



# Mecklenburg Messenger

**Website:** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs/>

**Email:** [omgs1775@yahoo.com](mailto:omgs1775@yahoo.com)

## OMGS Archives Hours

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

## News of the Archives

Our latest donation is a copy of the Mecklenburg Heritage Book. One of the indexes we are able to search on our computer is Elmwood Cemetery, Historic Section. It is at present the most complete and accurate source for this information available anywhere. Another of the indexes is the 'expanding' Quarterly surname index now including over 10,000 names.

## Notes from July Meeting

by Mary Utting

By 1780, the war for American independence from England was at a stalemate, according to Tom Phlegar, speaker for Old Meck's July meeting. Phlegar adopted history as his retirement hobby, with an emphasis on the military. He had retired with the rank of colonel after 30 years in the Army.

He pointed out that the war was more than just the fight in North America, but involved Spain, France, and the Netherlands, as well as England. Also, the English people were weary of war, so the British military leaders believed they could bring an end to the fighting by winning the South.

Phlegar said that he found most history books contained accounts of Valley Forge and other Northern events, but failed to give much attention to the Southern battles that he believes were crucial in ending the war.

By 1780, the Patriots were in a sorry state. In 1776, Charleston had repulsed the British forces, who managed, however, to take Savannah on 29 December 1778. Then Augusta fell, and on 12 May 1779, 5,000 American troops were captured as Charleston fell to the British. The speaker said this was the largest American defeat in war until the fall of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

The English recruited Loyalists as they worked their way to what is now Monroe, North Carolina. Indeed,

## OMGS Meetings

The August 2007 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 8 August 2007 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 Bob McInnes, who is the manuscript librarian at the Atkins library over at UNCC. Come on out for this great program!

The Hopewell Branch will not meet in June, July, or August. Come back and meet with us in September, and have a great summer.

one reason for the Southern campaign was the belief that there were many in the area who would support

the British rather than the Patriots. Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton in the Waxhaw area defeated Col. Abraham Buford's small force, who surrendered. The British took no prisoners but killed the Americans in what is often called a massacre.

Phlegar noted that there are a number of monuments in this area and in other locations of Revolutionary events. He showed slides of a number of these. Incidentally, some of the wounded near Waxhaw were taken to Waxhaw Presbyterian Church by future President Andrew Jackson and his mother.

The June 20 battle at Ramseur's Mill did not have a British subject in it; it was a fight between American Loyalists and Patriots, essentially a civil war. Until that time, the speaker said, the war had had little effect in this area. The Patriots won this engagement. The Battle of Huck's Defeat was another all-American fight.

The Battle of Camden, though won by General Cornwallis, spelled the end of the incompetent General Horatio Gates forced on George Washington by Congress. Gates fled, deserting his defeated army. Cornwallis rested for a time in Waxhaw and then advanced to fight the Battle of Charlotte. The speaker described the areas of today's city involved and pointed out markers that record this event. The area's residents soon resented the hungry soldiers' appropriation of their cattle and crops, and some

angry farmers ambushed the British in the "Battle of the Bees."

In October 1780, Kings Mountain was a major all-American battle. The British leader, Major Patrick Ferguson, the only non-American, was a Scot. In this Patriots' victory, the major was killed and a third of Cornwallis's force was wiped out. Ferguson is buried at the site; in 1830 Americans dug him up and reburied him and erected a monument.

After Kings Mountain, Cornwallis retreated to Winnsboro, S.C. Nathanael Greene, who has credit for much of the successful strategy in the South, assumed command of the army in Charlotte, sent by Washington to replace Gates. Tarleton chose Cowpens to confront the Patriots, but was defeated. The speaker said this let Europeans know that the United States had defeated one of the finest European armies. This changed their attitude toward the Americans, Phlegar said

The ensuing confrontations and evasive actions of Greene, such as Cowan's Ford and Guilford Courthouse, drew Cornwallis farther from his base. He finally went to Virginia, ending up in Yorktown, which led to his surrender on 19 October 1781. All was not over, as Savannah did not come under American control until 11 July 1782, Charleston and the Low Country on 14 December 1782 and New York on 25 November 1783.

Phelgar concluded: "The American Revolution is all around us; we just have to look."

## Free for Members

by Ron Touchstone

Through the month of September, the society is offering two of its publications to members for FREE; *1850 Census of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina* and, *Surname Index, Submitted by the Members of OMGS, 2000*. In addition, the expanded *Index to 1850 Census of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (Including Mortality and Slave Schedules)* can be obtained for \$5.00. The above volumes can be picked up at the next three general meetings or delivered by mail for the cost of postage. The address to mail your orders is OMGS, P.O. Box 32453, Charlotte, NC 28232-2453. The postage is as follows:

1850 Census, \$2.50 postage  
Surname Index, \$2.50 postage  
1850 Census Index, \$5.00 postage paid

Call if there are questions, 704-372-9499.

## Missouri Families Donated to OMGS

Sylvia J. Jackson has donated *Missouri Families and Their Ancestors* to the OMGS Archives in memory of

Betty Whitlow Burke, a descendant of Matthew Whitlow (1776-1874). Matthew was born in Virginia and migrated to Mecklenburg County in 1801. He married first Cynthia Doherty and second Margaret Weatherow and died in Charlotte in 1874. The ancestors of Ms. Jackson's Missouri families are given in chapters headed as follows: Dozier-Lancaster, Hancock-Glover-Nettle, Gash-Longmire-Gudger-Woodfin, Walker-Griffin, Whitlow-Byram-Morris, Cordray-Madden, and Smith-Trumbo-Foster. The price is \$20 which includes shipping. Ms. Jackson's address is P. O. Box 19622, Oklahoma City, OK 73144-0622.

