

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society

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June 2004

Joan Raney, Editor

Directions to 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.

Help is a Question Away

by Ellen Poteet

Have a question about your research? Stop by the Help Desk at the June meeting. We'll try to help.

OMGS members will staff a Help Desk from 7 to 7:30 p.m. during the social time to answer questions and assist you with your research. If we don't know the answer, we'll try to find someone who can help.

Notes from the May Meeting

by Mary Utting

Historic Elmwood/Pinewood Cemetery was the topic for Dr. Lynn Weis, who spoke at the May meeting of

OMGS Meetings

The June 2004 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 9 June 2004 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, 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 Druscie Simpson, manager of Informational Technological Branch of the NC Archives, and the topic is "Exploring MARS - Manuscript & Archival Reference System." July's program will be Patti Proctor, "Daughter of the Regiment." Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will not meet in June, July or August. Have a great summer and plan to rejoin us in September!

OMGS.

His interest in preserving the neighborhood of Fourth Ward, as president of the Friends of Fourth Ward, led Dr. Weis to become involved in cemetery preservation as well, although that was furthest from his mind at the start. He pointed out that 150-year-old Elmwood, located in the Fourth Ward, is one of the few publicly owned cemeteries.

The first threat to the cemetery came from a developer who wanted to build a road through the area to access his property. The opposition to this proposal led the developer to abandon his idea, but the next threat rose quickly: a railroad track is proposed through the cemetery, requiring the movement of a number of graves.

The Friends of Fourth Ward, Inc., and Historic Charlotte, Inc., formed a joint committee in 2003, called PEP or Preserve Elmwood/ Pinewood. This group is not only opposing the intrusion of the railroad but also is advocating restoration of the

cemetery, which has been given only bare maintenance in recent years. For the past two years, PEP has worked with the cemetery staff, so there have been improvements.

Volunteers have helped. For example, on the Saturday morning following Dr. Weis's talk, a group of 40 people from Duke Power were going to help by mulching, pruning and doing other clean-up chores. About noon the volunteers would have a 30-minute walking tour and would receive a map pointing out the 100 most interesting graves. The back of the map contains historical information.

PEP has recommended that the city include \$50,000 in its budget to develop a master plan for Elmwood. The improvements would come from a private-public partnership. Dr. Weis pointed out that more than a half million dollars was allotted for the 1998 restoration of Settlers' Cemetery, the city's oldest. That was not enough. There are still old stones in storage; also, there is no long-term strategy for its preservation. Fund-raising will be essential, as no additional plots are available for sale, so that form of support is closed.

PEP plans to seek public contributions for this effort to improve and maintain Elmwood, but first it wants to see what role the city will play. Dr. Weis believes that Elmwood can serve as an extraordinary historic teaching tool. Though he received some encouragement from a person who is working on the railroad plan, he emphasized that nothing is yet final. The threat still remains until final decisions are made.

News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

News 4-21-2004 to 5-20-2004

New Exhibit on CMStory.org! Celebrating the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

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.

A Traveler's Guide to Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries of the California Gold Rush
History for All the People, 100 Years of Public History in North Carolina (although not typically a book for genealogists, this publication from the state offers

information about historic buildings, houses, and people that helped save and document public history in NC)

Early Church Records of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Vols. 1-3

Lancaster County, PA Church Records, Vol. 3

Huguenot Pedigrees, 2 Vols. In 1

The Life and Times of Martha Laurens Ramsay 1759-1811

North Carolina Slaves and Free Persons of Color, Hyde and Beaufort Counties

Generations, Pedigree Charts published by the Ft. Worth Genealogical Society (Vols. 1-6)

In The Great Maelstrom, Conservatives in Post-Civil War South Carolina

North Carolina During the Great Depression

The Lives of Moses Roper, Lunsford Lane, Moses Grandy, & Thomas H. Jones, North Carolina Slaves Narratives

The Randolph Hornets in the Civil War, A History and Roster of Company M, 22nd North Carolina Regiment

A Southern Woman Of Letters, The Correspondence of Augusta Jane Evans Wilson

William Henry Drayton, South Carolina Revolutionary Patriot

Recollections of a Cabinet Minister's Wife, 1913-1921 (Mrs. Josephus Daniels, formerly Addie Worth Bagley)

