

D-OGS Newsletter – May 2018

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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PO Box 4703, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4703

2018 dues – \$20

2018 President – David McCorkle

D-OGS MEETING FOR 2 MAY 2018

Running out of places to look for information about your ancestors? Come and hear professional genealogist Diane L. Richard discuss options you might not have considered at the May meeting of the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society! Private and little known archival collections are full of ledgers and account books, membership lists, and so much more! Have you explored these? You can learn so much about your family and the neighborhood through these records. Relationships are sometimes noted. Store, business and physician ledgers can link family members and provide many interesting details invaluable to your family history narrative search.

Presentation:

Genealogical Gems Found in Manuscript & Archival Collections by Diane L. Richard

When: 02 May 2018, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Duke Homestead, 2828 Duke Homestead Rd, Durham NC

Map: [Map to Duke Homestead](#)

Speaker Biography:

Diane L Richard is the Principle of Mosaic Research and Project Management (MosaicRPM), www.mosaicrpm.com. She has M.E. and M.B.A. degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

She has been doing genealogy research since 1987 and since 2004 professionally focused on the records of North Carolina, other Southern States and migration paths to the Mississippi River. She has researched NC roots for the popular TV show Who Do You Think You Are? and appeared on the Bryan Cranston episode.

Since 2006 she has authored almost 300 articles on genealogy topics for such publications as Internet Genealogy, Your Genealogy Today (was Family Chronicle), NCGS Journal, and local WCGS publications (newsletters and journal). Since 2010 she has been the editor of Upfront with NGS, the blog of the National Genealogical Society and published over 1700 posts. She is currently editor of the North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS) journal and Wake Treasures, the journal of the Wake County Genealogical Society.

She is a member of the national and local chapters of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the National Genealogical Society (NGS), NCGS, and the Wake County Genealogical Society (WCGS).

She is a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG) and as a speaker she has done webinars (coast-to-coast), conference presentations (FGS, NGS, TxSGS, FxGS, NERGC, SCGS Jamboree, etc), workshops, and local meeting programs about the availability and richness of records documenting North Carolinians, genealogical research techniques and tips, under-utilized resource collections and much more.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Every month the D-OGS board of directors (but mostly President David McCorkle) search the area for program speakers and program locations for D-OGS meetings. This is a very exhausting task to be forced to do month after month. I have been in this position when I was President and Program Chair so I really appreciate the effort that goes into this task.

The D-OGS officials do not need our undying gratitude, they need our help. No one is willing to step up and accept the Program Chair position so as member we should at least offer some suggestions for speakers, programs and meeting locations. If you have seen a great (or even good) program that you think the membership might enjoy, SUGGEST IT to a board member.

If you know of a meeting location that would be handy, available and free (hopefully), please let someone know. Do what you can to keep D-OGS active and involved. The D-OGS board members are great people but they aren't miracle workers.

PAVED OVER AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY

Laurel Cemetery opened in 1852 as the first non-religious cemetery for Baltimore's African-American community. Many well-known black individuals were buried there, but in 1950 the cemetery was moved. Paved over, a shopping mall was built on top of the original cemetery.

But a question remains - are there still bodies buried beneath the shopping mall?

Ron Castanza, a professor at Baltimore College, set out to find answers. He applied for permission to dig in the grassy area where the shopping mall sat. Over time, the team found two headstones without names. They found bones and the metal handles and nails of coffins.

Read the full story at [Rediscovering the African-American graveyard beneath a Baltimore shopping center](#)

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES ARCHIVAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The following announcement was written by the Pennsylvania State Archives and State Historical Records Advisory Board:

The Pennsylvania State Archives (PSA) and State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), in partnership with Erie Maritime Museum and the Franklin County Historical Society, are pleased to announce the Spring 2018 Archives Without Tears workshop schedule. The workshops will be held June 5-6 at Erie Maritime Museum, Erie, PA and June 13-14 at the Franklin County Historical Society, Chambersburg, PA. These are the only sessions planned for 2018. [Click here](#) for [registration information](#).

Archives Without Tears is an affordable workshop open to anyone who works, interns or volunteers for organizations that deal with archival records—whether it's a museum; private, non-profit, or college archives; the city clerk's office; the library's local history room; or a historic site. The workshop provides practical advice, sample forms and policies, and discusses archival best practices, disaster planning and response, and records management principles so that staff can collect, preserve, and assist researchers with the archival records in their care.

UPDATE: TROPY - A NEW APP THAT HELPS CREATE ORDER OUT OF RESEARCH DISORDER

This is an update to an article I published yesterday that adds a bit more information about the product. **Tropy** is program that provides a method of organizing the photographs and scanned images you take of various documents encountered during your family history research.

Tropy is a **FREE**, open-source desktop application for Windows, Macintosh, and Linux that is designed to help researchers organize and describe the photos and scanned images they make in archives and elsewhere. The program will group photos, annotate images, add metadata, export to other applications, and easily search their collections.

On the downside, Tropy only allows researchers to import photos as JPEGs, PNGs, and SVGs. It does not import PDF files.

