



Mecklenburg Messenger

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs/>

Email: omgs1775@yahoo.com

OMGS Archives Hours

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

Summer Workshop July 2008: Get a \$5 Discount!

by OMGS President John Misenheimer

Be an Early Bird! Catch the \$5.00 Discount before July 17th! The hot topic at the genealogy workshop is "**From Ulster to the Carolinas: Finding Your Scots-Irish Ancestors**" and the speaker is David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA. We are very excited that the OMGS Membership is supporting the partnership with the North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS) to host the Western Regional Genealogy Workshop on July 26, 2008. There is a discount for OMGS Members on the price of the Workshop at \$45.00 instead of the price of \$55.00 for Non-Members, so please become a member of OMGS and enjoy all the benefits of membership including the discount on the Workshop. The location of the Summer Workshop is at Aldersgate the Methodist Home at 3420 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28215, the same place that we hold our monthly meetings. For more information: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs/> or e-mail OMGS1775@yahoo.com The cost of OMGS membership is: Individual (\$20/year); Family (\$25/year); and Sustaining (\$40/year).

Carolina Room Extends Research Hours Before Scots-Irish Workshop

The Carolina Room of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, July 25, 2008. The extended hours are offered to accommodate researchers, especially early arrivals for the July 26th workshop.

- Staff will assist visitors with research
- Free photocopies of research from microform machines
- Free photocopies of research from printed materials
- Ancestry.com Library Edition access
- Heritage Quest access

OMGS Meetings

The June 2008 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 11 June 2008 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 Linda Blackwelder. Her topic is "Who Lived In That Old House?" In July, we will have David Lord, and he will talk about familial diseases. Come out and join us for these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will not meet anymore this summer. We hope you have a great summer break and join us again in the fall.

- Wi-Fi access for Laptops

Light refreshments from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. **For further information contact:** [Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room](mailto:Robinson-Spangler@plcmc.org), Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County: 704-416-0150 or email ncr@plcmc.org. Further information about directions, parking (handicap parking directly behind building), and light rail access can all be found on the Library's webpage: www.plcmc.org. For people who want to get a jump on what is available the catalog link is <http://www.plcmc.org/Catalog/>. Materials in the Carolina Room are labeled "NCR".

Notes on May Meeting

by Mary Utting

"Searching for My Past" was the title of Laurie Prince's presentation at the May 2008 meeting of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society. Now a freelance writer, Prince is a former editor of Charlotte Magazine.

Over the past year, she has done what the title says: search for her past. Her purpose was to leave a family record for her children and pass on the love of family that she believes is important. But the catalyst was a need to clean out her attic when she and her husband decided to sell their home and move to a 1910 house with few closets.

In that attic was a collection of family papers that she had saved when her father became ill and moved in with a son. His house had to be cleaned out, and, and as a writer, she could not stand to see the family

papers pitched; they reposed in her attic for 14 years.

She grew up as one of five children on a Guilford County, North Carolina, farm. Her dad was a salesman, so a tenant farmed the land. She and her siblings enjoyed an active outdoor life in the country, with many sports to occupy them. She knew only one grandparent, her father's mother, who spent time in a mental hospital and received shock treatment. No one talked of the old days, their parents, or of themselves.

When she finally decided to sort the family mementos, she found them to be a jumble of information, which made it hard to begin. Both parents were deceased, so there was no way to ask them questions. She put all the Christmas cards together, then she organized the letters first by date, then by author. She found her mother's notebook and a collection of love letters her parents exchanged. She felt she had received a gift!

The photos and negatives were a bigger challenge. She purchased a used light table and studied these, grouping the films by family. The World War II envelopes, labeled in pencil by her father, documented his trip across the Pacific Ocean toward Japan. From the Ken Burns documentary, she learned her father had taken part in the bloodiest battle in that theater.

Her maternal grandfather married and went off to Argentina with his bride the week of the 1929 stock market crash that marked the beginning of the Great Depression. His bride made a scrapbook of the time they spent in the South American country.

Prince found a small, hand-written map of a graveyard, with no names to indicate who was buried there. She vaguely remembered a visit to Sherrill's Ford as a child, so last October she drove to that area, looking for landmarks indicated on this map. She was about to give up when she spotted a graveyard, where her father's grandfather and other family members were buried, dating back to the 1800s.

