

Mecklenburg Messenger

Summary of Activities

from the Board of Directors

What is an Archives?

While continuing to consolidate materials belonging to the Society and their organization is progressing, we can begin to see a picture of what our Archives will offer:

- 4 Volumes of Ancestor Charts; individually indexed provided by members.
- Family Files information on families submitted by members and others on specific surnames and placed in expandable folders stored in legal filing cabinets.
- Additional research material not easily categorized.
- Browser copies of Society Quarterlies, 1850 Census, Waterway Map. and Surname Index.
- Books acquired by the Society and shelved in categories such as Surname, County, General/History.
- Exchange quarterlies from other societies.
- Periodicals such as the Genealogical Helper. Maps.
- Papers relating to the history and organization of the society.

We look forward to reviewing other materials to add to our collection. With the organization in progress we have also identified tasks for which the committee is soliciting volunteer help:

- Review, evaluation, organization of certain collections.
- Shelving, plating, and cataloging of book collections
- Continued development of a master surname index for all Quarterlies.
- Cataloging of maps.
- Review of Society papers for retention/disposal and proper filing.

Some of the work above can be performed outside the Archives.

If you would like to participate please contact Archives/Library Committee Chairman, Ronald Touchstone; 704 372-9499 RTouch@aol.com.

OMGS Meetings

The September 2005 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 14 September 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 Daniel Patterson, and his topic is "Bigham Stonecarving in Mecklenburg County." In October we will have Bruce Baker, and his topic is "The Questionable Joys of Publishing." Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet September 10 at 10am. Our speaker will be Bruce Baker, a new author, who will be telling us about his book. Come out and join us.

Notes on August Meeting

By Mary Utting

Are your genealogy records stacked on a sagging table? Or, worse yet, in piles all over the floor? Perhaps you are a bit more organized than that, but still find that copies of documents or notes on research are really hard to locate.

Norm Lindsay, a longtime researcher who spoke at the August meeting of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, has a system that he recommended in his talk: "Organizing the Mess How to Mange Your Genealogical Project Without a Bulldozer." Like most genealogists he found his search into family history brought more and more records and pieces of paper, until he was almost overwhelmed.

He believes that technology has made a lot of genealogical material readily available, but it is not the answer to organization. He says that you must balance technology with logic and common sense.

First, he recommends that you document as you go. Enter those sources and notes in a consistent format, taking time to describe each source only once. He cautions: use confidential information with discretion and sensitivity. Someone may be quite upset if you describe the details of Aunt Susie's divorce.

List all sources for each event, as they may not all agree. He adds that it's important to identify document conflicts and missing information. These call for further research. Just because something is written, it is not necessarily true. He also says that you should strive to obtain primary sources, if at all possible.

Welcome input and constructive review of your documentation. (We're after the truth!) Identify all researchers who supply data by name, including yourself. Don't say I or me; write your name. And, remember that good documentation requires continuous refinement. It's a living document, never finished.

You don't start with the Family Group Sheet; you end up with that after collecting all the notes and documents. But, those notes and documents need to be kept in a retrievable format, so that it does not require a large chunk of time just to locate them in your files.

Lindsay's answer is to file everything in one size of paper: 8 1/2 by 11. Your records will have relatives, nonrelatives, and suspected relatives, so how do you group these? By surname.

Include in a surname file those who marry into the family. When the surname file grows to huge proportions, divide it into locations within the file. If your family begins in Pennsylvania and later moves into Virginia and then into North Carolina, you have three separate places of origin, which probably also will cover different periods of time.

He says that you should print each record on a separate sheet, already three-hole punched for a notebook. Using the computer program Excel, he indexes each page, because he has numbered each one within the surname file, including the location. For example, he might have a page that says at the top: Lindsay/NJ/37. What is on page one of this file may actually cover an event that takes place after the information on page 37, because he files each page as he collects the information. With the index, it is easy to retrieve it. If he is planning to visit a repository for research on a surname, he locates the pages needed to assist him and then takes them along. With the numbering system, he easily returns them to the correct location in the file.

What happens if a copy of a record is larger than the page? He suggests folding it to conform. If it is larger than legal size, it may have to be inserted in the notebook sideways. If the note or copy happens to be smaller it can either be pasted on the regulation size page or inserted into a transparent document holder if it is an original item, such as a note or letter. Large originals should be stored flat on a shelf, but also, if photocopied, can be placed in his filing system for reference.

When an item covers more than one surname, make multiple copies, so there is one in each file.

Lindsay says that there is no one filing system for everyone, but you have to have one that suits. The message he brings, though, that you must have one to use your time efficiently.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

Hello everyone! Hope each of you had a great Summer and are ready to get busy with genealogy. We will begin meeting again in September. We will be meeting on September 10th at 10:00 AM at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in the Wayland Sunday School Room.

