



# Mecklenburg Messenger

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## OMGS Archives Hours

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

## Mark Your Calendars! - Summer Workshop

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!** We are very excited about the partnership we have made with the North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS) to host the Western Regional Genealogy Workshop on July 26, 2008. Our speaker will be David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, current director of the Records and Information Division of the Family and Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mr. Rencher is an internationally known genealogist who is a specialist in English and Irish research. He was also the driving force behind the efforts to make Social Security Death records available for genealogical research. His topic for this seminar is "From Ulster to the Carolinas: Finding Your Scots-Irish Ancestors."

OMGS members will enjoy a discount on the price of the Workshop. If you register early, the cost of this full-day event is only \$40, which includes a box lunch. The workshop will be held at our usual meeting place, the Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate, on Shamrock Drive. A registration form went out with the Messenger in February. If you have misplaced it, look for another in the June issue. For more information: [www.ncgenealogy.org](http://www.ncgenealogy.org) or e-mail [OMGS1775@yahoo.com](mailto:OMGS1775@yahoo.com).

## Notes on March Meeting

by Mary Utting

Various theories have been posed about the source of the name "Sharon" for so many Charlotte streets. Tom Hanchett, staff historian at the Levine Museum of the New South, shared some of these with Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society members at the March meeting.

In his talk, "Who Was Sharon And Why Are All Those Streets Named After Her?" Hanchett first reminded his audience that the city was named for Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the German bride

## OMGS Meetings

The March 2008 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 9 April 2008 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. We usually have a "social hour" at 7pm followed by the meeting at 7:30pm. Our speaker will be Judy Gibson, Register of Deeds for Mecklenburg County, back for a return engagement, and she will be talking to us about vital records and identity theft. In May, we will have Laurie Prince, from *Charlotte Magazine*. Her topic is "Searching for the Past." Come out and join us for these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will not meet at our regular time. Join us at the **Loch Norman Highland Games** April 19 & 20. Hope to see you there!

of King George III of England. The county, obviously, was named for her state.

So someone suggested that Sharon was Charlotte's sister. Another more modern theory suggests that she was a lady of questionable virtue who knew a lot of real estate developers.

First, Hanchett wanted to explain why the Queen's name was chosen. Before the Europeans arrived, two Indian trails crossed in the center of what is now the city, so this location was a trading post. The colonial settlers saw the value of this and decided that a courthouse at that junction would assure the importance of the settlement. This building would be a public-private construction, so to get the permission of the powers-that-be, they picked a name to please them. As Hanchett said, "It worked."

The courthouse required that people come into the new town to conduct official business. These settlers often came down the Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia, a route that is essentially today's Route I-81. Many of these people were Scots-Irish Presbyterians, so the first church built where they settled was, more often than not, Presbyterian. The other major group consisted of German Lutherans.

At this point, the speaker detoured from his account of place names to ask what the audience thought was the unique regional food of the area. Two answers were corn bread and barbecue. Hanchett

then flashed a picture of liver mush on the screen. He pointed out that this special food was of German origin, and in Philadelphia it would be called scrapple. In northeastern Virginia, it is pon hoss, the German name. But it is all essentially the same treat.

Then back to Sharon. Hanchett said that the Presbyterian settlers were devout people of the Book, so they went to their Bibles for place names. Isaiah 35:2 mentions "the glory of Sharon and Carmel," while Isaiah 65: 10 says "Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks." This Sharon was not a woman at all, but a place. [Note: On a Biblical map it is a Mediterranean coastal plain between Joppa and Mount Carmel.]

So, when some members of Providence Presbyterian decided to found a church nearer their homes, Sharon was chosen for the name of the new congregation. This was 1841. The current building, located on Sharon Road, just past Sharon View Road, was built in 1891. Thus, the streets leading to new churches often were named for the church. Roads running off or near, seem to have had related names. Sharon View was named for a country club, but the name was still derived from the church name. When Amity Presbyterian was founded north of this site, Sharon-Amity Road was the route between these two churches. Sardis, Carmel, Providence are all examples of the same naming custom.

