

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 32453
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July 2003

Joan Raney, Editor

Directions to Aldersgate

NEW Directions to Membership Meeting!
Same great location, new route!
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.

Notes from the June Meeting

by Mary Utting

Since the 19th century, photographic images of
people have been created, and, when these
photos survive, they greatly embellish the
records that genealogists collect. Unfortunately,
many of these images have been lost forever.

The June OMGS speaker, Stephen Massengill,
who heads the Non-Textual Materials
Collection at the North Carolina State Archives
in Raleigh, says that two factors--
environmental conditions and chemical

OMGS Meetings

The July 2003 meeting of OMGS will be held on
Wednesday, 9 July 2003 at the Fellowship Hall of
Aldersgate, 3420 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. See
first article for directions. Social hour begins at
7p.m. with light refreshments and the meeting
begins at 7:30p.m. Our speaker will be our own
Alden Davis, and her topic is "Skeletons in the
Ancestral Closet: The secrets & scandals our
Forebears tried to hide & why we need to discover
them." Alden will address such topics as murder,
horse thieves & the tendencies of our ancestors to
wind up in bed with someone other than their
legal spouse! In August we will have Mrs. Ann
Williams, and her topic is "Your Affectionate
Daughter, Isabella." Sounds like a couple of great
programs so hope to see you there!

The Hopewell Branch will not meet in July or
August. Be sure to rejoin them in September for a
great program. Enjoy your summer!

stability--determine the survival of these
historic photographs.

The first North Carolina photograph was taken
in Halifax in 1842 by a Dr. Davis from Boston.
It was a daguerreotype. The earliest known
outdoor scene was of Market Street,
Wilmington, about 1848, but the first photos in
Mecklenburg County appeared in the 1850s. A
man named Wilde took some, assisted by his
daughter, who posed the subjects for him.

The state archives contains more than one
million copy negatives, most in a four by five
format. These are indexed in such a manner
that Massengill's office can locate photographs
for people and provide copies from these
negatives. He suggests going to the website at
www.ncarchives.dcr.state.nc.us. The files also
contain thousands of prints, more than 100
motion picture films and about 100 videos. He

said that grants are available to repositories such as the state's to help preserve old motion picture film.

To preserve old photos and negatives, he said to keep them cool, dry and dark. Store items in pH-balanced paper or chemically stable plastic sleeves. At his office they are placed in the plastic and then in a paper envelope for double protection. Older photos, unfortunately, are the most unstable. From 1889 until about 1950, film was cellulose nitrate, an unstable and very flammable material. Then during the 1930s, cellulose acetate, a somewhat better material, came along. He showed samples of both that had broken into a puckered, crinkled mess, but the newest material, polyester, appears to be more lasting.

Though color film has become more stable, black and white still lasts longest; early color photographs have generally faded away.

The important thing is to make copies before the pictures deteriorate. Many of the early photos, such as daguerreotypes, ambrotypes or tintypes were on metal or glass plates and had no negatives. Among the many handouts that Massengill provided, were items describing these old processes and how to identify them.

Most of the papers he passed to the audience were about preservation methods, including "Care, Handling, and Storage of Photographs," "The Environment," "Storage and Handling," and "Archiving Your Photo Album," to name just a portion of the valuable information he gave out.

He emphasized the importance of copying photographs that are in poor condition before they completely disintegrate. The negative and the positive image need to be stored separately. And keep them out of attics and basements, where extreme temperatures and moisture take their toll. By purchasing the best enclosures one can afford and handling and exhibiting all old photos with care, they may last for a long time to bring pleasure to family members.

Condolences and Get Well Wishes

OMGS is saddened to hear of the passing of OMGS member Myrtle Fields. Please remember her family in your thoughts and prayers. OMGS member and past president John Misenheimer lost his father, John E. Misenheimer Sr. Please remember John and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Dear Cousin

by Cousin Sally

How are you doing in your genealogical research, Dear Cousin? I wanted to write and tell you about Ancestry.com. It is a great little website, and if you have heard of it, you probably know that you need a subscription to it in order to search most of its databases.

I have found a way around paying the megabucks for that subscription! The public library in downtown Charlotte has a subscription to Ancestry, and will let you search it for free. Also, the family history centers in town have subscriptions to this service, and will also let you use it for free. One is on Carmel Road, next door to a gas station and not too far from Highway 51. The other one is on Rocky River Road, about a quarter mile from Harris Blvd.

Ancestry.com has many of the U.S. Censuses indexed and searchable. You can pull up the census image and look at it on the computer screen! So make a trip to the library and check it out—it will be worth it to find that pesky ancestor that you thought was in Connecticut but in fact is in California!

So, Dear Cousin, let me hear how Ancestry has helped you in your research, and I'll be back in touch soon.

Queries

Bruce Baker and his brother are compiling a family file on the Todds of Mecklenburg County, NC, and would appreciate receiving any information on this family from OMGS members. They hope to have the file completed by the end of this year. Contact Bruce at bebaker@charter.net or write him at 881 Ravenwood Drive, Morristown, TN 37814.

Upcoming Events

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC, July 10-13 2003. For more information call (828) 733-1333 or email highland@m-y.net or visit them at www.gmhg.org.

Triad Highland Games, Archdale, NC, August 16, 2003. For more information call (336) 431-8482 or email president@triadhighlandgames.org.

Appalachian Highland Games & Scottish Festival, Martins Creek, NC, September 6, 2003. For more information call (828) 837-5684 or email ahginfo@webworkz.com.

Charleston Highland Games & Scottish Gathering, Mount Pleasant, SC, September 19-21, 2003. For more information call (843) 529-1020 or email info@charlestonscots.com.

If you have an event that is of a genealogical nature, such as a Scottish game or a family reunion or a genealogy workshop, email me at raney1@bellsouth.net and I will be happy to post it here.

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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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>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i> Sale!	\$27.50 PPD \$17.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>	\$11.95 PPD \$8.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC Waterways Map</i> (by William T. Skinner, C.S.R.S.)	\$3.50 PPD
<i>Nine Generation Ancestor Chart</i>	\$6.00 PPD (rolled) \$5.00 PPD (folded)
OMGS <i>Quarterlies</i> : 1983-2002	\$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&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> New!	\$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 & Cabarrus Counties, NC: Decedents for Whom Loose Estate Papers are Extant</i>	\$16.50 PPD

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