



NCGS News

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Genealogical Society

Established 1974

Volume 37, No. 6

November 2013

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NCGS 2013 Annual Meeting and Fall Workshop Wrap-Up

Nearly eighty people attended the NCGS 2013 Annual Meeting and Fall Workshop on Saturday, 9 November 2013, at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Carolyn Gibbons, the program chair, welcomed the attendees and introduced the day's speaker, Craig Roberts Scott. Craig presented four lectures around the theme of Military Records: From Service to Grave. The day began with a lecture about the War of 1812 that included sharing a wealth of resources available both online and at NARA. Two lectures dug deep into understanding pension application files, pension ledgers, payment vouchers, and last and final payments. The final lecture of the day provided an in-depth explanation of both the state and federal bounty land programs. Thank you, Craig, for an interesting and informative day.

During breaks between lectures, attendees had the opportunity to network with one another and visit with members of the NCGS board.

Attendees enjoyed a sumptuous southern buffet lunch, which was followed by the annual meeting. The minutes from the 2012 annual meeting were approved, board members were introduced, and the third quarter financial report (given by treasurer Judith Hinton) was accepted. Ann Hilke, chair of the nominating committee, presented a slate of officers who were then elected: Victoria P. Scott, president; Maryann Stockert Tuck, first vice president; Pam Toms, second vice president; and Mark Beasley and Ed Pattishall, directors. They will take office on 1 January 2014.

Following the annual meeting, Pam Toms, chair of the awards committee, presented the annual awards for outstanding work in the family history field as it relates to the North Carolina genealogical community. See the article beginning on page 6 for names of this year's winners and their accomplishments. In addition, certificates of appreciation were given to Cindy Born-Mylo and Ann Christnacht Hilke for acknowledgement of their work on the board.

Watch for information
about the next NCGS co-sponsored workshop,
to be held in Wilmington, North Carolina,
in the January issue of NCGS News.

NCGS Officers and Directors

Executive Committee

Victor T. Jones Jr., President
President@ncgenealogy.org

Victoria P. Scott, 1st Vice President
FirstVicePresident@ncgenealogy.org

Maryann Stockert Tuck, 2nd Vice President
SecondVicePresident@ncgenealogy.org

Carolyn Clemmer McCulley, Secretary
Secretary@ncgenealogy.org

Judith Garner Hinton, Treasurer
Treasurer@ncgenealogy.org

Ann Christnacht Hilke, CG, Past President
PastPresident@ncgenealogy.org

Directors

Cindy Born-Mylo, Mabel Osborne Dillard,
Carolyn Gibbons, Mary L. Gray, Jordan
Jones, Pam Toms

Marie C. Jones, Administrator
Info@ncgenealogy.org

Mark Beasley, Webmaster
Webmaster@ncgenealogy.org

Victoria P. Scott, Publications Distributor
BookSales@ncgenealogy.org

Committees

Awards Committee
Pam Toms, Chair
Awards@ncgenealogy.org

Membership Committee
Cindy Born-Mylo, Chair
Members@ncgenealogy.org

Nominating Committee
Ann Christnacht Hilke, CG, Chair
PastPresident@ncgenealogy.org

Program Committee
Carolyn Gibbons, Chair
Programs@ncgenealogy.org

Publications Committee
Victoria P. Scott, Chair
FirstVicePresident@ncgenealogy.org

Publicity Committee
Charlotte Bell, Chair
Publicity@ncgenealogy.org

Technology Committee
Mary L. Gray, Chair
Technology@ncgenealogy.org

Volunteer Committee
Mabel Osborne Dillard, Chair
Volunteer@ncgenealogy.org

Webinar Committee
Maryann Stockert Tuck, Chair
Webinars@ncgenealogy.org

The North Carolina Genealogical Society

PO Box 30815

Raleigh, NC 27622-0815

Society Goals

The North Carolina Genealogical Society, chartered in 1974, is open to all who are interested in genealogical or historical research and in these goals:

- ▶ to increase interest in and raise the standards of research and compilation by means of educational programs and publications;
- ▶ to acquaint members with research sources and materials in North Carolina and elsewhere;
- ▶ to serve as a medium of exchange of genealogical information; and
- ▶ to promote the collection, preservation, and utilization of manuscripts, documents, and other materials of genealogical and historical value.

While not maintaining a library of its own, the society promotes and encourages the development of the many fine research centers across the state. Books given to the society for review in the *NCGS Journal* are donated to the Genealogy Collection of the State Library of North Carolina in Raleigh, North Carolina.

NCGS Statement Code of Ethics

The North Carolina Genealogical Society encourages researchers to uphold high standards for their genealogical research, analysis, and publication. Care should be taken to document properly all information included in a genealogical work. Researchers should remember that the original document is the proper source for all information.

When the original cannot be found, careful analysis of secondary materials (including Internet sites) should be fully explained and sources cited.

Given modern technology and the ease of accessing information on the Internet, researchers are encouraged to respect the privacy of all living individuals by not sharing personal information via electronic media.