When the railroad came to Charlotte in the 1850s, it brought an era of growth. The Civil War wiped out South Carolina plantations, so more cotton came to be produced in this area, and soon textile mills opened to produce cotton fabric. Charlotte started to grow, and it continues to grow today. Hanchett said a population of 1 million is predicted for 2010.

This business growth created a wealthy class, and the well-to-do decided they wanted the luxury of country homes outside the city. A prime example of this is Morrocroft, the estate of Cameron Morrison, who served as governor of North Carolina. He was responsible for building roads in the area, such as those that led to the textile mills of Gaston County. But he felt cotton was too plentiful, so he tried to encourage other kinds of agriculture. His estate had a dairy farm that supplied milk to people in the area.

Some OMGS members recalled driving out to his farm to see the animals on weekends. In addition to the cows, he raised turkeys and lambs, while peacocks also strutted around the property. Hanchett said he liked to buy land, including an area that served as a hunting preserve for him and his friends. That land today has become Ballantyne, the growing development in southeast Charlotte.

Sharon School, near Morrocroft, was a well known country school that educated some prominent men such as Billy Graham. OMGS member Joe Griffin

recalled that the school had a competitive basketball team. He also recalled when he was in school at Pineville, a new young minister they had never heard of came to lead a chapel service. It was Graham, of course.

As the city grew, the name Sharon was used many times. Hanchett said that 24 roads in Charlotte have the word Sharon in their names.

This moderate-sized city of the 1980s, began to boom, and it keeps doubling. He said Hugh McCall, the banker responsible of the size of the Bank of America, has an explanation of why Charlotte grew: the civil rights movement. This caused the city to stop building duplicate facilities that doubled the cost. There was a new interest in education. Earlier, during the heyday of the cotton mills, youngsters dropped out and went to work in the mills. Credit also goes to Bonnie Cone who was the driving force behind the college that has grown into UNC at Charlotte.

Now this is the second largest banking center in the country. People seeking economic opportunity tend to go South, a reversal of the past. The old Morrison dairy farm is now SouthPark, the center of retail activity.

And all those modern-day roads with the name Sharon still lead to Sharon Church.

## **Hopewell District News**

By Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch had a great time at Mt. Zion Methodist Church at our March meeting. Delores Edwards, historian of the church and one of our group, gave us a brief history on the church. Delores engaged the help of Martha Jenkins to give an overview of the historic cemetery of Mt. Zion. Martha is working on a project to document the entire cemetery...no small job. We learned some amazing facts about the people buried at Mt. Zion. After our learning experience, we moved on to the Smith History Room. Mt. Zion has done a great job preserving their vast history...and with the help of the Smith family (Miriam Smith Whisnant and Lilyan Smith Hunter) is storing it in a beautiful setting. Of course the two Smith sisters were present to provide moral support for Delores and to add the history tidbits that only they can.

Our April meeting will be our "regular" April meeting. We will be having a tent at the Loch Norman Highland Games on the third weekend of April, the 19th and 20th. Please note the date change, we will not meet on the second Saturday of the month at the church but the third Saturday and Sunday of the month at the Highland Games. I hope to see all of you there. For those with Scottish or Scots-Irish ancestors, the Games is a great place to learn about

your heritage and all of you others...Scots will adopt you for a slight fee. We will have our usual collection of my books along with some borrowed from the history room at Hopewell for the public to browse. If any of you want to bring something to share, feel free to do so.

On the 18th, Friday, is the Members, Patrons & Sponsors Reception, the Call of the Clans and a buffet dinner...tents will not be open. On Saturday and Sunday the big festivities start and our tent will be open to help any and all find their Scottish and Scots Irish roots. If you are interested in tickets for any of the events, including Game tickets, they may be purchased through [www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net) or call the office at 704-875-3113. Remember no second Saturday meeting in April.

## New Members

by Lynn Bancroft

Please help us welcome the following new members to Olde Meck:

Jim Clark, Daphne, AL  
Judy Taylor Sharp, Pittsburg, TX  
Dotte Crowder, Palm Springs, CA

Happy Researching to All!

