

D-OGS Newsletter – January 2017

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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PO Box 4703, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4703

2017 dues – \$20

President – Ginger Smith

LOCAL NEWS

The January 5 meeting will be held at 7:00pm at the OWASA Community Meeting Room at 440 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro NC. **Please note that the meeting is on THURSDAY, Not Wednesday.** Our program will be ***“Underused but Useful Features of Familysearch.org”***. It will be presented by D-OGS VP David McCorkle.

Almost every genealogical researcher uses the free website familysearch.org to search online databases. There are a number of other features that are often overlooked, such as un-indexed but digitized collections, family trees, scanned books, wiki, etc. which will be explained and demonstrated.

The OWASA meeting room has free WIFI available. It may be helpful to bring a laptop so you can follow along with David during his presentation.

David grew up in Charlotte, and after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1979 he remained in the Triangle area working in the software industry. He currently owns and operates a small software company in Cary, and manages to squeeze in genealogy and local history in his spare time. All ancestral lines on his father's side were present in what is now Union County, NC by the early 1800s, some as early as the 1750s, and almost all remained there until the 1920s. Two lines, Trawick and Thomas, were briefly in Wake County in the late 1700s.

Please note that the meeting is on THURSDAY, Not Wednesday. This change is due to a scheduling conflict.

MINUTES FOR THE 7 DECEMBER 2016 D-OGS MEETING

The D-OGS meeting was our annual “Birthday Party” celebration at the Golden Corral restaurant in the RTP. Our numbers were fewer but we still had a good meal and some great conversation. We did not have the annual quiz provided by the Elias family because Cathy and Rob have moved to California to be nearer their sons.

Carol Boggs had a great ideato supplement the quiz. She asked those present to think of phrases or words that were special to your family and meant something special. Several members brought back old memories about family traditions or had phrases and sayings that had special meaning to them.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is time to get a fresh start on a new year. It could also be a time to get a fresh start on your family history study. Look back at those "brickwalls" and dead-ends that you have run into and take a new or different way of looking at them and for them. Turn those head-scratchers into pats on the back!

DURHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY IS CLOSING FOR RENOVATIONS

The Main Library located on Roxboro Street will be closing for renovations on January 15, 2017. Renovations could take up to two years. For more information, check out their website at <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/transformationmain/>.

UPCOMING NCGS WORKSHOP - PUTTING DOWN ROOTS: GROUNDING YOUR ANCESTORS IN TIME AND PLACE

Who: Jeff Haines, CG(SM), and Diane L. Richard

What: Full-day workshop (lunch is included)

When: Saturday, **25 February 2017**, 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: The Schiele Museum, 1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28054

Sessions to be presented by Jeff:

- "Making Sense of a Senseless Census: Dealing With Erroneous Records"
- "Working in an Unsettled Frontier: The Border Disputes between North and South Carolina"
- Sessions to be presented by Diane
- "NCGS Journal Gems"
- "Sign of the Times: Timelines in Genealogy"

Jeff Haines, CG(SM), is a professional genealogist specializing in the Carolinas and British West Indies. He is a past president of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is the current president of the North Carolina Chapter. He is the author of the National Genealogical Society's Research in the States Series volume on North Carolina and is a former editor of the *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*. He has been a board-certified genealogist since 1996.

Diane L. Richard is the Principal of Mosaic Research and Project Management (MosaicRPM). She holds ME and MBA degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). Diane has been doing genealogy research since 1987 and since 2004 professionally focused on the records of North Carolina and neighboring locales. She has provided research for and appeared in the Bryan Cranston episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?*. Diane is the current editor of the *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*.

Visit the [workshop page on the NCGS website](#) or [download the workshop flyer](#) to learn more about this workshop. You may [register online](#) or you may print a [registration form](#) and mail it to the address provided on the form.

Registrations MUST be received by 17 February 2017. After this date, you will be placed on a waiting list and notified if space becomes available.

Register today to reserve your spot for this informative workshop.

A NEW PRODUCT: GEDSITE CREATES PROFESSIONAL-QUALITY WEB SITES FROM GEDCOM FILES

I suspect this announcement will cause a lot of interest. John Cardinal, well-known for developing Second Site software for use with The Master Genealogist (TMG), has now released a brand-new product called **GedSite** and is selling it at a modest price. I predict GedSite will be a winner; very popular within the genealogy community.

