



Mecklenburg Messenger

OMGS Archives Hours

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

Notes from January Meeting

by Mary Utting

Charlotte From The Ground Up, a look at Charlotte through its geography and people, was provided by David Erdman, a local attorney, at the January 10 meeting of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society.

Erdman, who illustrated his remarks with a number of slides, said that he had recently become interested in his own genealogy. He learned, for example, that a 17th century New England woman, Anne Bradstreet, called America's first poet, was among his ancestors.

He had more information about his great-great-grandfather, a Presbyterian missionary in Africa, who served as Liberia's first envoy to the United States. The speaker said he was able to present letters by this ancestor to today's president of Liberia during her recent visit to the United States.

He started with Charlotte's land and place, 81degrees west of the prime meridian. If this longitude is followed straight south it intersects the westernmost point of South America. Thus, all of South America is actually east of Charlotte.

The Granville Line, which marks the northern edge of Mecklenburg County, is at 35 degrees latitude. If this line is followed around the globe, it runs through a variety of climates and terrains.

Mecklenburg's average temperature is about 60 to 62 degrees, and the annual precipitation is 46 inches or less. This puts it in North Carolina's driest area, which includes the largest population centers in the state.

One map showed the state's various watersheds, including the Catawba. He reported that the Environmental Management Commission had just voted earlier that day to give water from the Catawba to Cabarrus County cities. He predicted that a lawsuit could be expected from South Carolina, which had been left out of this dispute, even though the Catawba belongs to that state as much as North Carolina. He followed with a map showing how the

OMGS Meetings

The February 2007 meeting of OMGS will be held on **Wednesday, 7 February 2007** at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. We are meeting a week early, because Valentine's Day is the next Wednesday. Our speaker will be Dale Loberger, whose topic is "The Colonial Road and 18th Century Surveying." We'll be back to our regular meeting schedule in March. Our speaker in March will be Sheila Bumgardner from the Carolina Room of the Public Library. Her topic will be "Papers! What to keep and what to throw away!" Don't miss these fine programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet on Saturday, 10 February 2007, 10:00 am, at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. We will have our own Ken Luckey! He will talk to us about the Rozzelle family. In March we are working on getting a cemetery tour of Lincoln County together. Come out and join us!

Cowan's Ford Dam had created Lake Norman in 1962, a large source of water for this area.

From nature's contributions to Charlotte, he moved on to the people. The first map showed the location of native Americans before the arrival of Europeans. They tended to settle near rivers, showing the importance of water in their lives. North Carolina rivers bear the names of tribes that lived on their shores. Another native American site off Elm Lane is known as the Big Rock. It is thought to have been a religious site.

Early European settlers came to Charlotte by traveling down from Philadelphia or by following the river up from Charleston. The Scots-Irish and Germans were the first in the area. They built the first Mecklenburg County Courthouse with private finances before there was a real city here. An early map labels the settlement Charlotte Burgh.

Erdman believes that the British forces brought the fighting in the American Revolution south for several reasons, including the milder climate that was not as hard on the troops and because they were not doing all that well in the North. They captured Charleston and proceeded to march up this way, encountering

far more difficulty than expected.

An 1850 map clearly outlined the railroads of that time. In fact, when General Sherman came north after torching Columbia, he headed for Goldsboro and Weldon, a major major railroad city. He wanted to destroy the bridge over the Roanoke River.

Although Charlotte became the site of the ammunition plant for the Confederate Navy, it was built far enough west so that it was safe from attack by ships along the coast. Because of this distance and the need to destroy the major rail lines, Charlotte was not invaded during the Civil War. Erdman believes that fact contributed to the growth of the city after the conflict. Charlotte then became a railroad center, with the ironworks intact. The manufacturing capability left in Charlotte led to its growth as a city.

Postwar Charlotte's dilemma was one that many southern cities faced: where and how to house the large number of newly emancipated slaves, who numbered about half of the city's population. The city was divided into four wards, and the railroad tracks ran along the boundary of Second Ward, where it was decided to locate the former slaves. The population thus was divided by transit line, and Erdman noted that is why Second Ward is sacred land to the African American people to this day.

He pointed out another phenomenon on a map. North Tryon Street does not go due north at all. Indeed, West Trade Street is closer to north than North Tryon. It is not a good idea to figure out the points of the compass by our street signs.

Erdman had a number of historic photos that showed the development of the city in the early 20th century. The horse drawn trolley cars went to Dilworth and to John Nolen's Myers Park. Nolen named every street the trolley followed Queens Road. Strangers still find this confusing.

One photo showed Lakewood Park, a pleasant setting on the west side until the dam broke in 1936. With the lake gone, the park disappeared. Independence Park, near Memorial Stadium, also was a lake until it was drained in 1914.

In 1942, Charlotte had a population of 100,000, with compact city limits. As the limits have expanded through annexation, the city has now annexed 82 percent of the possible land it can acquire. Erdman says that we need to plan for the future when there is no more land to acquire.

