

Mecklenburg Messenger

Summary of Activities

from the Board of Directors

Archives

A goal of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society since its inception has been to establish a location to house books, files, maps and other materials to support those wishing to do genealogical research; an Archive. That goal is about to be realized. At its June meeting the board approved an Archive Task Force proposal that it pursue rental space of 500 square feet or more within an allowable budget. This will allow consolidation and organization of the society's holdings for access. Board and committee meetings also might be accommodated. The Task Force is still defining details of operation and time schedule. Members' comments are welcome.

Building Fund

For the past four years the society's fund-raising efforts have been primarily focused on the Building Fund. Members and others have responded with generous donations. The fund now stands at approximately \$46,000 dollars. A portion of this fund will be used to establish the initial Archives described above. The society will continue to look for a location that might be better suited and allow growth.

Elmwood/9th Street Pinewood Cemeteries

The monumental task of documenting and indexing the burials in Charlotte's second oldest cemetery is proceeding on schedule. Eight volunteers in teams of two have recorded close to 5,000 graves in the historic section; they expect to complete this phase by August 2005. In addition, the information from over 8,000 of an estimated 30,000 burial cards for the entire cemetery has been entered into a database. We plan to publish the data in the oldest, most historic section first, and then publish subsequent volumes for the remaining portions of the cemetery.

From the President

by Ted Lucas

I would like to share with the membership the following letter received from Joyce Reinmann of the Carolina Room at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (PLCMC):

Dear Mr. Lucas, I would like to thank you and the members of Olde Meck who so generously gave their time and prepared refreshments for the Hank Jones seminar. The program was very successful due in large part to your members. Mr. Jones was very impressed with the turnout and the partnership between the Library and your group. I hope we will be able to work with your group again on future projects. Thank you again for your help. Sincerely, Joyce Reinmann

I want to add my own word of thanks to our members who took part.

Notes from the June Meeting

by Mary Utting

A sword, carried by his great-grandfather in the Civil War, is a centerpiece of Jim Morrill's family history. The other surprising find was that this very blonde *Charlotte Observer* reporter had an African American great-grandmother. He shared his interesting tale at the June meeting of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society.

OMGS Meetings

The July 2005 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 13 July 2005 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. We will have Kristin Toler, Education Director for the Latta Plantation. She will speak about current activities at the plantation and about the Latta family. Don't miss this great program!

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

The search for Morrill history began in earnest when Jim Morrill acquired an old book that had military records for the Grand Army of the Republic. This book had a special foldout featuring the story of the unit to which his great-grandfather, E. D. Morrill, belonged in the Civil War.

A few years later, Jim decided to see if he could find out what this great-grandfather did after the war. He learned that the veteran, who was originally from Massachusetts, went South and settled at Camden, Alabama, where he bought land, but failed at farming. Jim asked a genealogist in Camden for assistance, and she sent him copies of a local paper, *The Home Ruler*, which revealed that this ancestor was a prominent Republican, involved in politics, and was, in other words, a carpetbagger. Undoubtedly, he was not popular with the locals.

Jim also learned that his great-grandfather, after the death of his wife, had a relationship with a Black woman; a son was born to them in 1879. The papers denounced him, saying he “disgraced the Negro race by living in adultery.” Shortly after, he left town with the woman and child and moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked for the Pension Bureau. They lived on Capitol Hill in a building that is now a gentrified condominium.

Jim wrote the bureau for information and received a copy of a marriage certificate dated 1890, about 12 years after the son had been born. He was unable to locate records of his great-grandmother before 1860, so she undoubtedly was a slave. The great-grandfather compiled records of 10,000 members of his family; this is in the Library of Congress.

Jim’s grandfather went to Oberlin College, class of 1906, and then lived for a time in Minnesota, where he married and had a son, Jim’s father, born in 1912. A year later, he left the family (and probably his father’s sword). His mother died, so Jim’s father lived with relatives in northern Minnesota. He corresponded with his grandmother, who lived in the Washington home until she died, and finally went to call on her. When this African-American woman answered the door, he apparently was shocked to learn the family’s secret: this was his grandmother!

Jim learned that his father had shared this secret with his mother before he married her, but few outside the family knew. His father would not discuss it, however.

Jim wrote to Oberlin for his grandfather’s records, only to be told that his father had asked that they not be released. He had to explain that he was doing family research, so the college finally sent a packet. It contained letters written by his father in 1939, which made Jim realize his own father was seeking his father, who had deserted his family.