GedSite builds on the technology developed for Second Site but adds a lot of new features. First, it accepts GEDCOM files for data input. (All modern genealogy programs can create GEDCOM files.) Next, GedSite can create gorgeous web sites to upload to the Internet or to share with relatives privately via flash drives, CD disks, or other removable media or via cloud-based file storage.

The following announcement was written by John Cardinal, CEO of Family History Hosting, LLC:

New tool for genealogists is fast and flexible, and sites can be published on the web or shared privately

is pleased to announce [GedSite](#), a must-have tool for any genealogist creating web sites from GEDCOM files. GedSite provides many of the features of Second Site, a web site builder also published by Family History Hosting for genealogy projects managed by The Master Genealogist (TMG).

“For more than a decade, genealogists have been asking me to publish a program to produce high-quality web sites from GEDCOM data,” said John Cardinal, CEO and Founder of Family History Hosting. “I’ve learned directly from our customers that they want the features and ease-of-use of Second Site, my popular web site builder for TMG, but for GEDCOM files. I am glad to offer GedSite in response to those requests.”

GedSite’s fast and flexible importer handles standard GEDCOM records as well as application-specific GEDCOM extensions for popular genealogy applications. GedSite includes the unique ability to interpret sentence templates from Family Historian, Legacy, and RootsMagic GEDCOM files, and provides its own sentence templates for GEDCOM files from source applications that do not support them.

Some of Second Site's innovative features, such as Tag Sets, are also available in GedSite. Tag Sets allow users to group and customize the display of records based on the record type. For example, birth, marriage, and death records might be displayed in a narrative paragraph, while census data is displayed in a table or list.

GedSite creates HTML pages that can be published on the web or shared privately via removable media or cloud-based file storage. Genealogists who do not plan to share their research via a web site will find GedSite useful for personal use: reviewing an unpublished site is easy and provides an all-encompassing view of lineage, names, events, places, citations, sources, and media exhibits.

GedSite 1 was released in late November. Family History Hosting is committed to providing frequent updates to respond to customer feedback and implement more of Second Site's acclaimed feature set in GedSite. Updates will be free for existing GedSite 1 customers for at least the next twelve months.

For more information about GedSite, see the product homepage at <http://www.gedsite.com>. To purchase a GedSite license, visit Family History Hosting's software sales site at <http://www.familyhistoryhosting.com/oc>.

About Family History Hosting, LLC

[Family History Hosting LLC](#) was founded in 2007 to provide first-class web hosting services for genealogists and family historians, and to publish genealogy software focused on web site creation.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter)

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY CONFERENCE IN MARCH FROM FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

I received the following notice from Family Tree Magazine. It looks interesting. It is not free but there is an "early-bird special" mentioned at the end. D-OGS is NOT endorsing this program, only making you aware of potentially useful information:

Dear Fellow Genealogists,

There's no doubt that attending a genealogy conference can do wonders for your genealogy research. Of course, factoring in the cost and distance from your home, living out of a (small) suitcase, and having to choose between two presentations scheduled simultaneously, in-person attendance isn't always an option.

The Family Tree University conference is a great way to get all the benefits of an in-person experience without all the drawbacks. There's no travel necessary and you won't have to stand in long registration lines or choose between presentations because it's all online! If you've attended in the past, you know that you get 15 presentations on a wide variety of topics, and they're all able to be watched both in your browser, or downloaded

so you can watch them over and over again, even after the conference ends. But if you're new or haven't attended one in a while, you're in for a treat - we're not only offering new presentations, we're always seeking to improve your experience through our swag bag of downloads, giveaways, live chats and discussion boards.

Running from March 3, 2017 to March 5, 2017, the lineup includes a new feature: A live keynote from D. Joshua Taylor, popular co-host of Genealogy Roadshow. In this keynote, he will talk about telling your family story in 6 minutes - just like they do on Genealogy Roadshow. Tune in on Saturday, March 4th, at 11 am ET. That keynote is going to be fantastic, as are the live chats with Gena Philibert-Ortega and Shannon Combs-Bennett.

