

# Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
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June 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.

## From the President

by George Sutcliffe

Our two major activities in April went well.

Thanks to Bob Alexander, Rachel Abernathy  
and Tom Humphries for helping with our tent  
at Loch Norman Highland Games. Despite the  
threatening weather, we spread the word about  
OMGS among the Scots.

A good turnout of OMGS members attended the  
dinner with the visiting Board of Directors from  
the North Carolina Genealogy Society. We  
enjoyed a fine meal and the company of our  
visitors from whom we learned a lot, and with

## OMGS Meetings

The June 2003 meeting of OMGS will be held on  
Wednesday, 11 June 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 **Steve  
Massengill** of the NC State Archives. **Bring your  
old photos.** His topic will be "Preservation &  
Identification of 19th & 20th Century Photo-  
graphs." If you wouldn't mind he wants copies of  
**Mecklenburg County photos.** He will copy them  
for the Archives and return them to you  
unharmed. So be sure to bring samples for him to  
see. Alden Davis will be our speaker for July.  
Alden's 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!  
Sounds like a couple of great programs so hope to  
see you there!

For the Hopewell group, Saturday, 12 June Darrell  
Harkey is going to take us on a tour of Lincoln  
County. Let Tina Brown know ASAP if you plan to  
go on the tour! You'll need some cash for the bus  
and for lunch. Hopewell will not meet in July or  
August.

whom we made friends and contacts for the  
future. Thanks to all participants.

Speaking of making contacts in other societies,  
please consider sending some of our OMGS  
membership brochures and publications lists  
to any other societies to which you belong.  
Help to promote OMGS.

The Society is in need of members who would  
like to help publicize our activities and attract  
new members. Please consider giving a little

time each month to help get the word out to our Mecklenburg neighbors. Contact George Sutcliffe or Lynn Bancroft.

The Board also asks that members suggest programs for future meetings. We need both topics and names of those who will present them. Please write them down and pass them along to any board member.

Many thanks to those who have made generous contributions to our second annual fund raising efforts this year and to those who have kindly sent memorials to us in memory of Lucie Rae. We thank you for your generosity. It's not too late to make a small tax deductible gift to OMGS, and to invest in the Society's future.

### **Notes from the May Meeting**

by Mary Utting

The efforts of soldiers from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area played a pivotal role in the Americans' winning the Revolutionary War. That was the message from John Misenheimer, who spoke at the May meeting of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society.

Misenheimer, a longtime member of OMGS, started exploring Revolutionary War pension files in researching his own family history. In 1993, he started at the North Carolina Archives in Raleigh, which has about 80,000 of these records. He said these are essentially IOU's because there was no money at the time. Many veterans were "paid" by putting their claims toward their tax payments.

Later, at the Carolina Room of the Public Library, he found the index to the National Archives files, locating about 450 men who were associated in some way with Mecklenburg County during the Revolution. The Act of 1832, which authorized pensions for Revolutionary veterans who had served at least 15 days, caused a number of veterans or their survivors to apply. Of course, by that time many had died, so the list is far from inclusive. Misenheimer did not name individuals, but called out the surnames, in case any among the audience were researching those names. He offered to give the full name to anyone interested after his talk.

For about three years, Misenheimer has been involved in military reenactments in the area. He was wearing an outfit that he said would be typical of the clothing worn by middle class gentry. This included a jacket with many pewter buttons and wide cuffs, a waistcoat, and

knee breeches. The buttons were a symbol of wealth to men of that era.

As late as 1771, he said most Mecklenburg residents remained loyal to the crown, but after that tensions arose for several reasons. In 1774, Charlotte became the official county seat. Thomas Polk, then in the legislature, was instrumental in this. There was tension between the British settlers and the Germans, for one thing. Then parts of southern Mecklenburg became South Carolina territory, and people who had paid for their land feared it might be taken away.

Misenheimer read council minutes for July 1775 in which the actions and words of Mecklenburg were called "treason." As tensions rose with the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and the Mecklenburg Resolves, it became clear that matters were getting worse. North Carolina's first battle of the War for Independence was at Moore's Creek Bridge against Scottish Highlander Loyalists--a victory for the Patriots. These Scots had pensions from the king and had taken an oath to support him, so they remained loyal for monetary reasons. Although there were other Tories in North Carolina, Mecklenburg colonists were self-sufficient and did not depend on Britain for their support.

Mecklenburg troops became engaged against the king from the very beginning. Because the northern fighting was not going that well for the British, a plan was hatched to split the colonies by taking the Carolinas. Cherokee Indians were to attack from the mountains, while the British came from the other direction. This failed, so that North Carolina troops then went north to fight, helping George Washington at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown in Pennsylvania. As the Americans retreated from Philadelphia, men from Mecklenburg were responsible for saving 12 bells (including the Liberty Bell) and various archives. The bells were put in a church at Lancaster, Pa., and the Moravians stored the records, saving them for history.

The war finally moved back South, and by 1780 General Lord Cornwallis was in control of Charleston, S. C. Gen. Nathanael Greene was sent to Charlotte on December 3, 1780, to replace General Gates, who had been soundly defeated at Camden, S.C. Greene took control with strong discipline, hanging one AWOL soldier in downtown Charlotte. Greene and Thomas Polk knew each other from the northern battles, so the strategy that

Misenheimer believes saved the American cause was hatched in Charlotte.

Gen. Thomas Sumter advised them to launch a surprise strike at Cornwallis, who did not expect winter fighting. Greene divided his Army, sending Gen. Daniel Morgan and Gen. William Lee Davidson west and then into South Carolina. Greene went to the Pee Dee River near Cheraw, S. C., thus threatening Cornwallis on two fronts.