Among the treasures she found a photo of her mother, when, at 14, she was summoned home from her New Orleans boarding school to care for her mother, who was dying of cancer. (Prince's own mother later died of cancer as well.)

She believed it was not enough to pass along this information, but rather to tell the story. She decided to make this a gift to her siblings at Christmas. Her chosen format became a family movie a silent film like a picture book with music to set the mood. She purchased a scanner, scanned both photos and documents, telling the story of their parents. It began with a picture of her family, including all her

siblings. Then she went to the late 1800s to set the stage. Early segments showed her grandfather discharged from service in World War I, her grandmother's 1921 wedding picture.

She decided the story would be shown in four parts: the first made a big hit at Christmas; the second is due to be shown at the beach this summer; three and four are both to come later.

Even the family youngsters tend to pay attention to the family history, thanks to the music, which is chosen to fit the mood of each event. Prince believes this is an effective way to pass on a story that the family can keep and to tell them about people they did not know.

She encouraged OMGS members to write their own stories; everyone has one.

New Members

by Lynn Bancroft

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

Betsy Boenisch, Shiner, TX
Peggy Reece Bruckner, Bostwick, GA
James R. Hunter, Jr., Charlotte, NC
Martha McDonald, Niceville, FL

We hope your new research efforts are fruitful!

Hopewell District News

By Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch of OMGS will suspend meetings until September. As usual, we are taking our Summer break. We have several programs lined up for the Fall season, so don't forget about us.

Our program in May was a really great one. Phillip Gaddy spoke to us about blacksmithing and how it impacted our nation. Phillip is a little unorthodox in his manner of speaking and we enjoyed it completely. He began his program by having us ask questions...like I said Phillip is a little unorthodox but thoroughly informative and enjoyable. He answered our questions and explained all sorts of things about metal and how blacksmithing "won" the world. Thank you, Phillip. Please Pray for Jeff's Family, Vickie, Autumn, Drew & Jeff R.

News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

4/22/2008 to 5/20/2008

The State Summer Workshop Comes to Charlotte!

For those attending the NC Genealogical Society and Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society Summer Workshop, you will be able to visit the Carolina Room for extended hours on Friday, July 25, 2008. The

Library will open at 9 a.m. At 6 p.m., the rest of the library will close to the public. Those signed up for the Workshop will be able to stay until 10 p.m. From 6 to 10 p.m., there will be free photocopies, free microfilm copies and light refreshments on the 3rd Floor of Main Library. To attend, just sign up for the Workshop, and your name will be added to the list of those who are invited to spend the evening doing research. If you want to plan ahead, check out our catalog to see which materials will interest you the most!

<http://www.plcmc.lib.nc.us/catalog/default.asp>.

New Staff Member in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room

Thomas Cole has worked for the library since 1999. Prior to that, he taught college history. He has a PhD from Johns Hopkins, which has the oldest history PhD program in the U.S. His area of expertise is colonial history.

Both his mother and mother-in-law did genealogy until they found out Tom and his wife had a common ancestor more than five generations ago in Connecticut! He's the first generation in Mecklenburg County.

Tom replaces Rosemary Lands, who retired March 31, 2008, after 36 years with the Library. Congratulations, Rosemary!!!

Below are new titles of interest to genealogists in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC. Our new phone number is 704-416-0150.

1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction, Missouri, Edition 1
Bucks County, Pennsylvania Miscellaneous Deed Dockets 1785-1857
Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, Greensboro, North Carolina
Capon Valley: Its Pioneers and Their Descendants, 1689-1940
Descendants of Thomas Malcom Chandler of Georgia
Distribution of Estate Accounts, Washington County, Maryland, 1778-1835
German Professions of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, Vols. 1-2
Granville County North Carolina Looking Back
Harford County, Maryland Divorce Cases, 1827-1912: An annotated Index
Maps of the German Empire of 1871
Only the Names Remain: Indian Territory-Oklahoma, Vols. 1-5
Polk: The Man Who Transformed The Presidency and America
Skinner Family: Descendant Charts, Memoirs and Family History
Something of the Story of Deep River

Sprot (Spratt) Cemetery in Memoriam: A Report Commemorating the Reburial of a Cemetery

