



Getting the Most from the Archived *NCGS Journal* Articles

by Terry Moore, CG

My five-year-old grandson picked something up from the gravel on the ground and came running to me. “What’s this grandma?” he asked excitedly. It was silver and shiny. “It is the handle from a toilet tank,” I responded with surprise. He was thrilled with his find and continued to pick up pieces of broken tile, twisted metal, plastic, and other assorted debris. As he placed his treasures in a zip lock bag he proclaimed, “I am a scientist!” (I think he meant archeologist.) He was every bit as excited as we are when we find old pieces of genealogical treasure and the *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* is like the gravel on the ground hiding bits and pieces.

NCGS is creating a comprehensive index of the forty complete volumes of the *NCGS Journal*. As of 15 April the following volumes have been indexed and are on the society’s website at <http://www.ncgenealogy.org> (select Publications from the menu bar, choose NCGS Journal, then NCGS Journal Index):

- volumes 2 and 3 are complete
- volumes 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 20–23 are partially complete

Partially or wholly indexed, but not yet online, are volumes 9, 10, 22–26, and 33–41. Check the website periodically for updates on this index as it evolves. Combining all the individual indexes into one index is a huge project and NCGS needs help. Please consider volunteering. (See page 8 for details on how you can contribute to this project.)

William D. Bennett published a consolidated index to the *NCGS Journal* for volumes 1-10, which covers the years 1975-1984.¹ This index is available on Ancestry.com (to Ancestry subscribers) and the fastest way to get to it is to Google “William Bennett North Carolina Genealogical Society

Index.” It will likely appear first on the search results list. Click on the link and it will take you directly to the index. Alternately, go to <http://www.ancestry.com>, click on Search and then Card Catalog. Next type “North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal” in the Title search box and a link to the index will appear. A specific name can be searched or the index can be browsed by the first letter of the last name.

NCGS sells a CD titled “*NCGS Journal* (1975-2010)” in its store. It is in a fully searchable PDF format. When searching the PDF file, the year, volume, and issue will be listed for each entry. Click on the entry you want to look at and it will take you to the issue but not the specific page of the article. The index to the issue will need to be searched for the page number, then scroll to the page. Some of the early volumes of the *Journal* were only indexed in the fourth issue of each volume.

NCGS members may search each issue of the *Journal* separately on the NCGS website. This can be time consuming, but because so many abstracts have been published in the *Journal* it could be a profitable endeavor.

Hidden Treasures

One of the best hidden treasures is the list of the tables of contents of the *NCGS Journals*. This list was created by Cristina Oakley a number of years ago and NCGS continues to update it. On the NCGS website, click on Publications then select NCGS Journal. At the bottom of the page click on “*NCGS Journal: A Listing of Articles*” to download the file and print the thirty-three pages because you will want to mark them up.

If a county name appears in the title, it is in bold. Mark all of the articles for your county of interest. You will be surprised at what you’ll find. For

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¹ William Doub Bennett, *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal 1975-1984, Consolidated Index* (Reprinted 1997, Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1999).

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example, for Orange County there are abstracts of the following records.

- 1773 Debtors of Col. John McGee, Orange County, NC
- Orange County District Plan, 1774
- The Federal Direct Tax of 1816 as Assessed in Orange County, NC (3 parts)
- Orange County, NC in 1816 - Waterways (map)
- Some Birth Dates in Orange County Records
- Thomas P. Paul, 1803-1854, Orange County, NC
- Freeholders of Orange County, NC 1776
- List of Taxable Property in Orange County, NC 1780-1781.
- Equity Bond Docket 1789-1817, Hillsborough District and Orange County, NC, Part 1-2.
- 1755 Tax List, Orange County, NC
- Orange County Bastardy Bonds and Records: Undated, 1782-1799
- Murder Most Domestic: A Case of Sororicide in Orange County

These treasures about Orange County can be found by searching the “*NCGS Journal: A Listing of Articles*” from your own home. The same is true for other counties. Plus there are abstracts of church newspapers; public newspapers; North Carolina laws; state records, such as divorces and separations; maps; family histories; county histories; and so much more.

There are articles and abstracts hidden in the *Journal* that, right now, will only be found by reading the titles of the articles, which makes the “*NCGS Journal: A Listing of Articles*” a true hidden treasure.

My daughter-in-law told me Nathan went to bed that night tightly holding his zip lock bag. You might not find a toilet bowl handle in the *NCGS Journals*, but I guarantee you will go to bed holding tight the genealogical treasures found on its pages. You might even exclaim, “I’m a genealogist!”

This article originally appeared in the May 2015 issue of the *NCGS News*, the newsletter of the North Carolina Genealogical Society, volume 39, number 3, pages 10–11.

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