Then the Americans won at Cowpens near Kings Mountain by having each man fire two shots, then apparently retreating. When the British line followed them, they turned and fired, killing the British officers. The Americans took a lot of British prisoners. Then Morgan and Davidson stationed men at fords along the Catawba River, a tactic to delay the British troops. When Cornwallis tried to cross the Yadkin River, nature provided a flash flood, and the American Army successfully evaded capture.

Greene retreated into Virginia, resupplied and turned back into North Carolina, where he met Cornwallis at Guilford Court House. This battle so weakened Cornwallis's troops that he moved to the North Carolina coast and from there into Virginia into Virginia and his final defeat at Yorktown.

## **Hopewell District News**

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch will meet June 14th at 10:00 at the church. Be prepared to travel! We will be taking a tour of Lincoln County with Darrell Harkey. You must let me know if you intend to go! You may e-mail me at [usbrowns@earthlink.net](mailto:usbrowns@earthlink.net). Bring enough cash to cover lunch and a donation for the fuel for the bus. Everyone is invited but you must let me know in advance.

The Hopewell Branch will not meet July and August. Our September meeting will be a program on the DAR.

## **Condolences and Get Well Wishes**

OMGS is saddened to hear of the passing of our loyal member Ed Savage, formerly of Charlotte, who has been living in Englewood, Florida, with his wife Terry. Many of you remember the Savages as dedicated OMGS genealogists. Our condolences to Terry and the family. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. Lucinda Rea, wife of our member Lathan Rea,

died April 20, 2003. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family members. Myrtle Fields is receiving radiation treatments for a brain tumor. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Dear Cousin**

by Cousin Sally

It has been some time since I have been able to write to you. I have been surfing the Internet searching for my relatives and ancestors. I came across a website that may help you in your research!

It is [vitalrecords.accessgenealogy.com](http://vitalrecords.accessgenealogy.com). What can you obtain from this website, you ask? I know that you are aware of the importance of birth, marriage and death records for your documentation. This website has addresses of the places you can write to in order to get copies of those documents. Believe me, it sure beats a trip to the library to look up that Vital Records booklet when you can stay at home in your PJ's and surf the 'net at 3am!

Gotta run, Dear Cousin! The Internet is calling me. Keep me posted on how you're doing!

## **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](mailto:bebaker@charter.net) or write him at 881 Ravenwood Drive, Morristown, TN 37814.

Searching for name of husband of Jane Steele Barnette / father of Thomas Neal Barnette. He was killed/died in Civil War about 1863. Wife Jane Steele Barnette (8/15/1825 - 4/12/1892). Children M E R (Margaret), 10/18/1852 - 10/3/1894, m January 1882 Stanhope Wallace; Marge E. (Mary), 1/16/1854 - 5/22/1887; P S (Sarah), 5/11/1856 - 3/22/1877; Luther R. 7/12/1848 - 8/17/1900; and Thomas Neal Barnette, 5/26/1861 - 7/24/1940, m first, Roxana E. Ferrell and second, Clarissa Parlee Fite, buried at Asbury Methodist Church Cemetery, Meck. Co., NC Deanne Enders Barnette, 7600 McIlwaine Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078, e-mail [gbarnettesr@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gbarnettesr@carolina.rr.com)

Seeking parents/siblings on George Washington Alexander (1/3/1834 - 8/15/1910)

born in Mecklenburg county and buried at Prosperity ARP Cemetery, Mecklenburg, Co., NC; Co. H, 35 NC Inf CSA. Married three times -- first, Jane O. Ferrell (6/7/1836 - 7/7/1856), m 1/9/1855, buried Bethesda Methodist cemetery, Mecklenburg Co., NC; second, Wilmuth Christenbury (1/7/1833 - between 1862-1865), m 3/31/1857, buried ??; and third, Isabella Peoples (11/26/1841 - 2/7/1894) m 12/7/1865, buried at Prosperity ARP Cemetery also. NOT George Washington Alexander (5/18.1810 - 11/22/1866) youngest son of William Bain Alexander, also married three times - first, Sarah Pharr Harris, 1/6/1842; second, Minerva Laticia Gillespie, 8/10/1847; and third, Sally Sharp Jetton, 2/28/1855 all buried at Hopewell Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Huntersville, Meck, NC. Deanne Barnette, 7600 McIlwaine Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078, e-mail gbarnettesr@carolina.rr.com

### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday 8 June 2003, the Bird/Byrd Reunion will be held at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church outside Jefferson, SC, on Highway 903. If you are descended from John Alexander Bird and his wife Frances Miller Bird, come on down and join us! For more information contact Joan Raney at raney1@bellsouth.net.

Samford University will hold genealogical classes June 8-13, 2003, in Birmingham, AL. Contact ighr@samford.edu. Also, their British

Study Tour in Scotland, Ireland, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland and London, England, will be held June 29-July 21, 2003, contact mbthomas@samford.edu.

Clover Scottish Games, Clover, SC, Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 4:00 at Clover Memorial Stadium. All the usual Scottish games events.

Indian Springs Scottish Festival, Indian Springs, GA, June 14, 2003. For more information call (770) 775-2493.

North Alabama Scottish Festival, Madison, AL, June 20-22, 2003. For more information call (256) 837-9596.

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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**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>	<del>\$32.50 PPD</del>	<b>Pre-pub price!</b>	\$25.00 PPD
<i>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>	<b>Sale!</b>	<del>\$27.50 PPD</del>	\$17.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>		<del>\$11.95 PPD</del>	\$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)
<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>	<b>New!</b>		\$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% sales tax. Send name, address, order, and payment to

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