. 2

North Carolina Architecture

The Benjamin Moore Family of Burlington County New Jersey

Records of the Gates Families of America From the Colonial Period to 1860

Bartow County Georgia Heritage Book, Vols. I & II

Epling/Eplin Families to Generation 7 and Later to Isaac (2) Descendants 1787 – 2005

NC Historians Awards

by Kathy Herran

Our state historical society, the North Carolina Society of Historians, offers all of us the opportunity to receive recognition for completed historical and genealogical work through its very diverse awards program.

This year the society will be reviewing material for over 15 awards ranging from manuscripts to videos to family histories and newsletters. Recipients are individuals and organizations and need not be members of the society. All nominated works must be original and must be accompanied by the proper entry forms; they are available through the website (ncsocietyofhistorians.org) and/or through mail to the society's president, Elizabeth Sherrill. Her address is on the website, as well as other details for submitting material by the 30 June 2006 deadline. Many of you have done in-depth studies of research in both history and genealogy and should consider submitting your material after reviewing the range of awards list below.

[Editor's note: The list of awards is too lengthy for this issue of the *Messenger*, so the remainder of awards will be listed in subsequent issues.]

Willie Parker Peace History Book Award is given to encourage the writing and publication of a North Carolina county, institution, or individual. This category is open to all who are writing about North Carolina, although the writer need not be a resident of North Carolina.

D. T. Smithwick Award is given to encourage the writing and publication of historical or biographical newspaper articles that emphasize local, regional, or state history or the biography of a native North Carolinian. Entrant need not be a resident of North Carolina.

Robert Bruce Cooke Family History Book Award is given for well-crafted, in-depth studies and histories of North Carolina families. Entrant need not be a resident.

Malcolm Fowler Award is presented to local, regional, and state historical and genealogical and/or preservation societies that are making a contribution to the accumulation and preservation of North Carolina history.

Garland P. Stout Publishers Award is presented to a North Carolina publisher who is dedicating special emphasis toward the collection, preservation, and/or publication of local, regional, or state history.

Claude Hunter Moore Award is a journal award presented to publications devoted primarily to the publication of historical facts, documents, or

records in order to disseminate the historical or genealogical information within them.

Joe M. McLaurin Newsletter Award is presented to publications dealing with an association or society's meetings, social events, routine activities, as well as the activities of the general membership. It can be one page to many pages.

[to be continued...]

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 9 from 10:00 - 11:00 am, Ancestry On-Line: Beginner's Class - Monroe Library. Want to get started searching for your ancestors on-line? This class is limited to six participants who must be comfortable using a mouse and navigating around a computer screen. Please call 704-283-8184, ext. 224 to register.

February 18 -February 19, 2006, Civil War Living History Weekend, Manteo, North Carolina. The event will commemorate the 144th Anniversary of the Battle of Roanoke Island. For more information call 252-475-1500.

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April 21-23, 2006, the Loch Norman Highland Games, Rural Hill Farm, Huntersville, NC—fun for the entire family! Visit www.lochnorman.org for more information.

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

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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