

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 32453
Charlotte, NC 28232-2453
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November 2004

Joan Raney, Editor

Directions to 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. 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.

Help is a Question Away

Have a question about your research? Stop by the Help Desk at the next meeting. We'll try to help.

OMGS members will staff a Help Desk from 7 to 7:30 p.m. during the social time to answer questions and assist you with your research. If we don't know the answer, we'll try to find someone who can help.

Notes from October Meeting

by Mary Utting

Jane Starnes, speaker for the October meeting of Old Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, said that church history needs to include the history of the community surrounding it, because the two are closely linked.

OMGS Meetings

The November 2004 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 10 November 2004 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, 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 Patti Proctor back for a return engagement! She will tell us how our ancestors celebrated the holidays with their Christmas Customs and Yuletide Celebrations. In December we will have our annual Christmas Party which you **must** sign up for! Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet at 10am Saturday, 13 November, at Hopewell. Our speaker may be Tina. Come out and join us!

She is on a committee at Sharon Presbyterian Church working on a cookbook that will include a history of this historic congregation. She will write the text for this history. Her interest sprang from her master's thesis at UNC-Charlotte, which was based on research for her family history in South Carolina. She also holds a bachelor's degree from UNC-Greensboro. Now in the UNC-C Development Office, she previously was curator of costumes and textiles at Charlotte's Mint Museum of Art.

She plans a new approach to the church history. Because this was not a mandate from above, there is some leeway allowed. This historian believes that the community history and the church history cannot be separated.

Sharon Church, a direct descendant of Providence Presbyterian, was started about 1830-31, when some members wanted a house of worship closer to their homes. This was a rural community at that time and kept many rural characteristics until well into the 20th century. Over the years, the church has

changed, adapting to changes in the surrounding community.

Though the Scots Presbyterians are noted for settling this area, she learned that the woman who founded Sharon was Irish.

An earlier history depended largely on Session minutes. This time Ms. Starnes plans on exploring other sources, such as newspapers and census records. An important starting place for research will be oral histories, which she hopes to glean from people in their 70s, 80s and 90s who have been longtime residents of the church area, both members and nonmembers of the church. From older members, she and the committee are getting names to check. She thinks that some of these people, in turn, will lead to others in the community, who have information to contribute. The interviews will direct the other research.

Ms. Starnes said that there needs to be talk about the project to help locate sources. She also is on the search for photographs of Sharon Township, as she is very limited in this area. (A couple of members gave her some at the meeting, so anyone who has such photographic records might see if she would like a copy.)

She passed around one of a farmhouse that was located at the intersection of Sharon Road and Fairview Drive. Built in 1897, this structure remained until about 1950 at a site now occupied by a Shell gas station and extending to where the Belk parking deck begins. Obviously, the development of the SouthPark shopping center brought massive change to this community.

So far, she reported that about nine people have been interviewed. She believes that such oral histories can provide information not available elsewhere. She finds there is not much primary documentation, as they have no old letters, journals and such likely sources of history. In researching her own family in Fairfield County, South Carolina, she used two Internet sources: Rootsweb and the World GenWeb Project, both of which she found most helpful. By posting a query, she would often get a reply by e-mail in a week, finding others who had information on the family. She believes that professional historians can come to use private genealogical research in their investigations.

A student at UNC-C has developed a website for this project, which is linked to the York County (S. C.) Historical Center. The cookbook's

completion date is scheduled for 2006. Ms. Starnes' e-mail address at UNC-C is jestarne@email.uncc.edu.

Christmas Party Time!

Don't miss the annual OMGS Christmas party Wednesday, December 8 2004! Read the enclosed for more information about the party. You will also want to send in your dues for next year as well.

Help Needed

Dr. Vernon Herron is heading an ongoing project to document abandoned black cemeteries in Mecklenburg County. If anyone knows of these cemeteries, he would appreciate being notified of their location and condition. You may reach him at 704 599-4914.

New from the Carolina Room

9-21-2004 to 10-20-2004

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.

*1855 Memories of Fannie Thompson Latham
A Brief Topping Latham Family History Also
Includes Alligood, Ethridge, Glasgow, Satchwell,
Sillery, Wiggins, and Winstead Families
Abstracts of Beaufort County, NC Death
Certificates, Vol. 3 (1916)
Abstracts of Land Entries: Hyde Co., NC 1778-
1795
Centennial History, General Society of Mayflower
Descendants 1897-1997
Four Hundred Years of Hollowell History
Index to the James K. Polk Papers
Isom Lee Melton (1894-1967) Ancestors-
Descendants and Related Families, Belk-Hinson-
Montgomery-Threatt
Literary South Carolina (biographical sketches of
SC writers)
Looking Back on Littleton, North Carolina
Rocky Mount North Carolina Centennial
Commemorative Book 1867-1967
The Children of Thomas Alligood
The Eborns of Matchapungo, Hyde & Beaufort
Counties NC and Allied Families
The History of the Society of The Sons of the
American Revolution
The Sons of the American Revolution 1962-1982
An Historical Anthology, Vol. II*

Topping Genealogy (also Tapping)
Who's Who of America's Toppings
Over Flow On Clear Creek, Descendants of
James Flow and David Flough
Clyde McPhatter, A Biographical Essay
Laurens County South Carolina Minutes of the
County Court 1786-1789
Death and Marriage Notices from The Watchman
and Observer 1845-1855
Union County, South Carolina Deed Abstracts
Volume IV: Deed Books Q-S, 1820-1828 [1779-
1828]
Rally 'Round the Flag, Boys!
Jackson County Heritage North Carolina Volume
II 2000
The 2nd North Carolina Calvary
Chains of Love: Slave Couples in Antebellum
South Carolina
Mecklenburg County, NC Loose Estate Papers
(microfilm)
Records of the Commission of Claims
(microfilm)

North Carolina History and Fiction Digital Library

A new digital library, "North Carolina History and Fiction Digital Library," is a project of the Joyner Library Academic Library Services of East Carolina University.

It features both images and transcriptions of full-text searchable digitized documents and books pertaining to the history of 29 counties located in eastern North Carolina as well as works of fiction relating to some of the counties. A listing of public libraries, cultural heritage sites with photographs available for each site, and a National Register of Historic Places are also provided for each county plus maps and a

population history, making this a useful site for tourists as well as genealogists and historians.

The North Carolina History and Fiction Digital Library is located at
<http://www.lib.ecu.edu/ncc/historyfiction/>

Upcoming Events

Genealogy on the Internet, Mint Hill Branch Library, November 11 2004, 7-8:30pm. For more information or to register, call 704/573-4054.

Family Tree Climbing: An Introduction to Genealogy, University City Regional Library, November 17, 7-8:00pm. For more information or to register, call 704/595-9589.

Genealogy on the Internet, University City Regional Library, November 18, 7-8:30pm. For more information or to register, call 704/595-9589.

If you have a family reunion or other genealogical event that may be of interest to OMGS members, let me know and I'll be happy to post it here. My email address is raney1@earthlink.net. *-the editor*

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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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>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 4: West 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>Nine Generation Ancestor Chart</i>	\$6.00 PPD (rolled) \$5.00 PPD (folded)
<i>OMGS Quarterlies: 1983-2003</i>	\$21.50 PPD (4/year) \$8.50 PPD (single) \$2.00 PPD (index)
<i>The Spirit of a Proud People, by Lois Moore Yandle</i>	\$40.00 PPD

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, Minutes of the Court of CP&Q Sessions, Vol. VI, 1851-1860 New!</i>	\$29.00 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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