

# D-OGS Newsletter – June 2017

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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President – Ginger Smith

## JUNE D-OGS MEETING NEWS

The June 7 meeting will be held at 7:00pm at the OWASA Community Meeting Room at 440 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro NC. It will be presented by Josh Hager, Reference Archivist, The program will be: "*School Records in the State Archives of North Carolina*".

### Presentation Description:

Documenting young people using official records can prove difficult in North Carolina, but school records might prove useful in filling in this gap. In this talk, we will discuss records from the State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction (including the Division of Negro Education from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century), and various counties. Learn how Common School Reports, High School Annual Reports, and other kinds of records can provide new avenues for genealogical and historical research.

### Speaker Biography:

Josh Hager is a Reference Archivist at the State Archives of North Carolina. He has an undergraduate degree in History from Duke University, a Master's of Public History from NC State, and a Master's of Information Science from UNC Chapel Hill. His research on using social media for effective archival outreach won a national award in 2015 and is published in a national journal, *The American Archivist*.

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## ANCESTRY INSIDER MAILBOX: FAMILYSEARCH CHANGE OR USER CHANGE?

(If you have posted a family tree to the FamilySearch Family Tree, this may happen to you. - *Editor*.)

Dear Ancestry Insider,

Hello, I enjoy reading your emails, and wonder if I missed something important, such as:

Did Familysearch.org change how personal family trees are managed?

Last week I looked up my Wilmot tree there, and found someone had changed a last name of an ancestor to Wilmont, when the father and grandson were right there as Wilmot. Duh???

A friend said the family trees are now wide open and anyone can add or change information. Normally, all information is good, but in this case I am dealing with an idiot.

Then someone else gave my Hessian ancestor, John Stegman, a wife who was **his mother-in-law**. *Does this mean that **my tree** can be changed by anyone going online to FamilySearch.org? If that is the case, I will not use the program anymore. It would be a waste of time - I am not a church member - have served/helped many years in a local Family History library. Too many people are well meaning but uneducated on proof of sources.* Ellen Thorne Morris, Monmouth Co., New Jersey

Dear Ellen,

There has been no change. FamilySearch has Genealogies (personal trees) and it has Family Tree (a shared tree). What you are using is Family Tree, and yes, anyone can change anything. FamilySearch's Genealogies feature is a GEDCOM preservation service. It is not an online tree management program like Family Tree or Ancestry Member Trees. It is merely a repository to preserve and share your life's work.

1. Export a GEDCOM file from your genealogy program.
2. Go to FamilySearch.org.
3. Select Free Account in the upper-right corner and create an account. Or if you already have an account, sign in.
4. Select Search > Genealogies.
5. Scroll to the bottom.
6. Underneath "Contribute Your Research to the FamilySearch Community," select Submit Tree.
7. Follow the instructions to add your tree.

You will be given the opportunity to synch your tree with Family Tree. That step is unnecessary, especially since it sounds like you already have. I don't know how long it takes to appear, but when others go to Search > Genealogies and search for a person, they will see results from your tree along with the other contributed GEDCOMs.

Ellen, let me close with a heartfelt thank you for your service in a family history center. Several times last month I had patrons express frustration at the limited hours of their local center. It is only through volunteers like yourself that FamilySearch family history centers are open at all. Thank you, thank you!

Signed,  
--The Ancestry Insider

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## **SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS NOW ONLINE**

Many experienced genealogists can tell you that using the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps is a great way to learn more about the lives of your U.S. ancestors, especially if they owned their own homes or rented homes or their places of business.

The Library of Congress has placed online nearly 25,000 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, which depict the structure and use of buildings in U.S. cities and towns. Maps will be added monthly until 2020, for a total of approximately 500,000.

The online collection now features maps published prior to 1900. The states available include Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Alaska is also online, with maps published through the early 1960s. By 2020, all the states will be online, showing maps from the late 1880s through the early 1960s.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are a valuable resource for genealogists, historians, urban planners, teachers or anyone with a personal connection to a community, street or building. The maps depict more than 12,000 American towns and cities. They show the size, shape and construction materials of dwellings, commercial buildings, factories and other structures. They indicate both the names and width of streets, and show property

boundaries and how individual buildings were used. House and block numbers are identified. They also show the location of water mains, fire alarm boxes and fire hydrants.

