

Mecklenburg Messenger



Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society

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September 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

by Ellen Poteet

Have a question about your research? Stop by the Help Desk at the July 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 August Meeting

by Mary Utting

Sisters Marie and Janet Morrison inherited their special mission from their parents: collecting and recording the history of Concord's Rocky River

Presbyterian Church, one of the seven colonial Presbyterian congregations in Olde Mecklenburg. At the time

OMGS Meetings

The September 2004 meeting of OMGS will be held on Wednesday, 8 September 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 Karen Dutton and she will speak on a Case Study of the Kimmons Family. Don't miss this great program!

The Hopewell Branch will meet at 10am Saturday, September 11, at Hopewell. Come out and join us!

of its founding in 1751, the church was located in Mecklenburg County, but as new counties were established, its site became part of Cabarrus.

In speaking to OMGS members at the August meeting, the sisters' topic was "Using Church Records to Do Genealogical Research." They said some churches like to keep the histories available only to members, but Rocky River is not one of them. Thanks to the work of the Morrison family, old writings have been preserved, and new ones published. They admit that the first 80 years of the church offer scant material, and later records vary with changing pastorates.

Marie showed one of the oldest items, dating to 1782, a membership certificate for Barbara Caldwell, whose Scottish church recommended her highly for membership in Rocky River. Another letter from Rocky River went to Kentucky with Mr. and Mrs. William Driscoll in 1785, but a descendant returned it to the Cabarrus church years later. Joshua Harris, a church member, kept records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths in the community (many at Rocky River) from 1817 till his death in 1859. This valuable record was transcribed for the church by a descendant--and certainly would be a valuable genealogical resource.

The Rev. Daniel Penick came to Rocky River in 1835, and this pastor kept some of the best records, Marie said. He made a roll of all members

when he arrived, recording the date they joined, if known. The Morrisons' father began to compile a list of everyone who had been a member of Rocky River, and his wife and daughters continued the project. This list includes both black and white members. They also put together copies of minutes, marriage and burial records, which are on microfilm at the Carolina Room of the Public Library. Marie said her parents tried to add any information they found, so not all records come from Rocky River Church.

Janet continued their presentation by saying they had Session Minutes from 1835 to 1870, and luckily most were legible. During his tenure at Rocky River, the Rev. Mr. Penick served not only as moderator of the Session, but also as clerk of Session, a job assigned to an elder in today's church. Those early minutes consisted mainly of descriptions of disciplinary actions taken against members. They could have been tried in civil court, but most elected the church trial. For their transgressions, which included intoxication, stealing, use of profanity, or bearing a child out of wedlock (the women only were tried), the members were suspended from the privileges of church membership, such as communion or baptism of children.

Janet said that the records included the names of persons called before the Session and the witnesses and the elders as well. These provide a good genealogical resource.

Marie described an early historian, Robert Kirkpatrick (1789-1867), who wrote his history as a tribute to his two wives, Margaret Wiley and Eleanor Allen. This included lists of their children and descendants. This treasure came to the church in 2001 when a Greensboro surgeon bought an old home and its contents and found this book in the attic. He gave it to the church, asking only that he receive a letter saying that the church had not paid him for the book.

Discovery of the sisters' great-great-grandfather's tombstone, which had been buried under leaves and dirt for 70 years, inspired a new project for Janet. She has begun photographing old tombstones and recording the full inscriptions, realizing that over time many gravestones will disappear. She showed her work to date in a looseleaf notebook with each photo and the inscription typed beside it. It is an ambitious long-term project, needless to say.

Marie reminded her audience of the need to keep modern records for the future. She said that many churches publish annual directories, often with photos, and these can become a valuable part of history. In 1976, the Morrisons' mother issued a

book, *A Century of Challenge and Change and Service*, a record of the organized women's work, which began in 1876. It included old minutes and biographies of presidents. She said Presbyterian Women in many churches compile annual histories of the entire church, and some include all members who died during that year.

Even cookbooks have genealogical material. Rocky River did one that includes divider pages, each with some historic information and a photo, with some oral histories on the back of these pages.

The sisters offered their audience copies of their church's brochure, which describes both its history and current activities. They also showed samples of other church publications, some of which are for sale. The two historians work hard at their Rocky River project, but it obviously is a labor of love.

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.

Nominating Committee at Work

by Mary Utting

The Nominating Committee has begun its search to find new officers and directors for the year 2005. Positions to be filled include president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, membership secretary, treasurer and two directors. Two directors, who have served the first year of a two-term, Ellen Poteet and Kathy Herran, have another year to serve.

The president and two vice presidents may be reelected for a second year only. Other officers may be reelected indefinitely.

Committee members are L. D. Bass, Pinny Cook, Ted Lucas, John Misenheimer, and Frances Robinson. Anyone who would like to recommend someone for office should call one of these members, who would greatly appreciate your suggestions. The nominees must be presented to the membership by the October meeting.

Genealogy Class in September

OMGS has received a number of queries concerning a beginners genealogy class. We are pleased to announce that we will be offering a beginners class starting in September. The first

class is scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 9. If you wish to attend please contact Pinny Cook, 704/366-3353 to register.

News from the Carolina Room

by Jane Johnson

From 7-21-2004 to 8-20-2004

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.

The Spirit of Plaza-Midwood (complete set of periodical for this Charlotte neighborhood – 63 issues)

Silver Wings and a Gold Star, The Story of T/5 Robert D.

Daves 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion First U. S.

