

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society
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February 2005

Joan Raney, Editor

Directions to 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. 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.

This May Be Your Last Newsletter!!

Remember that it is time to renew your membership to OMGS, if you haven't already done so. We only send the January and February Newsletters to those who haven't renewed. We are anticipating many wonderful things in the next year, and want you to be part of it! If you aren't sure whether you've renewed or not, check the expiration date on your mailing label on this newsletter. If it doesn't say 12/31/05, then we don't have your renewal! Just \$20 for an individual membership entitles you to all the Newsletters and our award-winning Quarterly!

If you have any questions about membership, call Lynn Bancroft at 704-364-2693. Or email LCBancroft@mindspring.com.

OMGS Meetings

The February 2005 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 9 February 2005 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. *See first article for directions.* Our speaker will be Karen Dutton, and she will be presenting a case study on the Kimmons Family. In March, we will have Linda Blackwelder, and she will be talking about the Polk Family. Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet Saturday, 12 February 2005, at Hopewell. It will be a field trip to the Hugh Torance House & Store, so don't be late! Come out and join us!

January Meeting Notes

by Mary Utting

A Kernersville genealogist, Tim Rackley, used research on his wife's Hunt kinfolk to show how census records, in spite of duplicate names and errors by enumerators, can be used to determine which person listed is indeed one's ancestor.

Mrs. Rackley's grandmother was a Hunt, and Rackley was seeking information first about a William Spencer Hunt in Nash County. The speaker pointed out that there are few death certificates available for country folk. He also noted that a researcher may come up with different dates: the tombstone, the family Bible, and local records may all disagree.

Rackley started with the Nash County census for 1910 and went back through all censuses to 1840. He found this family tended to move a lot. In 1900, they were in Wayne County (but his father was in Greene County). Then, they were in Granville County in 1880 (remember, the 1890 census was burned), in Warren County in

1870, in Franklin County in 1860, back to Granville in 1850.

To organize his information, Rackley made his own charts for recording information. This enabled him to separate people with similar names; he could record all the other names in the family. Then, by comparing dates and family names, he often could eliminate some groups of Hunts and concentrate on the correct family, even if the records showed a different initial or other variant.

William T. Hunt (note different middle initial) was 25 years old in the 1850 census. There were many Hunts in Granville County, so Rackley ended up with nine possible parents. It was time to check some other records such as wills and deeds. The wills list heirs, which helps in separating families. Then there are missing people. Some children may have died, but others turn up living apart from the family, even though they are quite young. The Hunts were millers, so in some cases he traced these sons by their profession, which is part of the census record.

He traced one family, finding a William H. Hunt, but estate papers showed he and all his children had moved to Tennessee. Obviously, not the William he sought. So he started on another family headed by Thomas Hunt. This was how he located William the miller.

Other information on the Hunts came through mention of a graveyard in a Vance County will left by female cousin. She had specified headstones for herself and her already deceased husband and said exactly what she wanted on the stones. Rackley located a small cemetery, and only these two graves had stones. He also was able to find an old mill about three miles away.

Rackley suggested creating a matrix of five censuses to come up with these comparative lists. He said that sometimes it's impossible to find someone in the census that you know was in that location. It may be an error in name or an omission by the enumerator. Handwriting also can be a challenge in some cases. But with more searching and digging, that missing person may turn up.

Rackley has written a book about his family, which he later revised. He also has books on Nash and Granville counties' records, such as minutes, deeds and other information. These are available for sale on his website for Rackley

Publishing: http://www.members.tripod.com/rackley_publishing .

New Members

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

Margaret Burnette -- York, SC

Vickie Coker -- Knoxville, TN

George Timblin -- Charlotte, NC

We are happy to have them join us and wish them fruitful researching!

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch of OMGS met on January 8th at the church. The Rev. Jeff Lowrance presented our program. Pastor Jeff made a pilgrimage to the British Isles this past summer to search for the origins of Hopewell, the church and the community. He found many amazing facts but did not definitely find the source of our Hopewell, guess he will have to go back. He learned all about the Ulster Scot, the largest group who settled in the Hopewell community, and all those other different Scottish ancestors that settled in North Carolina. Pastor Jeff had previously presented his slide show and thought we might like a new perspective. So this time he brought the many copies of things that he had collected from Scotland, Ireland & England. It included copies of original documents to a set of pamphlets developed by the Ulster-Scots Agency. All of us learned something and we enjoyed everything!

In February we will do a road trip. This time it won't be a far distance except in time. We will meet at the Hugh Torance House & Store on Gilead Road in Huntersville. As usual we will meet at 10:00 AM. Torance is the oldest standing store site in the whole state and offers a wonderful insight straight back to the 18th & 19th centuries. I hope to see a bunch of you there.

