

# Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 32453  
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Web page: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs/>

April 2004

Joan Raney, Editor

## Directions to Aldersgate

Fellowship Hall, 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. Instead of turning on Cole Drive, 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 March Meeting

by Mary Utting

The American Revolution was really a civil war, according to Dr. Norris Preyer, Dana Professor of History, Emeritus, at Queens University and speaker at the March meeting of OMGS. He said that we grew up with the notion that the great majority of colonists were eager and willing to fight for freedom from England and King George III.

In his talk, "Understanding Our Founding Fathers," he explained that the country really was deeply divided over this issue. In battle after battle,

## OMGS Meetings

The April 2004 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 14 April 2004 at the Fellowship Hall of Aldersgate, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. See *first article for directions*. Social hour is at 7pm with light refreshments and the meeting begins at 7:30pm. Our speaker will be Nora Brooks, and she will be presenting "A Visit with Anna Jackson" and will be in full period dress. In May we will have Lyn Weiss, and she will be talking to us about the preservation and restoration of the old Elmwood and Pinewood cemeteries. Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet on Saturday, 10 April 2004 at 10am, Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Come on out and join us.

Americans were fighting Americans, with a British officer leading one side. In the Battle of Ramseur's Mill, for

example, about 1,200 Loyalists turned out to fight 300 militiamen from Charlotte, after British General Cornwallis had won in Charleston, S.C.

Tarleton's Legion was mostly American Loyalists from Pennsylvania and New York. In the Battle of Waxhaw, it also was Americans against Americans. At Kings Mountain, the only non-American participating in that battle was the British leader Ferguson, a Scot.

The Continental Congress took a full year to come around to adopting the Declaration of Independence, after it convened in April 1775. It was not adopted until July 2, 1776, and six of the 13 colonies (Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, South Carolina, Georgia and Delaware) were not

willing to sign it. John Adams thought that Americans were about one-third for independence, about one-third against, and about one-third neutral.

Benjamin Franklin's son served as the royal governor of New Jersey and remained loyal to King George III.

Preyer pointed out that England was then the world's most powerful nation. When the Revolution began, England had its own fighting force as well as the ability to hire foreign troops and to convince Native Americans to join in defeating the colonial fighters. It seemed foolhardy to oppose such a force, particularly when the colonists realized that war would destroy the economy and many revolutionaries could be hanged as traitors.

Preyer went to describe why the Americans were willing to take such a stand.

First, the world was living in an aristocratic age, in which the leaders were noblemen, who represented the army or church as well as government. William the Conqueror had divided England under the feudal system in which tenant farmers, who owned no land, had to rent from the gentlemen, who did no farming themselves.

The environment of colonial America was tough, so to survive life could not go on as normal. There was a premium on the man who was a jack-of-all-trades. In England, only landowners could vote, and in that country there was a shortage of land but a surplus of people. The opposite was true in North America, where there was lots of open land. Thus, the early settlers received land grants and became voters and could hold office. These people also had more optimism about the future. All this worked against the aristocratic system. In addition, crossing the Atlantic Ocean was an ordeal, so the conservatives stayed home, and the risk-takers came to the New World.

Preyer described this as the Age of Enlightenment, or Age of Reason, in the 18th century, when new ideas were exciting people. Developments in science made an impression on the times. Isaac Newton, whom Preyer described as the greatest genius of the 17th century, explained how the

universe worked. He said it operated under universal laws, such as gravity.

All these ideas made intellectuals say that people need freedom to think for themselves and not have the church and state insist that you must believe as they state. John Locke said that God established the earth, so it was not haphazard; he did an organized job.

There was a strong concept of virtue and honor, as the mark of a gentleman. This meant a person put the good of the country above self. This idea came from the classical education of that time, with the study of Greece and Rome. From the Romans came the concept of the citizen army. The ideal military leader was like Cincinnatus, who left his land to fight for Rome and then returned to his land, with no thought of seizing power. George Washington exemplified this kind of man, who returned to Mount Vernon after two terms as president.

When the new American government was formed, the founding fathers were trying to do something not done since classical days. Most of the officers were Masons, which included Mecklenburg's own Hezekiah Alexander as well as Alexander Hamilton, James Monroe, and Lafayette (the wealthiest man in France). Our dollar bill has Masonic symbols: the pyramid and the all-seeing eye on the back.

