



NCGS News

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Genealogical Society

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The Metes & Bounds of Land Plats in Genealogy: Understanding, Drawing, and Using Land Plats to Solve Research Problems

15 March 2014

New Hanover County Public Library
201 Chestnut Street
Wilmington, North Carolina

Make your plans now to visit historic Wilmington on 15 March 2014. Spend the day with Gerald "Jerry" Smith, CG, a specialist in Pennsylvania research, learning about land plats and their place in solving research problems. Co-sponsored by NCGS and the New Hanover County Public Library, the workshop will provide participants with an invaluable hands-on experience. The workshop will be held at the New Hanover County Public Library in downtown Wilmington.

Seating is limited, so be sure to register early. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Further details and a registration form can be found on the NCGS website and pages 5 and 15 of this issue of the *NCGS News*.

2014 NCGS Awards

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2014 NCGS Awards. These awards honor outstanding contributions to the North Carolina genealogical community.



Read about the awards on page 7.
A nomination form can be found on page 13.

NCGS is looking for volunteers to help the society to grow and serve North Carolina researchers.

Look for the ☒ throughout this issue of *NCGS News* for volunteer activities in which you can participate.

NCGS Officers and Directors

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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 Victoria P. Young

It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year as the newly elected president of NCGS. I am grateful to serve another term on the board and look forward to working with the rest of the society's dedicated and talented board members in determining future member benefits and forward-thinking activities for the North Carolina genealogical community.

Two members, Cindy Born-Mylo and Ann Hilke, CG, leave the board this year. I would like to thank them for their excellent volunteer efforts during the past two-year term. Cindy Born-Mylo was chair of the Membership Committee and Ann Hilke, CG, was past president and chair of the Nominating Committee. Fortunately for NCGS, both women will continue to volunteer with the society. Cindy Born-Mylo has assumed the role of manager for the new *NCGS Journal* Indexing Project. (Read more about this project on 6.) Ann Hilke has agreed to work on planning NCGS programs scheduled for late 2014.

Please join me in welcoming Ed Pattishall and Mark Beasley as two new members of the Board of Directors. Ed brings to the board his experience in project management in the healthcare industry as a former employee at GlaxoSmithKline and as an independent consultant. He has accepted the responsibility as chair of the Publications Committee. Mark Beasley, as our webmaster, has spent countless hours working with Phoenix Technologies to upgrade and repair major issues experienced with the NCGS website. In addition, he has been instrumental in developing new member content, such as the North Carolina Loose Estates Project.

In the next issue of *NCGS News*, I will discuss the benefits of attending a national genealogical conference. I ask that you save the dates of 7–10 May 2014 when the National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, Virginia: The First Frontier, will be hosted in Richmond, Virginia. More information on the conference can be found at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>. NCGS will be sponsoring a booth in the exhibit hall, which is always a fun volunteer opportunity. Look for information forthcoming about signing up for a volunteer slot to help in the booth.

In December the genealogical community suffered a

continued on next page

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.

Christina Ann Amspacher, Fuquay-Varina, NC
Barney R. Banks, Ocean Springs, MS
Melinda Beck, Knoxville, TN
Dianne Bergstedt, Saco, ME
Heather Smith Bunn, Zebulon, NC
Kristin Osborn Cart, Antioch, IL
James Steven Carter, San Antonio, TX
Linda Stephens Collins, Kernersville, NC
Marian Gayle Corya, Indianapolis, IN
Lynn Darrouzet, Plano, TX
John B. Day, Louisburg, NC
Charles Carey Faison, King George, VA
Nancy Famer, Chapel Hill, NC
Vicky Smith Gardner, Raleigh, NC
Melinda Harp, Brownsburg, IN
Dan Harvey, Knightdale, NC
Wanda M. Hill, Toano, VA
Phyllis Talley Hipp, Port Orange, FL
Nancy Coley James, Roanoke Rapids, NC
Annette C. Joganic, Marietta, GA
Ferra McLean Kelley, Concord Twp., ME
Louisa M. King, Raleigh, NC
Heather Lowry, Garner, NC
Anita M. McKnight, New Bern, NC
Bonnie Janelle Millam, Durham, NC
William F. Nemecek, Charlotte, NC
Donna Newman, Merced, CA
Jason Lamar Noble, New York, NY
Linda Nussbacher, Huntington, NY
Gail Irene Preston, Northville, MI
Douglas Reece, High Point, NC
Rebekah Arrington Ritter, Reading, PA
Rebecca Smith, Hickory, NC
George Hamilton Summerell, Savannah, GA
Michelle Taggart, Kaysville, UT
Bernice Eugene Thompson, Indian Trail, NC
Traci Thompson, Elm City, NC
Charles Harrell Underwood, Wallburg, NC
Sara E. Whitford, Emerald Isle, NC
Robert D. Wiseman, Port Saint Lucie, FL
Pat Wood, Tampa, FL

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.