News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

From 12-21-2004 to 1-20-2005

HERITAGEQUEST !!!!!!!!

Computer users who have PLCMC library cards now have remote access (this means your home and anywhere there is Internet access) to HeritageQuest. Search many census records,

PERSI, over 25,000 books and Revolutionary War era pension records and land bounty records. Just go to www.plcmc.org and choose "Online Resources." Once there, scroll down the alphabetical list until you see "Heritage Quest." The number you need to key in to use these records is on the back of your library card.

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.

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina Cemeteries, Vol. 4, West Mecklenburg

Columbus County North Carolina Heritage 1808-2004

Unchained Memories, Readings From The Slave Narratives

Brunswick County, Virginia Deed Books Vol. 2, 1744-1755

Brunswick County, Virginia Deed Books Vol. 3, 1755-1764

Brunswick County, Virginia Deed Books Vol. 4, 1765-1770

Brunswick County, Virginia Deed Books Vol. 6, 1776-1787

The Papers of Nathaniel Greene – 12 volumes

Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812

A Preliminary Guide To Pre-1904 County Records

In The Virginia State Library and Archives

History of Colquitt County (GA)

Tracing Your Mississippi Ancestors

Raccoon John Smith, Frontiersman and Reformer

Shaping A Nation: Stories of the Lees

History of Warren County, Georgia 1793-1974

Melungeons Yesterday and Today

The Medical Society of South Carolina, The First Two Hundred Years

History of First United Methodist Church of

Johnson City, Tennessee 1865-1990

Sweden And The American Revolution

Memoirs of Homer H. Smith

Sketches of Pitt County

History of White County, Tennessee

Cyrus Edwards' Stories of Early Days and

Others In What Is Now Barren, Hart, and

Metcalfe Counties (KY)

Scots Kith & Kin

What To Do With Your Roots

Back Home In Williamson County

In The Beginning, A History of Sevier County

Association of Baptists Church Beginnings

The Development of Early Emigrant Trails In The United States East Of The Mississippi River
King's Cliffe, The 20th FTR GRP Association
The Colonial South Carolina Scene,
Contemporary Views, 1697-1774
Favored by Fortune, George W. Watts & The Hills Of Durham

Chester County (SC) Heritage History

New Gilead Church, A History of the German Reformed People on Coldwater

DeBrahm's Report of the General Survey in the Southern District of North America

Yesterday's Nashville (TN)

The Changing Faces of Justice: A Look at the First 100 Women Attorneys in North Carolina

A Bedwell Family

Biographical Directory, Tennessee General Assembly, Vol. IV, 1931-1951

Bethesda (Harrison's United Methodist Church), A Bicentennial History of Church and Community 1792-1992 (Greene Co., TN)

Lauderdale County, Alabama: Annotated Index to Chancery Court Records, 1827-1830

Barton and Stedman also Steedman and Steadman Families

Pioneer Fort Worth, Texas

Graves Co., KY Genealogical Records, Vols. 1-2

Tax Lists Christian County, KY 1797, 1798, 1799

The Ancestors of Robert Kay of South Carolina

The McConnells, A New Family History

Along the Warioto, A History of Montgomery County, Tennessee

The McConnell Families of Davidson's Creek

Settlement, Iredell County, North Carolina 1748-1982

St. George's Parish Registers 1689-1793 (Maryland)

St. John's & St. George's Parish Registers 16696-1851 (Maryland)

It Happened Back When...A Biography and Other Short Stories About Growing Up in a Small Town in Coastal North Carolina

Western North Carolina, Its Mountains and Its People to 1880

Captain Tom Ryman His life and Legacy

Ducktown, Back In Raht's Time

It's Dues Renewal Time!

Have you sent in your dues? Start the new year off right and send them in! \$20 for an individual membership, \$25 for family, \$40 for sustaining, or you can pay \$225 for a lifetime membership. Mail 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>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 4: West 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>Nine Generation Ancestor Chart</i>	\$6.00 PPD (rolled) \$5.00 PPD (folded)
<i>OMGS Quarterlies: 1983-2003</i>	\$21.50 PPD (4/year) \$8.50 PPD (single) \$2.00 PPD (index)
<i>The Spirit of a Proud People, by Lois Moore Yandle</i>	\$40.00 PPD

Books by Herman W. Ferguson

<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. I, 1780-1800</i>	\$30.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. II, 1801-1820</i>	\$32.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. III, 1821-1830</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. IV, 1831 - 1840</i>	\$25.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. V, 1841 - 1850</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC, Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. VI, 1851-1860 New!</i>	\$29.00 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

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