



Mecklenburg Messenger

OMGS Archives Hours

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

Notes from April Meeting

by Mary Utting

John Misenheimer, president of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, described his first attempts at locating ancestors in Ireland a story that he tells in greater detail in the most recent issue of the Quarterly (Vol. 25, No. 1). This lecture at the Society's April meeting was accompanied by a lot of photos, giving his audience a feel for the places he visited.

He was seeking the Keenan connection, the Irish line of his great-grandmother, Maggie Keenan Ferguson, who married Walter Atlas Ferguson. Their son, Earl Brooks Ferguson, Sr., and his wife, the former Mary Ella Fink, were Misenheimer's grandparents. The Keenans had come to America about three generations before Maggie.

She was the daughter of Henry Williamson "Will" Keenan and Lillie Eleanora Henderson. Will's parents were Robert W. Keenan and Mary (?) Clontz. Robert's father is believed to be Hugh David Keenan, the immigrant from Ireland.

With a chance to represent his church, Hopewell Presbyterian, at a conference in Ireland, Misenheimer hoped to sandwich in some family history research on his trip. He found the land of this ancestor had ended its long isolation and was prospering under the European Union. The poverty that brought so many Irish to American in earlier times was no longer apparent.

He had photos of Enniskillen Castle, once home to the Maguires, chiefs who were served by the Keenans. Misenheimer learned that the Keenans included historians, poets, and musicians. He also had a picture of the Londonderry Gate. He believes that this town, because of its location, was likely the point of departure for the Keenans who went to America.

He plans a return trip, but this time he plans to get in touch with people in advance to assure that the

research offices and personnel will be available. Last

OMGS Meetings

The May 2007 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 9 May 2007 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 Colonel Sy Harrington, Military Archivist at the NC State Archives. His topic will be "Military Records in the Archives." In June, we will have our own Patsy Nesbit. Her topic is "Germans in the Back Country." Don't miss these fine programs!

The Hopewell Branch will not meet in April, but will have a tent at the Loch Norman Highland Games April 20, 21, and 22. Come to the Games and visit with us!

summer they were closed when he tried to visit

them.

But at least his first trip helped him learn about this ancestral land, and see the beauty of its green countryside and some historic sites, such as Dublin's Trinity College and Dublin Castle. He had pictures of these also for his talk. If he can make the right contacts on his return, he should be able to fill some of the blanks in Keenan family history.

NC Archives Renovation

If you were planning a trip to do research at the North Carolina Archives in the near future, be aware that the facility is currently undergoing renovation and will be closed until July 1. While the Archives Search Room is closed, they suggest other repositories for North Carolina research. The NC ECHO website (www.ncecho.org) lists North Carolina repositories and the types of records that they hold. Many of the Archives' records have been microfilmed and the film may be available in other repositories. For more information go to the Archives' blog at www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/archives/default.htm or call (919) 807-7310.

New Members

by Lynn Bancroft

Please help us welcome the following new members to OMGS:

Phila Harders – Columbus, WI

Robert J. Smith-Garmon – Bandon, OR, New Life Member

Rhonda Trueman – Charlotte, NC.

Rhonda is also a board member for the NC Genealogical Society.

Errors Make News

by Ellen Poteet

Having found errors in Jackson's printed version of the 1800 Mecklenburg County census and in various genealogies on the Internet, the coeditors of the Quarterly would like to know if OMGS members have found errors in print during their research of Mecklenburg families that should be corrected. As an example, on one webpage, a woman was listed as "Cecilia Catherine (last name unknown)." The woman's marriage bond names her as "Cecilia Cathey," Cathey being a well-known Mecklenburg surname. The author, who did not live in North Carolina, saw the woman's name "Cecilia Cathey" and assumed Cathey" was a nickname for Catherine.

The coeditors would like to print items that briefly state the error and where it is found. The source should be given for the correction with the name of the record, volume number (if applicable), and page number. Please include your name and contact information, should someone wish to correspond with you.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

In March we explored the rich heritage of one of the oldest families of Mecklenburg, the Jettons. Recently the family donated trunk loads of documents to the Atkins Library, Special Collections, at UNCC. Bob McInnes brought copies and information on this wonderful collection. The Jettons were magistrates, Clerks of Session, surveyors and more. So, the amount of documents this family had acquired is astounding. Anyone looking for information on an old north Mecklenburg family should check out this new collection.

For our April meeting we went to the Loch Norman Highland Games. Our tent seemed to be one of the most popular spots on the field. I believe that I talked to more people on Saturday than I have ever in one day. Hopefully we helped a lot of people find their Scottish roots and of course their Mecklenburg County roots. Thank you to those who came out to man the tent and a special thank you to Rod & Mariam Whisnant.