Jim learned that some records he had requested were not available, as they had been borrowed by a man in West Virginia. Wondering why a stranger would be interested in the Morrill family, Jim called him. That is when he discovered the Civil War sword. The man was seeking the story of the antique weapon, which Jim finally acquired from him last year. He brought it to the Olde Meck meeting.

After Jim’s story of his family and the sword appeared in *The Observer*, he was surprised to have more response than for any story he had ever written. Some shared similar family secrets.

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.

Upcoming Events

15-16 July 2005 The 2005 DINGLER Family Reunion will take place July 15-16 at Madison, Georgia. Accommodations will be at the Hampton Inn (2012 Eatonton Rd, Madison, GA 30650). Make reservations by calling 706-342-9003; be sure to let them know you are with the Dingler Reunion so that you get the special rate. See: <http://www.dingler-family.org>

14th CROWELL REUNION

Tour the 200-year-old Michael Crowell house and hear about DNA testing that has connected several Crowell men to Peter Graul, who lived in Langenselbold, Germany, 300 years ago. The Crowell reunion is

scheduled for 17, 18, and 19 July 2005 at the Henry Horton State Park near Shelbyville, TN. Contact Tom Crowell for details: TPCrowell@Rader.com or phone him at 706 864-0410.

The Upton Byrum Family Reunion Sunday, July 17, 2005 (Lunch following worship service at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in Mecklenburg Co., NC – Covered Dish)

This reunion will be the first for all of the descendants of Upton Byrum (1770 – 1840) of Mecklenburg County, NC. We are trying to locate descendants to be added to our booklet of the family history for the reunion.

Upton Byrum married first to Dorothy McDowell on 13 Dec 1793 and had children: (1) Jenny Byrum; (2) Sarah Byrum b. abt. 1799 m. 1st to William McD. Herron and 2nd to Alexander McLeod; (3) Possibly Upton Byrum, Jr. b. abt. 1801, m. Mary Cloninger of Lincoln Co. (not proven); and (4) Cynthia Byrum, b. 1804 m. Robert Kerr. Upton Byrum married 2nd to Margaret Porter on 15 June 1807 and had the following children: (5) Peggy Byrum; (6) Dorothy McDowell Byrum, b. 1810 (never married); (7) John Porter Byrum, b. 24 Dec 1813 m. Catherine L. Kerr; (8) James Byrum, b. 1815, m. Margaret Hannon; (9) Mary Martha Byrum, b. 1822 m. James H. Grier; and (10) Caroline Elizabeth Byrum, b. 1824, mar. Matthew Rufus Robinson.

If you are descended from any of those listed above, please contact Linda Blackwelder at: llblckwldr@worldnet.att.net or (704) 588-6575 for more information.

The John Porter Byrum descendants have been meeting at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church for reunions for many years and hope others will join them. Upton Byrum and his two wives are buried in the old cemetery there along with many of the above children and their families. Come join us at this old historic church and meet some of your “cousins”.

21-24 July 2005 The National GRIGSBY Family Society announces the 25th anniversary reunion to be held at Natural Bridge VA, the site of the first reunion. Featured are tours of the Lexington area and the seven Grigsby Hill Homes as well as a special Sunday service at the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church, the church of "Soldier John" Grigsby. Activities for all ages make this a true family reunion. All are welcome! The society website is: <http://www.grigsby.org>. For further information contact: R. Brian Grigsby, 26 Danube River Drive, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931 at rbgrigsby@aol.com or call 321-783-8303.

23 July 2005 The 2005 POSEY Family Reunion will be held on 23 July 2005 in Blythe, GA. This will be the first reunion that will host the LAKE, BROWN, CARTER, KING and MILES sub-lineages of the Posey family. WALKER Family members who are descendants of Prince, Beatric, Cassie and Lillie Belle are strongly encouraged to attend. For information regarding the logistics and points of contact, please call 1-646-334-1202 and ask for Vince Sheppard. This will be the first no-fee reunion.

30 July 30-4 August 2005 Virginia Genealogical Society announces the Virginia Institute of Genealogical Research (VIGR8), in Richmond, Virginia. Track I is designed for the novice Virginia researcher. Track II is for the more experienced Virginia researcher. Neither track is recommended for the beginning genealogist. Contact mail@vgs.org, <http://www.vgs.org/VIGR8brochure.pdf>

2-5 September 2005 The First Worldwide DILLINGHAM Reunion, an event to mark the 375th 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>.

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>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 Quarterlies: 1983-2003	\$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
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