



Mecklenburg Messenger

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

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OMGS Archives Hours

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

News of the Archives

Our latest donation is a copy of the Mecklenburg Heritage Book. One of the indexes we are able to search on our computer is Elmwood Cemetery, Historic Section. It is at present the most complete and accurate source for this information available anywhere. Another of the indexes is the 'expanding' Quarterly surname index now including over 10,000 names.

Notes from October Meeting

by Mary Utting

In a little more than 100 years, Americans have seen medical treatment grow from a simple and often ineffective process into a very sophisticated and scientific discipline. Olde Meck's October speaker, Jane Burdick of the Mint Hill Historical Society, described medical practice in her community of Mint Hill during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Now a thriving suburb of Charlotte, in 1880 it was a tiny country village. That was the year that its first physician came to town and established a medical practice. Burdick's talk centered around the Mint Hill Country Doctor's Museum, which preserves the story of this first doctor and his successor.

The museum, part of the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village, contains a large collection of medical instruments and items used by doctors, mostly donated by doctors, dentists, hospitals and families. She brought some samples to illustrate her talk.

In 1886, Dr. John McCamie DeArmon, who had just completed his education at Baltimore Medical College and the University of Maryland, rode his horse from his parents' Charlotte home into Mint Hill, arriving at his future landlord's house after dark. There were no paved roads, just paths, and no street lights, so it was not an easy trip. He had to awaken his host.

During the night, the house suddenly started to shake, puzzling the new doctor. They learned that a

OMGS Meetings

The November 2007 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 14 November 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 Dr. James Sasser, who will speak on Mecklenburg County history. In December we will have our annual Christmas Party, which means great food and fun socializing! Come on out to see these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet at 10am on Saturday, 10 November at Hopewell. We will learn about other great helps coming out on the Internet, and how we can help with the work. Come out and join us.

strong earthquake had occurred in Charleston, S.C., and this was a shock from that event. A dramatic entrance for the young doctor.

He had no office, but made house calls on his patients in the area. Families tended to try home treatments first. When these had no effect and often made matters worse, they finally called the doctor. By then, he could do little but relieve their pain. Serious illnesses were often fatal.

When making house calls, the doctor encountered such hazards as packs of wild dogs or highway robbers, to say nothing of the lack of roads and lights, especially for night calls.

Dr. DeArmon's medical bag was slit by a robber seeking drugs, when he could not break the lock. The doctor sewed up the slit and continued to use the bag.

The doctor married and had 12 children, but probably did not lead a life of luxury. Often payment from the rural patients was in goods such as chickens and eggs rather than cash.

Dr. DeArmon finally moved to Charlotte, and in 1908 Dr. Ayer Manny Whitley took over the Mint Hill practice. He came from Monroe in the middle of a typhoid epidemic.

This second doctor also had a family of 12 and lived on 12 acres. He tried motorcycles for his trips to see

patients, but it was not a successful means of transportation on country paths. Dr. Whitley died of a heart attack in 1951. Dr. DeArmon was 95 when he passed away in 1945.

Among the medical implements that the speaker showed were a balance scale, dating to about 1860, used for making herbal drugs, a mortar and pestle for grinding materials, and a percolator (not like a coffee pot) used to soak herbs in liquid. This has a cork in the bottom that was removed to strain out the herbs. She also had a splint made of screen wire, a flat metal brace used as a splint for the wrist and hand, an anesthesia mask, two saws for head surgery, a case of small knives, dental pliers to extract teeth, a caliper and a forceps used in childbirth, a vaporizer that is pre-Civil War, a monaural wooden stethoscope, and an assortment of quarantine signs.

The museum has a large book of "recipes" for making medications and handcuffs to strap arms and legs during treatment to avoid injury to both doctor and patient. Burdick said that early instruments were often fashioned out of fine wood, but when sterilization became the practice, metal instruments replaced them.

Burdick ended her talk with a story about the first use of x-ray in the United States, which took place in Mecklenburg County. In 1897, a girl swallowed a thimble, which became lodged in her throat and started to cause infection. Her doctor had heard of a Davidson professor, who had a "new kind of photography" and persuaded him to take pictures of this throat, enabling the doctor to extract the thimble successfully.