President's Message


continued from previous page

loss of records at the Franklin County Courthouse that was discussed in forums across the country. To learn more about this matter, please take a minute to read the 18 December 2013 article "Records Loss in Franklin County, NC" on the NCGS website (<http://www.ncgenealogy.org>). Please encourage your local genealogical or historical society members to become more engaged in communicating their events with NCGS and to help promote public awareness of genealogical issues across our state.

I invite you to make a New Year's resolution to volunteer with NCGS. With online meeting tools, it is very easy to work with others to develop new membership benefits, such as publishing newly transcribed records not accessible online, webinar offerings, and the indexing of large record collections. Our bylaws were changed a year ago to facilitate the opportunity for non-residents of North Carolina to become board members. The Executive Board is created from participants who have been on the board for at least one year. Please add genealogical volunteerism to your 2014 resolution list!

Being Thankful ... and Giving

We have just finished a season of thanksgiving and giving of gifts to family and friends. This season does not have to end but can continue into 2014 by continuing to give the gift of your time and volunteering for NCGS. We can be thankful for all those documents relating to our family that another researcher has taken the time to abstract, transcribe, copy, and publish so they are available to us. Maybe the information helped break down one of those brick walls. Since we cannot pay those researchers back directly we can *pay it forward* by transcribing, abstracting, proofreading, finding information, submitting research, indexing, and serving on committees as well as a host of other activities that will benefit other researchers everywhere now and in the years to come. We can give others the gift of research that may help them break down one of their brick walls.

Look for the symbol [] in this newsletter to alert you to volunteer activities in which you can participate. Also, check out the volunteer tab on the NCGS website.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mabel Dillard at volunteer@ncgenealogy.org.

Upcoming Events

7–10 May 2014—The **National Genealogical Society** (NGS) will host its 2014 Family History Conference, Virginia: The First Frontier, in Richmond, Virginia. More information about the conference can be found on the NGS website at <http://www.ncsgenealogy.org>.

27–30 August 2014—The **Federation of Genealogical Societies** (FGS) will host its annual conference, Gone to Texas, in San Antonio, Texas. Details can be found on the FGS website <http://www.fgs.org>.

15 March 2014—The **NCGS regional workshop**, co-sponsored by the **New Hanover County Public Library**, will be held in Wilmington, North Carolina. More information about the workshop can be found on page 5; registration information is available on the NCGS website (<http://www.ncgenealogy.org>) and a registration form can be found on page 15.

26 July 2014—The **NCGS regional workshop**, co-sponsored by the **Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society**, will be held in Asheville, North Carolina, and will feature the Rev. Dr. David McDonald, CG. Dave is a past president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists and is a former director of the National Genealogical Society. He is past editor of the *Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter*. Dave is a frequent lecturer at national, regional, state, and local societies.

15 November 2014—**The NCGS Annual Meeting and Workshop** will be held in Raleigh. The day's speaker will be Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, also known as The Legal Genealogist. Judy lectures on a variety of genealogical issues, including the importance of the law to genealogy.

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 or bookkeeping background. This would also be ideal 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 North Carolina Genealogical Society and the New Hanover County Public Library present

The Metes and Bounds of Land Plats in Genealogy: Understanding, Drawing, and Using Land Plats to Solve Research Problems

with Gerald “Jerry” Smith, CG

Saturday, 15 March 2014 ♦ 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ♦ 9:00 a.m. registration

New Hanover County Public Library, 201 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, NC 28401

The full-day Metes and Bounds of Land Plats in Genealogy workshop consists of a series of four sessions that introduce land plats and their use; provide a short workshop to learn the essentials of constructing a land plat; discuss USGS maps and their role in placing plats on a modern map and connected tract map construction; and show how to deal with common problems and introduce computer-based platting. Participants are given access to restricted web pages to review the step-by-step workshop examples, look at exercise solutions, and get detailed instructions for downloading USGS base maps for use with DeedMapper™.

