



# Mecklenburg Messenger

**Website:** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs/>

**Email:** [omgs1775@yahoo.com](mailto:omgs1775@yahoo.com)

## OMGS Archives Hours

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

## Mark Your Calendars! - Summer Workshop July 2008

Remember to make your plans to attend the joint NCGS/OMGS Workshop on July 26<sup>th</sup> entitled "**From Ulster to the Carolinas: Finding Your Scots-Irish Ancestors.**" The presenter will be David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA, Director of the Records and Information Division of the Family and Church History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. In case you misplaced it, we will include the application form again in the June Newsletter. Read on for news about a special event at the Carolina Room the evening before the workshop. For more information, go to [info@ncgenealogy.org](mailto:info@ncgenealogy.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

## Carolina Room Extends Research Hours Before Scots-Irish Workshop

The Carolina Room of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, July 25, 2008. The extended hours are offered to accommodate researchers, especially early arrivals for the July 26th workshop.

- Staff will assist visitors with research
- Free photocopies of research from microform machines
- Free photocopies of research from printed materials
- Ancestry.com Library Edition access
- Heritage Quest access
- Wi-Fi access for Laptops

Light refreshments from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. **For further information contact:** Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County: 704-416-0150 or email [ncr@plcmc.org](mailto:ncr@plcmc.org). Further information about directions, parking (handicap parking directly behind building), and light rail access can all be found on the Library's webpage: [www.plcmc.org](http://www.plcmc.org). For

## OMGS Meetings

The May 2008 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 14 May 2008 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. We usually have a "social hour" at 7pm followed by the meeting at 7:30pm. Our speaker will be Laurie Prince, from *Charlotte Magazine*. Her topic is "Searching for the Past." Come out and join us for these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will not meet at our regular time. Join us at the **Loch Norman Highland Games** April 19 & 20. Hope to see you there!

people who want to get a jump on what is available the catalog link is <http://www.plcmc.org/Catalog/>. Materials in the Carolina Room are labeled "NCR".

## Notes on April Meeting

by Mary Utting

Judy Gibson, register of deeds and speaker at the April meeting, brought three large notebooks to show members of Olde Meck. These contained examples of the old marriage records being preserved by her office.

The records, each on a sheet of paper folded into thirds and then placed in a file drawer, were not in great shape. As they aged, the folds became vulnerable, and the papers could not be handled.

They have been carefully repaired and restored and then placed into transparent covers for protection, so they will not deteriorate further. Because they are in a looseleaf notebook, they also can be removed for copying.

Most records earlier than 1866 were in church records or family Bibles. The records in the notebooks have been indexed by the male names only; the female names are not indexed. The old system took less space, but the new books make it possible to check old records. The project is ongoing. Someone in her office works on preservation every day.

The birth and death records are still maintained in the Health Department; Mecklenburg is the last

North Carolina county to file them this way. Mrs. Gibson said to let her office know if there is difficulty in accessing them, however, as some can be accessed by computer in her office. The birth and death records all date from 1913 on, no earlier.

The speaker believes that such records should be available, but there is a fear these days that such open files may lead to identity theft. She maintains that it is not public records that make people vulnerable to this crime; only one percent of identity theft is from public records. She knows of no one who has been an identity theft victim because of public records in Mecklenburg County.

This crime, which has received a lot of media attention, is more apt to come from one's credit card or from people sharing information when they should not. One unusual source is the hotel room card a guest often receives instead of the old-fashioned room key. On this card, a lot of the person's personal information is stored, so she recommends taking it with you and destroying it.

In some instances, special identification information is being removed from public files. If the Social Security number or credit card number appears, her office will remove it if requested. In one other North Carolina county she knows of a counterpart who is removing information; she does not believe he has the authority to do that.

She noted that we are moving rapidly into the dot.com age, and electronic recording will be the vehicle of choice. Deeds and mortgages are not recorded this way yet, but mortgage modifications are.

Mrs. Gibson has always tried to be helpful to family history buffs, and she confessed that she is about to become one herself. She has found some documents that have interested her in learning more about her own family. Her father, for example, was born in Canada of Scottish parents. He tried to enlist in the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps in World War II, but was turned down by all because of his flat feet. Someone told him to try the Army Air Corps, because "they would take anyone." He had married her mother just before shipping out. His plane was shot down, with five men who were single and five who were married on board. The single men died, and the married men survived, but were taken prisoner by the Germans.

She found an account of this written by a German historian in 1996; it told of the five who lived and the five who died, so she knew this was her father's story.

During the question period, she said that about 275 notebooks of marriage records had been completed. She also mentioned that the black records were

separated from those of white people, as the black community said that would help them find their information more quickly. The earliest date they have found so far is 1856. She also pointed out that if a will that was never posted would not be filed, but there a slim chance that one might be able to locate it in a law firm's files.