Ferguson Donates Microfilm to OMGS Archives

Herman Ferguson has donated to our Archives all the microfilm rolls that he used in abstracting Mecklenburg County's court records. The 38 microfilm rolls, among which are the valuable Loose Estates Files, include the following:

- Index to Real Estate Conveyances, Grantors & Grantees, 1763-1840
- Deeds, 1765-1867
- Wills, 1763-1890
- Minutes of Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, 1774-1868
- Superior Court Minutes, Criminal & Civil, 1811-1851
- Equity Court Minutes, 1822-1852
- List of Taxables, 1797-1824
- Salisbury District Superior Court Minutes, 1756-1770; 1782-1801
- *North Carolina Gazette*, New Bern, NC, 1783-1798
- Booklet: *The Office and Authority of a Justice of the Peace*

Mecklenburg County's Loose Estates Files

North Carolina's **Loose Estates Files** are the most important resource after a county's wills, for they contain records of those who died intestate. In them you may find the actual or approximate date of death, names of the administrator and the surviving spouse, names of minor children placed under a guardian, names of legatees, lists of buyers at an estate sale, an inventory of the estate, names of parties in a division of estate sometimes with a plat attached, and signed vouchers from creditors and debtors to the estate.

Mecklenburg County's estate files are located in only two places: the originals are in the North Carolina Archives in Raleigh, NC, and microfilm copies are in the Carolina Room of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library. Only until Herman Ferguson began abstracting them in 1997 have any of the files been available outside these two locations.

He first published the abstracts beginning with the files of Frederick Aaron and ending with Margaret Alexander in *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* from 1997 to 1998. Due to the pressure of publishing Mecklenburg County's other court records, he put the project on hold until last year when he resumed abstracting the files for the OMGS *Quarterly*. He has given permission to OMGS to compile the abstracts he has completed so far and

publish them in a volume with an anticipated release in the spring of 2009. As he continues to complete more abstracts, OMGS will edit and index subsequent volumes. Ferguson's skill in abstracting court records is well-known for the accuracy and attention to detail that makes his work consistently reliable.

The donation of this collection and the donation of a microfilm reader by Pinny Cook-Yancey are a tremendous boon to the Archives holdings. Their generosity is most gratefully acknowledged by the Archives Committee.

Upcoming Events

June 8, 2008 – The Bird-Byrd Family Reunion will be held at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Flat Creek, SC, on Sunday, June 8. A covered-dish lunch is served at 1pm followed by a business meeting at 2pm. If you are a descendant of John Alexander Bird and his wife Frances Miller Bird, this is your reunion, but if not, we can certainly adopt you! Bring your favorite covered dish. For more information contact Joan Raney at kenraney@bellsouth.net.

June 13-15, 2008 - Chapman Family Association - The Chapman Family Association will hold its 8th annual convention and reunion at the Radisson Hotel at Opryland, Nashville, TN. The event will include a variety of presentations and workshops, site-seeing, and research at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Davidson County Courthouse, and the Public Library of Nashville & Davidson County. Further information is available at www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html.

June 27-29, 2008 - McCraw Family Reunion The 2008 biennial reunion of the US McCraw Family Association will be held in Kansas City, MO on June

27-29. Three McCraw brothers settled in North Carolina in 1801, leaving many McCraw descendants living in the state. For more information visit www.mccrawfamily.net.

July 26, 2008, The topic at the genealogy workshop is "From Ulster to the Carolinas: Finding Your Scots-Irish Ancestors" and the speaker is David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA. We are very excited that the OMGS Membership is supporting the partnership with the North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS) to host the Western Regional Genealogy Workshop on July 26, 2008. There is a discount for OMGS Members on the price of the Workshop at \$45.00 instead of the price of \$55.00 for Non-Members, so please become a member of OMGS and enjoy all the benefits of membership including the discount on the Workshop. The location of the Summer Workshop is at Aldersgate, the Methodist Home at 3420 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28215, the same place that we hold our monthly meetings. You don't want to miss this workshop!!!

August 31, 2008, the 2008 LOCKABY FAMILY REUNION will be held at the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church near Easley, SC and Greenville, SC. For full details email jcvhellis@charter.net or permccr@yahoo.com. All Lockaby/Lockabie descendants are welcome.

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 & 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>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 5: Elmwood Cemetery</i>	\$35.00 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>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>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 & 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 & 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