

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 32453
Charlotte, NC 28232-2453
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March 2003

Joan Raney, Editor

Directions to Aldersgate

Fellowship Hall, Aldersgate -- Ray Hall Community Center. If you are coming from Eastway Dr. turn on Shamrock Dr. Turn right at the sign which says "Epworth Place, 3420 Cole Drive". (Other signs are not relevant.) After turning in, bear left and almost immediately turn right onto Bishop's Way Lane. After passing various buildings you will see a fence on your left. It has white pickets and brick posts with a lamp on top of each post. At the end of the fence, turn left into Visitors Parking. Use the Visitors Entrance next to the greenhouse. Visitors Welcome!

Notes from the February Meeting

by Mary Utting

Computer access to the Internet has enabled thousands of genealogists to do research without leaving home, according to Paul Buckley, OMGS membership secretary, who also heads Mecklenburg's GenWeb Project. He described how to use this new source of data at the February meeting.

Recent surveys indicate about 60 percent of U. S. households own a personal computer, and about half of the U. S. population has access to the Internet at home. Of those, about half actually use this access.

Business, of course, is the major user of computers. Private citizens can find access either in their homes, in libraries or in such commercial places as Kinkos or the Internet Cafe. In other words, Buckley says, a researcher does not have to own a computer to use the Internet.

A word of advance warning: In these times of identity theft, users need to know that the

OMGS Meetings

The March 2003 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 12 March 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 Chuck Ketchie. His program title is "Using Maps in Genealogical Research." In April we will have Dr. Norris Frederick, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Queens University of Charlotte speak to us. His topic is "Genealogy and Truth: A Case Study." Sounds like a couple of great programs so hope to see you there!

The March 2003 Hopewell meeting will be on Saturday, 8 March 2003 at 10am. Our speaker will be Darrell Harkey for a return engagement. Come on out to hear this fine speaker.

world has access to everything on a computer the

moment it is plugged into a phone line. This calls for the use of antivirus software and firewalls as well as an attention to copyright and privacy matters and to backing up data in case of trouble.

Buckley says to begin Internet research just the way it should be done before computers came on the scene. Get organized with family group sheets, ancestral charts and genealogical software to record what is learned. Also, work backwards from the known to the unknown, starting with living relatives. Buckley list such sources as Bibles, vital statistics records, obituaries, newspapers, court records and all the documents that paper our lives. Much of this material can be found on the Internet.

Buckley advises genealogists to begin with the volunteer sites, which offer free information. He described the USGenWeb project, which had its genesis in a Kentucky project that became the KyGenWeb. This was a single entry point for data and research for all Kentucky counties. The information would be indexed and cross-linked to help researchers. Volunteers decided it would be a great idea to expand this to all states, and thus the USGenWeb Project came into being. It offers a query section, bulletin board, e-mail, surname registry and some databases transcribed by volunteers.

Most genealogists quickly hear of Cyndi's list, which provides links to thousands of sites with genealogical material. These include commercial sites, which offer some information free, but to give access to full details require a subscription fee. Such sites include Rootsweb.com, which is a part of Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com, which is allied with Family Tree Maker, and USGenNet.org.

The Family History Library operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints gives access to its records and provides a catalog of its films and books that can be rented through the local Family History Centers for a nominal fee.

Sometimes the researcher can just type in a name on a search engine (Google, Yahoo, WebFerrett and others) and come up with information that someone has placed on the Internet. Often, the most valuable result can be to find someone who is researching one's family so that facts and sources may be shared.

From the President

by George Sutcliffe

OMGS held its first meeting in our new location in the Fellowship Hall at Aldersgate on February 12th. It was a resounding success, with over 50 participants, and a dozen visitors. Any members, guests or visitors who have not seen this magnificent location must come to our next meeting in March. We are thankful to President Ray Hall of Aldersgate and Karen Aiken of the President's Office for allowing our use of the facility, which also serves as a chapel for Aldersgate. We look forward to a long and successful series of meetings there. As we learn how to use all of the equipment available in the Hall, we will be able to expand the scope of our

meeting programs. It's great! Come and enjoy the site with us.

At the next meeting, in March, a representative of Aldersgate will provide a tour for our members before the OMGS meeting. This will start at 6:15 at the Fellowship Hall and take about 45 minutes. Having taken the tour myself, I heartily recommend that you take advantage of this chance to have a guided tour of the beautiful new facilities. Please come and tour. Visitors and guests will also be welcome.

Your Society is still looking for committee members for 2003. We are grateful for all of those who signed up for the Hospitality Committee for this year: Refreshments are covered for all meetings through November. Thanks! The Publicity Committee seeks members who can help in any way with publicizing OMGS. We have been a secret too long. See Nelson Lemmond or Anne Woolf to sign up. Also, anyone who would like to help with grants, or any kind of fund raising, please see me. There are many opportunities to help using only a little time.

