

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society
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May 2005

Joan Raney, Editor

Directions to Aldersgate

Ray Hall Community Center: Aldersgate asks that we use the main entrance and park in front of the Ray Hall Community Center, entering the building by the front door.

Coming from Eastway Dr., turn on Shamrock Dr. Proceed out Shamrock to Aldersgate Main Entrance. You will pass these buildings on Shamrock Dr.: WNC Methodist Center, Museum of History, Asbury Care Center, and Wesley Nursing Center.

At the traffic light, turn right on Willard Farrow Dr. After the Welcome Center (like a gate house), drive 0.3 mi. on Willard Farrow Dr. After the Hezekiah Alexander House on the right, you will see 3 buildings facing a circle.

Ray Hall Community Center is the 2-story building in the middle, between Epworth Towers and Francis Residential Building.

Park in the visitor parking in front of the Community Center and enter by the front door.

Notes from the April Meeting

by Mary Utting

Rosemary Lands, OMGS member who also is on the staff of the Carolina Room at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, talked about the value of estate papers in genealogical research at the Society's April meeting. The loose estate papers for Mecklenburg County, 1762 - 1957, are a recent acquisition at the library.

These papers arise when someone contests a will and the case moves from county court to district court. Perhaps it is a matter of debts owed by the deceased or a family member who believes more money should be left to him. The cases can go on for many years, accumulating an unbelievable stack of papers.

After 60 years, such records are sent to the North Carolina Archives, where they are filmed,

OMGS Meetings

The May 2005 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 11 May 2005 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. *See first article for directions.* Our speaker will be Pat Cook, and he will talk about his search for his birth mother. In June we will have Jim Morrill from the Charlotte Observer. Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet at 10am on Saturday, 14 May at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be Jean Cobb Lewis, and she will talk about her famous ancestor Meriwether Lewis.

so they will not be found at the county site. Lands calls these files "a gold mine" of information for genealogical researchers. The amount of papers varies from county to county, as sometimes such records were destroyed in courthouse fires, just as other records have been lost.

When some relative or business associate wished to challenge a will, that person would generally get every record possible that might have a bearing on the case. Lands brought copies of a couple of large estate records as examples. One set consisted of the Barringer papers.

Rufus Barringer, a prominent Mecklenburg businessman, was plaintiff in a suit concerning household debts in 1892. The other person had lost land and a mule, which he was trying to recover. In another action, Rufus was suing on behalf of a Barringer child. When Rufus died, there was a lot of action. As Lands remarked, the family must have been sued by everyone in the county and must have owned land all over the place.

Estate papers contain a wealth of names, including family members, business associates,

all the people summoned to testify, and so on. They may provide information on family connections that the researcher can find nowhere else.

In the Barringer records, Lands found a Rufus C., an heir who never spoke in court. His residence was listed as a mental hospital, where he seemed to be during the court proceedings. The judge ordered every paper possible relevant to the case to be submitted to the court; all these then would be added to the estate papers file. Creditors and defendants both had to bring all records. The case dragged on for years, and there was a lot of animosity shown in the documents.

Another more recent case, which Lands therefore felt should be anonymous, related to a holographic will found in a Norfolk, Va., rooming house. Certain personal property was designated for a grandniece of the deceased's wife, but the will was contested, as it was not among the valuable papers of the decedent. Lands recommends using estate papers in conjunction with any other paper records that can be located to compare the information.

Judging by the size of the files she brought to the meeting, it probably will take genealogists considerable time to decipher all the information in estate papers, but they should be well worth the effort.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

In May Jean Cobb Lewis will do our program on her famous ancestor, Meriwether Lewis.

Book Announcement

The Todds of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and Descendants

OMGS member Bruce Baker has worked for three years on a two-volume family history of John and Margaret Todd, who arrived in Mecklenburg County before 1767, and their descendants. The history is soon to be published, and prepublication orders are being taken until 15 May 2005. Bruce says that the book will help many other researchers with a female Todd ancestor who have not been able to make a connection with this family. It also corrects many errors that have crept into the family genealogy over the years. Surnames in the books include ABERNATHY, ALEXANDER, ALLEN, AUTEN, BAKER, BARNES, BARNET/ BARNETT, BEATTY/BEATY, BERRYHILL, BLACK, BONE, BROWN, BUCHANAN, CAMPBELL, CARTER,