## **Hopewell District News**

By Tina Brown

We will round up our Spring meetings with our May meeting on the 10th with a really great program. Phillip Gaddy, the Scotsman's Forge, will come and tell us about how blacksmithing became such an important part of our heritage. Philip is a wonderful blacksmith and he does it the "old" way and he can talk about it for hours...we may have to shut him up just so we can get some lunch. Come out and be sure to bring any questions that you may have about this early skill that help mold our country.

We will meet in the Wayland Sunday School Room at 10:00 AM...bring a friend (ladies this might be a good meeting to get the husbands interested in "genealogy") and have a good time. We will not meet during the Summer months...we will decide if we will start up in September or October at this meeting. Please Pray for Jeff's Family, Vickie, Autumn, Drew & Jeff R.

## **15 Minute Spotlight Search**

by Alden B. Davis

Did you know that anyone can get a free *15 Minute Spotlight Search* at the OMGS Archives? The search looks at tens of thousands of names ranging from *Quarterly* indexes to members' pedigree charts. I was looking for Francis Seals, born about 1757 in Olde Mecklenburg County. After contacting my genealogical correspondents and searching the Internet I spent two days in Cabarrus County where the Seals land lay. I learned a lot, but there were still questions. Was the Signe Seals of the 1800 census Francis' widow? Did Francis have more than one land grant? One day while volunteering at the Archives I thought, "Why not use the *Spotlight Search* myself?" Maybe something will pop up. And it did. The computer found my own articles from past *Quarterlies*, but also landed on references from Herman Ferguson's many excellent Mecklenburg records abstracts. Francis died in 1792, the same year that Cabarrus was cut off from Mecklenburg. Thus, part of his estate records were in Mecklenburg and part in Cabarrus. Yes, Signe was his widow. Yes, he received a second land grant. Not only that, but he was listed in the 1777-78 tax list of Mecklenburg County, helping establish both his age and his status as a property owner.

I was delighted with the results of my 15 minute search. It saved me hours of poring through indexes. Anyone looking for a Mecklenburg ancestor should take advantage of this free service. Email your question to OMGS1775@yahoo.com.

## News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

3/22/2008 to 4/21/2008

The State Summer Workshop Comes to Charlotte!

For those attending the NC Genealogical Society and Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society Summer Workshop, you will be able to visit the Carolina Room for extended hours on Friday, July 25, 2008. The Library will open at 9 a.m. At 6 p.m., the rest of the library will close to the public. Those signed up for the Workshop will be able to stay until 10 p.m. From 6 to 10 p.m., there will be free photocopies, free microfilm copies and light refreshments on the 3rd Floor of Main Library. To attend, just sign up for the Workshop, and your name will be added to the list of those who are invited to spend the evening doing research. If you want to plan ahead, check out our catalog to see which materials will interest you the most!

<http://www.plcmc.lib.nc.us/catalog/default.asp>.

There are so many amazing websites that are available now. One of the most interesting I have just encountered is 18,000 + names of people guillotined in France near the end of the 1700s. If your ancestors were part of the French Revolution, you might find their names. Granted, the site is in French, but simply written, most information can be deciphered with little translation. It's free at <http://les.guillotines.free.fr/>.

Below are new titles of interest to genealogists in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC. Our new phone number is 704-416-0150.

*1800 Federal Census, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina*

*28<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry*

*Baden Place Names Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes*

*Burke County North Carolina-Historic Tales From the Gateway To The Blue Ridge*

*Charlotte Fire Department 2007*

*Cherokee Encyclopedia*

*Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears*

*The Christmann Heritage*

*Class Of Their Own-Black Teachers in the Segregated South*

*Clinard Looks Back: A compilation of Short Stories*

*Covering Early Days in Hickory*

*Dalton Family of Western NC*

*Dare County, NC Marriage Register Vol. 2, 1915-1956*  
*Eastern Cherokee Census, Cherokee, North Carolina 1923-1929*

*Elizabeth City North Carolina and The Civil War*  
*Escape from Andersonville: A Personal Memoir (Napoleon Bonaparte Graham)*

*Four Goff Brothers of Western Virginia*

*Freedom For Themselves-North Carolina's Black Soldiers in The Civil War Era*

*George III-America's Last King*

*Hampshire County Death Records, 1866-1922*

*Heritage of Chilton County, Alabama*

*Heritage of Harnett County, North Carolina*

*Historical Sketch of Union A. R. P. Church, Chester County, South Carolina*

*Kinsfolk of Camden County Deed Book Vol. 1 & 2*

*Memoirs of Lt. Henry Timberlake: The Story of A Soldier, Adventurer, and Emissary to the Cherokees, 1756-1765*

*Moravian Springplace Mission to the Cherokee, Vol. 2 (1814-1821)*

*Nashville's Old City Cemetery: An Adventure In History*

*New Towns for Old*

*Patriot Sons & Patriot Brothers*

*Person County (NC)*

*Pious Pursuits-German Moravians in the Atlantic World*  
*Quantum Lyrics*

*Race and the Cherokee Nation*

*Records of the Freeman's Bureau in Wythe Co., VA*

*Register of Graduates and Former Cadets of the United States Military Academy*

*Rockingham County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1785-1800*

