



Mecklenburg Messenger

OMGS Archives Hours

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

New Board Member

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Debby Arnold has accepted the position of Corresponding Secretary. The original person in that position is moving out of town and had to resign. We welcome Debby to the board and thank her for her willingness to serve the Society.

Notes from February Meeting

by Mary Utting

Dale Loberger, Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society's February speaker, became interested in maps as a hobby when he found his first hobby historic reenactments could be enhanced by finding the location of old colonial roads.

His talk title, Using Geographic Information Systems Technology to Help Search for Colonial Roads in the Carolinas Backcountry, illustrates how modern technology can reveal history. He also treasures an antique compass, however, that dates to about 1820-25. He confessed that he had an advantage that many do not have: he works for a GIS software company.

With the help of PowerPoint illustrations, he demonstrated how he was able to superimpose his modern findings on old maps and thus locate where the early settlers of the Carolinas traveled.

Why look for these old roads? Loberger believes that finding the roads assists with historic research, as it helps locate sites of historic events and also helps us understand people of earlier times. It encourages modern preservation of important sites and connects us with our past. He noted that today's roads often cover the old ones, but it is still possible to find traces of past travel routes.

Finding roads between New York City and Atlanta, such as the Great Wagon Road, turned into a much larger project than he expected. But there are the unexpected finds, such as the mile marker he located on the Lancaster-Charlotte road the weekend before his talk. It was just a small stone,

OMGS Meetings

The March 2007 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 14 March 2007 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. We are back to our regular meeting schedule. Our speaker will be Sheila Bumgardner from the Carolina Room of the Public Library. Her topic will be "Papers! What to keep and what to throw away!" In April, we will have our very own OMGS president, John Misenheimer! His topic is "Discovering my Keenan Family in Northern Ireland." Don't miss these fine programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet on Saturday, 10 March 2007, 10:00 am, at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be Bob McGinnis, from the Atkins Library at UNCC. He will speak to us about UNCC's collections of north Mecklenburg. Come out and join us!

but it shows how evidence of the past is still around.

When the roads are located, he knows where the people were, and then archaeologists can research the area to find more about them.

Colonial transit, he pointed out, was either walking, riding on animal such as a horse or mule, or riding in a vehicle pulled by animals. Walkers can go up and down steep slopes, but horses cannot, and wagons need even less steep grades.

He brought copies of the old maps, such as those done by Henry Mouzon or John Collet in the 18th century. These mapmakers did not visit the area, but depended on information collected by surveyors. The coastal areas were quite detailed in their maps, but the inland areas were sketchy, as there was little reason to venture that far into Indian territory.

When the railroads came during the 1830s and 1840s, transportation totally changed. Before that, Loberger said that travel speed was an average of 2.5 miles per hour. In the Piedmont, that meant a traveler covered about 15 miles in a day, so small towns grew up about that distance apart. Near the coast, one could cover only 10 miles, and in the mountains about 5.

Travelers first took footpaths, often following animal tracks. Trails were a bit wider, so it was possible to transport up to 40 pounds, but on roads, where wagons could be used, one could carry thousands of pounds. Loberger said that roads are built, but trails form. This means that roads also move, because if soil washes out, the road ends up on more stable ground.

Before the 18th century, maps were secret, as they were used by the military. But as common folk and explorers started using roads, surveying blossomed in the late 18th century, and science made maps more accessible and accurate. For example, the early maps had huge errors, such as placing a non-existent Lake Ashley in South Carolina or making California an island.

The speaker described some early surveying techniques. His antique compass is surprisingly accurate, but it is difficult to read degrees, minutes and seconds. It could measure to about 15 minutes. They also used chains, with links of 7.92 inches. A hundred equaled one chain, or 66 feet. These long chains had markers at each 10 links and another at 25.

The surveyors would transcribe their findings at night after a day of surveying, and when finding an error, they would "adjust" it to fit. Thus a lot of boundary lines were suspect. Plane tables could be used to map small areas right in the field, where errors were more apparent.

He collects digital images of historic maps from the Library of Congress. Using Geographic Information Systems, he adds roads, refining and adjusting to create an accurate map of where they were located. He gets elevation studies from data sent by the Space Shuttle, so he has data on elevation, soils, and hydrology. But the old maps are important. For example, Mouzon located the fords over the area rivers, and these do not move.

Correction: In the notes about David Erdman's talk reported in the February Messenger, I stated that the Granville Line, which is Mecklenburg County's northern boundary, is at 35 degrees latitude. Not so. That line is at 35 degrees 34 minutes. The 35th parallel is the boundary between North Carolina and South Carolina west of the Catawba River.-Mary Utting

The Charlotte History Museum Hires Kesler for New Historian & Curator Position

by Ellen Poteet

The Museum is proud to announce that Leslie Kesler has joined the Museum as Historian & Curator. She

comes to CMH from the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh where Kesler has been the Curator of Political and Socioeconomic History since 1999. Previously, Leslie was a museum educator at the North Carolina Museum of History. She has also worked at Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site and at Colonial Williamsburg.

Kesler returns to the Charlotte region where she grew up and graduated from Independence High School. She holds a B.A. with honors in history from Haverford College and an M.A. in American history from the College of William and Mary with extensive post graduate work in historical administration.

Kesler will lead interpretive planning for museum programs and exhibits and work with the Collections Manager, to aid in researching, cataloguing artifacts, and archival materials and making recommendations regarding additions to the collection.

Seeking Pre-1970 Photos Of Matthews

Darryl Parker, Matthews business man and amateur historian, is looking for pre-1970 photographs of Matthews, NC, for his new book on the history of Matthews. "I've really found some terrific previously unpublished photos," he said. "And I'm really looking forward to the collection coming together for the publisher. My deadline for photos is 23 February." If you have any to share with him for his book, contact him at darryl@parkermedia.com or give him a call at 704 321-2251.

