

Mecklenburg Messenger

Summary of Activities

from the Board of Directors

Archives Progress Report

The Archives Committee was delighted to have twenty-two guests attend its first open house at the new OMGS Archives in Room EE 207 of the Merchandise Mart on Oct. 16. Alden Davis, Sandra Howie and Tom Humphries were the excellent hosts for this event. Some guests immediately began reading the books and reviewing maps while others socialized and enjoyed the delicious refreshments. Use of the Archives has begun! Even as the committee organizes the books and documents on hand, additional donations are being received. The first orientation session for volunteers will take place on October 20th. Shortly afterward the committee will announce the schedule for access to the Archives.

From the President

by Ted Lucas

The Olde Meck has two annual awards that are presented at our dinner meeting in December. The Order of 1775 is awarded by the Board of Directors to recognize a member who has been active and involved in the life of the Society over a number of years. The person selected for the Greenlee Lilly Award (named after our late beloved member by that name) is chosen by the President on the basis of active involvement over the last year or so. If you have persons in mind who should be so honored, please let me know within the next week, so that we can consider their names in the selection process. Thanks!

Whaddaya Mean Forensic Genealogy?

Friends, I had never heard of it either, but we have a real treat in store for us. At seven o'clock, Wednesday evening, NOVEMBER 2, at our regular meeting place, we will have a lively presentation by Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., who is the author of THE book on the subject. Look at Dr. Fitzpatrick's fascinating website at www.forensicgenealogy.info and the review of the book at eogn.typepad.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2005/06/forensic_geneal.html

OMGS Meetings

The November 2005 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 9 November 2005 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 Walter Klein, and his topic is Masonic Records. And, in December, don't miss our famous OMGS Christmas Party!

The Hopewell Branch will meet Saturday, 12 November at 10am. Our speaker will be Tina Brown, and she will talk about tombstone preservation. In December we will have our annual Christmas Luncheon. Come out and join us.

This presentation is co-sponsored by OMGS and the PLCMC Carolina Room.

From the review:

"...It is only natural that we would use the same techniques that scholars use to examine old documents, transcribed lists, and other sources. However, author Colleen Fitzpatrick suggests that scholarly methodology alone is not enough. She suggests that we should also use the methods of detectives, crime scene investigators, geneticists, criminologists, and FBI laboratory technicians. Dr. Fitzpatrick shows how to further your genealogy investigations by using a mix of the methods used by Sherlock Holmes and by CSI: Miami... This one is a keeper..." This is going to be good! Y'all come!

Notes on October Meeting

by Mary Utting

After Bruce E. Baker of Morristown, Tennessee, tried without much success to trace both his paternal and maternal grandparents, he turned to another family surname, Todd, and started researching that line. His collaborator was brother Glenn C. Todd, who lives in Hot Springs, Arkansas, a good distance away.

The result of their nearly four years of work is a two-volume set of books on the Todds, which runs more than 1,900 pages. Bruce Baker described the

challenges of publishing a genealogy book at the October meeting of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society. The books came out in July. Though the Baker brothers' origins are Mecklenburg and Lincoln counties, they found that members of the Todd clan had moved all over the place. The result is that 60 to 70 percent of the more than 8,500 people they have recorded lived in other areas. Once the two began work, information started coming in from all sorts of Todds. In fact, he said that he is still getting information, photographs, and corrections. This material probably will not go into another book, but may be recorded on a CD for future use.

Why not use this format at first? He said that many people wanted something to put on a shelf, and some, like an old lady of 92 who provided information, did not have a computer. Baker believes that the Internet is going to be the preferred method in the future, because it provides an ability to make instant corrections and is much less costly than book publishing.

He admits that they knew virtually nothing about the mechanics of publishing when the project started. Thanks to the Family Tree Make computer program, they were able to print out the data in a format that could be used in a book. This program also helped them do a table of contents and an index. It also has a numbering system to differentiate persons of similar names.

The first big shock was the cost. The quote was \$40,000 for 500 hard-cover copies on acid-free paper. They also were new at proofreading and were shocked to find the information intended for the first volume's spine ended up on the back cover. Learning it would be \$4,000 more to do this over, Baker found a way to have labels printed for the spine, which cost \$300. They also got proofs of the final pages to be checked, which is a time-consuming task. He said they printed 300 copies.

In addition to these costs, the brothers chalked up travel expenses of gas, lodging, and other research bills in their trips to cemeteries, courthouses and other repositories. The publisher they chose is located in Franklin, North Carolina, but the printing was done in Missouri.

The project ran into the usual genealogical roadblocks. Some information was contradictory; other times facts were hard to find. Hugh Todd, son of the original couple, left money to his children, but the estate papers gave no names. He just left money to his "heirs." Often deeds were not recorded until decades after the land transactions. The paperwork fills two file cabinets at Bruce Baker's home, and he said his brother has even more.

