

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society

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March 2004

Joan Raney, Editor

Directions to Aldersgate

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

As you all know, Olde Meck has been developing plans for our Archives for some time now. Through generous contributions from our members and friends we have dramatically increased the size of the Building Fund. Little-by-little we are approaching the point at which we can search out a viable location for the Archives.

We have just received a major contribution to the future Archives. Through the generosity of the Yandle family we have more than doubled the size

OMGS Meetings

The March 2004 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 10 March 2004 at the Fellowship Hall of 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 Dr. Norris Preyer, Professor Emeritus of History, Queens University of Charlotte. He will be talking to us about early Mecklenburg history. Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet on Saturday, 13 March 2004 at 10am, Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be our own Tina Brown! This is sure to be a treat so come out and join us.

of the Building Fund and insured the progress of the Archives planning process. The gift was made "In Honor of Lois Moore Yandle," who, as you know, is a Charter Member, has served in numerous leadership positions in the society, and is an expert genealogist, most recently publishing her book "Spirit of a Proud People" documenting the North Charlotte textile region which played an important part in the development of the city. She has given us several copies of her book to be sold to benefit the society. Check the publications for sale table at the next meeting, or order the book from Olde Meck.

As a valued friend, Lois has supported Olde Meck. For over twenty years. This gift comes at a time when it will serve as a catalyst to others to give what they can to the fund and it will support your board's efforts. We deeply appreciate the thoughtful support to our society given through the

Yandle's very generous gift to the Building Fund. Thank you from all of Olde Meck's membership.

If you have not yet sent in your membership renewal for 2004, please do so as soon as you can. Early renewals help the society in several ways.

For the third year running, we are holding an annual appeal for contributions to the society. It really is a coincidence that it comes right after the Yandle's gift, but don't let that deter you--get out the old checkbook and fire off your gift to the society--large or small, whatever you are able to contribute. And thanks!

For all of you Scots, or admirers of Scotland's heritage, the Loch Norman Highland Games are coming up on April 16 - 18. Put them on your calendar.

It's Dues Renewal Time!

Have you sent in your membership dues? Look at your mailing label for a clue. It lists the expiration date of your membership. Send them in today so you won't forget! Better yet, come to the March meeting and hand them in in person! Save a stamp!

Notes from February Meeting

by Mary Utting

Members of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society were treated to a historic fashion show, when Bob Boynton, enthusiastic Revolutionary War reenactor, modeled his British soldier's uniform at the January meeting. He wore a uniform of a private in the Third Guard (Scots Guard), the regiment stationed at Buckingham Palace. He "fights" on the British side during reenactments.

His costume had a wool red coat with tails, as did all the British uniforms, but he went to describe some of the variety in their outfits. He said that there were 104 regiments in the British Army at the time of the American Revolution, and all had different uniforms. The buttons showed what the soldier's regiment was. He brought several other coats to show the variation in red. The 16th, for example, wore a red coat with yellow trim and the pewter buttons had the numeral 16 on them.

The 76th Macdonald Highlanders had short coats, because they originally wore kilts. Though they abandoned the kilts, they continued to keep the shorter coats. The Royal Provincial troops (colonists who remained loyal to the king) wore red with a dark blue facing. The three colors of red were: madder, a cheap dye obtained from a root; crimson, a bright red worn by sergeants; and scarlet, the officers' color.

The total outfit represented a fashion statement of the time: long-tail coat, vest, buckled shoes and a round hat with three sides turned up. Soldiers were clean-shaven except for the German grenadiers, who sported big moustaches. Hair was short on the sides, with a pony tail at the back.

Militiamen, on the other hand, were issued no uniforms. The soldier just wore what he had on when he was called to duty. Boynton showed a couple of rifle frocks, which he described as a kind of t-shirt of that day.

The English king had troops stationed around the world to maintain order in the various parts of the growing empire, so he often had to hire foreign soldiers to help. In the Revolution, it is well known that a number of Germans fought with the British. The Germany of that day was not a unified nation but a collection of provinces, each with its own army. Their leaders were glad to rent them out for profit. The hired fighter earned the regular pay of a soldier, but his political leader back home made the profit.

Boynton had an example of a colonial coat issued to Maryland and Virginia troops in the middle of the war, after the Battle of Saratoga. These were called French lottery coats, which had a red facing on a blue coat. New England coats had a white facing. The southernmost colonies were supposed to have coats with blue facings, but it is doubtful if any were ever issued, because none have survived.

The speaker showed his musket, which was typical of those used by the British. Americans used the same type of firearm, as they had been issued to colonists during the Indian wars. Later in the war, the French supplied some colonial weapons that were different. The smooth bore guns were not accurate past 75 to 100 feet. They

were effective when a line of soldiers all fired at once at the advancing line. These muskets also were fitted with bayonets that did considerable damage in close combat. Rifles were slower to load, so the riflemen had to shoot and run.

Though history tells us that the original battles were fought with colonists shooting from behind trees, this method was not effective in the long run. After Valley Forge, when General Baron Von Steuben came from Prussia to help, he trained colonial troops how to fight European-style.

Boynton showed samples of soldiers' other equipment, such as the canteen to hold water and a haversack to hold the food issued two or three times weekly. The meals consisted of a breakfast of mush and a mid-afternoon dinner of some meat usually like a stew.

Farmers who worked in the fields learned that leggings kept the dirt from getting into their shoes, so the military added tarred, painted canvas leggings to their uniforms, as the dirt in their shoes soon irritated their feet. These also protected their legs against thorns and thickets in rough terrain. Each soldier carried extra clothes and a blanket in his backpack.

