



# Mecklenburg Messenger

## OMGS Archives Hours

10-12 AM Tuesdays, 1-4 PM Thursdays  
Visit the website for additional information.

## Notes from March Meeting

by Mary Utting

Sheila Bumgarner from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library talked to Olde Mecklenburg Genealogy Society members about what's worth keep and what's not always valuable. Her opening questions were: Can You Live With It? Or, Not Live Without It?

Artwork can often be very valuable. She recommended that a certified appraiser set a price on such items. Then, if you don't really want the piece, it can be donated, giving you a tax write-off. Even folk art can have value, so she said to include that.

What about family Bibles, which often hold valuable information for genealogists? Bumgarner said that the Public Library does not accept them. (Genealogical organizations, on the other hand, sometimes are looking for such items.)

If you have a book that you enjoyed reading, keep it, or donate it to a school or church library. The Public Library is interested in such items as an 1855 North Carolina volume, which would have considerable value. Encyclopedias grow old rapidly these days, with the constant change of so much information. Thus, the library cannot devote shelf space to old ones. On the other hand, almost anything has someone who is a collector of that item; some do collect encyclopedias. A dictionary, on the other hand, has a longer shelf life.

Bumgarner says the Library specializes in "stuff." By that she means it has collections that include programs from old theater performances or brochures promoting special events. Such "stuff" has historic value.

Do you have an old diary? It can be helpful in research, so if you have one you treasure, be sure to store it properly. Keep it in a special archival box, if you can afford to do so. Dust, roaches, and even organic materials can all ruin old paper items.

## OMGS Meetings

The April 2007 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 11 April 2007 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. We are back to our regular meeting schedule. Our speaker will be our very own OMGS president, John Misenheimer! His topic is "Discovering my Keenan Family in Northern Ireland." In May we will have Colonel Sy Harrington, Military Archivist at the NC State Archives. His topic will be "Military Records in the Archives." Don't miss these fine programs!

The Hopewell Branch will not meet in April, but will have a tent at the Loch Norman Highland Games April 20, 21, and 22. Come to the Games and visit with us!

Museums accept a variety of old items, and other items go to colleges. (Ask before sending them.) A lot of Charlotte items are not in the city, as they have gone to colleges, especially Chapel Hill.

Bumgarner gave some cautions about old pictures that have been framed. Remove wooden backing, for example, as that has high acid content that will destroy an old photo.

Researchers find old maps useful. One old map at the Library shows the location of a lot of places that are no longer on today's maps. These include plat maps. Survey maps, among others. Old letters also can be a great resource, but they should be stored flat, as should the maps.

What about manuscripts? Unpublished ones can be very valuable resources, as can oral histories, such as those recorded during the Depression. Newspapers and magazines tell a lot of the past, but they are hard to keep. Newsprint, especially, should always be photocopied, as it quickly deteriorates. Library newspapers, therefore, are on microfilm.

If they are really old, libraries often like such items as bills, Christmas cards, postcards, autographs. Anyone who has a collection of old things, should have them appraised and then insured if they are of value, she said.

Old photographs need very special attention. Put them in archival photo albums; the glue from old albums may be a serious problem, however. Keep

them cool and in low humidity. (No hot attics!)

If they are not on display, store photos in archival boxes; if they are on display, avoid any sunlight. If your photos are really faded, scanning may bring out details that you did not realize were there.

## **New Members**

by Lynn Bancroft

Please help us welcome the following new members to OMGS:

Carol Barrett -- Charlotte, NC  
Laura Ann Colvin -- Kaysville, UT  
Mildred Kennedy -- Casselberry, FL  
Nan Loftin -- Charlotte, NC  
Joann Markley -- Charlotte, NC  
John Walker -- Glenview, KY  
Ann Whaley -- Charlotte, NC

## **Waxhaw Cemetery Inscriptions on the Internet**

Valeria Reckert is the coordinator for the Waxhaw mailing list that helps those researching families in the Waxhaw area, many of whom had connections to Mecklenburg County when the Waxhaws were part of old Mecklenburg. She recently sent an e-mail to subscribers of the mailing list as follows:

"I just want to let you know I have completed the Old Waxhaw (Presbyterian Church) cemetery inscriptions, and they are complete with pictures of the stones (thank you to Mary Clyde Reid Mungo and Kim Jacobson for allowing me to use their cemetery photos!). Also, I have just added Tirzah Presbyterian Church inscriptions from Union County, NC. I do not have any photos of these stones unless someone who has some wants to scan them to me to add. I will put photos of the stones from Tirzah that I have on there but they are of my relations. I hope someone finds them helpful."

