



# Mecklenburg Messenger

## OMGS Archives Hours

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

## Notes from June Meeting

by Mary Utting

Although Mecklenburg County's early settlers were Scots-Irish, German immigrants were not far behind them on the trek down the Old Wagon Road. Patricia Nesbit, a descendant of these German settlers, told their story to members of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society at the June 13 meeting.

Mrs. Nesbit, who moved to Charlotte from Winston-Salem, is a resident of Aldersgate, the Methodist retirement community where OMGS meets. This retired history teacher calls herself a newcomer to genealogy. When she looked at the surnames in her ancestry, she decided to concentrate on Kobel, assuming that would not be so common as another name, Miller, which also was in her ancestry. To her surprise, Kobels seemed to be everywhere!

The Charlotte area was a fitting choice for Germans, as both the new town and the county carved out of Anson County in 1762 were named for Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the German wife of George III. The King himself was from the House of Hanover, a German line that began with George I, who spoke only German.

During her childhood, Mrs. Nesbit never thought about her family names having German origins. But, still she enjoyed the good German food prepared by her grandmother and the annual Christmas tree, a German tradition.

Her first interest arose when she was on a river boat in Germany and wondered why her forebears had left all this natural beauty for a foreign land. Listing dates, she highlighted what was happening before and during the time they moved across the sea. The Thirty Years War with fighting between Catholics and Protestants took place from 1618 to 1648, causing many deaths and great devastation. The recovery period was from 1648-1730, but in 1709 the first Germans started coming to the British colonies in America, especially Pennsylvania.

## OMGS Meetings

The July 2007 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 11 July 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 Tom Phlegar. He will speak on the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, with emphasis on Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Sounds like a great presentation! In August, we will have Bob McInnes, who is the manuscript librarian at the Atkins library over at UNCC. Come on out for these great programs!

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

From 1730 to 1765, there were waves of arrivals, mainly at Philadelphia, and from 1750 to 1789, a number of them found their way South and settled in the North Carolina backcountry.

Germany did not exist as a country at that time, but the area was made up of a number of independent principalities, which owed allegiance to the Holy Roman emperor in Austria. A large area of central Europe was part of that empire until the 19th century.

Why did the Germans come to America? Mrs. Nesbit cited the following: the results of the Thirty Years War, the support of William Penn in Pennsylvania and the British rulers, the migrants' desire for religious freedom to practice their reformed faith instead of Catholicism, the rise of Louis XIV in France and the Spanish fighting in the Netherlands, and the search for a better piece of bread. Penn actually traveled to Palatine to encourage the people to come to Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Nesbit pointed out that the British called all German immigrants Palatines, but she prefers to say Germans, as she said they were not all from the one location.

About 1750, these new arrivals learned that there was cheaper land in North Carolina, so they came South and located between Coldwater and Buffalo Creeks. They began to trade with Charleston, S.C.,

and Philadelphia, married German-speaking cousins and neighbors and proceeded to speak their own language and carry on their special traditions brought from the homeland.

These include special festivities, such as the habit of shooting guns at New Year's, a tradition that persists to this day in Cherryville, N.C.

They were craftsmen or farmers, bringing their lifestyles from the old country. German villages tended to be walled and circular, with a town hall. Farmers' fields were outside the walls. She described their simple village homes, which were often half timber buildings. A second floor would hold bedrooms, and the attic storage often included grain. They practiced the three-field method: one with grain, the second with another grain, and third lay fallow.

Few owned horses, so they walked just about everywhere. They could walk to market and back in one day. They made a traditional plum butter, which became apple butter in America, and they made their own sauerkraut, a staple of their diets.

In Catholic areas, they were fined for attending reformed churches, and men were required to serve in the military. They walked to church on Sunday and used a saint's name as a child's first name. The called name was a middle name. Weddings took place at home, followed by a meal.

Mrs. Nisbet's ancestor, Johann Georg Kobel, married and had 11 children. When he decided to leave for America, only five children were living. He and his family boarded a ship at Rotterdam. The ships that took these people to America were typically three-masted and small for the 200 people plus freight loaded on board. It took at least six weeks to make the trip to Philadelphia.