*Separate Peoples, One Land-The Minds of Cherokees, Blacks, and Whites on the Tennessee Frontier*

*Short History of Watauga County, A*

*Slavery and the Meeting House-The Quakers and the Abolitionist Dilemma 1820-1865*

*Some Early Citizens of Marion County, Texas, Book II*

*St. Barnabas' Parish, The First Hundred Years: Its People, Its Churches, Its Clergy*

*Thomas-Huffness Family of Hancock County, Indiana*

*Voices From The North Carolina Mountains-*

*Appalachian Oral Histories*

*Westphalia Place Names Indexes (With Hohenzollern, Lippe, Schaumburg-Lippe, and Waldeck)*

*William Gudger: Revolutionary War soldier And Pioneer*

*Women of the Revolution-Bravery and Sacrifice On The Southern Battlefields*

*Wurttemberg Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reserve Alphabetical Indexes*

*Yazoo Land Company: House of Representatives*

*Document 110, Eighth Congress Second Session 1805 (Mississippi)*

## Upcoming Events

**May 14 - 17, 2008** - The unofficial Missouri state motto will have special meaning for the nation's genealogists as they gather in Kansas City from for "Show Me the Way to Our Nation's Records" the annual NGS Conference in the States and Family History Fair. Details and registration can be found online at [www.eshow2000.com/ngs/](http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/).

**June 2, 2008** - Genealogy Book Club: Searching the Internet for more Union County Public Library, Monroe, NC, [www.union.lib.nc.us](http://www.union.lib.nc.us), Monday, June 2, 2008 at 6:30 pm. Learn how genealogy Internet research can enhance reading non-fiction. Last Flag Down: The Epic Journey of the Last Confederate Warship\* by John Baldwin & Ron Powers will be the inspiration for this first book club meeting with a different slant. This book, based on the C S S Shenandoah and its intelligent, courageous officer Conway Whittle, is a story of the South's last attempt to best the U S Navy. Whittle's journal was used extensively to weave among the facts in this story of honor and even piracy on the high seas. After a brief discussion of the book we will use different web sites that you can access at home (including Heritage Quest) to learn more about Conway Whittle. A computer lab will be available for those who feel comfortable following along. Others can simply watch. If you are unable to read the book, you may still sign up. Please be aware that those who have read the book will have first choice at a computer. Questions or to register: Call Patricia Poland at 704-283-8184 ext 224. \*The paperback is to be released in May with a different title: Last Flag Down: A Civil War Saga of Honor, Piracy, and Redemption.

**June 8, 2008** - The Bird-Byrd Family Reunion will be held at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Flat Creek, SC, on Sunday, June 8. A covered-dish lunch is served at 1pm followed by a business meeting at 2pm. If you are a descendant of John Alexander Bird and his wife Frances Miller Bird, this is your reunion, but we can certainly adopt you! Bring your favorite covered dish. For more information contact Joan Raney at [kenraney@bellsouth.net](mailto:kenraney@bellsouth.net).

**June 13-15, 2008** - Chapman Family Association - The Chapman Family Association will hold its 8th annual convention and reunion at the Radisson Hotel at Opryland, Nashville, TN. The event will include a variety of presentations and workshops, site-seeing, and research at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Davidson County Courthouse, and the Public Library of Nashville & Davidson County. Further information is available at [www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html](http://www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html).

**June 27-29, 2008** - McCraw Family Reunion The 2008 biennial reunion of the US McCraw Family Association will be held in Kansas City, MO on June 27-29. Three McCraw brothers settled in North Carolina in 1801, leaving many McCraw descendants living in the state. For more information visit [www.mccrawfamily.net](http://www.mccrawfamily.net).

**July 26, 2008**, OMGS is cosponsoring an all-day workshop with the North Carolina Genealogical Society at Aldersgate. Plans are well under way. The speaker will be David Rencher, director of the Records and Information Division of the Family and History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He also was director of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for a number of years. You don't want to miss this workshop!!!

**August 31, 2008**, the 2008 LOCKABY FAMILY REUNION will be held at the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church near Easley, SC and Greenville, SC. For full details email [jcvhellis@charter.net](mailto:jcvhellis@charter.net) or [permccr@yahoo.com](mailto:permccr@yahoo.com). All Lockaby/Lockabie descendants are welcome.

## Want to Join OMGS?

It's easy to join. Annual dues are \$20 for an individual membership, \$25 for a family member-ship, \$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

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
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Charlotte, NC 28232-2453

**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 &amp; 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>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 5: Elmwood Cemetery</i>	\$35.00 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>They 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 &amp; Quarter Sessions</i>			
<i>Minutes, 1774-1780</i>	\$16.50 PPD		
<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. Abstracts of Deed Books 24-28 &amp; Books 1-3</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 7.5% sales tax. Send name, address, order, and payment to

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