- **Introduction and Basic Topics:** Introduction to land plats and their use.
- **Workshop: Drawing Land Plats:** A short workshop to learn the essentials of constructing a land plat.
- **Using USGS Maps for Plat Placement and Connected Tract Maps:** Discussion of USGS maps and their role in placing plats on a modern map and connected tract map construction.
- **Advanced Topics: Dealing with Problems and Using Computer Software:** How to deal with common problems and an introduction to computer-based platting.

Seating is limited, so register early to ensure your spot. When registration reaches capacity, a wait list will be created.



Jerry Smith is a Certified Genealogist specializing in Pennsylvania research. As well as authoring a number of journal articles, he has written books in the areas of early court records and Pennsylvania land topics. He has lectured for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Genealogical Society of New Jersey, the New England Regional Genealogy Conference, Palatines to America, and various local and regional groups.

Jerry is a faculty member at Samford University’s Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, where he teaches land platting. He researches regularly in Pennsylvania repositories, the National Archives, the New Jersey State Archives, and various Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia repositories.

Jerry is a member of NGS, the Association of Professional Genealogists, and the Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy.

A Workshop Registration Form can be found on page 15

✓ **The NCGS Journal Indexing Project has begun!**

We have started compiling a name index of all issues of the *NCGS Journal*, which will benefit all members in their family research. Currently, there are four volunteers; however, the more people who volunteer, the faster we will complete our task.

Compiling the index is easy to do. Volunteers are assigned a journal issue to index and receive instructions along with an Excel spreadsheet to enter the information. We only ask for names and places to be entered into the spreadsheet.

This is a great project to work on whether you have a little or a lot of free time because it can be done at your own pace. You don't even need to live in North Carolina to help out! We have had interest from members who live outside the state. Please consider helping with this project. We all know what a great feeling we get when we find an ancestor (or someone we hope is an ancestor) in an index. It can begin to break down brick walls!

Thank you to all the NCGS volunteers. You are truly appreciated. If anyone would like to volunteer for this project (or anything else at NCGS), please e-mail volunteer@ncgenealogy.org and we will get in contact with you.

✓ **NCGS Journal Volunteer Opportunities**

- Submit transcriptions and abstracts of original documents of North Carolina genealogical significance. In some cases, the editor can acquire images of original documents so that contributors can work on transcriptions or abstracts from home.
- Alerting the editor to sources of statewide or broad regional interest that haven't already been abstracted or transcribed elsewhere, particularly for areas that have received less attention in past journals
- Submit carefully researched and well-documented case studies and methodological articles as well as source material and fillers

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

North Carolina Loose Estates Project

The North Carolina Loose Estates Waypointing Project needs volunteers to help bring the project to completion. The purpose of the project is to create an online digital microfilm reader of all extant loose estates found in the North Carolina Archives county record series. FamilySearch has already created the digital images and volunteers enter the year and name from the typed label of each folder into an online form and then identify the images that are contained in that folder. It is easier than indexing and there is no need to interpret names or read handwriting. Your efforts will be appreciated by people looking into their North Carolina roots for years to come!

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.

Waypointing can be done from a volunteer's home with Internet access. Training is provided.

Contact Ed Pattishall, publications chair, at publications@ncgenealogy.org for more information, or to volunteer. Won't you offer a little of your time to help bring this project to 100% completion?



Dallas Herring Carolina Heritage Research Collection

The Pender County Library is now home to the Dallas Herring Carolina Heritage Research Collection. A native of Rose Hill in Duplin County, Dallas Herring devoted his home to the preservation of historical and cultural resources of Duplin County and the surrounding area. He amassed a collection of thousands of books and papers of historical and genealogical interest.

The collection is housed in the Library Annex located at 108 S. Cowan Street in Burgaw, North Carolina. The Annex is open Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You can find out more about this collection by visiting <http://penderpl.libguides.com/CarolinaHeritageResearch>.