CATHEY, CLARK, COOK, COOPER, COSTEN, COX, DAVIS, DUDLEY, DUNN, ELLIOTT, EMERSON, EVAN, FISHER, FRAZIER, FREEMAN, GARRISON, GODARD, GRAHAM, GRAY, HADLEY, HAGGARD, HARRISON, HENDERSON, HERRON, HILL, HILTON, HIPPI, HOOVER, HUNTER, HUTCHISON, JAMES, JAMISON, JOHNSON/JOHNSTON, JONES, KEISTLER, KING, LAWING, LOVE, LYNCH, MARSHALL, MARTIN, MCCALL, MCCLURE, MCCORD, MCDONALD, MCGINN, MCKELVEY, MCKNIGHT, MILLER, MOORE, NEAL/NEEL, PORTER, RANKIN, REID, RHYNE, ROZZELLE, SIMPSON, SMITH, SPAIN/SPAINNE, SPRINGS, STARK, SUMMERSVILLE, TEVEPAUGH, THOMPSON, TODD, TURNER, VAUGHAN, WHITE, WILLIAM, WILSON, WISDOM.

The books are hard bound, 6 x 9, 992 pages per volume. Prepublication price until 15 May 2005 is \$100 ppd. After that date, the set will be \$115 ppd. Only 300 have been printed. Orders should be mailed to Bruce Baker, 881 Ravenwood Drive, Morristown, TN 37814. Phone 423 5870-6438 (after 5 p.m. EST).

From the Board of Directors

by Mary Utting

The board decided to join the celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on Friday, May 20, which will mean Olde Meck will have a tent at the Square at which members can sell publications, provide information about the Society, and answer the public's questions about genealogy research. Volunteers are needed for this event and also to help at the Hank Jones Workshop being sponsored by the Public Library on May 14.

Board members also acted on several recommendations of the Publications Committee. It approved the intent to publish in book form the Real Estate and Legal Notices that have been appearing in recent issues of the Quarterly. This would include notices already printed, plus all the additional notices and a complete index. An index of the 1850 census would be printed at a fast copy place and then assembled and covered by Ellen Poteet. This would expand the surname index in the book and would be given when future copies of the census are purchased. It also would be sold as part of the Society's publications.

In addition, the board endorsed pursuing the concept of a book of old Mecklenburg maps and approved appointment of a subcommittee to seek out such maps and work with the library and

county on the compilation. The board also endorsed seeking out books that have been done by members and others that might be offered for sale by the Society, in the same manner as the Herman Ferguson books. This would be a service to the genealogy community and also would give the Society some additional funds for its own publications efforts.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 14 May 2005, Main Library, 9:30am – 4:00pm, a Genealogy Workshop with Hank Jones. There will be a \$20 registration fee for attendance at this all-day seminar. Please call the Carolina Room at 704-336-2980 to enroll in the workshop.

Mr. Jones is the author of several genealogy works including *Psychic Roots*, and a two volume set entitled *Palatine Families of New York-1710*, which received the Donald Lines Jacobus Award as “Best Genealogical Work of 1986.” He is also an accomplished actor who has appeared in several Disney movies, an *Unsolved Mysteries* episode, *My Three Sons*, *Mork and Mindy*, *Petticoat Junction*, *Love American Style*, *Tennessee Ernie Ford* and many others television shows. Mr. Jones will be selling and autographing his books at the workshop.

NGS GENTECH Annual Conference, June 1 - 4, 2005, Nashville, TN Lectures on topics related to the practical use of technology in genealogy. An exhibit hall with vendors will be available. Details are available at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/ngsgentech/conferences.htm>

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: llbckwldr@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”.

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.

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.

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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>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>	\$17.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>	\$8.00 PPD
<i>Nine Generation Ancestor Chart</i>	\$6.00 PPD (rolled) \$5.00 PPD (folded)
<i>OMGS Quarterlies: 1983-2003</i>	\$21.50 PPD (4/year) \$8.50 PPD (single) \$2.00 PPD (index)
<i>The Spirit of a Proud People, by Lois Moore Yandle</i>	\$40.00 PPD

Books by Herman W. Ferguson

<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. I, 1780-1800</i>	\$30.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. II, 1801-1820</i>	\$32.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. III, 1821-1830</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. IV, 1831 - 1840</i>	\$25.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. V, 1841 - 1850</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC, Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. VI, 1851-1860</i>	\$28.50 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

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