Those who would like to know more about the historic village in Mint Hill, which is open to visitors, may check the website www.minthillhistory.com

Hopewell Branch Meeting

by Tina Brown

The Hopewell Branch of the OMGS met on October 13th as usual but with a small difference. We toured the church. At our very first meeting, the Rev. Jeff Lowrance gave a tour of his historic church and we have not toured the church since. I felt that it was very appropriate for us to repeat this tour on the day we had decided to take up a memorial for Jeff. Since several of our regulars were unable to attend the meeting in October, we will continue taking up money for the memorial in November. I think everyone from long time members to the new at Hopewell enjoyed checking out the history of the church. We also got to browse the many books that Jeff Lowrance's family have donated to the history room from his vast library.

In November we will meet on November 10th at 10:00 AM in the Wayland Sunday School room of the Administration Building. Joan Raney will be our speaker and will update us on the indexing program that FamilySearch is doing. We will have Internet access but if you have a laptop...we have wireless access at the church and you might want to bring yours along to have an up-close view.

I hope to see all of you in November and don't forget our December meeting is our Christmas party. Plan to bring a dish to share at 11:00 AM (instead of of 10:00) and come out for fellowship and good food. Please Pray for Jeff's Family, Vickie, Autumn & Drew.

OMGS Receives Awards

Members of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society recently received awards for genealogical and historical excellence from two distinguished North Carolina organizations.

Award for Three Magazine Articles

The North Carolina Society of Historians presented **OMGS president, John E. Misenheimer, Jr.**, with the D. T. Smithwick Newspaper & Magazine Article Award for three articles of historical significance printed in the OMGS *Quarterly* journal. The judges made the following comments about the three articles.

Catawba Indian Patriots in the American Revolution: "This article is the result of some remarkable research as evidenced by the superb text and detailed footnotes.

It deals with a subject quite often overlooked in American history...the role American Indians played during the Revolutionary War. In fact, most historians are so busy studying the war from an American/British standpoint, and sometimes the role African Americans played in the war, that they totally miss the contributions the Indians made toward the war being won.

Mr. Misenheimer has remedied this situation as far as North and South Carolina are concerned as he has listed the Catawba Indian Patriots, formerly known as the Catawba Warriors, and he has also written a brilliant account of their participation in various battles.

After reading the article in its entirety, our panel discussion moved in an unusual direction which surprised us all. We thought back to the time the white man was first 'introduced' into the Indian lands and how those lands were taken from them; many of them had died due to diseases brought into the country by the white man; yet, they fought as Patriots during the Revolutionary War.

This is a very thought-provoking article that has been masterfully researched and written. It is definitely a significant piece of collected history that should be noted for its importance.”

Mecklenburg County’s Mexican War Pensioners:

“Another marvelous article by this author lists all the Mexican War pensioners from Mecklenburg County, NC. It contains a vast amount of genealogical data as well as historical data; and we found it to be yet another piece deserving of recognition. The article was well-researched, interesting and scholarly, yet it was reader-friendly. This is an extremely talented writer whose talents should not be overlooked.”

Search for the Keenan Family and Spiritual Heritage:

“This article is a wonderful genealogical and historical record of the author’s ancestors, from both a family heritage standpoint and from a spiritual heritage. Both histories could stand alone if sectioned out; however, one would be lost without the other. It is also several stories within the story of the author’s trip to Ireland in search of answers to his ancestral line. Bylines to his adventure are: Presbyterian Roots, Keenan Genealogy, Greystones Memento (which was heart-warming and almost poetic), Help from a Stranger, Enniskillen History, Changing Times (which deals with understanding the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland), Ulster American Folk Park, and he even included his visits to repositories where books had to be used in lieu of researching primary sources. It was a privilege to judge these three articles!”

Award for Battle Reenactment

Misenheimer also received the Paul Green Multimedia Award for his part in organizing the reenactment of the Battle of Cowan’s Ford and the Battle of Weitzel’s Mill. His participation in Revolutionary War reenactment battles reflects his deep interest in preserving local heritage.

The judges commented that “When we first received this entry for judging, our panel was amazed at the request that so many people receive recognition for their part in a week-end event; however, after reading the accompanying commemorative program, it was easily understood. Each segment of the event was a massive undertaking; each demanded a great deal of time, leadership, experience, knowledge, coordination, organization and determination. And, each segment was like a separate entry within the same category.