While we're still finalizing the details, we've put together a great lineup of presentations in three tracks. Some of the highlights:

DNA Adoptee Matches in Your Family Tree - Kerry Scott will reveal great strategies on working with people trying to build their own family trees from DNA test results, and **Organization Strategies in 5, 10, and 30 Minutes** - Drew Smith, author of *Organize Your Genealogy*, will give tips and techniques for getting your research under control in easily achievable increments of time.

Storytelling Apps for Genealogy - Amy Johnson Crow will cover storytelling apps you can use online and on your mobile phone that you can use to easily help you turn your research into a finished product.

Working with World War 1 Records - 2017 is the 100-year anniversary of the US entering the Great War, and Gena Philibert Ortega will demonstrate ways you can find records of your World War 1-era ancestors.

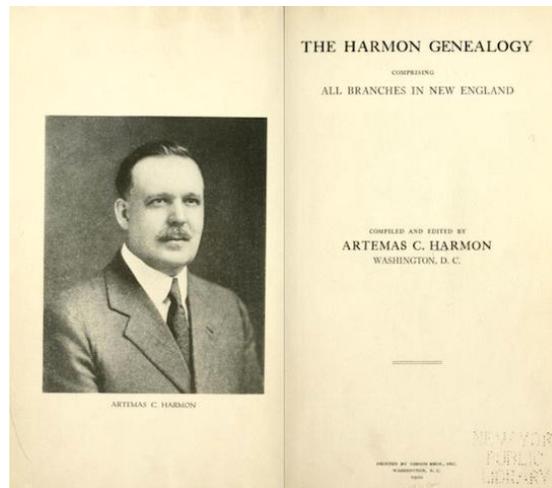
From Paper Stack to Evernote Stack - Kerry Scott, author of *How to Use Evernote for Genealogy*, will present techniques for using Evernote to tackle those inevitable stacks of genealogy documents and old photos.

Check out the full schedule and presentation list and register at [Family Tree University](http://FamilyTreeUniversity.com).

Don't miss our early bird pricing! Use coupon EARLYVCWINTER at checkout to take \$40 off the price - but it's good only for a limited time!

FREE GENEALOGY BOOKS ON THE INTERNET ARCHIVE

When I started researching my family tree more than thirty years ago, I purchased a paper reprint of a genealogy book first published in 1920: *The Harmon Genealogy, comprising all branches in New England* written by Artemas C. Harmon. The book mentions my great-grandmother, Lucy Harmon, and documents her Harmon ancestry back to 1667. It is a wonderful resource, and I have referred to this book often over the years.



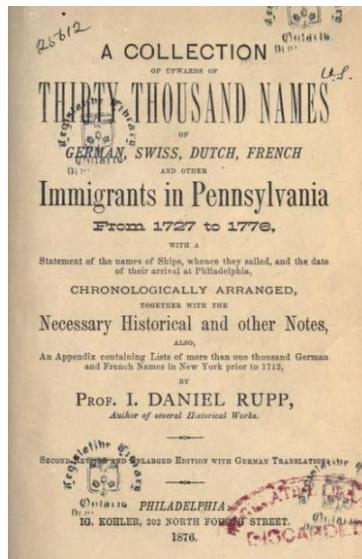
I paid more than \$100 for this reprinted book many years ago. Today I found the same book online. The cost is **ZERO**. I can download the entire book to my hard drive or to a jump drive or save it to an online storage service. I can print one page, multiple pages, or even the entire book. Even better, I can electronically search the entire book within seconds for any word or phrase. Not only can I search for names, but I can also search for towns, dates, occupations, or any other words of interest. Try doing that with a printed book!

The Internet Archive, also known as “The Wayback Machine,” is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that was founded to build an Internet library. Its purposes include offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format.

The Internet Archive is well known for storing terabytes of old web pages. However, the organization has also expanded its role to digitize and store all sorts of public domain material, including old books, movies, audio recordings, radio shows, and more. I have also found a few modern books on The Internet Archive that were legally contributed by the copyright holders themselves.