While the courts have not yet fully tested copyright issues involving the Internet, the same respect should be paid to information found on the Internet as is paid to information in printed works bearing notice of copyright. Under United States copyright law, an individual's intellectual output is protected whether or not it bears a copyright notice or symbol and regardless of the medium in which it appears.

NCGS Journal

Larry W. Cates, MLIS, Editor

The *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Submit articles, comments, questions, and suggestions to Larry Cates, at JournalEditor@ncgenealogy.org.

Pam Pearson, Book Review Editor
BookReviewEditor@ncgenealogy.org

NCGS News

Phyllis Matthews Ziller, MLIS, Editor
NCGS News, the newsletter of the North Carolina Genealogical Society, is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submit articles, comments, and suggestions by the 15th of the prior month to Phyllis Matthews Ziller at NCGSNewsEditor@ncgenealogy.org.

NCGS Memberships

NCGS 12-month memberships are \$40 for individuals and institutions, \$45 for families (same residence), and \$100 for patrons. Members receive two publications: the quarterly *NCGS Journal* and the bi-monthly *NCGS News*. Members are also invited to attend, at a discount, the NCGS annual meeting and workshop and all other NCGS-sponsored programs.

A note regarding genealogical credentials: Certified Genealogist (CG) and Certified Genealogical Lecturer (CGL) are proprietary service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists® used by the Board to identify its program of genealogical competency evaluation and used under license to by Board's certificants.

President's Message

by President Victor T. Jones Jr.

This letter is my last letter as president of your society. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the genealogical community of North Carolina. During the past two years, we have continued to index the estate records of North Carolina counties and have begun online webinars. The website was upgraded recently, and, after a few glitches, all seems to be running well with the site once again.

As I leave the office of president, I wish to thank the other members of the Board for working so well together and making my job as president that much easier. Special thanks also go to Mark Beasley, Jordan Jones, and Joshua Vines for the hours they have given to getting the website working properly again. Also, to Marie Jones for keeping the society running smoothly as administrator.

At this time I also wish to thank Ann Hilke, outgoing past president and Nominating Committee Chair, and Cindy Born-Mylo, outgoing director and Membership Chair, for their service to the society.

I especially want to thank incoming president, Vickie Scott, for her assistance the past few months. I know you will join me in wishing Vickie the best during her term as president.

NCGS Memberships

NCGS 12-month memberships cost \$40 for individuals and institutions, \$45 for families (same residence), and \$100 for patrons.

A membership renewal form can be found online at the NCGS website (<http://www.ncgenealogy.org>) and on page 15 of this newsletter.

The deadline for the
next issue of the *NCGS News*,
which will be published in early January,
is **Monday, 16 December**.

Welcome, New Members

We are glad you joined the North Carolina Genealogical Society at this exciting time. You are part of an organization that is committed to preserving the genealogical process through education and partnerships with genealogical societies and libraries throughout the state.

Charles Hezekiah Boyd III, Norfolk, VA
Frank Vick Brinkley, Holly Springs, NC
Roger C. Clifton, Lake City, FL
Susan Clounie, Raleigh, NC
Karen Draper, San Jose, CA
Bobby Jay Ervin, Fayetteville, NC
Joan Thomas Holloway, Savannah, GA
Murray Delton Lee, Salem, SC
Shannon McDonald, Victor, NY
Carolyn Lunsford Mears, Littleton, CO
Bert Outlaw, Pace, FL
Judy Scott Pate, Chesapeake, VA
Jonathan Raines, Laguna Woods, CA
Wynn Martin Smith, Louisburg, NC
Ted Smith, Knoxville, TN
Mary Anne Smith, Haslett, MI
Stella Taylor, Davis, CA
Janet Butler Walker, Macon, GA
Sandra Jones Webb, The Villages, FL
Douglas Wright, Olive Branch, MS

Upcoming Workshop

15 March 2014—Have no fear of the Ides of March! Make your plans to visit Wilmington, North Carolina, on 15 March 2014 and spend the day with Gerald (Jerry) Smith, CG. Participants will learn about metes, bounds, and mapping in this hands-on workshop.

To be held in the New Hanover Public Library, the workshop will be co-sponsored by NCGS and the New Hanover Public Library. Due to its hands-on nature, the workshop will be limited to 40 participants. Look for details in the registration flyer to be posted on the NCGS website and in upcoming issues of the *NCGS News*.


Share Your News

Does your society have news to share with North Carolina researchers? Send an e-mail with your news to the NCGS News editor, Phyllis Matthews Ziller, at NCGSNewsEditor@NCGenealogy.org.

Volunteer Opportunities: Paying it Forward

Many times we benefit from friends, acquaintances, or even strangers who do something special to help us out in one of those tough times we all experience. We desire to show our appreciation for what was done but circumstances make it difficult to do the same kindness for that individual. The concept of *paying it forward* has arisen, which means passing on to others the help that was given to you.

This concept certainly applies in the genealogy world. How many times when we are researching our family tree have we encountered documents relating to our family that another researcher has taken the time to abstract, transcribe, copy, and/or publish their findings so it was available to us? Maybe the information helped break down one of those brick walls. How can we ever pay back such a priceless find?