2014 NCGS Awards

The NCGS Awards Committee once again congratulates the 2013 NCGS Awards winners. A new year brings new opportunities to honor outstanding contributions to the North Carolina genealogical community through these awards. Among the most rewarding of NCGS programs, the awards promote continued excellence in North Carolina genealogy and also inspire others to publish abstracts and transcriptions of North Carolina county and state records, cemetery and Bible records, family histories, and society journals and newsletters, and to develop informative genealogical websites. The Awards Committee urges you to join the society in recognizing the labors of deserving individuals and societies by submitting a nomination for a 2014 NCGS Award in one of several categories:



- 1. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERIODICAL PUBLISHING** for a periodical (newsletter) published by a local North Carolina genealogical society.
- 2. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERIODICAL PUBLISHING** for a periodical (journal) published by a local North Carolina genealogical society.
- 3. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN WEB PRESENCE** for a freely accessible website promoting North Carolina genealogy.
- 4. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING** for a book, or a set of books, of abstracts or transcriptions of original North Carolina primary source material and published within eighteen months preceding the closing date (15 February 2013–15 August 2014).
- 5. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING** for a book of secondary source material relevant to North Carolina and published within eighteen months preceding the closing date (15 February 2013–15 August 2014).
- 6. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING** for a book of family history relevant to North Carolina and published within eighteen months preceding the closing date (15 February 2013–15 August 2014).
- 7. THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGY** for an individual whose genealogical contributions have greatly enhanced the study of family history in North Carolina. The genealogical contributions may be regional.
- 8. THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO NCGS BY A MEMBER** for an individual whose work within the NCGS has been outstanding.

Each submission requires a Nomination Form, which can be found on page 13 of this issue of *NCGS News* and on the NCGS website. The completed form should be mailed to NCGS Awards, PO Box 30815, Raleigh, NC 27622-0815. A copy of any publication being nominated must accompany the submission, as well as complete contact information and any relevant supporting material, data, or additional written endorsement. Please include the latest 4 issues of a nominated newsletter or journal.

The closing date for submissions is 15 August 2014.

Please help NCGS acknowledge and honor worthy individual and society endeavors in publishing and other contributions to North Carolina genealogy by nominating their work for an NCGS Award this year.

**The NCGS Awards
nominations are open
from January until
15 August 2014.**

Guidelines for NCGS Awards for genealogical publications or websites worthy of consideration for nomination are posted on the Awards page of the NCGS website at <http://www.ncgenealogy.org>. Nominations are reviewed by a panel of judges and awards will be presented during the NCGS Annual Meeting to be held on 15 November 2014 in Raleigh. Printed materials should properly cite their sources. Submissions of printed material are donated to the State Library of North Carolina in Raleigh after the judging process. If you have questions, please send an e-mail to awards@ncgenealogy.org.

An NCGS Award Nomination Form can be found on page 13.

New Membership Benefit

Thank you, new and renewing members. Your membership dues help NCGS in its mission of providing educational programs and information to help all genealogists get better research results.

As a thank you, we have a new member benefit. We are partnering with *findmypast*. As their website states, they “offer more than 1.7 billion international family history records from the US, Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand and beyond with records going back to 1200.” This will be a great resource for NCGS members. Check out the “Why choose *findmypast*?” article on their website at <http://www.findmypast.com> for more information.

Beginning in January 2014, we will post a code in the members-only section of the NCGS website to use when you join *findmypast.com*. The NCGS member benefit will be a \$40 discount on a *findmypast* annual membership.

Also, don’t forget about the additional member benefits. We have discounts on new or renewal subscriptions for *Family Chronicle* and *Internet Genealogy* magazines and a 10% member discount on everything in the NCGS store!

North Carolina Nursing History

<http://nursinghistory.appstate.edu>

The North Carolina Nursing History website, provided by Appalachian State University, provides an online resource about the history of nursing in the state of North Carolina from its beginnings to the present day. The website features biographies of nurses who made unique and significant contributions to the nursing profession in North Carolina as well as oral histories of nurses sharing their stories in their own words. A timeline chronicles important events beginning with the Revolutionary War through to the New Millennium. If there are nurses in your family tree, you will certainly want to check out this website.

The deadline for the next issue of the *NCGS News*, which will be published in early March, is **Saturday, 15 February**.

Upcoming Webinar

“*The Goodliest Soyle: Finding, Reading, & Interpreting North Carolina Land Records*”

The newest webinar in our series of land records in North Carolina by Helen F. M. Leary will be presented on 17 January 2014 and will continue free for all to view through 19 January on the North Carolina Genealogical Society website: <http://www.ncgenealogy.org>



In “*The Goodliest Soyle: Finding, Reading, & Interpreting North Carolina Land Records*”, Ms. Leary discusses the ways a person acquires land. In colonial times, English Common Law governed property rights. Knowing the law, the records it created, and the location of those records is necessary for successful searches. Once found, the genealogist must read and interpret the record. Correct analysis is important to glean the maximum information from each document. Ms. Leary provides the listener with tools and tips to reach a successful outcome.