## News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

2/21/2008 to 3/21/2008

Below are new titles of interest to genealogists in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC. Our new phone number is 704-416-0150. To view the Public Library's catalog for a complete list of holdings, go to <http://www.plcmc.lib.nc.us/> Catalog/

*1830 Census of Guilford County, NC*  
*Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy 1699-1860 (CD)*  
*America's Braemar: Grandfather Mountain and the Revival of Scottish Identity*  
*Bolich Family in American*  
*Cabarrus Revolutionary Patriot Roll*  
*Camden County Cemeteries, Vols. 1 & 2*  
*Chowan County Will Abstracts, 1707-1850*  
*County of Todd, Kentucky: Historical and Biographical*  
*Dare County, NC Marriage Register: Vol. 1, 1870-1915*  
*County of Trigg, Kentucky: Historical and Biographical*  
*Descendants of John Jenkins, Colonial Governor of North Carolina, 1672-1850*  
*Directory of Irish Family History Research*  
*Families of Old Pendleton District, South Carolina Vols. 1-4*  
*Genealogical Guide to Tracing Ancestors in Germany*  
*Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes*

*Greensboro, North Carolina: The County Seat of Guilford*  
*Guilford County, North Carolina Court Minutes: August Term of Court 1781 to May Term 1788*  
*Guilford County: A Map Supplement*  
*Hargretts of Georgia and Their Ancestors in Germany and North Carolina*  
*Historic Rocky River Church Buildings and Burying Grounds: Cabarrus County, Concord, NC 1751-1958*  
*History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri: From the Earliest Time to the Present*  
*History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky*  
*History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries and Osage Counties, Missouri*  
*History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford & Gasconade Counties, Missouri*  
*History of Hickory, Polk, Cedar, Dade, and Barton Counties, Missouri*  
*History of Jackson County, Missouri*  
*Hortons on Lynches River and Red Oak Woods Plantation*  
*Index to Anson County, NC, Deeds, 1749-1854*  
*Index to C. M. Miller's 1908 "Map of Guilford County, NC*  
*Index to the Headright and Bounty Grants of Georgia, 1756-1909 (Rev. ed.)*  
*Instant Information On The Internet, A Genealogist's Not-frills Guide To The British Isles*  
*Is That Service Right? (by DAR)*  
*Kentucky, A History of the State, Ed. 3*  
*Kentucky, A History of the State, Ed. 4*  
*Laurens County, South Carolina Deed Abstracts 1785-1793, Vol. 1*  
*Laurens County, South Carolina Deed Abstracts 1793-1800, Vol. 2*  
*My Life As Told to Katie Catron, Elizabeth Haynes Shull Griffin*  
*Neighbor to Neighbor: A Memoir of Family, Community, and Civil War in Appalachian North Carolina*  
*Register of Seamen's Protection Certificates from the Providence, Rhode Island Custom District 1796-1870*  
*Revolutionary Incidents and Sketches of Character, Chiefly in the "Old North State"*  
*Richmond County, North Carolina, Court Minutes: Court of Pleas and Quarter Session 1779-1786*  
*Roths of Randolph County, NC, with Supplementary Information On Connected and Related Families*  
*Russ Family Genealogy*  
*Setzer and Allied Families*  
*Some Descendants of James H. Bell*  
*Supplement to the Wilkes County Papers, 1773-1889*  
*Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide*  
*Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry*  
*Wythe County, Virginia Marriages, 1867-1880*  
*Yount (Jundt) Family of Europe and America: Including Descendants of John Yount*

## Upcoming Events

**April 12, 2008** – “Ancestry Online for Beginners: Census Research.” This hands-on class will be held at the Monroe Library in Monroe, NC. Call 704/283-8184, ext. 224 to register and get more information.

**April 12, 2008** – You are cordially invited to the Washington DC Family History Center Conference on Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 9am – 4:30pm. We are featuring 38 classes, with specialized areas in African American and Hispanic research. Our keynote speaker is L. Reynolds Cahoon, former managing director Family History Center and former Assistant Archivist, NARA. For more information visit <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeohs94/wdcfhc-conference>, or email [fhconference@gmail.com](mailto:fhconference@gmail.com), or phone 301-587-0042.