You can learn more in the Library of Congress web site at: <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-17-074/?locl=fbloc-new>. The Sanborn Fire Maps that are already online may be found at: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection>.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter)

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## GENEALOGY TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

### Repeated Names?

While not a common practice today, in times when more children died as infants or as small children, parents would sometimes "reuse" names of deceased children when a later child of the same gender was born. It was not uncommon for some families to have two or three children with the same name. Do not assume that there is a mistake if a church record indicates your ancestor had a son William born in 1802 and another William born 1805. In that case, checking for a death record for a William between 1802 and 1805 may be in order.

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### Read About Another Family

Occasionally read something about a family that is similar to yours, but is unrelated to your family. The family being written about should share something in common with your family--the location, time period, ethnicity, etc. County histories, genealogy newsletters and magazines, blog posts, etc. are great places to find these articles. Reading about a family similar to yours may give you insight into your own family and their research challenges.

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### What Is Your Goal?

Do you create a list of research goals for yourself? It's ok to "see what you can find," but there comes a point when deciding what you are trying to locate will give your research some focus. Determining where a person was born, who they married, or where they died are all specific goals. Locating everything you can on Grandma is a little too broad and may not be helping you focus.

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### Late People May Not Be Dead

A reference to an ancestor as being "late of Harford County, Maryland," does not necessarily mean he was dead at the time of the reference. What it usually means is that the person was formerly of that area being mentioned--so this reference means the person used to live in Harford County.

You don't have evidence someone was dead on 1 January 1823 if the only reference to them being dead on that date is the fact that they were "late" on that date.

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## WEBSITE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

### GEDMATCH.COM

(Article written by Sara Allen)

GEDmatch.com is a free, volunteer-run website that was created to help individuals analyze and compare autosomal DNA test results across different testing companies. Currently, the website accepts DNA uploads from the four major testing companies: Ancestry DNA, Family Tree DNA, MyHeritage DNA, and 23andMe, along with the following health companies: WeGene, GenetiConcept, and Genes for Good. So if Person A tested at AncestryDNA and Person B at MyHeritageDNA, they can both upload their DNA results to GEDmatch and compare them without having to retest at the other testing company. Once the results are uploaded, one can view a list of DNA matches with other people in the GEDmatch database who share significant amounts of DNA with the test taker, making them genetic relatives with whom one can explore connections. Other features of GEDmatch include tools that are not available from the testing companies to analyze your DNA so that you can learn the most from your results and move your genealogical research forward. There are additional advanced features available for a membership fee of \$10 per month.

Gedmatch's most popular tools include the following:

- “One to Many” Matches - This feature provides a list of names of autosomal DNA matches along with amount of DNA shared, projected relationship, email address of the match, view matches in the chromosome browser, and more.
- “One to One” Matches - You can compare your DNA with one other known GEDmatch user.
- “People Who Match One or Both of Two Kits” - You can view a list of matches that you and a match have in common.
- “Are Your Parents Related?” - For those who are curious about whether their parents are distantly related, this feature will analyze the autosomal DNA of both parents.
- “Admixture (heritage)” - This feature offers ethnicity estimates using different ethnicity calculators.
- “X One to One” - You can find matches on the X chromosome. (Males inherit their X only from their mother; while females inherit 2 copies of the X, one from each parent. The X chromosome has further unique inheritance patterns that allow it to be useful in specific situations to solve a DNA mystery).
- “Chromosome Browser” - This feature offers the ability to see a graphic of specific locations on each chromosome where you and another person match each other. While Family Tree DNA and 23andme provide this option available on their websites, AncestryDNA and MyHeritageDNA do not, leading many to turn to GEDmatch to help them with this task.
- “Triangulation” report - This feature is available with the Tier One Membership option (\$). This utility will provide you with a list of all the locations where your DNA and those of at least 2 others of your matches all “triangulate” at the same position on the same chromosome, thereby indicating a possible shared ancestor. With this information you can then investigate the matches' family trees to try to find that shared ancestor.

All genetic genealogists, beginning to advanced, can utilize the tools at GEDmatch, since there is something there for everyone. A beginner could dip their feet into this website by uploading their raw results from their testing company website and then checking the “One to Many” matches to see if they have any close matches.

Then they need to learn how to read and utilize those results. Beginners can also play around with the admixture (ethnicity) calculators. More intermediate users can learn about X chromosome inheritance and how to use the X chromosome to sort matches as well as the “Chromosome Browser” to learn how to compare DNA shared with multiple people. An advanced user could subscribe to the Tier One membership option and start using the advanced Triangulation and Phasing tools to really dig deep to find shared ancestry with matches.