I haven't had a chance to use this program yet but it sounds like a great software tool. You can find a number of online articles by other authors on various web sites that describe it by starting at:

<https://duckduckgo.com/?q=tropy+%22research+photos%22&t=hh&ia=software>. I was impressed by the review at <http://www.softpedia.com/get/Office-tools/Diary-Organizers-Calendar/Tropy.shtml>.

The Tropy software for Windows, Macintosh, and Linux and detailed documentation may be found on Tropy.org.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter)

GENEALOGY TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

Not Telling Where Dad Died

My great-grandfather was ill for the last several years of his life. Bedfast, his wife and children cared for him in their home for several years. His condition finally reached a point where the family could no longer care for him at home and he was sent to a state hospital several counties away where he died in 1934. His obituary indicated he died at home and his children in later years made similar statements. No one wanted to admit that they couldn't "take care of dad at home" at the end of his life.

Is there a similar reason why you can't find great-grandpa's death certificate?

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Who Helped Grandma?

If your female ancestor is appointed administratrix or executrix of her husband's estate, pay close attention to those names on her bond. Those bondsmen are very likely relatives of the widow--either her sons or perhaps her brothers.

They may be unrelated, after all there's no law that says a relative has to be your bondsman. But from a practical standpoint, these people frequently are relatives in one way or another.

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Does a Year Really Matter?

If great-grandpa says he is 50 years old in 1870 and says he's 49 in 1871, the difference is probably not significant. While the ages do not technically "match," if other details for him indicate you've found the same person, a few years difference between two stated ages is not significant.

It is difficult to say precisely when age difference goes from being insignificant to significant and means that you have the wrong person. One needs to consider all the pieces of information in record when making that decision--and that much analysis is too long for one short tip!

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Did the Bride Go?

In some locations, the bride may never have actually gone to the local office to obtain a copy of the marriage license. It is possible that the groom--along perhaps with a letter

from the bride or her parents if she were underage--went by himself.

Not always the case, but possible. Something to consider if there's an apparent letter from the bride with the returned copy of the marriage license.

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Are You Desperate for a Relationship?

When you work on a family where the family structure isn't known with any certainty, do you "rush" to enter the details of each person in your database, including the relationships? If you don't have other information that indicates the children in a census are those of the oldest man and woman in the household, should you enter them all as "parents and children" in your database? This is especially true for pre-1880 United States census records where relationships are not given.

There's no rush to enter in relationships when you aren't "reasonably" certain what they are. Wait. Take your time and look at other records.

Or you may just be confusing yourself and others down the road. Not intentionally--but confusion is confusion whether you mean for it to be or not.

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Are the Kids Really Clueless?

I've encountered instances in my research where children have provided maiden names of mothers that were inconsistent with information provided with the mother and that were completely wrong.

I've also encountered instances where the children gave a last name for the mother that I thought was "wrong," only later it turned out to be right.

While information children provide about their mother's maiden name is secondary, don't assume the children are clueless. Sometimes they are...but sometimes they are not.

WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Free genealogy charts - <https://www.template.net/business/charts/pedigree-chart-template/>

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE – may 4 & may 5 - Our annual Memorial Day event. Following the American Civil War, a "Decoration Day" began in communities

across America remembering soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Senator John Logan, a former Union officer on staff with Major General William T. Sherman, was instrumental in making this a formal national day honoring our fallen soldiers, which became Memorial Day. Join military living historians representing the American soldier of all time periods through our nation's history. A special traveling exhibit from Virginia entitled "Profiles of Honor" will be on site for both days.

Program runs Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

CSS NEUSE CIVIL WAR INTERPRETIVE CENTER - 5 May 2018 — Medicine in the American Civil War. The Civil War devastated both sides with blood on the battlefield and disease. Of the approximately 620,000 soldiers who died in the war, two-thirds of these deaths were not the result of enemy fire, but of a force stronger than any army of men: disease. Gary Riggs will have medical displays available, and there will be presentations at 10 am and 2 pm, discussing wounds in the field, practices and procedures, nursing, and diseases during the Civil War. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; 100 North Queen Street, Kinston, NC 2850. Free Event

CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN MUSEUM - 6136 Burlington Road, Sedalia, NC 27249 – Mothers' Tea - We are celebrating all mothers, grandmothers, aunts, nieces, cousins, best friends, and in-laws who have been influential in our lives. Come celebrate yourself and these women over tea and light refreshments. Dress in your Sunday best! This tea kicks off National Etiquette Week. During tea time, we will be going over Dr. Brown's rules for tea and social occasions.