We can *pay it forward* by volunteering our time to the North Carolina Genealogical Society and transcribe, abstract, proofread, find information, submit research, index, serve on committees, or a host of other activities that will benefit other researchers everywhere now and in the years to come. Look for the symbol [] in this newsletter to alert you to volunteer activities in which you can participate. Many of these activities can be done from your home! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mabel Dillard at volunteer@ncgenealogy.org.

NGS 2014 Family History Conference

Genealogists of all skill levels will meet at the NGS 2014 Family History Conference in Richmond, Virginia, 7–10 May 2014. The program will feature ten tracks per day covering a broad array of topics including records for Virginia and its neighboring states; migration into and out of the region; military records; state and federal records; ethnic groups including African Americans, Germans, Irish, and Ulster-Scots; methodology; analysis and problem solving; and the use of technology including genetics, mobile devices, and apps useful in genealogical research.

For more detailed information about the conference and events, visit <http://conference.ncsgenealogy.org> and scroll down to the Quick Links.

The Registration Brochure will be posted on the website by 15 November 2013 and conference registration begins 1 December 2013 at <http://conference.ncsgenealogy.org/event-registration/>.

Give the Gift of Genealogy

Do you have a genealogist on your holiday gift list? A membership to NCGS makes a great gift. Simply complete the membership form on page 15 of this newsletter, mark it as a gift, and mail it along with your payment to North Carolina Genealogical Society, PO Box 30815, Raleigh, NC 27622-0815.

North Carolina Loose Estates Indexing Project Opportunity

The North Carolina Loose Estates Project is now **70% complete**. There is still time to volunteer for this project, which is creating a decedent surname index of all extant loose estates found within the North Carolina Archives county record series providing access to this valuable resource.

Explore the results of this project for yourself at <http://bit.ly/nc-loose-estates> or log onto the FamilySearch website at <https://familysearch.org>, click on All Record Collections in the Browse by Location section, then type “North Carolina, Estate Files” in the search box.



Won't you offer a little of your time to help bring this project to 100% completion?

Indexing can be done from a volunteer's home with Internet access.

Training is provided.

Contact Vickie Scott at firstvicepresident@ncgenealogy.org for more information, or to volunteer.

✓ **New Volunteer Opportunity: Transcribing the NCGS Journal Table of Contents and Index**

The goal of this project is to transcribe the table of contents, names of books reviewed, and the index found at the end of the *Journal* for all the *NCGS Journal* issues, from 1991–2013, into a spreadsheet. This spreadsheet will be searchable and will help individuals locate which *Journal* issues mention their families.

Volunteers will work on one issue of the *Journal* at a time, entering the above information onto a pre-formatted spreadsheet. The volunteer should have Microsoft Excel (version 2007) and Adobe Reader with Windows being the most compatible operating system, but other operating systems could be used. This can be done from your home and requires no special knowledge. You will be sent the *Journal* issue and the spreadsheet in which to enter the information by e-mail. Detailed instructions are available for anyone wishing to help with this project.

To volunteer for this new project contact: Mabel Dillard, NCGS Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@ncgenealogy.org.

✓ **Perfect Volunteer Opportunity For Retired Accountant**

NCGS needs to have an audit of its financial records and would like to have someone volunteer to do this. It would be the perfect opportunity for someone with an accounting/bookkeeping background. This would also be perfect for someone who is retired and has time for this important task. If you are interested, please contact Mabel Dillard, NCGS Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@ncgenealogy.org.

The NCGS Journal Needs Your Input

contributed by Larry W. Cates, *NCGS Journal* Editor

After two years at the helm of the *NCGS Journal*, it is apparent to me that no single person can provide adequate coverage of all regions of the state during all periods. No individual can be familiar with all the surnames and locations that arise. It is also a challenge, even with the availability of indexes and catalogs like PERSI (PERiodical Source Index) and Worldcat, to be aware of just what resources have already been tapped and which ones are just pleading to be brought to light. That is why I can use suggestions identifying records that would be suitable for publication. Ideally, these should have a statewide or regional focus, or, if county-focused, they should be short enough to allow for serialization over a manageable period of time. They should be full of names and they should suggest research pathways, even to those people who won't find their ancestors recorded there. It always helps if compelling stories emerge, so that anyone might find them of interest regardless of whether they find a personal connection.

For the more ambitious member with acute eyesight and a facility for transcription or abstraction of records, I could definitely use help in preparing content for publication. I generally favor abstracts over transcriptions because they allow me to pack in more names per issue and because no transcription can ever serve as a substitute for the original. I have a number of potential publication projects in mind for the coming year, but I can always use help in realizing them and I'm open to suggestions. If you are interested in being a regular contributor of abstracts or transcripts, I can even arrange to provide you with images of the originals so that you may work on them from home. If you are up to the challenge and can meet a deadline, just drop me a line at JournalEditor@ncgenealogy.org. You may just find your name on the contents page in 2014!