There is a learning curve involved with GEDmatch, and there is a no complete user’s manual. However, with perseverance, experimentation, and asking questions, you can learn to use this site like a pro and move to the next level of your understanding of autosomal DNA testing and results.

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## BOOKS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

(The following book review was written by Bobbi King for Dick Eastman’ Eastman’s Online Genealogical Newsletter):

*Tips and Quips for the Family Historian* By Elizabeth Shown Mills and Ruth Brossette Lennon. Genealogical Publishing Co., 2017. 173 pages.

On a lighter note.....Elizabeth Mills has collaborated with her granddaughter Ruth Brossette Lennon in producing a smallish book of “tips and quips,” presenting a more lighthearted approach to words from the wise.

Ms. Lennon typeset the book and created the look. Her innovative style gives a cheerful and sunny air to the deep thoughts of master genealogists: “Genealogy can not only help kids understand the world but can give them respect for their elders, bridge generation gaps, and heal family wounds.” (Tony Burroughs.)

Different fonts for different voices lend a sense of distinction to each individual and quote. And true to form, she cites each source to perfection.

I like this little book. It’s like sipping an effervescent cucumber-mint spritz: the same ingredients as in a salad, but put together in a sparkling new way.

Please keep writing, Ms. Lennon. You’re imaginative.

*Tips and Quips for the Family Historian* may be purchased from the publisher, Genealogical Publishing Co., at <http://bit.ly/2qOnbCj> as well as from Amazon at <http://amzn.to/2raL9cg>.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogical Newsletter)

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**HISTORIC STAGVILLE - June 3 - *Craft Saturday - Punch-Out Lanterns* - Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm**

Visit Stagville for an Open House and make a punch-out lantern to enjoy on summer nights. Event is free, but suggested donation of \$1 per person. Adult help in creating craft is required

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION** - Coal Glen Mine Disaster - NC Highway Historical Marker Dedication - Saturday, June 3, 2017 @ 11:00am - Farmville Community Church, 1797 Everett Dowdy Rd., Sanford, NC 27330.

A new highway historical marker commemorating the May 27, 1925 Coal Glen Mine Disaster will be dedicated in a program on Saturday, June 3 at 11 AM. The program will be held at the Farmville Community Church, and will include historical displays and speakers about the event, which took the lives of 53 miners. A wreath in remembrance of the miners will be placed at the marker in the Farmville Cemetery. The marker, Chatham County's newest, will be located on US 15/501 at the southern intersection with Walter Bright Rd. north of Sanford.

**HIGH POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY** - Military Records for Genealogy - Monday, June 5, 2017 from 6:30pm-7:5pm - Military records exist at both the state and national levels and include a great variety of document types from combined service records to unit diaries and log books to pension files, bounty land grants, muster rolls and pay rolls. Learn the basics with Marcellus Joiner of the Heritage Research Center.

Morgan Community Room - High Point Public Library, 901 N. Main St, High Point, NC 27262

**HILLSBOROUGH GHOSTS OF CONFEDERACY TOUR** - June 10 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm - Antebellum and Civil War Hillsborough - A Tour of St Matthews' Churchyard. The Ghosts of the Confederacy haunt us still. This churchyard is a microcosm of antebellum and Civil War Hillsborough and the South. Hear stories of love and loss, heroism and death, sacrifice and pride, the end of an era and the birth of a new society. **Tickets must be purchased in advance:** <http://bit.ly/2qJ7Sry> or at the **Hillsborough Visitors Center, 150 E. King St.**

**EAST TEXAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** - June 10, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Tyler Public Library, Taylor Auditorium, 201 South College, Tyler TX 75702. Meetings are free and open to the public East Texas Genealogical Society's meeting on Saturday, June 10, will have Randy Gilbert, local historian and preservationist, speaking about World War I records. With the recent Centennial Commemoration of the United States into World War I, his remarks should be of interest to all. A fifth generation Texan, Randy Gilbert has been very active in preservation activities at both the local and state level. As a preservationist and historian, he has been very active in the revitalization of the Tyler downtown, restoring the 1881 Smith County Jail; as his office and placing it on the National Register of Historical Places. He has been a leader in establishing the Camp Ford Historic Park in Tyler. The largest POW camp West of the Mississippi River during the Civil War, the site is now a park with walking trails, interpretive signage, and a reconstructed cabin. Mr. Gilbert has written for publications such as *Military History of Texas* and the *South-west, Chronicles of Smith County, Texas*, and an unpublished paper presented at the Texas State Historical Association annual meeting. East Texas Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday of the month at Tyler Public Library Auditorium. Meetings are free and open to the public. Memberships are available to those who wish to support the society. Visit [www.etgs.org](http://www.etgs.org) for more information or contact Scott Fitzgerald at [scottfitzgerald@tyler.net](mailto:scottfitzgerald@tyler.net) or 903-539-5572.