GREENSBORO FAMILY HISTORY CENTER - 10 May 2018 — Irish Ancestry Case Study Details;
The luck of the Irish may not always help when dealing with the challenges and struggles of Irish family research. Come hear how one woman has tackled obstacles and what advice she offers from her learning experience. Greensboro LDS Stake Center 3917 Pinetop Road Greensboro, NC 27410, Date: Thursday - May 10, 2018 Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Cost: Free

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY WORKSHOP - African American Research at the Library of Virginia: Genealogy to 1870 - Friday, May 18, 2018 | 9:30 AM–12:30 PM - Library of Virginia

Place: Conference Rooms

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for Semper Virginia Society members)

Preregistration required: <https://africanamericangenealogy2018.eventbrite.com>

Explore the methods and resources for African American genealogy prior to the end of the Civil War. Library of Virginia reference archivist Cara Griggs presents ways to determine whether an individual was enslaved or free and what types of records will be useful for further research. Learn about the Library's collections including cohabitation

registers, free Negro registers, lists, wills, deeds, and tax records as well as selected federal records that can be accessed through databases. For more information, contact catherine.wyatt@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3999.

Library of Virginia | 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 | www.lva.virginia.gov

MYTHS, FAIRY TALES, AND STORIES GRANDMA TOLD - Friday, May 18, 2018 - 7:30 pm - Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22027

Lecture Description: Family stories usually contain at least some true facts. But what do you do when almost nothing is true? This program demonstrates how a 25-year brick wall was broken down.

Presenter: Charles S. "Chuck" Mason, Jr., is a Certified Genealogist SM, specializing in Southern New Jersey and 19th and 20th Century Death Records. He is a graduate of NGS's American Genealogy: Home Study Course, (1994), a graduate of the National Institute for Genealogical Research (NIGR) at the National Archives (1996 & 2001), the Institute of Genealogy and History at Samford University (2010).

Chuck teaches genealogy classes for the Fairfax County Adult and Community Education (ACE) program and is an instructor for the NGS course Beyond the Basics. He lectures at many of the genealogical societies in the Washington DC area, NIGR, and in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania; has published genealogy articles in journals, magazines and newsletters; and is co-host of a public television genealogy program in Fairfax County.

DUKE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE - May 19: *Mythbusting Day: Historic House Myths*

Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm - Tours: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

Ever heard of a closet tax? Were people really shorter back then? We are breaking down all those common myths and misconceptions about historic houses and life in the 19th century. After your interactive tour of the Duke house, you'll be an expert on what's not true! These special tours are free, and open to the public.

WAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - *Researching in New England* - 22 May 2018 - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; Speaker: Jane Bartlett, Those who can trace their roots to the first century of European settlement of New England (beginning with the landing of the Mayflower in 1620) are fortunate to have ancestors who expected that the major events of their lives would be part of the public record. My presentation will focus on the resources readily available for researching in this document-rich part of the country.

Bio: Most of my English ancestors arrived in the New World either with the Mayflower at Plymouth Plantation in 1620 or came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony during the next twenty years during what-was-called The Great Migration....and nearly all of them stayed in Massachusetts for the next several hundred years. I was born in Vermont of parents whose roots can be traced to that period of emigration. My own New England family

research began in the late 1980s when, as an extra duty, I was assigned to head the Genealogy Department in the El Paso (Texas) Public Library. It's been an obsession since.

Olivia Raney Local History Library 4016 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC 27610. All WCGS meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend! Refreshments will be served during social time after the presentation.

HIGH POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY - 27 May 2018 (Sunday), 3:00 to 4:30 PM - The Heritage Research Center of the [High Point Public Library](#) in the Morgan Community Room, 1st Floor High Point Public Library presents "Meet the Experts: Genealogists Discuss Their Toughest Cases" - In this panel discussion, four local genealogical experts discuss some of the hardest research questions they have ever faced. They give brief descriptions of the problems, their strategies, and how they eventually arrived at satisfying answers. Learn from their mistakes as well as their triumphs. The hour ends with questions, at which point they will offer you advice on some of your dead-end monsters. No preregistration necessary. For further information, contact the library at (336) 883-3637.

MILITARY RECORDS GENEALOGY WORKSHOP - To Provide for the Common Defense: Virginia Military Records Research - Friday, June 8, 2018 | 9:30 AM-12:30 PM - Library of Virginia Conference Rooms

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for Semper Virginia Society members)

Preregistration required: <https://militaryrecordsresearch2018.eventbrite.com>

The Library of Virginia is the most important repository of military records of Virginians who served in various ways from Virginia's founding in 1607 to the end of World War II. Library staff members Tom Crew (senior reference archivist) and Ginny Dunn (archives and library reference services manager) present records unique to the Library, as well as records available here on microfilm and in digital format from institutions such as the National Archives, including printed resources. Service in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and World Wars I and II will be highlighted, along with militia service through the centuries, as well as lesser-known conflicts such as the War of 1812 and the French and Indian War. For more information, contact catherine.wyatt@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3999.

Library of Virginia | 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 | www.lva.virginia.gov

HUMOR

I don't know how I got over the hill without ever getting to the top.

PARTING THOUGHT

“There’s no place that I’d rather be than right here, with my red neck, my white socks and Blue Ribbon beer.” – sung in 1973 by Johnny Russell

I love old country music because just one line from a classic country song can tell a complete story or paint a vivid picture.

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit for future publication, please contact Richard Ellington at mailto:richard_ellington@unc.edu or 919.967.4168