Those who had no money for passage were indentured for four years to pay off the debt. In 1750, 12,000 made this journey.

Mrs. Nisbet said that histories, long written from the British point of view, said little about these Germans, but recently more of their story and their influence on United States history has been published. For example, the famous covered wagons, or prairie schooners, in which so many pioneers traveled west, were first built by Pennsylvania Germans.

The earliest travelers on the Great Wagon Road rode in carts or on pack animals. Later they had wagons. On the trek South they sometimes encountered roaming bands of Indians. Traveling at the rate of about five miles a day, they took at least two months, sometimes as long as four, to reach North Carolina.

When they reached their destination, the family lived in the wagon until a cabin was built. Later they added wood to cover the dirt floor and clapboard on the exterior. Even later came outbuildings. Corn was the grain of choice in this area, used for food, for animal fodder and for alcohol. Mrs. Nisbet said they consumed a lot of alcohol, with all ages imbibing at all events.

The youngsters attended school for about six months a year for two or three years. Classes were in German. Mrs. Nisbet said that there were about 400 families in North Carolina by 1750. By the time of the 1790 census, the state had the fourth largest population in the new nation.

## 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 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.

## Pineville City Cemetery Index

When Joe Griffin, Sr., attended his first OMGS meeting a couple of years ago, he says he quickly learned that cemeteries meant a lot to Olde Meck. Then he remembered the tombstone inscriptions he had copied in the Pineville City Cemetery in the 1990s and decide to bring the listings up to date. That update was completed as of 1 January 2007, and the Pineville, N. C, City Cemetery Index is now available for \$7.50 ppd and can be ordered from Joe Griffin, P. O. Box 37, Pineville, NC, 28134-0037.

The earliest birth date recorded is 1816, and the oldest death date is 1860. The Index lists names, birth and death dates, plot locations, and a plot plan of the cemetery. Joe is also the author of *My Hometown Pineville*, a collection of history, delightful reminiscences, and wonderful old photographs of this southwest Mecklenburg County town that was first called the "Turnout" and then "Morrow's

Turnout" before it was named Pineville in 1852. My Hometown Pineville is available from OMGS for \$30.00 ppd.

## News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

5/23/2007 to 6/23/2007

Historic U.S. Newspapers-New Online Product! **This is a correction from the last newsletter. This product is only available within any of the PLCMC branches.** If you have a PLCMC library card or are visiting in Mecklenburg County and get a guest card, you can now access many historic newspapers as far back as the 1700s from the computer. Another way to access this new product is to go to [www.cmstory.org](http://www.cmstory.org). Look at the second entry in the right hand column. Then click on "Access Newspaper Archives." If you need help, please ask the library staff for help. This product will give you access to newspapers outside of North Carolina. Since this is a for-profit company, please continue to check out their new titles as they expand this resource!

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.

*Annie Laurie Beauchamp 1884-1965*  
*Breaking Loose Together, The Regulator Rebellion in Pre-Revolutionary North Carolina*  
*Decisive Battle of Nashville, The*  
*Finley Family History, A*  
*Heritage of Butler County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Calhoun County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Cherokee County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Coffee County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Coosa County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Crenshaw County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Dale County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Dallas County, Alabama*

*Heritage of Elmore County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Etowah County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Lauderdale County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Lee County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Lowndes County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Monroe County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Pickens County, Alabama*  
*Heritage of Washington County, Alabama*  
*Jefferson Davis: His Rise and Fall*  
*Mathew Brady's Illustrated History of the Civil War*  
*Rotary Club of Charlotte 1916-1991, The*  
*Talent for Living: Josephine Pinckney and the*  
*Charleston Literary Tradition, A*  
*Winston-Salem: From the Collection of Frank B. Jones, Jr.*

## 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.

Joan Raney, Editor

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 32453  
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

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 32453  
Charlotte, NC 28232-2453