

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 32453
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May 2003

Joan Raney, Editor

Directions to Aldersgate

NEW Directions to Membership Meeting!
Same great location, new route!
Fellowship Hall, Aldersgate -- Ray Hall
Community Center: After April 21 our back door
entrance will be locked. 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.

Notes from the April Meeting

by Mary Utting

A hefty 1,536 pages of family history compiled by
his Grandaunt Bess inspired Dr. Norris
Frederick's talk at the April 9 meeting of Olde
Mecklenburg Genealogical Society. Dr. Frederick,
who is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at
Queens University of Charlotte, spoke on
"Genealogy and Truth: A Case Study."

OMGS Meetings

The May 2003 meeting of OMGS will be held on
Wednesday, 14 May 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 our own
John Misenheimer! His topic will be "Men from
Mecklenburg in the Revolutionary War." In June
we will have Steve Massengill of the NC State
Archives. Bring your old photos. His topic will be
"Preservation & Identification of 19th & 20th
Century Photographs." 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. Sounds like a couple of great
programs so hope to see you there!

Our speaker for May 10 is Joan Raney. Joan's
topic is "Back Yard Genealogy." Her philosophy is
that virtually all the research you need to do can
be done right in your own back yard. In 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! Come on out for these fine
programs!

This large book about the Hoyle family of
Cleveland County was published by the speaker's
grandaunt in 1938, long before technological
tools such as computers, FAX machines and
other such useful aids were available. He found
himself connecting to these stories of the past in
a kind of dream-state. But logic does jolt us back
to reality, he noted.

One tale about Bess' grandfather, Noah Hoyle,
stood out, and at first Dr. Frederick assumed it
was factual. This gentleman was in the habit of
assembling his 40 slaves on Sunday morning to
read Scripture to them. On a Sunday in 1855,
however, he amazed them all by saying that he

only had work for a few months during the year, so it was becoming impossible to support them. Therefore, he was setting them all free.

He said they could remain in the cabins and could earn whatever others could pay them for their work. Then Dr. Frederick took a second look, because the facts did not add up.

For one thing, no slaves were listed for this man in the 1850 census. Also, few landowners in the area had that many slaves. Further research suggested that this event, if it did happen, more likely occurred in the 1840s.

Aunt Bess suggested economic, not moral, reasons for this action. Back in the 1780s, the Methodist Church had declared slavery to be wrong, but its edict did not last long. By the 1830s, slave lives became more tightly regulated. Also, because of this issue, the Methodist Episcopal Church divided on May 17, 1845. So why would Noah Hoyle choose this time to free his slaves?

Dr. Frederick suggests that his aunt had to cite economics rather than morals, or otherwise she would have stated that slavery was wrong, something that would have placed her ancestors in a critical light.

The Confederacy was a lifelong story for her. She founded a UDC chapter. She told the story of her father Max, who at age 19 enlisted in the Confederate Army and stayed until the surrender at Appomattox. Though Max was a Methodist minister and not a man of wealth, he managed to educate all five of his children, four of them girls. Bess herself did graduate work at Woman's College and later in New York City. She was a teacher for more than 45 years. She moved to Rutherfordton in 1901 and married there in 1903.

Whether all the information in this great family history is literally true, Dr. Frederick says Bess gave him a home--a place to return to. She had created a place based on her own best idea of the truth: a reliable place to return to again and again, for herself and for her him.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch held their monthly meeting at the Loch Norman Highland Games. Our tent was a big success. Not as many members stopped by but the help we had was the best. We

talked to quite a few people, I even met a cousin I didn't know I had. The big highlight of the weekend was the moment I realized I was standing in our tent with a descendant of Alexander Craighead and a descendant of John Thomson (the first minister of Hopewell Presbyterian Church.) Times like this make working with Olde Meck a great experience.

Our May meeting will be at 10:00 AM with Joan Raney. Her presentation is called "Back Yard Genealogy." I can't wait to hear the details of this one. Most of us know we don't have to go too far to find an ancestor.

In June we will be traveling. Darrell Harkey is taking us on a tour of Lincoln County. We've been on these before but Darrell always finds new things for us to see. Anyone wanting to go on the tour needs to let me know as soon as possible. We will be leaving Hopewell at 10:00 AM and will return in the middle of the afternoon. Remember to bring lunch money and enough to pay a share of the gas for the church bus.

We will not meet in July and August. But be sure to be with us in September. We will welcome two ladies from the Daughters of the Revolution.

Second Annual Fundraising Campaign

OMGS hopes that you will contribute what you can. Size or type of gift is not as important as getting membership support to build a reserve for our future and to help us in our outside fundraising efforts. Please see a board member to see what you can contribute. Thanks for your participation.

New Publications

by Ellen Poteet

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Volume V: 1841-1850 by Herman Ferguson. 2003, 259 pp. \$27.50. The decade of the 1840s was one of growth and change in Mecklenburg County. The court minutes record citizenships granted to numerous immigrants, the building of a new courthouse, and the coming of the railroad to Charlotte. Not only are the routine court matters of registering deeds, probating wills, assigning administrators and guardians, and appointing officials reported, but other historical events like running the dividing line between Mecklenburg and Union Counties, and collecting

taxes for the new school system are also documented. Ferguson's characteristic full name, place, and subject index facilitates searches by genealogists and historians alike.

Mecklenburg County, NC, Cemeteries, Volume 2, South Mecklenburg, compiled by Mel and Pinny Cook. 2003, xvi+224 pp. Prepublication price until 14 June 2003 is \$25.00 ppd. After 14 June, the price will be \$32.50 ppd. This second volume of Mecklenburg cemetery records contains burials in 10 church and family cemeteries in southern Mecklenburg County: Carmel Presbyterian Church (abandoned), Darnell-Person, Dinkins, Hebron, Historic Matthews, L. S. Miller Farm, Providence Presbyterian Church, Sardis Presbyterian Church, Sharon Presbyterian Church, and Smartt. Includes location maps and brief histories of each cemetery. Burial records date from the Revolutionary War to 2002. Maiden names of women, when known, are indexed as well as their married names.

From the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

News... From the Carolina Room 3-17-2003 to 4-16-2003

To view the latest web exhibit on CMStory.org, please go to <http://www.cmstory.org/ww1>.

To learn more about the history of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, go to <http://www.cmstory.org>.

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.

1. *From Omaha to Okinawa, The Story of the Seabees*
2. *Proudly We Served, The Men of the USS Mason*
3. *Black Company, The Story of the Subchaser 1264*
4. *Can Do! The Story of the Seabees*
5. *The Golden Thirteen, Recollections of the First Black Naval Officers*
6. *The Austin Family Stanly County North Carolina*
7. *My Hometown Pineville (NC)*
8. *Carolina Riverboats and Rivers*

Condolences and Get Well Wishes

President George Sutcliffe reports: "I am sorry to report that our loyal OMGS member Myrtle Fields

has had brain surgery at Presbyterian Main Hospital, following an MRI. Don't have a prognosis yet, but I know all of you will remember her in your thoughts and prayers. Send get well wishes to Presbyterian (no room # known yet)."

Upcoming Events

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.

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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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	Pre-pub price!	\$25.00 PPD
<i>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>	Sale!	\$27.50 PPD	\$17.50 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: Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. V, 1841 - 1850</i>	New!		\$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 & 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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