## News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

6/24/2007 to 7/19/2007

### Historic U. S. Newspaper-New Online Product!

If you have a PLCMC library card and are in any of our branches, you can now access many historic newspapers as far back as the 1700s from the computer. Go to [www.cmstory.org](http://www.cmstory.org) and look at the second entry in the right hand column. Then click on "Access Newspaper Archives." This product will give you access to newspapers outside of North Carolina. Since this is a for-profit company, please continue to search their new titles as they expand this resource!

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

*African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont*

*Ethnicity, Vol. 6*

*First County Court Minutes of Lincoln County, TN, Vol. 1*

*Land Deed Genealogy of Coffee County, TN, 1843-1850, Vol. 2*

*Land Deed Genealogy of Lincoln County, TN 1809-1918, Vol. 1*

*Land Deed Genealogy of Rutherford County, TN, Vols. 1-3*

*Rutherford County (NC) in the Korean War*

*Soldiers of the Revolution in Bedford County, TN*

*Town and Gown Architecture of Chapel Hill, NC 1795-1975*

## Dear Cousin

by Cousin Sally

I hope you are trying to keep cool in these hot, muggy days—at least, that's the weather down here where I live! I wanted to let you know what I've been up to, genealogically speaking, that is. I'm working on my family history (naturally) and every time I

think I have it ready to publish, a new relative pops up and I just have to add her/him or it wouldn't be complete! So, I am still gathering in as many relatives as I can before I go to press. Don't worry, I will be sure to print out a copy just for you!

I have heard about some things that are going on in Salt Lake City. I don't know if you are familiar with their indexing project, but if you want to find out more about it, go to their website at <http://www.familysearchindexing.org>. They are scanning in microfilm after microfilm and working on making it available to the public—that's us! However, they need help in indexing the scanned images. That's where we can come in. If you go to their website, you can volunteer to help them index. There's no obligation so you could index one batch or 100 batches—anything is appreciated. I've already indexed over 1800 names and it's a lot of fun! I can also say I helped in a small way to the cause. When this goes online, it will be for free, and anyone can access it—not like Ancestry, who charges a subscription fee to look at their stuff. So go and check it out!

Also, let me know how you are doing. Drop me a line at [omgs1775@yahoo.com](mailto:omgs1775@yahoo.com) and let me know if you have any questions. I'll do my best to answer them in an upcoming issue of the Messenger.

## Condolences

The Rev. Jeffrey L. Lowrance, pastor of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, passed away on May 28. Many members of OMGS were aware of his colon cancer diagnosis in 2004.

He had been a member of the Society and also was known for his avid interest in the history of the Mecklenburg area and his zeal for preserving that heritage. OMGS' Hopewell district met at his church and had close ties to him. His church, one of Mecklenburg's earliest Presbyterian congregations, is an important part of that history.

Jeff Lowrance served on a number of boards of local historic groups and also helped African Americans preserve their slave cemeteries.

Olde Meck offers its condolences to his wife Ann, daughters Claire and Erin and his parents, Bill and Betty Jo Lowrance of Mooresville.

Condolences also go to John Misenheimer. Our president lost his grandmother, Mary Ferguson, a

few days earlier on May 17. John had a double loss in May, as Jeff Lowrance was his pastor as well.

Condolences go out to the family of Al and Betty Hilton. Al passed away on July 3, 2007 and Betty passed away on July 5. Al and Betty were charter members of OMGS and Al also served in the local Family History Center on Rocky River Road for a number of years. Al developed an indexing system to aid patrons in locating North Carolina death certificates which are on microfilm in the Center.

Condolences go out to the family of Dr. Banks Cates, Jr. who passed away July 22, 2007. Dr. Cates was a member of OMGS and researched and documented the Cates family genealogy, becoming a valuable resource for many other researchers. He also wrote several articles for the OMGS Quarterly, the latest one titled "Mecklenburg Fisheries" in Vol. 2, No. 2 (2002) Quarterly. He also researched and wrote a manuscript on William Black, John Hamilton, and John Black of Mecklenburg County.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these members who will be missed.

## Upcoming Events

**August 16-19, 2007**, the national Rudisill Family Association will meet with two local Rudisill family reunions in Charlotte, NC, at the Charlotte Marriott SouthPark. Activities begin at 6 PM on Thursday at the Charlotte City Club and end on Sunday with a church service and reunion dinner with local Rudisill families in Cherryville, NC. For further information visit the association web site at [www.Rudisill.org](http://www.Rudisill.org) or contact Rudi Rudisill at [rudi@ieee.org](mailto:rudi@ieee.org), or Carol Bentley at [cjkbentley@aol.com](mailto:cjkbentley@aol.com).

**November 2-3, 2007**, Raleigh, NC, Grier Creek Country Club, will be the site of the NCGS Fall Annual Meeting and Workshop. Theme: "A Method to Our Madness: Genealogical Problem Solving" and a Feature Presentation by Helen Leary.

## 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.

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Charlotte, NC 28232-2453

## 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>The 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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