Thomas Jefferson wrote for the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence: "Mankind was not made to wear saddles nor were a few chosen to ride on these." Preyer said that this philosophy made the Revolution possible.

## **Cemetery Restoration Updates**

by Ellen Poteet

Updates on the restoration efforts at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church's Second Site Cemetery (formerly known as the Rice Cemetery) can be found on the church's website, [www.philadelphiachurch.org/cemetery\\_at\\_second\\_site.htm](http://www.philadelphiachurch.org/cemetery_at_second_site.htm). New markers as they are found will be posted here. The website also features the list of the burials in the cemetery as well as an article and photos appearing in Our State magazine.

## Wanted: Family Bible Records

Genealogists know that family Bibles have long been a source of family information, such as births, deaths, marriages and lists of family members. There seems to be a sudden interest in trying to rescue some of these before they disappear.

Private owners often find it difficult to preserve these fragile books, so the family records become lost to posterity. To prevent such a loss of this information, the North Carolina Genealogical Society has undertaken a project to collect and preserve Bible records across the state. This will be a valuable resource for all genealogists.

The NCGS asks for a readable photocopy of the family pages and the title page with date and publisher of the Bible. In addition, a carefully typed transcript is to be included for checking information that is difficult to read. At least one record in the Bible must be dated before 1920.

Shortly, a way to submit records electronically will be in operation.

For full information, interested persons may contact Crestena Oakley by e-mail at [info@ncgenealogy.org](mailto:info@ncgenealogy.org) or by writing to NCGS, P.O. Box 22, Greenville, NC 27835-0022.

The National Genealogical Society also has established a Family Papers Collection that includes a number of Bible records. These can be submitted after scanning or photographing them with a digital camera and e-mailing them to the NGS. Or, they can be burned to a CD and mailed to the Society. Check the guidelines at [www.ngsgenealogy.org/library/familypapers.htm](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/library/familypapers.htm). A mobile team also is digitizing documents at various conferences and events across the country.

This effort will make the documents available to a wide audience without damage to the originals.

And, last but not least, Old Meck *Quarterly* editors, Ellen Poteet and Mary Utting, are interested in unpublished family Bible records with a Mecklenburg connection that date to 1880 or

earlier. The editors would like to share the information in future issues of the *Quarterly*. Please send an e-mail to [epoteet@bellsouth.net](mailto:epoteet@bellsouth.net) or to [mutting@dasia.net](mailto:mutting@dasia.net), describing your Bible records.

## Condolences and Get Well Wishes

Mary Tallent Cochrane, 80, a member for many years of OMGS, died on 10 March 2004 in Charlotte. After her marriage to Gene Cochrane in 1946, she became intensely interested in the history of the Newell community where they lived and was the official historian of Back Creek A. R. P. Church, where she knew everyone as well as the families buried in the church cemetery. Always eager to share her knowledge of the community's history and genealogies, she gave six volumes of her research on the Cochrane family to the Carolina Room of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library. A remarkable memory for names and relationships made her much sought after by historians and genealogists alike, and she will be remembered fondly by everyone who knew her.

Get well wishes go out to our OMGS treasurer, Scot Treadwell. We wish you a speedy recovery!

## Upcoming Events

16-18 April, the Loch Norman Highland Games. A treat for the entire family, **even if you're not Scottish!** For more information, email [WebInfo@lochnorman.org](mailto:WebInfo@lochnorman.org) or call (704) 875-3113. You can also visit their website at [www.lochnorman.org](http://www.lochnorman.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.

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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>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>		\$17.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>		\$8.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC Waterways Map (by William T. Skinner, C.S.R.S.)</i>		\$3.50 PPD
<i>Nine Generation Ancestor Chart</i>	\$6.00 PPD (rolled)	\$5.00 PPD (folded)
<i>OMGS Quarterlies: 1983-2002</i>	\$21.50 PPD (4/year) \$8.50 PPD (single)	\$2.00 PPD (index)

### Books by Herman W. Ferguson

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

<i>(transcribed by Ralph B. &amp; Herman W. Ferguson)</i>	\$32.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: A Petition, 1792; Tax Lists 1797-1799, 1806-1808, 1810-1811, 1815, 1823-1824</i>	
<i>(transcribed by Ralph B. &amp; Herman W. Ferguson)</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg &amp; 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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