Fisher's River Primitive Baptist Association From its Organization in 1832, to 1904 reprinted from a Second Volume From 1905 to 1953

The Five Civilized Indian Tribes of Eastern North Carolina

A Mixed Up Sampson County Family, 1848-1868 (McArthur family)

Cowart's Index to Marriages Henderson Co. NC 1851-1915

A Portrait of Nineteenth Century Sampson County as revealed by Sampson County Court Minutes 1784-1810

A Portrait of Nineteenth Century Sampson County as revealed by Sampson County Court Minutes 1800-1810

A Portrait of Nineteenth Century Sampson County as revealed by Sampson County Court Minutes 1810-1820

A Portrait of Nineteenth Century Sampson County as revealed by Sampson County Court Minutes 1820-1830

1870 Sampson County Census North Carolina

Building A Town, Wendell, North Carolina

Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County North Carolina

Valdosta & Lowndes County, A Ray In The Sunbelt
Montgomery County, Centuries of Change

Wisconsin Name Index

Last winter the Wisconsin Historical Society announced the creation of the Wisconsin Name Index, an online database leading to over 100,000 obituaries, biographical sketches and newspaper articles, all about Wisconsin ancestors. The Name Index was a huge success, allowing researchers to look up ancestors in more than 1,500 books and periodicals found in libraries or to order paper copies directly from us. I would like to invite you to visit our website at www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni to learn more about our resource. We have received many emails from users expressing their pleasure and excitement about the Wisconsin Name Index. One customer wrote, "* I would like to let you know that your hard work is a big help for those who are researching their family history".

Cemetery Restoration Updates

by Ellen Poteet

Updates on the restoration efforts at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church's Second Site Cemetery (formerly known as the Rice Cemetery) can be found on the church's website, www.philadelphiachurch.org/cemetery_at_second_site.htm. New markers as they are found will be posted here. The website also features the list of the burials in the cemetery as well as an article and photos appearing in Our State magazine.

Erratum

Nancy Spaine, Assistant Archivist for the United Methodist Church, has called our attention to an error in *Mecklenburg County, North Carolina Cemeteries, Volume 1, North Mecklenburg*. Hunter Chapel M. E. Zion Church on page 217 should be Hunter Chapel United Methodist Church. The graves in this cemetery were moved out of the way of the encroaching waters of Lake Norman to the present site of Hunter Chapel on North Beatties Ford Road.

Condolences

Parks Hutchison Dalton, Jr., 74, passed away on 9 May 2004. Parks had joined Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society because he was interested in writing a family history for his children and grandchildren. He was put in touch with several members who helped him with the research and the

writing of the history of his Parks family in Mecklenburg County. It was finished just before he became ill. Although he was not able to attend many meetings, he kept abreast of our activities. We are grateful for his support and interest.

Also condolences go out to OMGS member Becky Cauble on the death of her mother, Helen Elliott Correll, who was 96 years of age.

OMGS member Dr. Vernon Herron lost his wife Louise. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

Olde Meck members will be saddened to learn that James B. Beaty, Jr., died April 16, 2004. Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of this OMGS member. Among survivors are his wife of 36 years, Mary A. Beaty; a daughter, Amanda Elizabeth Beaty; and his mother, Mrs. Edith Beaty, all of Charlotte

Elmwood/9th Street Pinewood Cemetery Project

The largest and most ambitious project yet undertaken by Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society--the documentation of burials at Charlotte's second oldest city-owned cemetery--was kicked off on Saturday, 15 May.

As part of OMGS' ongoing project of publishing burial records in Mecklenburg County's earliest cemeteries, this effort will involve an estimated 30,000 tombstones in Elmwood cemetery and the adjacent black 9th Street Pinewood cemetery in Charlotte's Fourth Ward. The earliest markers in Elmwood date to the 1820s. Pinewood is believed to have started as a slave cemetery in the early 1800s.

No list has ever been published of the burials in either of these cemeteries--only the name of the deceased, date of burial, and cause of death are listed on the burial cards in the city cemetery office.

Eight members of Olde Meck met at Elmwood Cemetery and received notebooks with preprinted forms for recording tombstone data and maps showing their respective work areas. Over the next several months, these volunteers will work in teams of two on the first phase of the project, which will include the cemeteries' oldest areas of approximately 10,000 gravesites. Other OMGS volunteers will enter the tombstone information into a computer database, add pertinent information from the burial cards, and proof and format the data for

publication in 2005. The remaining sections of the cemeteries will be documented in two more phases next year.