And please send those membership renewals in right away. Thanks.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

Hello everyone, hope all our winter weather has not hit any of you hard. In February we had Rudolph Young as our speaker. Rudolph spoke on several different topics. He told us of the African American hard search to find their ancestors. Remember an African American has to really research two families to find one, the black ancestor they are searching for and the white slave owner's family. Rudolph also spoke on the role of African American in the War Between the States. If you didn't make the February meeting you missed a good one.

In March we welcome the returning Darrell Harkey. On March 8th at 10:00 AM we will meet in the Wayland Sunday School Room at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Darrell has never told me what he would talk on before the day so I am at a loss. But I can guarantee that the program will be informative and interesting. Darrell is the Historic Coordinator for Lincoln County and very knowledgeable on local history.

In April we will be meeting at the Loch Norman Highland Games. As usual we will have a tent on the field and I hope all of you can come by to sit a spell, in the best Southern and Scots Irish hospitality.

In May Joan Raney will be our speaker, so mark your calendars.

Queries

Johanna Martin of 2837 Avenida Alberto, Lillian, AL 36549, seeks an obituary for her grandmother Elizabeth Hoover who d. Dec. 1983 in Mecklenburg County.

Richard A. Kemp of the Alabama SAR, P.O. Box 311093, Enterprise, AL 36331-1093, seeks information on Coonrad (Conrad) Hartwick found on the 1790 Meck. census. Wants Revolutionary War service. Sons John Hartwick m. Susannah Pitman, 1806, and Leonard Hartwick m. Delila Cagle. Does anyone know the parents of Susannah or Delila who gave patriotic service?

The Original Mecklenburg County Heritage Book Committee (not part of OMGS) reminds everyone of the upcoming extended deadline for submissions of material for their book, The Heritage of Old Mecklenburg County, N.C. 1763-2003, which is now April 30th, 2003. Please send in your free 500 word family stories with one free picture right away. OMGS member John Misenheimer (Liberty1775@netzero.com) is co-chair of the project and invites your contributions. For more information on the web: www.countyheritagebooks.com.

You should send your orders for copies of the book, with your stories and pictures to: Original Mecklenburg County Heritage Book Committee, P.O. Box 1348, Huntersville, NC 28070-1348. Send them by April 30th, 2003.

OMGS is not a participant in this project, but supports the committee's efforts to publish the history of Mecklenburg County.

Upcoming Events

The Family Research Society of Northeastern North Carolina is holding a fair on March 15, 2003, in Elizabeth City, N.C., at the Quality Inn. Several noted speakers will present.

Information (252) 333-1640, 10:00-3:00, Tue/Thur/Sat only.

Lancaster (PA) Mennonite Historical Society is holding its Family History Conference on March 28-29th, 2003. For information contact David. J. Remple Smucker at (717) 393-9745 (day) or dsmucker@lmhs.org.

11-13 April 2003, the Loch Norman Highland Games, at Rural Hill, NC. Fun for the entire family! **Even if you are not Scottish, you will have fun!** Tickets are \$15 for one day, \$20 for a 2 day ticket, children 10-17 can get in for \$5 for a one-day ticket, and children 9 and under are free! Parking is \$3. For more information, email WebInfo@lochnorman.org, or call (704) 875-3113. You can visit their website at www.lochnorman.org.

12 April 2003, Dunedin Highland Games, Dunedin, FL. For more information, email skeith@prodigy.net, or call (727) 733-3197 or (727) 733-6240.

26-27 April 2003, Culloden Highland Games, Culloden, GA. For more information, email Webmaster@cullodengames.com, or call (478) 885-2440.

2-4 May 2003, Aiken Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Aiken, SC. For more information, email dnichols@aikenelectric.net, or call (803) 649-7374.

9-11 May 2003, Kentucky Scottish Weekend, Carrollton, KY. For more information, email KyScotWknd@aol.com, or call (800) 325-0078.

16-18 May 2003, Gatlinburg Scottish Festival & Games, Gatlinburg, TN. For more information, email gatlinburghighlandgames@juno.com, or call (800) 568-4748.

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.

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.

Remember—It's OMGS Renewal Time!

Have you sent in your dues? Not sure? Check your mailing label for a clue. It lists the expiration date. Don't let it lapse! Remember--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

New Release: <i>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 1: North Mecklenburg</i>	\$32.50 PPD
<i>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>	\$11.95 PPD \$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&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: 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,</i> <i>1806-1807 (transcribed by Ralph B. & Herman W. Ferguson)</i>	\$32.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: A Petition, 1792; Tax Lists 1797-1799, 1806-1808, 1810-1811,</i> <i>1815, 1823-1824 (transcribed by Ralph B. & Herman W. Ferguson)</i>	\$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% sales tax. Send name, address, order, and payment to

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