Valeria also hosts the Waxhaw website where you can find the Old Waxhaw cemetery inscriptions as well as information under the titles "Brickwalls," "Cemeteries and Churches," "Marriage Records," "Obituaries," "Land Records," and more. You can access the Waxhaw website at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~waxhaw/>

## **Brick Collectors Like Story of Phifer Brick**

The International Brick Collectors Association reprinted Jane Johnson's article, "Saga of the Phifer Brick," in its spring 2007 Journal. The association encourages brick collecting as a hobby and holds "swap meets" several times a year for enthusiasts. Hobbyists collect bricks with symbols or scenes

etched on them, often trading, but never selling, them at the swap meets. The group's publications feature articles on the history of brick making; brick collecting in foreign countries; the fun of a particular find; spelling errors on pavers, building brick, fire brick, etc. (For anyone interested, OMGS still has some of the bricks made in 1852 by the family's slaves for the Phifer home. The proceeds from the \$5.00 bricks go to OMGS's building fund.

## **Errors Make News**

by Ellen Poteet

Having found errors in Jackson's printed version of the 1800 Mecklenburg County census and in various genealogies on the Internet, the coeditors of the Quarterly would like to know if OMGS members have found errors in print during their research of Mecklenburg families that should be corrected. As an example, on one webpage, a woman was listed as "Cecilia Catherine (last name unknown)." The woman's marriage bond names her as "Cecilia Cathey," Cathey being a well-known Mecklenburg surname. The author, who did not live in North Carolina, saw the woman's name "Cecilia Cathey" and assumed Cathey" was a nickname for Catherine.

The coeditors would like to print items that briefly state the error and where it is found. The source should be given for the correction with the name of the record, volume number (if applicable), and page number. Please include your name and contact information, should someone wish to correspond with you.

## **Hopewell District News**

by Tina Brown

Our April meeting will be the Loch Norman Highland Games. We will host a tent at the Games and hopefully see all of you there. The Games are April 20, 21, & 22, 2007 at Rural Hill. Please pray for Jeff, Vickie, Autumn & Emma.

## **Delayed Quarterly Delivery**

Once again we have had a problem with delivery of our publications. Ellen Poteet and Mary Utting did their usual stellar job of preparing a wonderful Quarterly, which was mailed on March 1. Unfortunately, as of this printing, very few of you have received your copies. The Postal Service is looking into this delay, but we could use your help in isolating the problem. If you have received your Quarterly, Volume 25, Number 1, please contact Lynn Bancroft, circulation coordinator, at [LCBancroft@mindspring.com](mailto:LCBancroft@mindspring.com) In the meantime, we will do our best to get each of you your copy. Thanks for your understanding!

## OMGS Meetings

by Lynn Bancroft

Looking ahead:

April 11<sup>th</sup> – John Misenheimer, OMGS President. Topic: “Discovering my Keenan Family in Northern Ireland.”

May 9<sup>th</sup> – Colonel Sy Harrington, Military Archivist at the NC State Archives. Topic: “Military Records in the Archives.”

June 13<sup>th</sup> – Patsy Nesbit, OMGS member. Topic: “Germans in the Backcountry.”

## Loch Norman Games

Mark your calendars now for the annual gathering of the clans at the Loch Norman Highland Games at Historic Rural Hill Plantation in Huntersville. This year's event is scheduled for April 20-22. If you would be interested in helping Olde Meck's efforts at the games, let John Misenheimer know at liberty1775@gmail.com.