**HISTORIC STAGVILLE** - June 17, 2017 - *Juneteenth* - Saturday 9 AM

**STATE CAPITOL** - June 17 - *Meet Your State Symbols* - Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm. Come meet your North Carolina state symbols at THE state symbol, the NC State Capitol! Join us for a day of free family fun on the Capitol grounds learning about the symbols that represent our state and how they affect our environment and cultures. Come meet the state salamander, the state folk dance - maybe even the state insect! No tickets necessary, FREE admission. The building will also be open for guided and self-guided tours.

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION** - Chatham County Coal Mining: Livelihoods and Lost Lives - Sunday, June 18, 2017, 2:00 PM - Historic Courthouse, Pittsboro, NC - Free and open to the public.

On the morning of May 27, 1925, explosions in the Carolina Mine shook the Chatham County village of Coal Glen and took the lives of 53 men. This accident, the largest industrial disaster in North Carolina's history, will be the focus of a presentation by historian Forest Hazel on June 18, 2017 at 2:00pm in the Historic Chatham County Courthouse.

The only significant source of coal in North Carolina lies along the Deep River in Chatham and Lee Counties. Attempts to mine the Deep River coalfields commercially began in the early 1850s and the last mine closed about 100 years later. Mr. Hazel will talk about the history of the mining industry in Chatham County, the numerous accidents that plagued it, the impact of the industry on North Carolina's economy, and what life was like for the miners and their families. Photographs and artifacts will be displayed

**HIGH POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY** - 19 June 2017 (Monday), 6:30 to 7:45 pm - "Suspicion and Sacrifice: High Point During World War I", The Heritage Research Center of the [High Point Public Library](#), 1st Floor Morgan Room. 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I. Discover the surprising facts about High Point's mobilization. The war effort brought out valor, thrift and self-sacrifice among those who remained at home, but it also agitated suspicions and tensions among various social groups, dampened free speech, and involved a great deal of propaganda and lock-step regimentation. High Point's experience was similar to that of the nation at large. Learn the surprising facts with Larry Cates of the HRC. For further information, contact the library at (336) 883-3637.

**NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM** - Fire Truck Festival - June 24, 2017 - 9:00am-3:00pm - Local and regional fire departments and fire truck collectors will join in for a huge gathering of antique and classic trucks, firefighting equipment and demonstrations. Now in its third year, the event represents one of the largest gatherings of fire trucks in the state. Admission: Adult \$6, Senior/ Military/ Firefighter \$5, Child \$4

**HISTORIC STAGVILLE** - Saturday, July 1, 2017 - Craft Saturday: Presidential Paper Hats - 10am to 4pm - Visit Stagville for an Open House, and make your own 18th century tricorn paper hat, War of 1812 paper bicorn or paper army shako, or a paper Lincoln stove-pipe top hat. Learn about 4th of July traditions. Special reading of Frederick Douglas' "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" Suggested donation of \$1 per person.

**FORT DOBBS STATE HISTORIC SITE** - July 15 and 16 - *Militia Muster*- Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm & Sunday 10 am - 3 pm. All males ages 16-60 were required by law to serve in North Carolina's militia during the French and Indian War. These civilians would gather at appointed times during the year to practice military drill and could be used to quickly form an army for defense at times of invasion. Historic interpreters representing the Rowan County militia will offer on-going displays of military camp life, as well as featured musket and cannon firing demonstrations. This event is free, and open to the public.

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## HUMOR

While shopping for vacation clothes, a husband and wife passed a display of bathing suits.

It had been at least ten years and twenty pounds since the wife had even considered buying a bathing suit, so

she sought her husband's advice.

"What do you think?" she asked. "Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?"

"Better get a bikini," he replied. "You'd never get it all in one."

He's still in intensive care.....

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## **PARTING THOUGHT**

In the 1960s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

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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](mailto:richard_ellington@unc.edu) or 919.967.4168