This webinar will continue to be free after 19 January, anytime, to members of NCGS, or it may be purchased on a CD from the NCGS online store. The webinar, which will be available to members in the members-only section of the NCGS website, and the CD include the PowerPoint presentation and the speaker’s syllabus. The syllabus is not available during the free webinar viewing period.

Also playing in the members-only section of the NCGS website for NCGS members and available for purchase on CD in the NCGS store for everyone:

- “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?”

A membership in NCGS is \$40 for twelve months. Webinar CDs are \$12 each. NCGS membership is a bargain!

✓ Volunteer Opportunities on NCGS Committees

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

Program Committee

- Help plan for upcoming workshops, including topics, speaker, and location.
- Help execute the committee's plans.
- If you are planning to attend the Metes & Bounds of Land Plats in Genealogy workshop to be held in Wilmington, North Carolina, on 15 March 2014, can you help greet and register participants? [See page 5 for more information about this workshop.]

Nominating Committee

- Secure members who are 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 the media and the NCGS website. Can you do some of these tasks for NCGS? If so, we want YOU to give the NCGS Publicity Committee a try!

Technology Committee

- Volunteers are needed to begin training for delivering upcoming NCGS webinars. 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.

To volunteer on a committee, please contact Mabel Dillard, NCGS Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@ncgenealogy.org.

New Bern District Court Abstracts

The District Court was the precursor to District Superior Courts in North Carolina. The New Bern District covered Carteret, Craven, Beaufort, Hyde, Pitt, Dobbs, Jones, and Duplin counties. When Dobbs county was split and then abolished, the new counties (Wayne, Lenoir, and Glasgow/Green) were also in the New Bern District.

Action Papers are the papers leading up to the actual trial or final disposition of a case. They include summons, bonds, depositions, and other interesting documents. At the North Carolina State Archives they are divided between Criminal Action Papers and Civil Action Papers. Because a number of counties are included, these records can provide family history information that can't be found in the actual county of residence; this is especially helpful for the "burned counties."

Abstracts of all of the Criminal Actions (<1761–1807) and three boxes (through 1788, with more to come!) of the Civil Action Papers are posted at <http://www.usgwarchives.net/nc/craven/cravendcourt.htm>. Box 2 of the Criminal Actions was done by Christine Fuller; the remaining boxes were done by Sue Guptill.

Craven County Coroner's Inquests Abstracts

Coroner's inquests are court documents where a "jury of inquest" investigates all unexplained deaths and reports their findings back to the court. The deaths might be due to accident, disease, homicide, or suicide. The sheriff and court still have the final decision as to whether criminal action should be taken; these records are not trial documents.

Abstracts of Craven County coroner's inquests from 1793–1890 are posted at <http://www.usgwarchives.net/nc/craven/court/coroner.html>, and include depositions by witnesses. Abstracts were done by Sue Guptill.

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Stay up-to-date with news and announcements.





This Land was Their Land

by Terry Moore, CG

Who can forget Tom Cruise as Joseph in the movie *Far and Away*, stampeding toward land in Oklahoma, stake in hand, on an untrained, irascible horse? It was exciting, especially when the beautiful Shannon whipped past him, perched on her horse, clothed in fashionable dress and prim hat, both wanting to claim a plot of land with gently rolling hills and a meandering creek. Not without a fight, Joseph and Shannon found both land and true love. Things were not quite as exciting here in North Carolina, but there was plenty of land.

Often when researchers discover their ancestor received a land grant from the king or other important authority, they assume their ancestor was also a man of importance and status because he received this gift of land. But no, the land was not really gifted, not freely. It might have been given for service rendered to North Carolina, by headright for bringing others into the colony, by military grant for continental line service, or, most often, because the grantee paid fees. The process went as follows:

Entry

The entry date is not the date your ancestor arrived in the area. He was probably living there for a while before he applied for a grant (unless he was an investor like Henry McCulloh or Arthur Dobbs.). He chose an unoccupied parcel where he wanted to live, probably near family and friends. Depending on the time period, an application or entry giving a general description of the land and where it was located was filed with the king, proprietor, governor, or government office.

Warrant

If the entry was approved, a warrant authorizing a certain amount of land was issued to the surveyor.

