

Mecklenburg Messenger

OMGS Archives Hours

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

Archives Open House

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society will hold a public open house at its Archives in the Merchandise Mart on Saturday, October 14, from 2 until 5 p.m. This event will not only give people a chance to see the resources at the Archives but also will honor three longtime members of OMGS: Selby Daniels, Herman Ferguson, and Lois Yandle. These three will be cited for their important contributions to genealogy in North Carolina and to the Society's goals and objectives.

The refreshments and festivities will be in a room near the Archives. Mark your calendars and bring a friend.

Notes on August Meeting

by Mary Utting

August's program about Sarah Frew Davidson was a team presentation, which was begun by Ann Williams, one of three editors of a journal by this 19th century Charlotte woman. She explained that publication of *A Life In Antebellum Charlotte*, the *Private Journal of Sarah Frew Davidson*, was a project of Historic Rosedale, a home that was occupied by the diarist's sister, Harriet Davidson Caldwell.

This journal records only one year in Sarah's life, 1837, when she was 33 years old. The manuscript was preserved by descendants of sister Harriet, finally coming into the possession of the last two of Harriet's great-great-daughters to occupy Rosedale, Mary Louise Davidson and Alice Davidson Able. Alice presented the document to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Rare Books and Manuscript Collection. From the university, the Rosedale staff obtained a photocopy.

The editors had hoped that Sarah would shed some light on Harriet and life at Rosedale. Instead, she barely mentions either her sister or the historic home. Instead, Sarah provides a picture of the village of Charlotte, just emerging into a thriving community, and describes the life she leads as a privileged woman in the antebellum South.

OMGS Meetings

The September 2006 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 13 September 2006 at the **Ray Hall Community Center, Aldersgate**, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte. Remember the "social hour" begins at 7pm with the meeting following at 7:30pm. We will have Mike Scoggins, author of several books, and he will talk about Huck's Defeat. In October, we will have Leigh Van Buren in battle attire, and she will talk about the Battle of King's Mountain and how it affected our area. Don't miss these great programs!

The Hopewell Branch will meet on Saturday, 9 September, at Hopewell Presbyterian Church, at 10am. Come out and join us!

There are details of her social life, which consists mainly of visits to and by family and close friends, her responsibilities as head of her widowed father's household at their plantation, The Grove, about three miles northwest of Charlotte, and many details about her religious convictions and activities.

Her father was William Davidson, a banker and politician, who served both in the North Carolina Senate and in the U. S. House of Representatives. At the time of the diary, he was semi-retired, engaged in farming and gold mining.

After this introduction, Mrs. Williams introduced Sarah herself, as portrayed by another of the book's editors, Karen McConnell. "Sarah" read an account of an adventure she had on 25 February 1837 while visiting her cousin. A chimney caught on fire in a nearby house, causing no end of excitement and consternation, as the ability to fight fire was quite limited.

The two editors described the growing importance of gold mining at this period, as the mining had grown from simple panning of the metal in streams to an industry of deep pit mining. Sarah's uncle, Samuel McComb, was the first to construct such a mine. (The third editor, Janet Dyer, was unable to attend the OMGS meeting, as she was on vacation with her family.)

"Sarah" read a second section from the diary, dated 13 February. She describes how one of the slaves was being lowered into the mine shaft and discovered a terrible odor coming from it. It turned out to a blind horse who had been missing for days. The poor animal had stumbled into the mine and perished.

Sarah's father owned about 80 slaves, making him one of the area's largest slaveholders. She was responsible for their physical and spiritual health, teaching them to read in violation of laws that forbade this. In spite of her affection and care for them, she held the biases of the time that they lacked the capacity to become fully educated. "Sarah" then read a 18 March account of the nighttime funeral for a slave named Amanda, which she found a most moving and religious experience. She had promised this woman she would be responsible for her two children.

The writing of this journal was inspired by a beloved teacher, Susan Nye Hutchison, who herself kept a diary for many years. The editors said they do not know if Sarah wrote other journals; there is no record surviving.

Sarah became a music teacher at a school Mrs. Hutchison opened in Charlotte and then later served as headmistress. It appears that her father had financial problems and that working had become essential for his daughter.

The two editors described the relationship of slaves to church at this time. Just as any Presbyterian did, slaves had to demonstrate to the church Session that they understood church teaching and believed in it. They had to be examined before communion services in order to earn a token allowing them to participate. They could attend services, sitting in the slave gallery, have their children baptized and have a burial service performed by a minister. But they could not be married in the church.

Mrs. Williams and Mrs. McConnell pointed out that life for women like Sarah centered around visiting family and participation in church activities. This was a time of a great religious revival, especially for women. When they first read the diary, they thought Sarah might have been slightly fanatic about religion, but further research showed that her fervent expressions of religious conviction were a product of her times.

Sarah's journal is for sale at Historic Rosedale.

Genealogy Workshop

The Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County will sponsor an all-day genealogy workshop on Saturday, September 30, in the Main Library Auditorium, 310 N. Tryon Street.

Lloyd Bockstruck, noted author, speaker, and head of the genealogy department at the Dallas (TX) Public

Library will make four presentations. They will be: records for civilians in and after the Civil War; comparing colonial land records in North Carolina and South Carolina; bridging the Atlantic--finding your ancestral home; and Indian wars. The workshop will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m., with a break for lunch. Although there is no charge for this workshop, the library requests that those planning to attend register by calling 704 336-2980.