Wealth of Family Information in OMGS Quarterlies

by Ellen Poteet

For 24 years, Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society's *Quarterly* magazine has been publishing articles about Mecklenburg County families. These articles contain family histories and genealogies, Bible records, deeds, wills, newspaper notices of marriages and deaths, church records, cemetery records, military service records, and historical sketches of events affecting Mecklenburg in her early days. In addition, research tips and informational articles, such as how to use the free, online NC Archives (MARS) database and other free, online genealogical foreign and domestic databases, are helpful to researchers.

The titles and subjects of these articles are alphabetically indexed on OMGS's website, which is easily accessed at www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs. When you find an article of interest, you can order the specific issue for \$8.50 ppd or an entire year (four issues) for \$21.50 ppd. An order form that can be printed out is found on the website and

also in the back of each *Quarterly*. The form should be mailed to OMGS, P. O. Box 32453, Charlotte, NC 28232-2453, and your order will be mailed soon after it is received. Don't neglect to check out this extensive resource for your Mecklenburg ancestors.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch had a great meeting in February. Our own, Kenneth Luckey, spoke about the Rozzelles and Rozzelles' Ferry. Kenneth shared family stories and just how important the ferry was to our area in the 19th century. Another of our own, Vickie Reid, told of her ancestor who was a ferryman at Rozzelles' Ferry. In all we learned a lot in February and enjoyed doing it.

We will meet on March 10th, 2007 at Hopewell Church at 10:00 AM in the Wayland Sunday School Room. Our speaker will be Bob McGinnis from UNCC Atkins Library, Special Collections. Bob will tell us about the collections of north Mecklenburg documents that the Library has collected. He will include the Davidson family papers, the Torance family papers, a new collection at the Library...the Jetton family papers and hopefully many more. He is planning a power point presentation to show off these great collections of family documents. Special Collections is a wonderful resource and Bob will be telling us just how to use it.

Our April meeting will be the Loch Norman Highland Games. We will host a tent at the Games and hopefully see all of you there. The Games are April 20, 21, & 22, 2007 at Rural Hill. Please pray for Jeff, Vickie, Autumn & Emma.

Snail Mail

Well, the US Postal Service really lived up to its nickname last month! Despite all our efforts to get the Messenger out well in advance of our early February meeting date, most of us received our newsletter well after the meeting. We apologize for any problems this may have caused. Although we enjoy the reduced postal rates of bulk mail, we occasionally have to pay the price in delayed service. Hopefully this will not happen again.

OMGS Meetings

by Lynn Bancroft

Looking ahead:

March 14th – Sheila Bumgardner from the Carolina Room of the Public Library. Topic: “Papers! What to keep and what to throw away!”

April 11th – John Misenheimer, OMGS President. Topic: “Discovering my Keenan Family in Northern Ireland.”

May 9th – Colonel Sy Harrington, Military Archivist at the NC State Archives. Topic: “Military Records in the Archives.”

June 13th – Patsy Nesbit, OMGS member. Topic: “Germans in the Backcountry.”

Loch Norman Games

Mark your calendars now for the annual gathering of the clans at the Loch Norman Highland Games at Historic Rural Hill Plantation in Huntersville. This year's event is scheduled for April 20-22. If you would be interested in helping Olde Meck's efforts at the games, let John Misenheimer know at liberty1775@gmail.com.

News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

1/22/2007 to 2/21/2007

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.

Charlotte City Council Minutes, (19th – 20th century on microfilm)

Cities of the Dead

Confederate Cemeteries

Confederate Monuments

The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont

Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Vol. 13

Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia

South Carolina's Plantations and Historic Homes

Southern History in the Making

The Southern Textile Basketball Tournament

Stonewall Jackson by William Anderson

Strings of Life—conversations with Old-Time Musicians from Virginia and North Carolina

Thriving in the Shadows: the Black Experience in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

Upcoming Events

Join us for Camp Sutton: Remembrance & Review (1942-1945) at the Union County Public Library on March 3, 2007 from 9 am - 5 pm. A display of memorabilia, photos and film will honor this special time in Monroes history when the U S Army set up a temporary training camp during World War II. Details: 704-283-8184 ext 224 or www.union.lib.nc.us (go to Adult Programs).

Searching for your ancestors? Have you been wondering if Ancestry.com will help? Come try a class for beginners.* You and your fellow students will search for the same person while learning a little

about the U. S. Census. The next half of this hour-long class you are assisted with your own personal search. Classes are small. Call to register (or be added to a waiting list). 704-283-8184 ext 224 Next date will be a wireless class at the Union West Branch in Indian Trail, NC on Saturday, March 17 at 10 am. Room for 12 participants. *must be comfortable navigating around a computer screen using a mouse.

April 20-22, Loch Norman Highland Games, at Rural Hill plantation in Huntersville. Fun for the entire family! Visit www.lochnorman.org for more information.

Virginia is celebrating America's 400th anniversary this year, as Jamestown was settled in 1607. It is appropriate that the National Genealogical Society has scheduled its annual Conference in the States and Family History Fair 2007 in the state capital of Richmond.

This big genealogy event, 16-19 May 2007, will be within driving distance of Carolinas members of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society. For those with

Virginia ancestors, this will afford a special research opportunity, but most programs are on topics of interest to all genealogists.

There are also special sessions featuring North Carolina and South Carolina. The North Carolina Genealogical Society is among participating organizations.

Registration fees increase in price after March 30, so it is advisable to sign up soon. Full program and registration forms can be found on the website www.ngsgenealogy.org.

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

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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>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 & Quarter Sessions</i>			
<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: 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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