(Correction: In the October Messenger, I said that James Patterson was the name of the speaker. It should have been Daniel Patterson. My apologies.--Mary Utting)

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch of the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogy Society met as usual on the second Saturday of October. I just wasn't there. The Rev. Jeff Lowrance moderated the meeting for me since I was attending a workshop. Our speaker was Tim Berly and I was told he gave a great presentation on the Sons of the American Revolution. I am sure all that attended learned a lot and had a good time.

The Group will meet November 12th at 10:00 AM in the Wayland Sunday School Room at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Per a request and since I haven't been able to catch up with Darell Harkey, I will be the speaker for this meeting. As I said in October I attended a workshop. The workshop was on the preservation and restoration of cemeteries. The workshop was put on by Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church in cooperation with the Chicora Foundation. Mike Trinkley and Debi Hacker were our instructors and they were the best. I hope any of you with interest in tombstones, box markers, stone walls and other items found in our old cemeteries will come out and hear what I have learned.

In December we will meet on December 10th at 11:00 AM for our Christmas luncheon meeting. As usual I will provide the meat and I ask all of you to bring a side dish or dessert. Also any of you that just don't cook can contact me about bringing the paper products. Please pray for Jeff & Vickie.

Misenheimer Receives Two Awards

John Misenheimer in his reenactment attire as a Revolutionary War Patriot



John E. Misenheimer, Jr., walked away with two prestigious awards at the annual awards banquet of the North Carolina Society of Historians on 8 October 2005.

One of the awards, the Barringer Award of Excellence, is the second highest award given by the Society and was the first time in the group's 64-year history that it has been awarded twice to the same individual. The judges' opinion was that Misenheimer merited the special recognition because of his numerous, significant contributions to the preservation and perpetuation of North Carolina's rich history.

Cited were his activities as Vice Chairman and Commissioner of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission (1996-2004), Board of Directors of the Catawba Valley Scottish Society for preservation of Rural Hill Farm and special events (2003 to the present), Co-Event Director of the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford to be held in February 2006, President of the Lt. Col. John Phifer Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (2004 to the present), 2nd Vice President of the Cabarrus Genealogy Society and coauthor of the "Cabarrus Revolutionary Patriot Roll" (2004 to the present), Co-Chairman of the Old Mecklenburg Heritage Book Committee (2002 to the present), recipient of the D. T. Smithwick Newspaper and Magazine Article Award for "American Revolution Pensioners with Ties to Mecklenburg," which appeared in the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society Quarterly, Past President of the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, and both Patriot and Loyalist Reenactor (2001 to the present).

The second honor he received at the banquet was the D. T. Smithwick Award mentioned above. The judges comments were "This is a fabulous article that will, no doubt, be very valuable to both historians and genealogists alike. It is masterful research, an extremely well-written text, and incredible documentation! We received information about the background of the Revolutionary War pensions, a lengthy list of men from many different states who had ties to Mecklenburg County, information as to how to order a pension application, as well as a sample of what type of information a pension could contain--here he used his ancestor's Revolutionary War pension. This is a remarkable article whose value will be immense."

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 1 November, members of the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents Book Club will present a program at the monthly meeting of the

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents on the subject of "The Seven Sisters: Early Presbyterian Churches in Mecklenburg County". The program begins at 11 AM on Tuesday, November 1, at Historic Rosedale Plantation, 3427 North Tryon Street. It is free and the public is invited.

The early settlers of Mecklenburg County, in the heart of the Carolina backcountry, were largely Scots-Irish Presbyterians. As a consequence, the first seven Presbyterian churches played a significant role in the development, education, and daily life of surrounding communities. Life-long Presbyterians as well as newcomers to our region will be enlightened by this presentation on the history of early churches and their ministers.

Visitors are invited for refreshments at 9:30 AM and to attend the MHA Docents business meeting which will begin at 10 AM. For more information, call Wanda Hubicki at 704.563.7080.

Friday & Saturday, November 11 & 12, 2005, at Briar Creek Country Club, Raleigh, NC – Annual Fall Meeting and Workshop "Finding Your Military Ancestors" sponsored by the North Carolina Genealogical Society. Information: <http://www.ncgenealogy.org> or ncgs@ncgenealogy.org.

Introduction to Genealogy, University City Regional Library. <<http://www.plcmc.org/libLoc/branchUniversity.asp>> 11/14/2005, 7 - 8:30pm
Registration begins 10/31/2005. Call (704) 595-9589

Genealogy on the Internet, University City Regional Library <<http://www.plcmc.org/libLoc/branchUniversity.asp>> 12/1/2005, 7 - 8:30pm
Registration begins 11/17/2005. Call (704) 595-9589

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
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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
<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
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Charlotte, NC 28232-2453