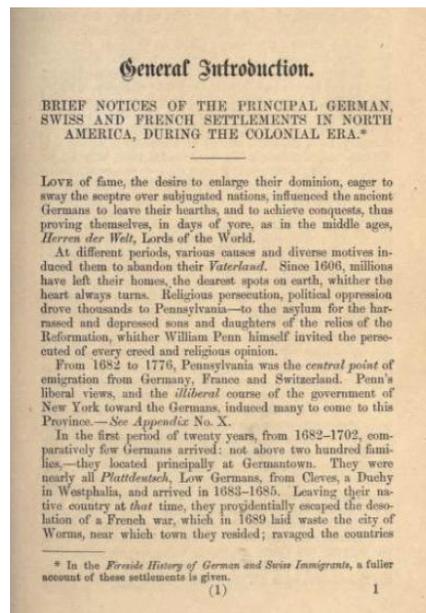
The site’s Text Archive contains a wide range of fiction, popular books, children’s books, historical texts and academic books. The list includes genealogy books as well. The Internet Archive is working with several sponsoring libraries to digitize the contents of their holdings. In addition, private individuals are invited to scan the public domain books in their personal libraries and upload them as well. (See <http://www.archive.org/about/faqs.php#195> for information about contributing your books.)

The result is a huge resource of books in TXT, PDF, and other formats, books that you can download to your computer, save, and then search for any word. The same books are also visible to Google and other search engines, including online every-word searches.



Above: "A collection of upwards of thirty thousand names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and other immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776: with a statement of the names of ships, whence they sailed, and the date of their arrival at Philadelphia, chronologically arranged, together with the necessary historical and other notes, also, an appendix containing lists of more than one thousand German and French names in New York prior to 1712"

The PDF versions contain images of every page in the original books. That makes them easy to read. I prefer to look at PDF versions of a book whenever possible. However, searching the PDF versions electronically does not work very well.



You should be aware of a couple shortcomings of books converted to plain text, however. First, the TXT files have lost the formatting of the original books; there is no bold or

italics or underlining since such formatting is not supported by TXT formatting. In addition, paragraph indentations and other “spacing” often is lost.

Secondly, many of the books available were converted to TXT format by OCR software. OCR never converts all words perfectly; so, you can expect to find numerous OCR errors in these documents. For instance, “The Harmon Genealogy, comprising all branches in New England” has some words mis-scanned, and many dates have errors in them. The common one was substituting the letter “I” in place of the number one, such as “I920” instead of “1920.” This will cause difficulty if you are electronically searching for specific words or numbers.

The Internet Archive presently digitizes more than 1,000 books a day and presently has more than 11 million “texts” (books and other printed material) available online. There is also a collection of 300,000 modern eBooks that may be borrowed or downloaded by the print-disabled at OpenLibrary.org. If you do not find what you want today, come back in a few months and try again. It may have been added by then.

Of course, the Internet Archive is not the only source of digitized books. In fact, Google Books is a well-known source of digitized books. Operated by a well-funded commercial company, Google Books gets most of the publicity. However, with commercial ownership come proprietary business methods. Google Books has almost stopped adding new books to the collection. New additions have slowed to a trickle. However, all books previously digitized remain available online at <http://books.google.com>.

The Internet Archive also provides most books in http, EPUB, Kindle, Daisy, and DjVu formats in addition to TXT and PDF. As a result, the books and other documents can be read on almost any ebook reader as well as on computers, iPads, and most cell phones that have web browsers.

The Internet Archive does not yet have all the genealogy books ever published. In fact, nobody seems to know how many genealogy books are available this way. Even the folks at The Internet Archive don’t know. They simply scan everything they can find and don’t worry much about classifying the topics. However, it is known that the Archive’s ever-expanding collection of genealogy resources includes items from the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Robarts Library at the University of Toronto; the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library; Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah; the National Library of Scotland; the Indianapolis City Library’s Indianapolis City Directory and Yearbooks Collection; The Leo Baeck Institute Archives of German-speaking Jewry Leo Baeck Institute Archives; and the Boston Public Library. Resources include among many things books on surname origins, vital statistics, parish records, census records, passenger lists of vessels, and other historical and biographical documents, as well as individual volumes contributed by thousands of users from around the world. Most of the genealogy books are published in English but there are numerous exceptions.

I searched the “Texts” section of The Internet Archive for the word “genealogy” and found 128,198 results. By searching in “Texts,” I was able to ignore the “hits” found on the Internet and in other sources. That’s not a definitive answer as the word “genealogy”

obviously will exist more than once in many books. However, it does provide a rough idea of the popularity of the word in The Internet Archives' books, magazines, and other texts. Whatever the true number, there must be thousands of genealogy books available today on The Internet Archive, and the number is growing rapidly.