For our May meeting we will have Joe Brickey as our speaker. Joe is a great source of information on all

things genealogy. As usual I am letting her select her topic and as usual I am sure she will add more to our knowledge and fun. We will meet in the Wayland Sunday School Room at 10 AM on May 12th...see you there. Please pray for Jeff, Vickie, Autumn & Emma.

OMGS Meetings

by Lynn Bancroft

Looking ahead:

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."

News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

3/22/2007 to 4/19/2007

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.

Abstracts of Haywood County, North Carolina Deeds (1808-1838)

African-American Genealogical Interest Group – obituaries, funeral programs, etc. collected or copied by our local African-American Genealogical Interest Group, 15 volumes

Caldwell County (NC)

Carnival of Blood-Dueling, Lunching, and Murder in South Carolina 1880-1920

Carroll County Georgia Cemeteries, Vol. 1

Colonial Church Records of the First Church of Reading (Wakefield) and the First Church of Rummey March (Revere)

Death of North Carolinas Piedmont-Tales of Murder, Suicide and Causes Unknown

Ezra Justice Jones Efird and Others Efirds of Stanly and Mecklenburg County NC

Germans in The Civil War-The Letters They Wrote Home

Greensboro's First Presbyterian Church Cemetery

Heritage of Colbert County, AL

Heritage of Greene County, AL

Heritage of Jackson County, AL

Heritage of Marengo County, AL

Heritage of Mobile County, AL

Heritage of Shelby County, AL

Index to Alabama Wills, 1808-1870

Keenans of Mecklenburg

Land Deed, Genealogy of DeKalb County, Tennessee, (1868-1885)

Land Deeds, Genealogy of Coffee County, Tennessee, Vols. 1 & 2

Leaves from the Family Tree, or Moore, Tadlock Ancestors and Some Descendants

Massachusetts Tax Evaluation List of 1771

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations Vol. 20, Pt. 3, Henry Samson

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Vol. 4, Fuller

Necessary Faith: A History of Mercy Health Services, 1906-1995

Relentless Fury: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Piedmont

Researching African-American Genealogy in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room

Residents of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 1762-1790

Smith County, Tennessee Deeds, Vol. 2 (1835-1852)

Voices and Places of the People of God: The Diocese of Charlotte

War of 1912 soldiers of Maury County, Tennessee

Wills & Inventories of Lincoln County, Tennessee (1810-1921)

Upcoming Events

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.

It is a celebration for the May 20th 1775 Celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and the re-enactment of the Battles of Cowan's Ford and Weitzel's Mill that will take place at Historic Rural Hill on the weekend of **May 19 & 20, 2007**. The Catawba Valley Scottish Society, Inc does

proudly present the third annual re-enactment of the American Revolutionary Battle of Cowan's Ford in which the hero General William Lee Davidson did sacrifice his life for the "Cause of Liberty." The cry went out that "the British are Coming," and the local American Patriot's did show their "Spirit of the Hornet's Nest" by rising to the fight for freedom. For more information or for details please contact the Office at Historic Rural Hill by phone 704-875-3113 or go on the web at <http://www.ruralhillfarm.org/>

The annual reunion of Crowell descendants will be held **June 15, 16, & 17, 2007**, at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill, Tennessee. Friday night is an informal social and seafood dinner. Saturday will be family updates, new discoveries in the family tree, and general discussion of family matters followed by a picnic and tour of the 200-year-old Michael Crowell house and other family sites in the area. After supper that night there will be a hayride, talent show, and stage production by the youth. Contact Tom Crowell at TPCrowell@rader.com or phone him at 706 864-0410.

OMGS is excited to be pairing with the Carolina Room of the Public Library to sponsor a seminar by Brent Holcomb, nationally known genealogist and expert on South Carolina research. It will be held at the Main Library in Uptown Charlotte, **June 23, 2007** from 10 am to 4 pm. Registration fee is \$10 and begins June 1. For more information call 704-336-2980.

June 30, 2007, Raleigh, NC, Wake Commons Building. This event features a variety of expert speakers. For more information go to www.ncgenealogy.org or email to ingo@ncgenealogy.org

November 2-3, 2007, Raleigh, NC, Grier Creek Country Club, will be the site of the NCGS Fall Annual Meeting and Workshop. Theme: "A Method to Our Madness: Genealogical Problem Solving" and a Feature Presentation by Helen Leary.

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

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society
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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>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 & 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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