Survey

The surveyor marked off the boundaries of the tract. Sworn chain carriers assisted the surveyor by carrying the heavy chains used to measure distance. The chain carriers were usually relatives or neighbors of the grantee, but could also have been sons of the surveyor. They were likely sixteen years of age and older and

needed to be in good physical health to carry the heavy chains and walk the distance among trees, creeks, bushes, and brambles. Hopefully the survey was not done in the heat, humidity, and bugginess of North Carolina's summer months.

Land in North Carolina is measured in metes and bounds. Metes and bounds is a system of measurement that uses physical features, directions, and distances. For example, a typical "call" would be "beginning at a post oak on a branch, North 100 poles to the center of three trees on the south side of Country Creek." The directions would continue in like manner until the property was described. When measuring in metes and bounds, allow a variance of up to 50 acres in descriptions of the same tract of land, especially if a deed states "by estimation" or "more or less." When measuring, surveyors generally walked counterclockwise but there can be a variance in description depending at which point the surveyor started and which direction he walked.

Grant

After the survey was complete, the surveyor drew a plat map of the plot or parcel and wrote the metes and bounds description. After all requirements were met, an original copy of the patent or certificate was issued to the grantee. On the Granville grants, the grantee's signature was required.

An original copy of the warrant, survey, and plat map was kept with the governing body. Each set of papers was filed in a "shuck," or envelope, and a written description of the land was also recorded in a patent book.

Before the grants were stored in the North Carolina State Archives, they were housed in the Secretary of State's office, which was open to researchers. The story told is that researchers were not well supervised and land grants were known to have gone home with a few. Consequently, some grants are missing. Fortunately, at least the description of the land was copied into a patent book. The plat map was not included, nor the warrant or survey (the chain carriers were listed only on the survey), but at least a

continued on next page

This Land was Their Land

continued from previous page

description of the land survived. The grants are now retired and only available on microfilm as are the patent books. When using the land grant indexes, it is the file number, not the grant number, and the name of the county that is needed to locate the grant. The index also includes the patent book, page number, and a short description of the land. A card catalog index is available in the Archives Search Room, 109 East Jones Street in Raleigh, and also in MARS (the Archives' online catalog) at www.mars.archives.ncdcr.gov/.

The land grant process in North Carolina was not quite the free-for-all depicted in *Far and Away*, but North Carolina certainly has the beautiful rolling hills and meandering creeks that settlers so desired.

Upcoming NCGS Events

For more information about land records in North Carolina, you won't want to miss two upcoming events:

- The next NCGS webinar, "*The Goodliest Soyle: Finding, Reading, & Interpreting North Carolina Land Records*," will be available in January 2014. See page 8 for more details.
- NCGS and the New Hanover County Public Library will present a workshop, *Metes and Bounds of Land Plats in Genealogy*, in March 2014. See pages 5 and 15 for more information.

NCGS Subscriptions Sign-up Link

Sign up for NCGS e-mail news and announcements at <http://eepurl.com/dGyM2>. (Note: *this URL is case-sensitive*).

You can choose from:

- **NCGS News (newsletter)**: This bimonthly newsletter provides information of interest to genealogists researching North Carolina ancestors as well as news about NCGS events and projects.
- **NCGS Webinar Notices**: Learn about webinar offerings as they become available.
- **Local Society Leaders**: Sign up for monthly announcements to share with your society.

These are independent subscriptions. Choose one, or both, as desired. You may also opt out of the subscriptions at any time.

These subscription lists are available to both members and non-members of the society. The NCGS subscription lists will not be sold or shared with any other entity.

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.

Helen F. M. Leary, CG (EMERITUS), Wins Dallas Genealogical Society Bockstruck Award

The Dallas Genealogical Society has announced that Helen Leary has won the Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to an individual for outstanding contributions to the genealogical community on a national level. According to DGS President Sandra Crowley, "The choice of Helen Leary for this year's Distinguished Service Award recognizes not only her past achievements but her continuing dedication and contributions to genealogy." More information about this award and Helen can be found at <http://www.dallasgenealogy.org>.

Helen Leary is a Certified Genealogist (Emeritus), a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, and Fellow of the National Genealogical Society. She has served as president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists as well as trustee for that organization and the Association of Professional Genealogists. Helen is recognized for her many scholarly contributions to genealogy research and is appreciated for her entertaining and informative lecture style. Her 30+ year career has spanned the publication of scholarly books and journals to the creation of webinars for the Internet.

Helen is the presenter of the North Carolina Webinar Series, land records, for NCGS. Her next webinar will be presented on 17–19 January 2014 at <http://www.ncgenealogy.org>.