**April 12, 2008** - The North Carolina Genealogical Society & the Olivia Raney Local and Family History Library are sponsoring the Third Annual Speakers Forum. General, intermediate and advanced level presentations include "Writing Your Ancestor's Story: a Civil War Case Study (Catherine Elias); "Using the Neighbors to Find your Ancestors (Monica Hopkins); "Using 'Web 2.0' to Share and Collaborate on Genealogy (Jordan Jones); "Orphans and Scholars: Genealogical Records Relating to Children (Victor Jones); "Raleigh in the War Years 1861-1865" (Kevin Milus); "The Digital CSR: Saunders and Clark (and Weeks) in the Internet Age" (Jason Tomberlin); "Explore NC through maps from the comfort of your home!" (Diane Richard); "People Finders for North Carolina" (Jeffrey Haines); and "Money in 18th Century Colonial America" (Jim Jones). Information and Registration: <http://www.ncgenealogy.org>.

**April 17, 2008** – Learn the basics of genealogy research at the Matthews Branch Library. Class will begin at 2pm. For more information or to register, call 704-847-3698.

**April 18-20, 2008** – The Loch Norman Highland Games, Rural Hill, NC. Fun for the entire family, even if you're not Scottish! Check out [www.lochnormanhighlandgames.org](http://www.lochnormanhighlandgames.org) for more information.

**April 19, 2008** - The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society is sponsoring a conference celebrating "400 Years of Germans in America." It will be held in Williamsburg, VA. The speaker will be Roger Minert, Associate Professor of Family History at Brigham Young University. For more information, go to [www.magsgen.com](http://www.magsgen.com).

**May 14 - 17, 2008** - The unofficial Missouri state motto will have special meaning for the nation's genealogists as they gather in Kansas City from for "Show Me the Way to Our Nation's Records" the annual NGS Conference in the States and Family

History Fair. Details and registration can be found online at [www.eshow2000.com/ngs/](http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/).

**June 8, 2008** – The Bird-Byrd Family Reunion will be held at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Flat Creek, SC, on Sunday, June 8. A covered-dish lunch is served at 1pm followed by a business meeting at 2pm. If you are a descendant of John Alexander Bird and his wife Frances Miller Bird, this is your reunion, but we can certainly adopt you! Bring your favorite covered dish. For more information contact Joan Raney at [kenraney@bellsouth.net](mailto:kenraney@bellsouth.net).

**June 13-15, 2008** - Chapman Family Association - The Chapman Family Association will hold its 8th annual convention and reunion at the Radisson Hotel at Opryland, Nashville, TN. The event will include a variety of presentations and workshops, site-seeing, and research at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Davidson County Courthouse, and the Public Library of Nashville & Davidson County. Further information is available at [www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html](http://www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html).

**June 27-29, 2008** - McCraw Family Reunion The 2008 biennial reunion of the US McCraw Family Association will be held in Kansas City, MO on June 27-29. Three McCraw brothers settled in North Carolina in 1801, leaving many McCraw descendants living in the state. For more information visit [www.mccrawfamily.net](http://www.mccrawfamily.net).

**July 26, 2008**, OMGS is cosponsoring an all-day workshop with the North Carolina Genealogical Society at Aldersgate. Plans are well under way. The speaker will be David Rencher, director of the Records and Information Division of the Family and History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He also was director of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for a number of years. You don't want to miss this workshop!!!

**August 31, 2008**, the 2008 LOCKABY FAMILY REUNION will be held at the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church near Easley, SC and Greenville, SC. For full details email [jcvhellis@charter.net](mailto:jcvhellis@charter.net) or [permccr@yahoo.com](mailto:permccr@yahoo.com). All Lockaby/Lockabie descendants are welcome.

## 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

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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>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 5: Elmwood Cemetery</i>	\$35.00 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>Minutes, 1774-1780</i>	\$16.50 PPD		
<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. Abstracts of Deed Books 24-28 &amp; Books 1-3</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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