Our speaker will be Bruce Baker, a new author. He will present his book and tell us about the exciting time he had while the process was going on. This book started as an idea to compile information on the Todd family into a small book for future researchers. Bruce says that the book that started with just the Todd family now includes many more. Come out and hear about the experience of writing a book on your family and learn something about many of the early families of our area.

In October will have Tim Berly as our speaker. Tim is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and will tell us the process of joining and just what the SAR is all about. Please pray for Jeff & Vickie.

New From the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

7/28 to 8/28/2005

New on CMStory.org! Ever wonder what your ancestor's life was like in Charlotte at the turn of the last century? Go to "Turn of the 20th Century, Life in Charlotte, 1900-1910." This site is especially suitable for children to learn more about our history. Please visit <http://www.cmstory.org/1900/>.

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

These are new titles of interest to genealogists in the Carolina Room, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC.

1. *A History Of The Nivens Family Of York County, SC, and Their Descendants*
2. *1860 Tennessee Census in Vols. 1 and 2*
3. *Texas Bound – Alexander, Guitar, Hills and Related Families*
4. *Mules, Mud & Homemade Soap, Tales From Anson, Stanly, & Union Counties*

5. *Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records 1648-1725*
6. *Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, Book 2, 1726-1750*
7. *Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, Book 3, 1751-1775*
8. *Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, Book 4, 1776-1800*
9. *Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, 1801-1823*
10. *To Marry an Indian*
11. *Seagle Family Genealogy*
12. *A Light & Lively Look Back at Cabarrus County, North Carolina*
13. *Carolina Arcadia: The Story of the Sparking Catawba Springs*
14. *Tranhams & Descendants*
15. *Confederate Cemeteries, Vol. 2*
16. *DAR Patriot Index, Vols. 1-3 (latest edition)*
17. *Genealogies of the Barnette, Cook, & Allied Families*
18. *The Samuel Moses Family*
19. *Labor of Innocents: Forced Apprenticeship in North Carolina 1715-1919*
20. *The Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia, Vols. 1 & 2*
21. *Narrative, Political Unconscious, and Racial Violence in Wilmington, North Carolina*
22. *The Rose Family Collected Research Notes*
23. *Pinehurst: Gold, History, and the Good Life*
24. *Wilkinson, Peck, McConnell Families*
25. *A Family History/Genealogy of the Schauss/Shouse Family in North Carolina 1755-1900*
26. *Brown & Floyd Families: Research Worksheets & Notes from Census, Military & Death Records*
27. *Byars Family – Census & Vital Records*
28. *Cole, Cummings and McConnell Research*
29. *Descendants of The Skinner Family of Lunenburg County Virginia 1720-2004*
30. *Descendants of Ulster McFadden Settlers of Chester County South Carolina 1710-2004*
31. *McFadden Family Research Notes*
32. *Floyd Family Notes-Tennessee Counties*
33. *Floyd Family Research and Correspondence*
34. *Golden Haze of Memory-the Making of Historic Charleston*
35. *Gynn Family Correspondence*
36. *Hazzard's History of Henry County, Indiana, 1822-1906*
37. *McConnells of Iredell County-Allisons of Cabarrus and Mecklenburg Counties*
38. *Field Armies and Fortifications in the Civil War*
39. *Mitchell Kith and Kin*
40. *Notes From The John Osborne Diary*

41. *Retreat From Gettysburg*
42. *Skinner and Allied Families-Research Notes*
43. *The Fabric of Hop and Resistance: Narratives of North Carolina Women Workers On Strike*
44. *The History of the First North Carolina Reunion*
45. *The Red Book: Spell Kimbrell Descendants Charts*

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 6 Sep 2005, 10am, the monthly meeting of the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents will feature "The Geography of Charlotte," presented by David Erdman, head of the law firm of Erdman & Hockfield. The program will be held at Historic Rosedale Plantation, 3427 North Tryon Street. It is free and the public is invited.

Saturday, September 24, 2005, at Forsyth County Public Library, Winston-Salem, NC – First "Swap Meet," sponsored by the Forsyth County Genealogical Society. Information: rjsjones@triad.rr.com or 336-922-6803. Bring genealogical materials to share or swap – a copier will be provided.

Dr. Don Cresswell, co-owner of the Philadelphia Print Shop and an appraiser on the "Antiques Road Show," will present a talk on historical maps and atlases at UNC Charlotte at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, October 2 in the auditorium of the Storrs Architecture Building. The presentation is free and open to the public. For further information, please call Robin Brabham at (704) 687-2369 or email him at rfrabha@email.uncc.edu.

October 8, 10am – 2pm, High Point Public Library, there will be a "GenFest One." There will be a "Ask-the-Experts" Panel, vendors, SWAP Table, and Door Prizes. For more information write PO Box 2530, High Point NC 27261-2530, or email ncroom@highpointnc.gov

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
P.O. Box 32453
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