Accessions at the North Carolina State Archives

January 2014

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

COOK. Evander James and Mary Elizabeth Cook Family Bible Records, Cumberland County, 1863-1968; 5 pages.

HARTIS. Annie Francis Porter Hartis Family Bible Records, Mecklenburg County, 1850-1947; 9 pages.

MORGAN. Morris E. and Darcus L. Morgan Family Bible Records, Transylvania County, 1883-1929; 9 pages.

Federal Records

Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations Roll No. 39 (Indiana 20th through 25th Infantry) and Roll No. 139 (New York 178th through North Carolina). 2 reels microfilm: Gift. National Archives Microfilm Publications. **OBHC 2013.11.5**

Private Collections (including account books)

CAREY A. UPCHURCH PAPERS. One folder (that specifically dealt with Reverend Carey A. Upchurch,

who was superintendent of the N.C. Anti-Saloon League, and was unrelated to PC.1946. Claudia T. O'Brien was transferred from PC.1946. Claudia T. O'Brien to PC.2015 Carey A. Upchurch Papers.

WILLIAMS AND HOUSTON FAMILY PAPERS. Williams and Houston Family Papers, Duplin County, ca. 1816-1861, consisting of receipts, wills, indentures, deeds, bills of sale, and a court judgment (Wayne and Mecklenburg counties), etc.; Major Whitford's order, 67th Regiment, Co. F, North Carolina Troops, 27 Feb. 1865; and genealogical correspondence, 1929-1935. Quantity is about one third of a cubic foot.; 1 box.

Query

In April 1932, Colonial Dames chapters in Robeson and Cumberland Counties proposed erecting a granite marker or monument in honor of the Patriot services of Malcolm Purcell (c. 1748–c. 1776) and his wife Beatrice Torrey Purcell (c. 1758–1828). After Malcolm Purcell's death, Beatrice Torrey Purcell married Daniel MacEachern (?–c. 1812). The effort was spearheaded by former Governor Angus Wilton McLean (1870–1935) and John Edwin Purcell II (1884–1950). For some reason, the project was never completed. The monument would have been sited off of old North Carolina Highway 22 near the Cape Fear River in Fayetteville, Cumberland County. It was proposed that the marker be erected sometime in 1933 or 1934. Contributions were solicited from descendants of Malcolm and Beatrice Torrey Purcell to fund the project as well as two other objectives. A brochure was produced outlining the goals of the undertaking.

I am trying to determine why the monument project was never completed. It has been suggested that hard times engendered by the Great Depression was a contributing factor. Another possibility is that one or more persons came forward to question the Patriot status of Malcolm and Beatrice Torrey Purcell. But there could be other causes not yet known. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have information on this project, no matter how trivial it may seem. For those interested, I will be happy to e-mail or mail a copy of the six-panel brochure, which explains the project in detail and lists all ten of the committee members. Malcolm Purcell is my fourth great-grandfather. Contact Doug Purcell, dpurcell@eufaula.rr.com.

2014 NCGS Awards Nomination Form



Please select one:

- ☐ **1. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERIODICAL PUBLISHING** for a periodical (newsletter) published by a local North Carolina genealogical society.
- ☐ **2. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERIODICAL PUBLISHING** for a periodical (journal) published by a local North Carolina genealogical society.
- ☐ **3. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN WEB PRESENCE** for a freely accessible website promoting North Carolina genealogy.
- ☐ **4. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING** for a book, or a set of books, of abstracts or transcriptions of original North Carolina primary source material and published within eighteen months preceding the closing date (15 February 2013–15 August 2014).
- ☐ **5. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING** for a book of secondary source material relevant to North Carolina and published within eighteen months preceding the the closing date (15 February 2013–15 August 2014).
- ☐ **6. THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING** for a book of family history relevant to North Carolina and published within eighteen months preceding the the closing date (15 February 2013–15 August 2014).
- ☐ **7. THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGY** for an individual whose genealogical contributions have greatly enhanced the study of family history of North Carolina. The genealogical contributions may be regional.
- ☐ **8. THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO NCGS BY A MEMBER** for an individual whose work within the NCGS has been outstanding.

The North Carolina Genealogical Society retains the option of not giving an award in any given category and of presenting more than one award in any given category.