The Internet Archive also has scanned and digitized the U.S. Census records from 1790 through 1930. Unlike the commercial providers of census data, the versions provided by The Internet Archive have not been indexed. They are useful only if you already know where to look for your ancestors. Small towns can easily be searched one page at a time while cities probably are best searched if you already know the enumeration districts involved.

Also unlike the commercial providers of census data, the census information on The Internet Archive is available free of charge to everyone. However, the Internet Archive version has not been indexed.

In fact, **everything on The Internet Archive is free**. There is never a charge for anything on The Internet Archive. As a non-profit, however, the organization does accept donations which are tax-free to Americans.

In a casual search, I found all sorts of material of interest to genealogists on The Internet Archive, including these:

- *Compiled service records of soldiers who served in the American Army during the Revolutionary war*
- *Polk Lafayette, Indiana, city directory* (Volume yr. 1891)
- *Preakness and the Preakness Reformed church, Passaic County, New Jersey: a history, 1695-1902, with genealogical notes, the records of the church and tombstone inscriptions*
- *The history of ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut: comprising the present towns of Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, and Newington, and of Glastonbury prior to its incorporation in 1693: from date of earliest settlement until the present time* (Volume 1,pt.2)
- *Ziegler Genealogy* by John A. M. Ziegler
- *Genealogy of the Beaudry Family of Northern Ontario and Relatives*
- *Morse genealogy* by Morse & Leavett
- *Genealogy of the Spotswood family in Scotland and Virginia*
- *The Lenher family: a genealogy* by Sarah Marion Lenher

The above is only a tiny fraction of the many books available free of charge on The Internet Archive.

The Internet Archive isn't perfect, but it does provide a great resource for genealogists, historians, and others. If you are looking for information about your family tree, I'd suggest that you check out The Internet Archive at <http://www.archive.org>. You can read about the Internet Archive's genealogy collection at <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>.

If you are interested in *The Harmon Genealogy, comprising all branches in New England*, go to <https://archive.org/details/harmongenealogyc00harm>

Caution: This book is great; but, like most genealogy books, it does contain a few errors. Author Artemas C. Harmon did a very good job of research, but his work was not perfect.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter)

GENEALOGY TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

Did They Add New Material and Not Tell You?

Websites, both commercial and non-commercial, add new databases and enhance existing ones on a regular basis. When was the last time you "went back" to see if that "old site" had something new or changed?

Doing it every day is extreme, every few months is not a bad idea.

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You Will Make an Error or a Typo--Yes Even You

No matter how good you are or how perfect you may be, it will happen eventually. You will make a mistake. Realize that you are human and know that even if you look something over multiple times, errors will creep in.

Reviewing material compiled years ago may cause you to notice errors as well.

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You Can't Barge Into a Funeral Home and Make Demands

The records maintained by a funeral home are private business records--not public records. Funeral homes do not "have" to allow you to see their old records. Some do as a public service and because it generates goodwill in the community. A few even charge. But a funeral home is under no obligation to let you have access to any materials they retained after your relative's funeral--no matter what it cost.

GENEALOGICAL GLOSSARY

THE MASON-DIXON LINE - Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon surveyed the eastern and northern boundary of Maryland between 1763 and 1767, resulting in Maryland ceding territory to Pennsylvania, beyond what came to be known as the "Mason-Dixon Line." This line was later used to define the separation line for Slave and Free states.

BOOKS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Friends “At the Spring:” A History of Spring Monthly Meeting - New in 2016 — updated with two new chapters and an index, this long-out-of-print 1984 history of one of the oldest Quaker meetings in Piedmont North Carolina, is a rich resource for genealogists. Author: Algie I. Newlin. Explore the fascinating history of Springs Friends Meeting in this new, updated edition of Algie L. Newlin’s book, first published in 1984 and out of print for many years. Through the pages of this book – which includes two new chapters and an index – readers will trace the meeting’s days from its founding, through mass Quaker migrations and dwindling membership, through world wars and conflicts at home until the dawn of the 21st century.

The book may be ordered from the North Carolina Friends Historical Society at <http://www.ncfhs.org/product/friends-at-the-spring-a-history-of-spring-monthly-meeting/>. The book is \$26.50 plus tax.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

GRANVILLE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Featured Speaker: **Dr Richard L. Taylor** - "The Historical Business District of Oxford".