Paratroops to Jump in Combat

The Greensboro Patriot Index 1826 to 1835

Genealogical Resources in New York

Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings, 2nd ed., revised

Marriage Bonds of Duplin County, North Carolina 1749-1868

Union County SC Deed Abstracts G-K 1800-1811 [1769-1811]

Union County SC Deed Abstracts L-P 1811-1820 [1770-1820]

Charleston District, South Carolina Journal Of The Court Of Ordinary 1812-1830

Book Three of The Samuel Jones Family, Kershaw County, South Carolina, 1750-1990

Warning in Appalachia, A Study of Wirt County, West Virginia

West Virginia, A Brief History

Frontier Forts in West Virginia

Forgotten Texas Census, First Annual Report of the

Agricultural Bureau of the Dept. of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History, 1887-88

Genealogical Extracts from The Darlington Flag,

Miscellaneous Issues From 1851-1861 (SC)

Genealogical Extracts From The Darlington Herald 1885-1889 (SC)

Genealogical Extracts From The Darlington Herald July 16, 1890 through November 2, 1894 (SC)

Deaths & Marriages From The Darlington News 1890-1895 (SC)

Darlington District Cemetery Survey Vol. III, Mount Hope Cemetery, Florence, S.C.

Darlington District Cemetery Survey Vol. IV, Cemeteries Located in Present Day Florence County, S.C.

Genealogical Extracts From The Pee Dee Watchman 1877-1878 & The Darlington News 1878-1879 (SC)

Deaths and Marriages from 19th Century Florence, S.C. newspapers

The Union Dead Of The Florence Stockade (SC)

Miscellaneous Abstracts From Pre-Civil War Cheraw, South Carolina Newspapers

Obituaries from the Chesterfield Advertiser 1927-1931

Chesterfield County, South Carolina

Life And Works Of Dr. Richard Furman, D. D.

Obituaries from the Chesterfield Advertiser 1892-1926

Chesterfield County, South Carolina

First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, South Carolina Minutes

Books 1-3, February 1839-November 1897

Charleston SC Marriages 1877-1895

Historic Henry County (IN) 1850-1859

Historic Henry County (IN) 1880-early 1940s

The Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly, 1816-1978

Dickson County, Tennessee Cemetery Records Part I, Revised Edition

Dickson County, Tennessee Cemetery Records Part II, Revised Edition

Volume I of Pittsylvania Co. Cemetery Census (VA)

Volume II of Pittsylvania County Cemetery Records (VA)

Tombstone Inscriptions of Pittsylvania Co., VA, Vol. III

Cemetery Records Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Vol. 4,

Includes Greta Burial Park

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Vol. 22,

William Bradford

Honeycutt-Huneycutt of Montgomery County North Carolina

Henry Pruett 1722-1790 Wilkes County North Carolina

Death Notices From The Pageland Journal of Chesterfield County, South Carolina 1910-1935

Wookbooklet, William Alexander Boothe 1812-Nansemond

County, Virginia; 1895 – Washington County, Tennessee

Vital Information from The Guion Miller Roll (Eastern

Cherokee Court of Claims) 1906-1909

Cemetery Restoration Updates

by Ellen Poteet

Updates on the restoration efforts at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church's Second Site Cemetery (formerly known as the Rice Cemetery) can be found on the church's website, www.philadelphiachurch.org/cemetery_at_second_site.htm. New markers as they are found will be posted here. The website also features the list of the burials in the cemetery as well as an article and photos appearing in Our State magazine.

Upcoming Events

The Hugh Torance House & Store will begin its 2004 summer tours on June 19th. The House & Store is located at 8231 Gilead Rd. in Huntersville, NC. Come and visit this beautiful Federal style home of Hugh & Isabella Torance and their son, James. James Torrance ran a retail business in the home from 1805 until 1825 making this site the oldest standing store site in the state of North Carolina.

We will open the third Sunday of the month from June until September. We open at 2:00 PM and close at 5:00 PM. The cost is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and children under 6 and members are free. For information or special tours call 704-

875-6479 or e-mail
hughtorance1796@earthlink.net. You can also
visit our web site at <http://home.earthlink.net/~hughtorance1796/>.

September 24-25, 2004 The STANDRIDGE Family Historical Society will host a reunion of all Standridge families, September 24-25, 2004 in Greenville, South Carolina. A military tombstone dedication for Revolutionary War veteran James Standridge (1755-1837) will be the highlight of the weekend. For more information and a sample copy of the family newsletter contact Russell P. Baker, gobgob3@mindspring.com, 6525 Magnolia Dr., Mabelvale, AR 72102.

October 2-3, 2004 HICKLIN Reunion: Descendants of Arthur Hicklin (abt 1710-1785) and sons William, George, Arthur, John, or Hugh of Lancaster/Chester area of South Carolina are invited to attend a reunion on October 2-3, 2004, in Chester, South Carolina. For more information, contact Jim Knox 1-803-548-3225.

October 10, 2004 DUNCAN family reunion. Hopewell Methodist Church, Lancaster, SC. Descendants of William Thomas Belton Duncan and his wife Elizabeth Rebecca Robertson are encouraged to attend. We will probably eat around 1pm. For more information contact Joan Raney, raney1@earthlink.net.

October 15-16, 2004 The SUFFRIDGE Family Reunion will be held October 15-16, 2004, at the Blackman Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 1353 Brinkley Road, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37128. All Suffridge, Selfridge, Sulfridge, Suffrage, etc. and associated families are welcomed. Lynda Childers Suffridge, National Genealogical Life member and former NGS Board member, will be the featured speaker on Saturday, October 16, at 11 a.m. Her topic will be "Where Our Ancestors Lived." For further information please visit our Web site at <http://www.blackmanchurch.org/reunion.htm> or contact Todd Tarkington at Tark1911@aol.com

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>1850 Census Abstract, Mecklenburg County, NC</i>	\$12.00 Sale! \$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</i> <i>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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