Who were these ordinary British soldiers? Boynton said that they were usually single men aged 17 to 25, who were not happy with the jobs available in England. Farm jobs were scarce, and work in the new factories of the time was very dangerous and difficult. Whole families worked in these plants, starting as children, and from the small wages they had to pay for all the necessities of life.

Soldiers, on the other hand, earned eight cents a day, but they were supplied with food, clothing, and shelter (tents). They fought battles about six days a year, spent about 150 days on the march, and during the rest of the time helped to build forts and cabins. They were rotated back to England every four years.

At the war's end, some soldiers, particularly Germans, settled in America. Their German leaders did not mind, as it meant they did not have to give them back pay.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch met on Valentine's Day, since most of us probably think of genealogy as our Valentine. Our speaker was Joe Brickey and as usual she was great. She taught us to organize as we collect our information. We learned that doing it to begin with is a lot easier than starting after you have begun your work. Joe shared some of her best hints and ideas. She also showed us how if we do it properly that even dropping our files is not the end of the world. I have since found out that several of our members were ill during February. I am glad to report that they are all much better

Our March speaker will be an old regular, just me. I was hoping a wonderful speaker would come forward and volunteer for March but it didn't happen. Several at the February meeting asked that I speak, so you got me. The topic will be, don't overlook the obvious and don't make it harder than it has to be.

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.

News From the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

News... 11-20-2003 to 2-20-2004

Now Live on CMStory.org! *Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room Image Collection*

<http://www.cmstory.org/imagegallery/>

Coming May 20th 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.

History of Parker County (TX- "heritage" book)
Steam Locomotives And History, Georgia Railroad and West Point Route
Early Records Hampshire County Virginia Now West Virginia 1782-1860
Flora MacDonald
Quaker Hudson Monthly Meetings, NY
Chattahoochee Valley Sources & Resources: An Annotated Bibliography, Vol. 1: The Alabama Counties
Hickman County Tennessee 1807-1993 ("heritage" book)
Hudson Cemetery Interments, 1829-1873 (Columbia Co., NY)
McLennan County Texas Marriage Records 1850-1870, Vol. 1
McLennan County Texas Marriage Records 1871-1881, Vol. II
Cowart's Index to Marriages Polk Co., NC 18 Jan. 1847-1945
Cowart's Index to Marriages Transylvania Co., NC 1861-1945
Ancestors of Frank Grady Hall, III and Their Link To The Revolutionary War In America
Orleans Parish Poll Tax Rolls 1869-1870 (Louisiana)
Calendar of St. Landry Parish Civil Records, Vol. 1 (1803-1819) (Louisiana)
Early Settlers of Louisiana As Taken From Land Claims In The Eastern District of the Orleans Territory
Calendar of the Natchez Trace Collection Provincial & Territorial Documents 1759-1813
Death Notices, 1859-1918 Dutchess & Columbia County, New York
Cultivating Common Ground (Wilmore Community Ground)
The 4th North Carolina Calvary in the Civil War
The Thirty-Seventh North Carolina Troops, Tar Heels in the Army of Northern Virginia
Edmond Hawes and His American Descendants
Columbia County Place Names (Pennsylvania)
A History of Padgett's Creek Baptist Church (Union Co., SC)
Records of the Town of Newark 1666-1836 (New Jersey)
Seward and Related Families incorporating We Remember Carroll (related families are Bradleys,

Corbells, Days, Eleys, Hawes, Kloennes, McKays, Phillips, Rughs, Swegers)
Hill and Hill – Moberly Connections of Fairfield County, South Carolina
Memoirs of Major Joseph McJunkin-Revolutionary Patriot
The Maryland Gazette 1727-1761, Genealogical and Historical Abstracts
Davie County Marriages 1836-1900 (NC)
Newspaper Abstracts from Pike County, Alabama 1855-1861
Abstract Henderson County, NC Estate Records 1838-1900
Verango County, PA Alphabetic Will Index Through 1946
Genealogical Abstracts of Wood county, Texas, Newspapers Before 1920

Upcoming Events

The author Billy Kennedy will be in Charlotte Tuesday night, March 30th, from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. at the Main Library in uptown Charlotte. He will be launching his new book *Women of the Frontier*. Mr. Kennedy is the author of seven books about the Scots-Irish emigration to the United States, including *The Scots-Irish in the Carolinas*. There are no charges to the public as this is being supported by Hopewell Presbyterian Church and the Catawba Valley Scottish Society.

16-18 April, the Loch Norman Highland Games. A treat for the entire family, **even if you're not Scottish!** For more information, email WebInfo@lochnorman.org or call (704) 875-3113. You can also visit their website at www.lochnorman.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 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
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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>	\$17.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>	\$8.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC Waterways Map (by William T. Skinner, C.S.R.S.)</i>	\$3.50 PPD
<i>Nine Generation Ancestor Chart</i>	\$6.00 PPD (rolled) \$5.00 PPD (folded)
OMGS <i>Quarterlies</i> : 1983-2002	\$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&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: 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

Mecklenburg County, NC: A Petition, 1792; Tax Lists 1797-1799, 1806-1808, 1810-1811, 1815, 1823-1824

(transcribed by Ralph B. & Herman W. Ferguson) \$27.50 PPD

Mecklenburg & Cabarrus Counties, NC: Decedents for Whom Loose Estate Papers are Extant \$16.50 PPD

North Carolina residents please include 7.5% sales tax. Send name, address, order, and payment to

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