NCGS is on Facebook

Visit www.facebook.com/ncgenealogy and “like” us

Stay up-to-date with news and announcements.



2013 NCGS Awards Winners

The 2013 NCGS Awards were presented at the NCGS annual meeting during the Fall Workshop on 9 November 2013 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Three individuals and one society were recognized for outstanding published efforts and personal contributions to the North Carolina genealogical community.

The award for excellence in periodical publishing for a newsletter published by a local North Carolina genealogical society went to *Lines & Pathways of Edgecombe*, published by the Edgecombe County Genealogical Society and edited by Zora Drake-Richman. This polished, well-laid-out quarterly keeps its members up to date through calendars of events, membership information, publications lists, an ancestor exchange feature, and guidelines for submitting articles. A cross between a newsletter and a journal, it treats its readers to interesting documented member-submitted articles that range from family research to abstracts of original records, marriage and death notices, human interest articles from local newspapers, and historical subjects.

The award for excellence in publishing for a book, or set of books, of abstracts or transcriptions of original North Carolina primary source material went to E. B. Munson, editor, for *Confederate Incognito: The Civil War Reports of "Long Grabs," a.k.a. Murdoch John McSween, 26th and 35th North Carolina Infantry*. This engaging book grew from Munson's curiosity about the pseudonym "Long Grabs," an unofficial Civil War correspondent to the *Fayetteville Observer*. Munson has not only collected the over eighty letters but also researched a wide variety of published and unpublished sources to add for historical context. In the process he was able to ferret out the identity of Murdoch John McSween and discover further resources and more information about the man. McSween was well educated and a keen observer with a sense of humor. As "Long Grabs" he presented his readers with reports of battles but also described, without sugar-coating, camp



L-R: Betty Cobb Batchelor, Larry Cates, Zora Drake-Richman, Jordan Jones, Janice Dew, Frankie Powell, Cindy Born-Mylo, and Victor T. Jones Jr.

scenes and conditions, civilian hardships, sketches of political and military individuals, and scenes of places in eastern North Carolina where he happened to be. From these letters genealogists will gain insight into the circumstances endured during the war by ancestors both in the military and on the home front.

The award for excellence in publishing for a book of secondary source material relevant to North Carolina was presented to the Edgecombe County Genealogical Society for *Edgecombe County, North Carolina Cemeteries – Greenwood Cemetery, Volume III*, edited by Janice Dew. This excellent resource for genealogists is well laid out and organized. Tombstones are presented by row number, thus demonstrating how all cemetery books should be done. The book features an overall map of the cemetery followed by a map of each section showing lot numbers. Its very useful personal name index indicates page number as well as specific cemetery section and is supplemented by other references such as geographical, military, and Masonic affiliation. Even though the Greenwood Cemetery Company was incorporated in 1906, those with Edgecombe County ancestors will want to be aware that a number of old family graveyards have been moved to this large Tarboro cemetery from other locations.

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2013 NCGS Awards Winners

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The award for outstanding contribution to NCGS by a member for an individual whose work with the NCGS has been outstanding was given to Jordan Jones. Jordan joined the NCGS board as a director in 2010 and has served on the publications committee and as website chair. In his role as webmaster, he created a new website that announced its refurbished look and new features in March 2009. He spent well over the expected number of hours on the website and completed several valuable projects within the site, such as making prior issues of the *NCGS Journal* available and searchable online as a member benefit. Although he resigned as webmaster in November 2012, he continued to work uncompensated to get the society's website functioning by providing feedback to his successors and helping them to stabilize the upgraded site. As a member of the Webinar Ad Hoc Committee, Jordan took part in the planning stages to develop the Research Webinar Series as a new website feature. He was very active in getting the Loose Estates project off the ground and participated in initial discussions with FamilySearch and the State Archivist. He devoted many hours to prepping the published Lois Neal newspaper abstracts in order to create a CD-ROM product. He also put a lot of time into restructuring the first version of the *NCGS Journal* on CD to prepare it for revision and content updates and produced a more searchable product.



Pam Toms, Awards Chair, presenting the 2013 NCGS Awards.

The award for outstanding contribution to North Carolina genealogy for an individual whose outstanding genealogical contributions have greatly enhanced the study of family history in North Carolina was presented to Larry Cates. Through his passion for North Carolina genealogy, Larry has become an expert on records, resources, and research methodology. He shares that expertise with those searching for North Carolina ancestors in many ways. As librarian at the Heritage Research Center of the High Point Public Library, he helps others, as stated in his nomination, "discover the joy and satisfaction of family history research." He provides detailed guidance to researchers on varying levels of experience. He is moderator of a thriving book club, which focuses on fiction and/or nonfiction books relating to North Carolina heritage topics. He is a regular staff lecturer on various subjects of genealogical and North Carolina historical interest. He further shares his knowledge on North Carolina genealogy through frequent speaking engagements throughout the Piedmont. Larry is former editor of both *The Genealogical Journal* of Randolph County (which under his editorship won the 2008 NCGS Award for Excellence in Periodical Publishing) and of the *NCGS News*. Since 2012 he has competently served as editor of the *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*. Through the *Journal* he has reached genealogists across the United States and even beyond through professional, well-written articles including those which he himself has authored, such as the outstanding piece on bastardy law, his legislative petitions series, and abstracts of eighteenth century criminal and civil action court papers.