One of our panel members attended the event and we heard, first-hand, of his experience. He said it was an experience he would relish for quite some time as the battles made history come alive...even down to the smell of the gunpowder that lingered in the air after guns were fired. ‘Every North Carolinian should experience a ‘mock’ Revolutionary War battle,’

he said. ‘They would probably appreciate what their ancestors did for them by way of freedoms if they could SEE the hardships they suffered, if they could become a part of a re-enactment that took them back in time.’

This successful, massive endeavor is the result of many hard-working, dedicated people...all of whom are named...all of whom should be recognized.”

Misenheimer has received a number of awards from the NC Society of Historians. He was named Historian of the Year—West in 2006 for his numerous literary pursuits and participation in reenactment activities as well as genealogical and historical organizations. Six other awards were presented him in 2006. It seems award-winning runs in the family, for his twin brothers were also presented awards last year for their participation in reenactments and writing and acting in historical plays.

Award for Outstanding Journal

The North Carolina Society of Historians also presented the OMGS *Quarterly* with the Claude Hunter Moore Journal Award. The judges commented that “We feel privileged to have this marvelous publication cross our desks! Each issue offers a generous amount of skillfully researched historical and genealogical data; features articles by award-winning authors; deals with an impressive amount of subject matter; and a full name index!...Articles included in each issue seem to have been carefully researched and are expertly, brilliantly written...and, most have one remarkable feature...footnotes! A researcher’s dream! Also, the stories cover a wide range of subject matter, from what can be derived from tax records, to a list of Mecklenburg citizens who donated to the Confederate cause; from county history and maps to bookstore items for sale...and then there’s the index again! We can’t get over the fact that there is an index in every issue! Remarkable!

For anyone with Mecklenburg County ties, this journal is the consummate source of information; and, utilizing the expertise of these two extremely proficient co-editors, it will continue to be.

This entry won this prestigious recognition by the unanimous decision of our panel.”

Ellen Poteet and Mary Utting have coedited this publication since 2001.

Excellence in Publishing

In addition, the North Carolina Genealogical Society presented its 2007 NCGS Award for Excellence in Publishing to the society’s *General Order Book, 1862-1863, 11th “Bethel” Regiment, North Carolina Troops*, transcribed by **Ellen Poteet**. This 143-year-old, previously unpublished document contains

promotions, appointments, furloughs and leaves of absence, several courts martial, names of recruiting officers, and records of enlistees in the 11th "Bethel" Regiment of North Carolina Troops during the Civil War. Raised in Mecklenburg County, this regiment was the successor of the 1st North Carolina Volunteers (6 months), who won the name in the battle of Bethel Church, VA, the first engagement of the North Carolina troops in the war.

News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

9/22/2007 to 10/22/2007

In conjunction with the Body Worlds exhibit at Discovery Place, the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room joined the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society in hosting the September meeting featuring Teresa Brady, a genetic counselor with Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

Ms. Brady had an informative program, complete with pictures! Following this theme of looking at health and genetics, it may be helpful to know the U. S. Surgeon General has developed a free website to enter your family's medical history at <http://familyhistory.hhs.gov/>. You can now keep track of family illnesses and diseases using 21st century techniques!

These are new titles of interest to genealogists. To view the Public Library's catalog for a complete list of holdings, go to <http://www.plcmc.lib.nc.us/catalog/default.asp>.

Charlotte Post, The (12 more years now on microfilm)

Charlotte Weekly East (5 more years now on microfilm)

Charlotte Weekly South (2 more years now on microfilm)

Charlotte Weekly Uptown (1 more year now on microfilm)

Charlotte Weekly West (2 years now on microfilm)

Gaston County, NC Record of Estates 1839-1928, 23 reels on microfilm

Iredell County, NC Records of Estates 1790-1970, 95 reels on microfilm

Union County, NC Records of Estates 1818-1969, 89 reels on microfilm

Upcoming Events

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!!!

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

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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>Mecklenburg County, NC Cemeteries, Volume 5: Elmwood Cemetery</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>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 & 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 & 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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