## Family History Center News

(taken from the FHCNET listserv) On March 16, 2007, a communication was sent to the Directors of Family History Centers from the Worldwide Support management of the Family History Department. Ancestry.com wishes to clarify a number of points not addressed by this communication. For the past seven years, Ancestry.com has provided all Church family history centers free access to Ancestry.com without a formal licensing agreement in place or any compensation from the Church. Over the past several months, Ancestry.com has been working actively to reach agreement with the Church on a formal licensing arrangement by which it could continue to make its service available to the public for free. Unfortunately, the two parties were unable to reach an agreement on this matter. Ancestry.com strongly desires to have a licensing arrangement with the Church that would allow it to continue to provide free access to the public in Family History Centers. The company said it still hopes to create an acceptable agreement with the Church. The Ancestry Library Edition is available free to the public in over 1400 public libraries in the U.S. and U.K. via a similar licensing arrangement. Ancestry.com and the Church have cooperated over the years on a number of projects to digitize and index some important online databases. The Generations Network values its relationship with the Church and is committed to working closely with the Church and all players in the genealogy world to advance interest in family history across the world. Because of existing contractual agreements, a select number of Ancestry.com databases will continue to be accessible inside LDS Church family history centers. These include the 1880, 1900 and 1920 U.S.

censuses, full name indices for the British 1841-1891 censuses (England and Wales), World War I draft cards, and a few additional smaller databases.

## National Archives Rate Increase

by Mary Utting

Because of a budget deficit, the National Archives and Records Administration proposes to raise fees for mail order and in-house copies. For full information see the Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 37, Monday, 26 February.

Here are some new costs in the proposed rules: passenger list arrivals, \$25; Federal census requests, \$25; land entry records, \$40; full Civil War pension file more than 75 years old, \$125; full pension file, non-Civil War, more than 75 years old, \$60; military service files more than 75 years old, \$25.

The National Genealogical Society reports that responses must be received by 27 April 2007. Reference: "PROPOSED RULES Public availability and use: 8327-8329 & 8279-8280 Reproduction services, fees.

Comments may be sent by the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> FAX: 301 837-0319 Mail: Regulations Comments Desk (NPOL), Room 4100, Policy and Planning Staff, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001

Also copy: Dr. Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, National Archives & Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408

Individual comments are best. An electronic petition signed by 10,000 genealogists sent when hours were reduced counted as one response.

## Mecklenburg County Divorce Index

The Carolina Room has acquired 62 microfilm reels of Mecklenburg County's divorce records for 1846-1969. Librarian Jane Johnson is undertaking a project to index these records and could use several volunteers to help. She estimates that it takes about one hour to copy from one reel the names of the plaintiff, defendant, and the year the divorce was granted. This information is typewritten on the folder label of each file on the microfilm and does not necessitate reading through each file. These data will be entered later into a database and alphabetized by surname and sorted by year. If you have some time to spare, either during the week or on the

weekend, and could help with this project, please contact Jane at 704 336-2980 or by e-mail at [jjohnson@plcmc.org](mailto:jjohnson@plcmc.org).

## **Topeka, Kansas, Journals in OMGS Archives**

The OMGS Archives recently received six issues of the Topeka (Kansas) Genealogical Society's Journal. In cooperation with the Kansas State Historical Society and other Kansas county genealogical societies, TGS publishes collections of records such as marriages, cemeteries, naturalizations, probates, obituaries, and newspaper extractions in its Journal four times a year, covering northeast Kansas. If you have ancestors who migrated to Missouri and then to Kansas, check out the Society's webpage at [www.tgstopeka.org](http://www.tgstopeka.org) and come by the OMGS Archives to search the Society's recent issues.

## **News from the Carolina Room**

by Jane Johnson

2/22/2007 to 3/21/2007

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

Below are new titles of interest to genealogists in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC.

*"Best" Family History*  
*Abernathys, Our Family Heritage*  
*Colonists from Scotland: Emigration to North America*  
*Eastern Cherokee By Blood 1906-1910, Vols. 1-2*  
*Encyclopedia of Duke Basketball, The (begins in 1906)*  
*Epling/Eplin Additional Descendants 1787-2006*  
*Families of Cabarrus County North Carolina 1792-1815*  
*Grave Sights of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, Vols. 1-4, 5A-5B, 6-7*  
*Greensboro's First Presbyterian Church Cemetery*  
*Heritage of Bibb County, AL*  
*Heritage of Escambia County, AL*  
*Heritage of Franklin County, AL*  
*Heritage of Jefferson County, AL*  
*Heritage of Macon County, AL*  
*Heritage of Madison County, AL*  
*Heritage of Marion County, AL*  
*Heritage of Morgan County, AL*  
*Heritage of Talladega County, AL*  
*Heritage of Chambers County, AL*  
*Heritage of Clay County, AL*  
*Heritage of Conecuh County, AL*  
*Heritage of Geneva County, AL*  
*Heritage of Henry County, AL*  
*Heritage of Lawrence County, AL*  
*Heritage of Montgomery County, AL*