Nominee Name/Title: _____

Reason for Nomination: _____

Nominee Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Submitter Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Include complete contact information and attach any relevant supporting material, data, or additional written endorsement. A copy of any publication being nominated must be sent with the nomination. Submitted publications become the property of NCGS and will be donated to the Genealogical Services Branch of the State Library of North Carolina. **All nominations must be received by 15 August 2014.**

Nominations and supporting material should be sent to NCGS Awards Committee, PO Box 30815, Raleigh, NC 27622-0815. Please direct questions to awards@ncgenealogy.org.



North Carolina Genealogical Society

12-Month Membership

____New ____Renewal ____Gift

The membership renewal date for members who joined after 1 January 2012 is the date you joined the society. All members who joined the society prior to 2012 will continue to renew by 1 January of each year. The renewal date for members who allow their membership to lapse will be the date NCGS receives your renewal payment.

Individual Membership (1 year \$40.00) \$_____

(Includes 2 free queries per year in *NCGS News*.)

Family Membership (1 year \$45.00) \$_____

(Includes 4 free queries per year in *NCGS News*.)

Patron Membership (1 year \$100.00) \$_____

(Includes 4 free queries per year in *NCGS News*.)

Society and Institutional (1 year \$40.00) \$_____

(Society and Institutional memberships include *Journal* and *NCGS News* subscriptions only.)

Name: _____ Membership # _____
(five-digit number above your name on the mailing label)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County of Residence: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Why we need your e-mail address:

- *NCGS News* will be e-mailed to all members.
- Your e-mail address will not be shared with 3rd parties.

Payment:

☐ PayPal: NCGS website: www.ncgenealogy.org

☐ Check: made payable to "North Carolina Genealogical Society"
PO Box 30815, Raleigh, NC 27622-0815

☐ Visa or MasterCard (circle one)

Print name on card: _____

Credit card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ 3-Digit Verification No. (back/front of card) _____

Signature: _____

The above form must be complete to process credit card orders.

The Metes & Bounds of Land Plats in Genealogy: Understanding, Drawing, and Using Land Plats to Solve Research Problems

presented by the North Carolina Genealogical Society
and the New Hanover County Public Library

with

Gerald "Jerry" Smith, CG

15 March 2014

New Hanover County Public Library, 201 Chestnut St., Wilmington, NC 28401

The full-day Land Plat workshop consists of a series of four sessions:

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-10:30 **Introduction and Basic Topics**

Introduction to land plats and their use.

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00 **Workshop: Drawing Land Plats**

A short workshop to learn the essentials of constructing a land plat.

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2:30 **Using USGS Maps for Plat Placement and Connected Tract Maps**

Discussion of USGS maps and their role in placing plats on a modern map and connected tract map construction.

2:30-3:00 Break

3:00-4:00 **Advanced Topics: Dealing with Problems and Using Computer Software**

How to deal with common problems and an introduction to computer-based platting.

Walk-ins are welcome, space permitting; however, the workshop packet or lunch may not be available.

Refund policy: Full refund if withdrawal precedes the early registration date of 10 March 2014; between then and workshop day a prorated refund may be made; no refund may be made if withdrawal is on the day of the workshop.

Any changes, including those due to inclement weather conditions, will be posted on the NCGS website: www.ncgenealogy.org.

Registration Form (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Your e-mail address will not be shared with 3rd parties.

☐ I wish to receive e-mail notifications of future NCGS events and activities.

**Seating is limited.
Register early to ensure your spot.**

Registration:

NCGS Member _____ \$54 (includes lunch) _____

Non-member _____ \$60 (includes lunch) _____

☐ I would like a vegetarian lunch.

Annual NCGS Membership Dues (optional)

Individual \$40 _____

Family \$45 _____

Total _____

**Only registrations received on or before 10 March 2014
are guaranteed to receive workshop packet and lunch.**

Payment:

☐ PayPal: NCGS website: www.ncgenealogy.org

☐ Check: made payable to "NCGS Wilmington Workshop"

PO Box 30815, Raleigh, NC 27622-0815

☐ Visa or MasterCard (circle one)

Name on card: _____

Credit card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

3-Digit Verification No. (back/front of card) _____

Signature: _____

**Form must be complete to process credit card orders.
Please note refund policy below program on left.**



NCGS and the New Hanover County Public Library will present the workshop, Metes and Bounds of Land Plats in Genealogy, on 15 March 2014 in Wilmington.

North Carolina Genealogical Society
PO Box 30815
Raleigh, NC 27622-0815

Address Service Requested