Hopewell District News

by Tina Brown

In September the Hopewell Branch of the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogy Society will return to regular meetings. I am sorry to say I will not be there. I will be "amazing." In other words working in the seven acre corn field that is the Amazing Maize Maze at Rural Hill Farm. Hope to see all of you there sometime since we have already opened and will run until October 15th.

Jeff Lowrance has agreed to do the program for me while I'm lost in a corn field. He will be our host and also our speaker. When I asked him to do this for me, he wasn't quite sure about his topic but as all of you should know; Jeff is always a good speaker.

I am working on speakers to finish out the rest of the year...just need to follow up with each before I put names in print. Boy, this summer has not been long enough!

Be sure to come out on September 9, 2006 at 10:00 AM. As usual we will meet in the Wayland Sunday School Room at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Please pray for Jeff & Vickie.

New from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

7/21/2006 to 8/22/2006

Below are new titles of interest to genealogists in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC. In addition to these titles, we have begun subscriptions to periodicals about genealogy and history for Old New Hanover, Carteret, Pitt, Madison and Wilson Counties in North Carolina.

Microfilm

Mecklenburg Co. Alien Registration, 1822, 1866-1927
Mecklenburg Co. Bastardy Bonds and Records 1795-1935

Mecklenburg Co. Child Support Records 1926-1946
Mecklenburg Co. Naturalization Records, 1822, 1866-1927

Mecklenburg Co. Superior Court Minutes - Civil and Criminal (1872-1876)

Mecklenburg Co. Superior Court Minutes - Civil and Criminal (1877-1885)

Mecklenburg Co. Superior Court Minutes – Civil and Criminal (1885-1893)
Trench and Camp (Camp Greene's WW I newspaper)

Books

Abstracts of Deeds Craven County, NC, Books 6-10, 1750-1758
Abstracts of Deeds Guilford County, NC, Books 14-16, 1819-1826
Abstracts of Land Warrants Bladen County, NC 1802-1935, Pt. 1&2
Ancestors and Descendants of Colonel Peter Mallett 1744-1805
The Civil War in North Carolina-Soldiers' and Civilians' Letters and Diaries, 1861-1865, Vol. 2
DAR Anson County, North Carolina 1936-1941
Dr. J. B. Alexander's Medical Ledger & Account Book 1855-1871
First Baptist Church-New London, NC; The First One Hundred Years of Christian Service
Generations of Somerset Place From Slavery to Freedom
The Jordans of Black Creek Oxford (NC)
Real Estate and Legal Notices from Charlotte, North Carolina, Newspaper 1848-1862
Setzer Setser Genealogy
Slaves and Free Blacks Known to be Associated with Rocky River Presbyterian Church Prior to 1870

Obituary

by Mary Utting

George Timblin, known to OMGS members as the leader of a group restoring Philadelphia Presbyterian Church's historic cemeteries, died September 1. Sadly it was just after Scot Treadwell, who was part of the restoration team, had learned that George was to receive a statewide award for his work at the historic Mint Hill Church. Scot had made the nomination.

George headed the church's Historic Cemeteries' Subcommittee, whose members spent many hours laboring in the Second Site Cemetery, which is more than 200 years old. He would have received the Paul John Barringer, Jr., Award, given for outstanding or unusual work on behalf of North Carolina history, genealogy, or preservation, from the North Carolina Society of Historians.

It was to be presented at the October awards banquet in Morehead City.

He also was a member of the OMGS Map Committee, and his knowledge of the Clear Creek community and its history was invaluable in identifying roads, rivers, and creeks of that area for the committee's map project.

George, who is survived by his wife Carol, children Brandon and Alison, and four grandsons, had a distinguished career in engineering, including work on NASA's Saturn V booster rocket for the moon shot.

In 1970, he joined the faculty of Central Piedmont Community College, where he spent 31 years in administrative engineering positions. He received a number of important awards for his professional work.

The Society extends its condolences to George's family.

Upcoming Events

30 September 2006, the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (PLCMC) will sponsor an all-day genealogy workshop. The guest lecturer will be Lloyd Bockstruck of the Dallas (TX) Public Library. His four lectures will be: Records for Civilians in and after the Civil War Comparing Colonial Land Records in North and South Carolina Bridging the Atlantic: Finding Your Ancestral Home Indian Wars. The workshops will be at the Main Library's Auditorium from 9:30 a.m to 4: 00 p.m. with a break for lunch. Call the Carolina Room at 704-336-2980 to register for these free workshops.

14 October 2006, Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society will hold a public open house at its Archives in the Merchandise Mart, from 2 until 5 p.m. This event will not only give people a chance to see the resources at the Archives but also will honor three longtime members of OMGS: Selby Daniels, Herman Ferguson, and Lois Yandle. These three will be cited for their important contributions to genealogy in North Carolina and to the Society's goals and objectives. The refreshments and festivities will be in a room near the Archives. Mark your calendars and bring a friend.

October 21-22, Stone Mountain Highland Games; Stone Mountain, GA. For more information visit their website at www.smhg.org.

October 28, Waxhaw Highland Games, Waxhaw, NC. For more information visit their website at www.wshg.org.

Do you know of an upcoming genealogical event? Let me know and I can publish it here. My email is raney1@earthlink.net

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. Our email address is omgs1775@yahoo.com and our website is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncomgs/>

Joan Raney, Editor

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society

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OMGS Publications for Sale

<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: 1983-2003</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

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society

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