*Historic Photos of Charlotte*  
*Historic West Salem*  
*Hyde County Messenger: Fairfield North Carolina*  
*Indian Wills, 1011-1921: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs*  
*Madison County, North Carolina Marriages 1851-1869*  
*Make Way For The First Lady*  
*Marriage and Death Notices from the Hillsborough Recorder, Vols. 1-5*  
*Moravians in North Carolina*  
*Mountain Myth – Unionism in Western North Carolina*  
*Obituaries: North Carolina Civil War Soldiers and Veterans, Vols. 8-9*  
*Proprietary Records of South Carolina, Vol. 1*  
*Reids of Warren County, North Carolina*  
*Roster of the Society of the Cincinnati*  
*Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies or the United States: Who Were Themselves Notable or Left Descendants Notable in American History*  
*South Carolina Encyclopedia*  
*South Carolina Revolutionary War Indents: A Schedule*  
*Southern Built: American Architecture, Regional Practice*

## **Library of Congress and NEH Launch Digital Newspapers Site**

(taken from the NCECHO listserv) This week, the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities unveiled their "Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers" joint venture which debuted on-line with more than 226,000 pages of public-domain newspapers from California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, Virginia and the District of Columbia published between 1900 and 1910. The fully-searchable site is available at [www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/](http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/) "Chronicling America" is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the NEH and the Library of Congress created to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with select digitization of historic pages as well as information about newspapers from 1690 to the present. Supported by NEH's "We the People" program and Digital Humanities Initiative, the digital resource will continue to be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress. Over a period of approximately 20 years, NDNP will create a national, digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1836 and 1922 from all U.S. states and territories. Also on the Web site, an accompanying national newspaper directory of bibliographic and holdings information directs users to newspaper titles in all formats. The information in the directory was created through an

earlier NEH initiative. The Library of Congress will also digitize and contribute to the NDNP database a significant number of newspaper pages drawn from its own collections during the course of this partnership. For the initial launch the Library of Congress contributed more than 90,000 pages from 14 different newspaper titles published in the District of Columbia between 1900 and 1910.

## **Upcoming Events**

April 20-22, Loch Norman Highland Games, at Rural Hill plantation in Huntersville. Fun for the entire family! Visit [www.lochnorman.org](http://www.lochnorman.org) for more information.

Virginia is celebrating America's 400th anniversary this year, as Jamestown was settled in 1607. It is appropriate that the National Genealogical Society has scheduled its annual Conference in the States and Family History Fair 2007 in the state capital of Richmond.

This big genealogy event, 16-19 May 2007, will be within driving distance of Carolinas members of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society. For those with Virginia ancestors, this will afford a special research opportunity, but most programs are on topics of interest to all genealogists.

There are also special sessions featuring North Carolina and South Carolina. The North Carolina

Genealogical Society is among participating organizations.

Registration fees increase in price after March 30, so it is advisable to sign up soon. Full program and registration forms can be found on the website [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org).

The annual reunion of Crowell descendants will be held June 15, 16, & 17, 2007, at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill, Tennessee. Friday night is an informal social and seafood dinner. Saturday will be family updates, new discoveries in the family tree, and general discussion of family matters followed by a picnic and tour of the 200-year-old Michael Crowell house and other family sites in the area. After supper that night there will be a hayride, talent show, and stage production by the youth. Contact Tom Crowell at [TPCrowell@rader.com](mailto: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 to OMGS, P.O. Box 32453, Charlotte, NC, 28232-2453.

Joan Raney, Editor

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
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**DATED MATERIAL INSIDE**

**OMGS Publications for Sale**

<i>General Order Book, 11th "Bethel" Regt., NC Troops</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Dr. J. B. Alexander's Medical Ledger &amp; Account Book, 1855-1871</i>	\$16.50 PPD
<i>Real Estate and Legal Notices from Charlotte, NC Newspapers, 1835-1847</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Real Estate and Legal Notices from Charlotte, NC Newspapers, 1848-1862</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<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: 1983-2006</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 &amp; 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 &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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