The NCGS Board also expressed its thanks to two individuals who have served in several capacities in the society and are leaving their positions. **Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Performance and Commitment** were awarded to Cindy Born-Mylo for her work as director and Membership Committee chairperson and Ann Christnacht Hilke as past president.

NCGS Webinars

NCGS members may view all webinars produced by NCGS in the member section of the website:

<http://www.ncgenealogy.org>. A membership, at \$40 per year, is \$8 less than purchasing the CDs for these four webinars. More webinars are planned for 2014 and 2015 and will be available on the website at no additional cost to members.



A Webinar CD from the NCGS store is more than an audio copy. The CD contains the audio plus full visual presentation and a four-or-more-page handout of additional information. The NCGS Webinar CD is played on your computer with a CD-ROM drive.

The following webinars, including the syllabus, are currently playing on the NCGS website for members only, and are available in the NCGS store for purchase on CD by everyone. (The CD also contains the webinar handout.):

- “Tarheels in Your Family Tree? Part 1”
- “Tarheels in Your Family Tree? Part 2”
- “Missing Mothers”
- “Mapping Your Ancestors’ Land: How to Do it—And Why Bother?”

Coming in January 2014 ...

“The Goodliest Soyle”

“The Goodliest Soyle” is the fifth in a series of webinars on North Carolina land, its beginnings as property available for settlement, geographic genealogy, laws, records, and record locations. This new webinar focuses on deeds, the land-grant process, reading land records, and analyzing land records.

“The Goodliest Soyle” will be FREE and available to the public for the first three days of its publication (17–19 January 2014). After that time the webinar, along with the syllabus, will be available to NCGS members in the Members section of the NCGS website. Please note that the syllabus will not be available with the free viewing of the webinar. CDs of the webinars may be purchased through the NCGS bookstore on the website <http://www.ncgenealogy.org>.

Webinar Review

“Missing Mothers”

reviewed by Cathy Roberts

The North Carolina Genealogical Society has released a third webinar in their North Carolina series. “Missing Mothers,” by Helen F. M. Leary, CG (EMERITUS), FASG, takes a look at the female ancestors in North Carolina and how to go about finding them in various records. Also available to members, as well as those purchasing the webinar, is a handout, written by Leary, entitled “Missing Mothers and How to Find Them: AnteBellum North Carolina Property Laws and Their Effect on Our Research.”

Leary begins the webinar by describing the various places and roles where you can look in an effort to find a missing female ancestor in North Carolina. Some of the suggestions, such as looking for her as a wife, mother, and daughter, are the most obvious and easiest. Other suggestions, such as finding her as a member of a society of some sort, or in the will or wills of aunts, uncles, or siblings, would require you to know her name before searching for her in those records.

Leary does an excellent job of explaining how the law and equity courts worked until the equity court was discontinued. Using a family as an example of how the wife, and then widow, were treated by the courts made it much easier to understand the concepts of primogeniture, curtesy right, and the dower laws as they changed over the centuries.

With an understanding of how females were regarded by law in North Carolina from the beginnings of the colony until modern times, researchers will have an easier time with trying to locate the women in their family trees and will obtain a better overall picture of their lives during the times in which they lived.

This third installment of the North Carolina series is certain to be a valuable tool and reference for anyone researching family, especially female ancestors, in North Carolina.

NC ECHO Projects Make Local North Carolina History Searchable, Accessible Online

Researchers and history buffs alike may now search and access local history collections across North Carolina with a single search box thanks to a collaborative project led by the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, NC LIVE, and the State Library of North Carolina.

NC ECHO, available at <http://ncecho.org>, has been updated in order to expand access to unique local heritage collections previously scattered across a multitude of websites and North Carolina institutions. NC ECHO enables users to search across thousands of digitized and “born-digital” historic materials, including a wide variety of books, photographs, maps, family histories, state documents, newspapers, and other materials from cultural heritage institutions around North Carolina. The collections available through NC ECHO include a diverse array of materials by and about the people, places, and history of North Carolina.

The previous NC ECHO program was managed by the State Library of North Carolina from 1999–2012 with the intent of identifying and digitizing local cultural heritage collections. The newly revived NC ECHO program continues with the same spirit to build connections and improve access to these collections of historic materials.

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center will continue to work with cultural institutions across North Carolina to add new materials to this statewide search. “This project shows how libraries, archives, and museums are working together to share their historical photo and document collections with all North Carolinians,” said Cal Shepard, State Librarian of North Carolina. “The NC ECHO website will unlock unique and important historical materials by making them easy to find and use for everyday researchers.”