Dr Richard L. Taylor will present the program for the January 5, 2017 meeting of the Granville County Genealogical Society. He will be talking about his newest book "The Historical Business District of Oxford" which hopefully will be out by then. He plans to touch on how the information was gathered and evaluated. He also will discuss several large landmarks that have come and gone, changing the landscape of the town. There will be a question and answer period.

Dick, who is a Granville County native, has lived and worked in Oxford all of his life except the time spent in college and medical school in Chapel Hill, N.C. and a tour of duty in the U. S. Navy during the Viet Nam era. He retired from his Family Practice of Medicine several years ago. Since then he has enjoyed genealogical and local historical research.

Please join members of the Granville County Genealogical Society in attending this meeting, to be held at 6:30 P.M. on January 5, 2017 in the conference room at the Richard H. Thornton Library in Oxford, N.C. All GCGS meetings are open to the public, and visitors and guests are always cordially invited to attend.

POMMERN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP - Join us at PSIG (Pommern Special Interest Group) for our first quarterly meeting of the year. Linda Serna, who has been involved with genealogy in researching and writing family stories for over 30 years, will be our speaker. As a professional genealogist she is a member of several groups including the Polish Society (PGS-CA). Her topic will be "Ethnic Groups: They Came Into America"

which looks at the Polish, Germans, and other groups and explores where they came from, when they came, why they came, and where they went in America.

Our program will start at 2pm on Sunday, January 8, at the Immigrant Genealogical Society Library located at 1310 West Magnolia in Burbank. Following her presentation, there will be refreshments and a chance for you to explore the library. Meanwhile, please check out our group's website at pomeraniannews.com for information. There you will find more about our quarterly publication, DIE POMMERN LEUTE, as well as our Facebook page and blog. To reach the blog, put Pommern Special Interest Group/blog in your search engine for Google.

HIGH POINT MUSEUM - 4 January 2017 (Saturday), 10 am to noon - "**March on an All-American City**", Lecture Gallery, [High Point Museum](http://HighPointMuseum.com), 1859 E Lexington Ave, High Point, NC 27262. Phyllis Bridges, noted local historian, will talk about how the Civil Rights Movement unfolded in the city of High Point. She will approach the subject by explaining the different roles assumed by African Americans as they mobilized to advance the cause of equality. Her short presentation will be followed by an encore showing of her documentary film *The March on an All-American City* (released in November) which emphasizes the irony of a national honor being awarded the city at the same time that gross injustices were highlighted by civil rights activists. For further information, contact the Museum at (336) 885-1859

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - Writing as Art: Editing & Publishing with Wayne Drumheller - Thur, Jan. 19, 3-5:30 p.m. - Wayne Drumheller is a Burlington, NC-based writing consultant, photojournalist, book editor, photographer and publicist. His work is recognized by collectors of fine photography for his creative approach and commitment to the finished print. In this program, Wayne will walk you through his process to create a short book. Please call the library to register for the workshop, 919.245.2537.

JOEL LANE MUSEUM HOUSE - The Joel Lane Museum House is proud to present a lecture called "Historic Cemeteries and Our Heritage" by Emily Grant on Thursday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Visitors Center of the Joel Lane Museum House at 160 South Saint Mary's Street, Raleigh, NC 27603. Admission will be \$16 for the general public and \$11 for members of the Joel Lane Historical Society. Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited, and advanced payment is required. Please call 919-833-3431 with your MasterCard or Visa, mail a check to P O Box 10884, Raleigh NC 27605, or go to the Eventbrite web site. Be sure to include the names of all in your party; nametags will serve as tickets. Tickets are non-refundable unless we must cancel the event.

HIGH POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY - 21 January 2017 (Saturday), 3:00 to 4:00 pm - "Allen Jay and The Underground Railroad", The Heritage Research Center of the [High Point Public Library](http://HighPointPublicLibrary.com), 1st Floor Morgan Room, High Point Public Library. Josh Brown, minister at Springfield Friends and editor of the Autobiography of Allen Jay, will explain how the noted Quaker luminary was inspired to become involved in the Underground Railroad and the defeat of the slave system. Quakers were active in helping escaped slaves through and out of Piedmont North Carolina to find safe haven elsewhere. After the War,

Jay promoted education for the freedmen and encouraged Quaker social activism in many other areas. Jay's name is commemorated in the name of a local school and rec center. Learn about the ideas that inspired a young man to take risks for others and promote freedom and equality. For further information, contact the library at (336) 883-3637.

WAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 5 Ways to Enhance Your Genealogy Research with Old Maps - January 24 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Olivia Raney Local History Library, 4016 Cary Dr., Raleigh, NC 27610

Speaker: Society webinar by Lisa Louise Cooke

Historic maps are a must for your research. Learn the five types of historical maps every genealogist should be using, and how to find them (many in places you would have never guessed!). Then learn how to create and save your own historic map collection, and discover truly innovative ways to incorporate them into your analysis and storytelling.

This meeting is a premium webinar presented by Lisa Louise Cooke. WCGS subscribed to her website "Genealogy Gems" as a society member for 2016-2017.

Lisa Louise Cooke is the owner of Genealogy Gems, a genealogy and family history multimedia company. She is producer and host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast, the popular on-line genealogy audio show available at www.GenealogyGems.com in iTunes and through the Genealogy Gems app.

All WCGS meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend! Refreshments will be served during social time after the presentation.

FROM BLANK PAGE TO STORY: WRITING A TERRIFIC FAMILY HISTORY (FxGS Membership Meeting) - Thursday, January 26 (snow date, February 2) - 7:30 pm - Kilmer Middle School Lecture Room G-107, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna, VA 22027 - Presenter: Leslie Anderson - Lecture Description: The research began with one question: "Where was my great-grandfather born?" About ten years later, the resulting article won the 2013 National Genealogical Society Family History Writing Contest. When the four-generation narrative — "Tabitha (Bugg) George Smith (1838-ca 1890) of Mecklenburg County, Virginia" — was published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly (March 2015), it consisted of 24 pages, 214 footnotes, and more than 200 sources.

Leslie will talk about the research, her analysis, and the writing. She'll share her experiences in working with NGSQ editors, the challenge of family myths, and what happened when she called distant relatives and strangers. She'll describe how she waded through mountains of research, organized her findings, (and overcame occasional dispiriting setbacks) while working a fulltime job and a lengthy commute.

Leslie, a native Virginian, is a reference librarian at Alexandria Library, Special Collections Branch. Her publications include Alexandria and Virginia Slave Births Index,

1853-1865. She has lectured at local, regional, and national conferences. Her media appearances include C-SPAN's American History TV and Blog Talk Radio.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ANNUAL SEMINAR - The Southwest Florida Germanic Genealogy Society, Inc. will hold its annual seminar, Building Your German Research Skills, on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the 24 Twenty-One Event Center, 2421 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL.

Our speaker, Dr. Fritz Juengling, comes to us from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT, where he is a Research Specialist. He is an accredited genealogist for Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Dr. Juengling's topics will be "German Name Origins, Meanings and Distribution," "Historical Events That Affect German Genealogical Research," and "Beyond the Obvious Reasons: Practical and Social Decisions for Emigration to America." A fourth session will be an Open Q&A for questions submitted in writing before and during the program.

The seminar fee is \$35 for society members; \$40 for non-members and includes lunch. Registration is required no later than Saturday, January 21, 2017. Registration forms and additional information is available on the website, <https://www.SWFLGG.org>

ANALYZING AND WRITING OBITUARIES (FxGS Education Program) - Saturday, January 28 (snow date, February 4) - 10:00 am - Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22027

Presenter: Charles S. "Chuck" Mason Jr.

Lecture Description: Early obituaries may contain very little information yet they can assist in genealogical research. Today an obituary can be a gold mine of information. The program will examine how to find obituaries and analyze them for research. The program will be a workshop on writing an obituary for yourself or a family member.

Chuck is a Certified Genealogist, 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), is an instructor for the NGS course Beyond the Basics, 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 lectures in the Washington DC area, NIGR, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In 2012 he received the Shirley Langdon Wilcox Award for Exemplary Volunteerism from NGS and is currently serving as the NGS Awards Chair.

HUMOR

Someone asked an old man, “Even after 70 years, you still call your wife *Darling, Honey* and *Luv*. What’s the secret?”

The old man replied, “I forgot her name and I’m scared to ask.”

PARTING THOUGHT

“When people will not weed their own minds, they are apt to be overrun by nettles.” –
Horace Walpole

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