

# Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
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October 2003

Joan Raney, Editor

## Directions to Aldersgate

Fellowship Hall, 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. 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.

## From the President

by George Sutcliffe

By now everyone has received their copy of the flyer for Volume 3 of Mecklenburg County Cemeteries. And a fine large volume it is, with the usual quality which previous volumes exhibited. A number of you have sent in orders already, for which we thank you. One person was so inspired that he ordered all three volumes at once. Thank you! Please consider sending your order to take advantage of the reduced prepublication price. You will enjoy your copy.

Also, in this edition of the Messenger, you will find the reservation sheet for our annual

## OMGS Meetings

The October 2003 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 8 October 2003 at the Fellowship Hall of Aldersgate, 3800 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 James Sorrell, back for a return engagement. He will be talking to us about maps. Sounds like an interesting program so hope to see you there!

The Hopewell Branch will meet on Saturday, 11 October 2003 at 10am, Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be our own Jeff Lowrance. Come out and join us.

Christmas Dinner Party at Aldersgate. It looks like a winner. The food, music and company will be outstanding. Send in your reservations and check as soon as you can. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## Notes from the September Meeting

by Mary Utting

Identity fraud poses a growing threat to honest citizens, but it is bringing a special challenge to people interested in genealogical research. Judy Gibson, Mecklenburg County register of deeds, brought this message to the September meeting of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society. She recognizes the historical value of the information in her office and the importance of continuing to make it available in the future.

With the fast movement of information in this computer age, Mrs. Gibson said this new crime has become a major problem. People find strangers spending money in their names and seriously damaging their credit ratings to say

nothing of the actual money these criminals manage to steal in the process.

Because much of this information may come from public records, there is a growing movement to restrict access to documents that contain birth date, full name, family information, and other such personal details. The speaker cited one example: the DD214 form filed for those in military service. The document contains the above mentioned information as well as the Social Security number.

Mrs. Gibson said there has been no fraud from this form in Mecklenburg so far, but it has occurred elsewhere. A proposal is to make these forms unavailable for 50 years after the person leaves military service. At the same time, other public records are coming into question. Action has already been taken in some states.

She is not quite sure what will occur in North Carolina with such items as birth certificates, death certificates and marriage licenses. The question is: How do we address this in an open society? There is definitely a need to protect people from misuse of their records, so Mrs. Gibson and other professionals in the field are trying to work with lawmakers to come up with model laws to help this issue.

For example, health information is considered private, and some information on birth certificates, such as birth weight, may come under that category. The problem is not a simple one.

The speaker noted that further challenges to accessibility have come from budget cuts. Her office is allowed no overtime pay, so the public has access to records from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30, with staff working only from 8 till 5. For example, the July budget was 38 percent less than July 2002 and 52 percent less than July 2001. Also, the North Carolina Archives no longer can film local records, which had provided a great resource for researchers.

Technology may help, however, as the speaker said that in the next three weeks, her office would produce the first totally electronic documents, with her digital signature on them. This will begin as a trial on cancellations at first, but eventually will move to more important items such as deeds of trust. Around

the first of the year, a new index system will begin with the computer reading the data. It will be a tool to help locate items, although the office will not rely on it totally.

During the question and answer session, Mrs. Gibson pointed out that the register of deeds office contains the following types of records in Mecklenburg County: real estate, notary, marriage licenses and DD214 forms. The Mecklenburg County Health Department houses birth and death records.

## **Hopewell District News**

by Tina Brown

In October the Rev. Jeff Lowrance (his schedule permitting) will speak to us about his research on the roots of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. The church has acquired a Lily Grant for Jeff to do this research. His travels so far have taken him to Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. He also has dived into the local sources with his usual zeal.

## **Founding Families of Mecklenburg**

Catawba Valley Scottish Society has invited descendants of early settlers of Mecklenburg County to become members of the Founding Families of Mecklenburg. This group will honor and perpetuate the memory of early pioneers who were living in Mecklenburg County before May 31, 1775.

To be eligible, a person must be able to prove each generation of his or her lineage back to an individual who settled in Mecklenburg County before May 31, 1775, the date of the adoption of the Mecklenburg Resolves. This document, which was published in several North Carolina newspapers, contained 20 amendments to the earlier Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. These amendments stated how the people would elect leaders and maintain law and order until Congress could authorize laws. Captain James Jack delivered this document to North Carolina delegates at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

Although the Meck Deck, as it is familiarly known, remains in some doubt among historians, because a fire destroyed minutes of the May 19-20, 1775, meeting at which it was adopted, the newspaper records verify the authenticity of the Resolves.

Those whose heritage makes them eligible for the Founding Families recognition may request an application blank from Founding Families of Mecklenburg, Historic Rural Hill Farm, P. O. Box 1009, Huntersville, N. C. Please enclose a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope. Anyone whose application is verified will receive a specially designed lapel pin and a certificate suitable for framing.

## **250th Anniversary Celebration**

by Ellen Poteet

The Reverend Peter Marshall will be the guest speaker at Coddle Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church's 250th anniversary celebration on October 19, 2003. He will speak at the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Dinner on the grounds will begin at 12:30 p.m. Coddle Creek A. R. P. Church was founded in 1753 and supplied by pastors from Pennsylvania during its earliest years. The oldest burial in the church's cemetery was 1757. The church is located at 2297 Coddle Creek Highway, Highway 3, Mooresville, NC 28115. Further information, phone 704 663-1020.

## **Upcoming Events**

Flora Macdonald Highland Games, Red Springs, NC, October 3-5, 2003. For more information call (910) 843-5000 or email [cpal748@aol.com](mailto:cpal748@aol.com).

Tennessee Highland Games, Murfreesboro, TN, October 3-5, 2003. For more information call (615) 848-9193 or email [SS3036@earthlink.net](mailto:SS3036@earthlink.net).

Cumberland Gap Highland Games and Celtic Gathering, Harrogate, TN, October 11, 2003. For more information email [cghg@usa.net](mailto:cghg@usa.net) or call (606) 248-8249.

Scottish Society of the Waxhaws Gathering of the Clans, Waxhaw, NC, October 25, 2003. For more information, call (704) 764-5683, or email [webmaster@waxhaw.com](mailto:webmaster@waxhaw.com).

Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Richmond, VA, October 25-26, 2003. For more information, call (804) 569-3200 x. 221, or email [mwetton@arevents.com](mailto:mwetton@arevents.com).

Foothills Highland Games, Hendersonville, NC, October 31-November 1, 2003. For more information, call (828) 859-2028, or email [patandivy@aol.com](mailto:patandivy@aol.com).

## **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> ****prepub price \$30.00****	<del>\$37.50 PPD</del>
<i>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>	\$17.50 PPD
<i>OMGS Surname Index, 2000 Edition</i>	\$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)
OMGS <i>Quarterlies</i> : 1983-2002	\$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&amp;Q Sessions, Vol. I, 1780-1800</i>	\$30.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&amp;Q Sessions, Vol. II, 1801-1820</i>	\$32.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&amp;Q Sessions, Vol. III, 1821-1830</i>	\$27.50 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&amp;Q Sessions, Vol. IV, 1831 - 1840</i>	\$25.00 PPD
<i>Mecklenburg County, NC: Minutes of the Court of CP&amp;Q Sessions, Vol. V, 1841 - 1850</i>	<b>New!</b> \$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 &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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