Staff at libraries across the state have awaited the launch of the new NC ECHO project because it will dramatically improve service to patrons researching local history. “By including content from over 100 different institutions across North Carolina, NC ECHO makes it easier than ever for students, scholars, and genealogists to find the materials they need,” said Nicholas Graham, Program Coordinator for the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center. “NC ECHO is the new first stop for anyone interested in North Carolina.”

To use NC ECHO, patrons can visit <http://ncecho.org> and search based on historical interests, places, or people. All of the collections available through the NC ECHO search are freely available online to all users, regardless of their location or affiliation.

✓ Opportunities for Volunteers on NCGS Committees

If you would like to assist with the planning and execution of various NCGS activities, consider volunteering to serve on one of the following committees:

Program Committee

- Help plan for upcoming workshops, including topics, speaker, and location.
- Help execute the committee’s plans.

Nominating Committee

- Secure members willing to serve in various NCGS positions.

Publicity committee

- Do you have a way with words? Want to help NCGS get the word out? Do you like to gather information? The publicity committee provides information about upcoming programs, develops a marketing area, and sends publicity electronically to media and the websites. Can you do some of these tasks for NCGS? If so, we want YOU to give NCGS publicity committee a try!

Technology Committee

- Volunteers are needed to begin training for delivering upcoming NCGS webinars planned for 2014. You must have access to reliable Internet access, headphones and a microphone, and a curiosity in this new delivery form. This can be done from wherever you live. Training is required and offered for all those interested.

If you would like to volunteer to help out on a committee, please contact Mabel Dillard, NCGS Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@ncgenealogy.org



Who Owns the Land?

A Brief History of North Carolina Land Grants

by Terry Moore, CG

Between 1584, when the first North Carolina settlers reached Roanoke Island, and 1662, no land grants were issued in North Carolina by the English Crown. In 1663, King Charles II granted to eight of his supporters, the Lords Proprietors, land in the New World in the Carolinas. The boundaries of this land began at the North Carolina–Virginia border then southward to Florida.¹

The earliest land grant office opened in 1669, but the first ten years of grants are missing. The Lords Proprietors faced challenges in managing the land in the Carolinas and in 1729 seven of the Proprietors drew up an agreement with King George II to return their land in the Carolinas to the Crown. Only one Lord, John Carteret, the second Earl of Granville, eventually retained his portion of land, which covered the upper one-half of North Carolina.² These earliest grants have been abstracted by Margaret Hofmann in *Province of North Carolina: 1663-1729, Abstracts of Land Patents*.³ Weynette Parks Haun abstracted the warrants and surveys in Old Albemarle County for 1681–1706. Olde Albemarle County covered the northeastern part of North Carolina above the Albemarle Sound, including the present day counties of Currituck, Chowan, Perquimans, and Pasquotank. Not all warrants and surveys resulted in a grant. The warrants and surveys in this group can be compared with the land grant abstracts in Margaret Hofmann's book to determine if a grant was actually issued.⁴

Most of the land grants during this early time period were issued under the headright system. The Lords Proprietors, wanting to populate the Carolinas, granted land to anyone who immigrated to the colony. A colonist received fifty or one hundred acres for each male or female, regardless of age or race, that he was

responsible for transporting. He claimed the number of "heads," or persons, he transported as it was his right to receive a certain number of acres for each one; hence, each person represented a "headright." This system of receiving a grant was subject to abuse as sometimes the same immigrants were claimed more than once. Be careful when analyzing the grants. If it appears there are several persons of the same name who were claimed as headrights, they may in fact be the same person.

It wasn't until 1744 that John Carteret reached an agreement with the Crown and was given a portion of the Carolinas. His land ranged north-south from the Virginia border to the present-day southern borders of Chatham, Randolph, Davidson, and Rowan Counties and east-west from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. This area contained the greatest population in North Carolina.⁵ It became known as the Granville District and from 1748 until 1763, when the second Lord Granville died, the district land office issued patents. (Don't confuse the Granville District with Granville County, North Carolina.)

In 1776, empty lands in the Granville District as well as lands in the rest of North Carolina were taken over by the revolutionary government of North Carolina. In 1777 North Carolina established land offices in each county. All of the above land grants are indexed in card catalogs at the North Carolina State Archives search room and are indexed on MARS (the Archives' online catalog) at www.mars.archives.ncdcr.gov/.

Using the land grant abstracts is helpful in finding ancestors who not only received a grant but also those

continued on next page

¹ William S. Powell, *The Proprietors of Carolina* (Raleigh, NC: The Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, 1963), 3-4.

² Margaret M. Hofmann, "Land Grants," Helen F. M. Leary, CG, F.A.S.G., editor, *North Carolina Research Genealogy and Local History* (Raleigh, North Carolina: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1996), 313-316.

³ Margaret M. Hofmann, *Province of North Carolina 1663-1729, Abstracts of Land Patents* (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News Company, 1979).

⁴ Weynette Parks Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706* (Durham, NC: By the author, c1984), forward.

⁵ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *Research Outline, North Carolina* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Intellectual Reserve, Inc., 1999), 24.

Who Owns the Land?