These cemetery volunteers, who are experienced in reading faded inscriptions using reflected sunlight from a mirror and in distinguishing between similar numbers and letters, are June Alkire, Rose Mary Derrick, Tom Innis, Marion Humphries, Tom Humphries, Ted Lucas, Diane Richter, Frances Robinson, Sue Summers, and Scot Treadwell. Patrice Alley and Ritch Cain are alternates who will fill in when a team member is unavailable.

Members of the Elmwood Project responsible for coordinating the documentation, data entry, and recordkeeping are Ellen Poteet, chairman; Bob Alexander, Paul Buckley, and Scot Treadwell. Ronald Touchstone has arranged to have the microfilm of the cemetery burial cards digitized so that the information can more readily be entered into the database.

Upcoming Events

Taste of Scotland Festival, 11-12 June 2004, in Franklin, NC. For more information, contact Gail & Hal Chapman at Hchap62@aol.com or call (828) 524-6964.

Clover Scottish Games & Scotch-Irish Festival, 12 June 2004, in Clover, SC. For more information, email clovergames@aol.com, or call (803) 222-3312, or visit www.clovergames.com.

The Hugh Torrance House & Store will begin its 2004 summer tours on June 19th. The House & Store is located at 8231 Gilead Rd. in Huntersville, NC. Come and visit this beautiful Federal style home of Hugh & Isabella Torrance and their son, James. James Torrance ran a retail business in the home from 1805 until 1825 making this site the oldest standing store site in the state of North Carolina.

We will open the third Sunday of the month from June until September. We open at 2:00 PM and close at 5:00 PM. The cost is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and children under 6 and members are free. For information or special tours call 704-875-6479 or e-mail hughtorance1796@earthlink.net. You can also visit our web site at <http://home.earthlink.net/~hughtorance1796/>.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, 10-11 July 2004, MacRae Meadows in Linville, NC. If you missed out on Loch Norman, this is the one to go to! For more information, email highland@m-y.net, or call (828) 733-1333, or visit www.gmhg.org.

National Cloud Family Gathering July 16-18, 2004, Knoxville, TN Hilton Knoxville Airport (865)970-4300. Organization for anyone interested in Cloud surname, There will be speakers of interest to Cloud researchers, Cloud data swapping, research, visiting and a tour of an area of Cloud interest. Contact Ray Shirley of Knoxville or Linda Boose, 508 Crestwood, Eastland, Texas, for further information or go to Cloud Family Assoc. website at <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/cloud2004>.

Triad Highland Games, 20-21 August 2004, in Greensboro, NC. For more information, email president@triadhighlandgames.org or call (336) 431-8482, or visit www.triadhighlandgames.org.

If you have a family reunion or other genealogical event that may be of interest to OMGS members, let me know and I'll be happy to post it here. My email address is raney1@earthlink.net. *-the editor*

Query

DENNIS: I could really use some help researching my Dennis side of the family. Looking specifically for anyone descended from one William Charles Dennis born (?) 1780s, married in 1814 to Mary Morris. He died in Mecklenburg Co possibly before 1850 (?). I descend through his son Philmon b. 1818 Union Co, married 21 March 1855 to Louisa Foard. No known death date. Philmon's daughter Mary Elizabeth Dennis b. 26 Jan. 1857, d. 25 August 1931 was my great-grandmother. She's buried at Mint Hill Presbyterian Church, Mint Hill, NC. Nancy Coe Hall, nancycoehall@netzero.net

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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Society
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>	\$12.00 Sale!	\$17.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>		\$8.00 PPD
<i>Nine Generation Ancestor Chart</i>	\$6.00 PPD (rolled)	\$5.00 PPD (folded)
<i>OMGS Quarterlies: 1983-2003</i>	\$21.50 PPD (4/year)	\$8.50 PPD (single) \$2.00 PPD (index)
<i>The Spirit of a Proud People, by Lois Moore Yandle</i>		\$40.00 PPD

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>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC, Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. VI, 1851-1860</i> <i>New!</i>	\$29.00 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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