He also had photos of Camp Greene, the military camp that was the Fort Bragg of its day. It temporarily doubled the city's population in World War I.

As a finale, Erdman showed a water tower, to which he had added lights draped over it to resemble the crown logo of the Queen City. He believes this would be a dramatic way to display Charlotte's symbol.

Seeking Pre-1970 Photos Of Matthews

Darryl Parker, Matthews business man and amateur historian, is looking for pre-1970 photographs of Matthews, NC, for his new book on the history of Matthews. "I've really found some terrific previously unpublished photos," he said. "And I'm really looking forward to the collection coming together for the publisher. My deadline for photos is 23 February." If you have any to share with him for his book, contact him at darryl@parkermedia.com or give him a call at 704 321-2251.

Katherine Phillips

by Lynn Bancroft



When OMGS member Ellen Hinson learned of the death of OMGS member Katherine Phillips, she recognized her as an old friend of her deceased mother. Ellen then ran across an old photo of Katherine taken during her Women's Army Corps service in the 1940's. She offered this picture to Olde Meck. Along with the obituary sent by Katherine's nephew, this provides a vivid remembrance of one of our Charter members. Katherine was one of eleven children, a bookkeeper, an excellent seamstress, and a dedicated family historian, just to touch on a few details of her life. OMGS was fortunate to have such a talented member from its inception. Thanks to Ellen and Robert Williams for the information about her. We always appreciate vintage photos of our members as well as other Mecklenburg residents.

Membership Renewal

Thanks to all the folks who have already sent in their renewals, we now have 223 members for 2007.

However, there are still 58 of you who haven't yet renewed! If you don't send your check this month, you will be dropped from the membership. Don't miss the first issue of the Quarterly and all the news in the *Messenger*! You can check whether you have renewed by looking at your mailing label on this issue of the *Messenger*. The expiration date is in the top, right corner. If you lost your renewal form, just send your check to our PO Box address. Dues are still just \$20! If you are a life member, no need to send us anything.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch of the OMGS met the second Saturday of January. I lead the meeting with input from each of us. We discussed what was new in genealogy and talked about what we felt was important. Each of us told tips we had used and of course there were questions which the group answered with the intelligence I have come to expect from each of them.

In February we will meet on the 10th at 10:00 AM in the Wayland Sunday School room at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Kenneth Luckey will speak on something very close to his heart, the Rozzelle family and Rozzelle's Ferry. Kenneth is one of our own and I know he will be a speaker no one will want to miss. The story of the Rozzelles and the ferry that they ran is an integral part of Mecklenburg history. The Rozzelle family has lived in Mecklenburg County since the late 1700's and ran the ferry service across the Catawba River near where NC Highway 16 now crosses the river.

I have checked with Darrell Harkey about our tour of cemeteries in Lincoln County for March, he is checking his schedule and will let us know. Please Pray for Jeff, Vickie, Autumn & Emma

Mark Your Calendars

Due to a scheduling conflict at Aldersgate, our February 2007 Membership meeting will be rescheduled one week earlier than usual. Instead of the 14th, we will meet on February 7th. So save the 14th for your sweetie, and plan to join us on February 7th, 2007, for a program by Sheila Bumgardner, from the Carolina Room!

New OMGS Members

by Lynn Bancroft

Please help us welcome the following new OMGS members:

Druscilla Beuerlein – Mary Esther, FL
Rev. John Jackson – Maitland, FL

OMGS Meetings

by Lynn Bancroft

Don't forget the change of date for the February meeting. We will meet **one week early** on February 7th. Our speaker will be Dale Loberger, whose topic is "The Colonial Road and 18th Century Surveying."

Looking ahead:

March 14th – Sheila Bumgardner from the Carolina Room of the Public Library. Topic: "Papers! What to keep and what to throw away!"

April 11th – John Misenheimer, OMGS President. Topic: "Discovering my Keenan Family in Northern Ireland."

May 9th – Colonel Sy Harrington, Military Archivist at the NC State Archives. Topic: "Military Records in the Archives."

June 13th – Patsy Nesbit, OMGS member. Topic: "Germans in the Backcountry."

News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

12/20/2006 to 1/22/2007

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.

Back Creek ARP Church (Mecklenburg Co., NC)
Camp Greene (CD of photos and images of WWI Army Camp in Mecklenburg Co., NC)
The Charlotte Observer Clippings File (61 reels—1940s to 1970s)
Citizen Lee, A Tribute to Bill Lee (video tape)
The Community (CD by Allen White of the Ramah Church neighborhood in Mecklenburg Co.)
Cornelius, NC, Minutes, 1958-2000
Cornelius, NC, Ordinances, 1989-2002
Cornelius, NC, Resolutions, 1986-2002
Mint Hill, NC, Minutes, 1977-2003
Mint Hill, NC, Ordinances, 1971-1977
World War II Oral History Archives, Charlotte, NC (area veterans recently taped at UNC-C)

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>Dr. J. B. Alexander's Medical Ledger & 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: 1983-2003</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 & 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 & 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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