

# Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society

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February 2004

Joan Raney, Editor

## Directions to Aldersgate

Fellowship Hall, 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. Instead of turning on Cole Drive, 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.

## It's Dues Renewal Time!

Have you sent in your membership dues? Look at your mailing label for a clue. It lists the expiration date of your membership. Send them in today so you won't forget! Better yet, come to the February meeting and hand them in in person! Save a stamp!

## Notes from January Meeting

by Mary Utting

## OMGS Meetings

The February 2004 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 11 February 2004 at the Fellowship Hall of Aldersgate, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. *See first article for directions.* Social hour is at 7pm with light refreshments and the meeting begins at 7:30pm. Our speaker will be Bob Boyton. He will talk about "Ramblings & Revolutionary War History." In March we will have Dr. Norris Preyer, Professor Emeritus of History, Queens University of Charlotte. He will be talking to us about early Mecklenburg history. Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet on Saturday, 14 February 2004 at 10am, Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be Joe Brickey, back for a return engagement. She is always great, so come out and join us.

Coming from a fifth generation Pineville family, Joe Griffin collected a lot of information about the little farm community south of Charlotte. The retired mechanical engineer and industrial

salesman, who spoke at the Olde Meck's January meeting, started looking into his own family history, but the more he learned about his ancestors, the more he learned about Pineville, N.C.

He began to collect photographs and news-paper articles, so that soon he had amassed so much information that it became a book, *My Hometown: Pineville*. With only 12 copies

printed, Griffin found to his surprise that people were really interested, so he has sold many more copies in looseleaf format. In the near future, he plans to issue a revision both in hard copy and paperback.

In 1750, the area now known as Pineville was Indian country, the place where the Waxhaw and Catawba trading paths intersected. About 1761, the first white settler, Thomas Spratt, Jr., came to this intersection, turned right on the Catawba path and built a house. This became known as the Turnout. Spratt, who was born in 1731 on a ship crossing the Atlantic from Ireland, brought along a wife and small family when he traveled from the Maryland-Virginia shore where his father had settled.

They traveled in a crude wagon and first settled in Cabarrus County. They soon moved on to the site south of Charlotte. This wagon was the first wheeled vehicle seen in the area. Eventually, Spratt moved again to what is now Fort Mill, S.C., where friendly Catawba Indians gave him 3,000 acres of river bottom. The tribe gave him the name of Kanawha. When the tribal leader was murdered by a rival tribe, Spratt adopted the man's daughter and reared her with his own children. Spratt's descendants include the Springs family and Congressman John Spratt.

While the Spratts were still at the Turnout, a man with a knapsack appeared at the door. It was Thomas Polk, the oldest son of a neighbor from Somerset, Md. Polk married the Spratts' daughter Susan. Soon other Polk brothers followed and settled in the area.

David Morrow built a two-story house, which became a coach stop, and the name became Morrow's Turnout. With the need for law and order, the first court trial in Mecklenburg County was held in the Spratt cabin, and others followed. Vestiges of the old wagon road these early settlers used can still be seen south of modern Pineville.

After the Civil War, Samuel Younts, arrived in this farm community. He set up a blacksmith

shop and built a livery stable that became a mule-trading station. He built stores in the community and lent money to farmers and businessmen, so that he became a wealthy man. His house, built in 1873, still stands on Main Street and now serves as a ladies' spa. It has housed a hospital, antique shop and offices in the past.

The name Pineville came to the community when the Charlotte-Augusta Railroad came through and put up a sign "Pineville" at the railroad station. Until 1867, there was neither church nor school in the town. The first settlers were Scots-Irish Presbyterians, but the nearest church was Providence Presbyterian, built in 1776. It was a long way, either by wagon or foot.

Some residents started worship services in a brush arbor in the Harrison Community, about three miles south of Pineville. When the Methodist church held a big revival there for six weeks, hundreds were saved. They wanted to build a church, so Harrison Hood, a Fort Mill Presbyterian who owned this site, donated the land, the logs and the slave labor to erect a sanctuary, Harrison's Church, later called Harrison Church. As the first Methodist church in Mecklenburg County, it was the mother church of a number of others.

When Pineville was incorporated in 1873, Samuel Younts became its first mayor. His office was in his store, a building that still stands. Younts also was a founder of the town's first cotton mill.

Finally, in 1867, Pineville Academy, a private boys' school opened. The Presbyterians worshiped in this building until 1874, when that denomination built its first church in Pineville, on land given by Methodist Younts. In 1878, he also donated land for the Methodists' first church in the town. Flint Hill Baptist, founded in 1792 as Sugar Creek Church of Christ, was the mother church of all the Baptist churches in Mecklenburg and York Counties. In 1902, the old Harrison Church building was moved to Pineville to become the community's first Baptist church.

There were only private schools until 1920, when Mecklenburg County established a vocational agriculture school with grades 1 through 11. The boys studied agriculture and the girls, home economics. The 12th grade came in 1949, and East Mecklenburg High School opened a year later.

Griffin said that the first Charlotte Motor Speedway was built in Pineville in 1924, when a local Buick dealer put up a facility copying the Indianapolis track. It was built of wood that lasted only four years, but 50,000 people attended the inaugural race.

For a long time, Pineville had a variety of shops to meet the needs of the residents, so there was little incentive to make the long trek to Charlotte. The grocery stores even delivered orders. The youngsters made pocket money by picking cotton at one cent per pound.

In 1940, water and sewer service arrived, which created a heyday for carpenters and plumbers who were adding modern conveniences to the homes.

This small farm community, which persisted well into the latter part of the 20th century, is now a bustling suburban center of commerce, a far cry from Spratt's 18th century Turnout.

## **Hopewell District News**

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch did not meet in January due to the weather. As some of you know it snowed here in Mecklenburg County on Friday, January 9th, 2004. It wasn't much of a snow storm but the temperature stayed low and black ice was a real problem on Saturday morning. I was worried that our speaker, Joe Brickey, would not be able to make it safely across Charlotte to Northern Mecklenburg.

Joe has agreed to be our speaker in February. We will meet in the Wayland Sunday School room at 10:00 AM on February 14th, 2004. So come spend your Valentine's Day with Joe Brickey and me.

## **News From the Carolina Room**

by Jane Johnson

New... From the Carolina Room 12-17-2002 to 1-16-2003

To view the latest web exhibit on CMStory.org, please go to <http://www.cmstory.org/ww1>. To learn more about the history of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, go to <http://www.cmstory.org>.

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

*The People with No Name, Ireland's Ulster Scots, America's Scots Irish, and the Creation of a British Atlantic World, 1689-1764*

*Bridge Busters, The Story of the 394<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group* (This book contains information about a local WW II veteran who died during the war. It also contains information about other members of this group.)

*The North Carolina Century, Tar Heels Who Made a Difference, 1900-2000*

## **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 along with your name, address, phone number, email address, and names you are researching 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>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>	\$17.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>	\$8.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC Waterways Map (by William T. Skinner, C.S.R.S.)</i>	\$3.50 PPD
<i>Nine Generation Ancestor Chart</i>	\$6.00 PPD (rolled) \$5.00 PPD (folded)
<i>OMGS Quarterlies: 1983-2002</i>	\$21.50 PPD (4/year) \$8.50 PPD (single) \$2.00 PPD (index)

### Books by Herman W. Ferguson

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