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who were a neighbor or chain carrier. The early grants and some of the state grants have been abstracted in the following books by Margaret Hofmann:

The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volume One (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News Company, 1986).

The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volume Two (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News Company, 1987).

The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volume Three (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News Company, 1989).

The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volume Four (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News Company, 1993).

The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, Volume Five (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News Company, 1995).

Colony of North Carolina 1735-1764, Volume One (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News Company, 1982).

Colony of North Carolina 1765-1775, Abstract of Land Patents, Volume Two (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News Company, 1984).

North Carolina Abstracts of State Grants Volume One (Ann Arbor, MI: Print-tech Inc., 1998).

North Carolina Abstracts of State Grants Volume Two (Ann Arbor, MI: Print-tech Inc., 2003).

The original land grants have been retired because of their fragile condition but they are available on microfilm at the North Carolina State Archives, the Family History Library, and other large genealogical libraries.

Land Grant Timeline

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1584–1662 | The English Crown owned the Carolinas. There are no known grants in North Carolina by the Crown during this period. |
| 1663 | King Charles II, in the Carolina Charter, granted land in the Carolinas to eight of his supporters, the Lords Proprietors. |
| 1669–1679 | The first land grant office was opened in 1669 but grants for the first ten years are missing. |
| 1663–1729 | Land grants were issued by the Proprietors. |
| 1729 | Seven of the Lords Proprietors sold their land back to the Crown. |
| 1737 | Henry McCulloh received a royal patent for 1,200,000 acres, located on twelve tracts, five of which were located in what later became the Granville District (two tracts in Orange County, three in Rowan County), five more tracts were partially in the district. ¹ |
| 1729–1744 | John Carteret, the second Lord Granville, negotiated with the Crown for fifteen years to keep his land in the Carolinas. |
| 1735–1775 | Crown Colony grants were issued in North Carolina. |
| 1744 | John Carteret reached an agreement with the Crown. His land encompassed the upper half of North Carolina and was called the Granville District. (Do not confuse the Granville District with Granville County.) |
| 1748 | Lord Granville began issuing grants. |
| 1763 | John Carteret, the second Lord Granville died; the Granville District land office closed. |
| 1776 | Empty lands in the Granville District and other parts of North Carolina were taken over by the revolutionary North Carolina government. |
| 1777–1959 | North Carolina land offices were established in each county and the state of North Carolina issued land grants during this time period. |

¹ A list of those who purchased land from McCulloh are listed by John Scott Davenport as “Early Settlers in the North Carolina Piedmont ... 1749-1763” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* 4 (May 1978): 74-86.

Accessions at the North Carolina State Archives

November 2013

Contributed by Debbi Blake, Collection Services Section Manager, Division of Archives and Records

This is a partial listing of accessions at the North Carolina State Archives. For a complete listing please see our website: <http://www.dcr.state.nc.us>. **Please be aware that not all of these records are currently available for research.** Cards will be placed in the card catalog or entries made in the appropriate finding aids when these items have been arranged and are ready for research.

Codes that appear at the end of certain entries:

- **ATM:** a listing has been accessioned previously, but is being accessioned again because either new material has been added or there has been a change in accessioning data.
- **FRO:** changes have occurred in the accessioning record only.
- **WRA:** the collection is housed at the Western Regional Archives in Asheville.
- **OBHC:** the item is maintained in the Outer Banks History Center in Manteo.

Bible Records

DARDEN. Paul Clifford and Esther Louise Darden Family Bible Records, 1854-1993, Greene, Wayne, and Wilson Counties; 4 pages.

FREELAND. Charles Joseph and Christina Amanda Freeland Family Bible Records, 1767-1903, Orange County; 7 pages.

JOHNSON. Joshua and Nancy C. Johnson Family Bible Records, 1819-1936, Bladen County; 7 pages.

WOODBURN. Tennyson M. and Nancy C. Woodburn Family Bible Records, 1809-1903, Guilford County; 4 pages.

Private Collections (including account books)

LYNN ANDERSON POSTCARD COLLECTION. The Lynn Anderson Postcard Collection consists of fourteen cards and three souvenir folders of cards with Western North Carolina subject matter. Images include Chimney Rock, Biltmore House, Craggy Mountain, Grove Park Inn, etc.; 17 postcards. **WRA 2013.07.001**

BILTMORE VILLAGE HISTORIC MUSEUM COLLECTION. Consists of postcards, maps, ledgers, images, and other ephemera relating to Biltmore Village and Asheville. These items are from the now defunct Biltmore Village Historic Museum.; 1 cubic foot. **WRA 2013.08.003**

BRANSON FAMILY COLLECTION. The Branson Family Collection consists of documents, letters, and clippings associated with the Branson Family of Madison County in Western North Carolina, including a handwritten math textbook from 1828 by Rev. Luke Branson; 1 manuscript box. **WRA 2013.08.001**

BROWN, MAYO, AND HOPKINS FAMILY PAPERS. Brown, Mayo, Hopkins, and other related families of Edgecombe County (also Pitt), circa 1762-1869, 1911, 1975. Includes indentures and deeds; estates records regarding division of land, relinquishment of title, etc.; receipts for taxes, goods, school tuition, railroad stock subscriptions, school certificates, Mason membership certificates, etc.; agreements; contracts; certifications; promissory notes; permission to return home signed at Appomattox Court House for paroled prisoner (Capt. G. L. Brown); two oaths of allegiance to the Union, 1865; 1853 articles of agreement drainage into Ballahack canal; 14 engineer-drawn map sections of the canal, 1911; 4 sections of 1905 map of Edgecombe County; items reflecting career (sectional manager/post master) of Henry Brown Fountain (1917-2013), and genealogical and miscellaneous material and printed matter. Approximately 0.5 cubic foot.

FRANCIS L. MCDOWELL COLLECTION. The Francis L. McDowell Collection consists of correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs, and other ephemera documenting the life of Francis Lewis Arthur McDowell including her work as part of the Veterans Administration Hospital staff in Oteen. 3 boxes. **WRA 2013.05.002**

VADA PALMA AND PETE MARAVICH PAPERS. Eight letters and one large Valentine's Day card from Pete Maravich to Vada Palma, circa 1965; one letter from Vada [?] to Pete, 30 January 1965; two 4x6 photos of Pete and Vada, Queen of Hearts Ball, Needham Broughton High School, ca. 1965; three photos of Pete in basketball uniform during games, ca. 1965; and a wallet-sized photo of Pete, ca. 1963; two newsclipping photos of Pete, 1965 and 1970; and a letter from Randall Williams, M.D., to Vada thanking her for loaning the letters, pictures, and other memorabilia to the Broughton Caps Club and Broughton High School, 15 February 2010; 18 items.

NORMAN, HOBSON, CHITTY FAMILY PAPERS. Norman, Hobson, Chitty Family Papers, including an indenture, 1797, of Frederic William Marshall, Moravian business manager of Wachovia, to Horatio Hamilton, Stokes County;

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Accessions

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two later Evans and Chitty family deeds, 1885 and 1920, that may involve land conveyed in the 1797 document; receipts of David Chandler Norman, 1822-1857, Yadkin County, including those related to his role as executor of the estate of father-in-law, William Phillips; three family letters to Tyre C. Hobson, Norman's son-in-law, 1896-1915; a love letter (1915) to future wife, Sarah Wooten, from Hobson's grandson, Joe Tyre Matthews; one small photograph; and a small quantity of miscellaneous materials; 0.25 cubic foot.

WEST, TATUM, AND MCBRIDE FAMILY PAPERS. West, Tatum, and McBride Family Papers, consisting of five documents including deeds and court certifications, and an order, 1853 to 1913, that relate to the Tatom/Tatum family, but primarily to the West family in land conveyed by James Franklin West and his wife Amanda Caroline Cain West to W. R. McBride.

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Dare County Digital Heritage Collection

The Historical Newspaper Collection, a part of the Dare County Digital Heritage Collection, is a free online digital archive and searchable index covering over seventy years of past issues of the *Dare County Times* (1934–1945) and *The Coastland Times* (1951–2009). These newspapers document life on the Outer Banks, North Carolina, during this historic period. This digitization project is made possible through funding from the Outer Banks Community Foundation and the Dare County Library, and through an agreement between Times Printing Company, Inc. (publisher of the *Dare County Times* and *The Coastland Times* newspapers).

The Dare County Digital Heritage Collection, which also includes the Gregory Williams Outer Banks Genealogy Collection, can be found at <http://daredigitalheritage.org>.

Queries

BECKY (REBECCA) STRONG PRIDGEN BRIGHT: Searching for information on my great-great-grandmother. She was African American and was transported from SC to Lenoir Co., NC, between 1855 and 1858. She and her children were sold to different plantation owners. She lived primarily in Greene Co. and was listed in the 1870 census using the surname Pridgen. Her two adult sons lived nearby and are listed in the same census using the surname Murphy. She died in 1915 and is buried in the Maury Hwy. graveyard near Snow Hill on property owned by the Dail family. I would like information regarding which Pridgen or Murphy family my ancestors may have lived with when they were first transported to NC. Contact Gale Pinkston at gbpinkston@yahoo.com.

SUGGS: Looking for burial location for Curtis Allen Suggs (my great-great-grandfather) and his wife Molsey (Fowler) Suggs. Curtis was in the 20th Regiment, Company K, during the Civil War. He was wounded at Gettysburg and Winchester where he was taken prisoner and eventually ended up at the Point Lookout, Maryland, prison. He filed for a pension on 29 June 1903 at age 74 with an address of Peacocks Post Office, Columbus County. Curtis was born and lived in Whiteville, NC, with Molsey, who married Curtis Allen on 10 February 1857, and shows up as Mary on one census. They had a son named David Suggs who is buried in Bethany Baptist Church, Myakka, FL. They also had a daughter, Martha. Contact Roger Clifton, rogclifton48@gmail.com.



CDs from the North Carolina Genealogical Society

North Carolina Research: Genealogy & Local History, 2nd Edition
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