

D-OGS Newsletter – December 2019

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

NCDOGS-admin@rootsweb.com

PO Box 4703, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4703

2018 dues – \$20

2018 President – David McCorkle

DECEMBER 2019 MEETING - D-OGS ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY!

WEDNESDAY December 4 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the *Golden Corral*, 5006 Apex Highway 55, Durham, NC

Bring yourself and a guest and join us for some fun times at our 24th Annual Birthday Party! There will be no formal speakers, so we will have time to share a meal and get to know each other. We will also have fun with our traditional genealogy/NC trivia quiz where you can earn prizes. This will also be our *annual meeting* to elect board members for next year, so please let us know if you are interested in serving in any capacity.

All D-OGS meetings are free and open to the public. Simply purchase your meal and join us in the restaurant's meeting room!

D-OGS MEMBER ELIZABETH HAMILTON DIES

Elizabeth Hamilton was a member of the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society for many years and served as its Webmaster for several years. She became interested in genealogy as a child listening to stories about her family, visiting cemeteries where ancestors were buried, and did some genealogy research when she was an adult.

Her ancestors came from England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, and according to family stories were also part Native American. Elizabeth is a descendant of seven passengers on the Mayflower in 1620. Her father's family lived in New England. Her mother's family settled in the South. Her North Carolina ancestors were Germans who lived in Rowan, Mecklenburg, and Cabarrus counties including the Koppel/Capley, Grauel/Crowell, Kolb/Culp, Lentz, Grappin, Grobb and Veit/Fite families.

Elizabeth grew up in Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama, but lived in North Carolina most of her life. She was a National Merit Scholarship Finalist in high school. She attended college on a scholarship and majored in Chemistry and Math. She moved to NC in 1972 to attend graduate school in Biomedical Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Then, she worked at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center as a Computer Programmer Analyst and later worked at the UNC Administration Data Processing Office. She was instrumental in improving the construction and designs of numerous NC roads and intersections statewide, evaluated safety guard rails, and worked on child restraint safety and bicycle safety projects.

She loved traveling and visiting family. She enjoyed her trip to Hawaii very much. For many years she was a volunteer for public radio and public television fundraisers.

She was an avid reader and had a huge book collection of fiction, non-fiction, genealogy, history,

biographies, science, and mysteries.

Elizabeth loved doing crafts especially crochet, cross-stitch, knitting, painting, and making baskets.

She loved taking classes, both educational and enriching classes. Particularly loved OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) courses, and she taught some OLLI courses.

Elizabeth died in July 2019 at Duke University Hospital in Durham after decades of increasing medical problems. Her cremated remains will be buried next to her mother in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP AT THE CHAPEL HILL FHC LOCATION

I received the following message from Devon Blake, director of the LDS Family History Center in Chapel Hill:

I'm pleased to announce the next FHC workshop, to be held Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the LDS church at 1050 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in Chapel Hill. Please see the description below:

Jim Ray will be teaching how to use **GEDmatch**. **GEDmatch** is a FREE, non-profit, “do-it-yourself” genomics website that allows DNA testers to upload raw data from FTDNA, AncestryDNA, and 23andMe and more to compare with a large database of data that has been voluntarily uploaded by other testers. It can also be used to help for spotting trace ethnicity.

Hope to see you there!

Best, Devon

USCIS PROPOSES FEE INCREASES FOR GENEALOGY RECORDS

The following announcement was written by Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, and originally was posted to the IAJGS Public Records Access Alert message list. It is also republished here with Jan's permission:

On November 15, I posted to this forum [see <https://blog.eogn.com/2019/11/15/uscis-proposes-fee-increases-for-genealogy-records/>] about the proposed fee increase by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for genealogical files. USCIS proposes a raise in its two Genealogy Program fees from \$65 to \$240 and \$385 and possibly more if you require paper copies. These are a 269 percent and 492 percent change respectively (if I did my math correctly). While I wrote only about the genealogy fee increase in the 92 page proposed rule there are other immigration fees being increased.

A coalition of genealogists, historians and records access advocates have created a portal about this with suggestions. Please see: <https://www.recordsnotrevenue.com/>

This is an uphill battle and only with thousands of comments submitted will we have a chance to change these proposed fees.

Please read the rule and submit your comments before December 16 the deadline. The coalition also suggests you copy your comments to your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators. To contact your US Senator go to: https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC

For your US Representative go to <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

There are finding aides if you don't know who your elected officials are.

To read the proposed rule, see: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-11-14/pdf/2019-24366.pdf>

The Genealogy section is Section N which starts on page 62315-62316.

See Section 103.40 for Genealogical Research Requests on page 62359.

There are fees with DACA renewals with and without ICE transfers and I do not know why there are genealogy requests tied to DACA renewal fees (page 62329, 62331).

This is a 92 page proposed rule the remainder does not affect genealogy.

Written comments must be submitted on or before December 16, 2019. Comments must be identified by DHS Docket No. USCIS– 2019–0010 by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>
- By Mail: Samantha Deshommes, Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy,

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Mailstop #2140, Washington, DC 20529–2140.

No hand delivered or couriered comments will be accepted. Nor will they accept anything on digital medial storage devices such as CDs/DVDs or USB drives.

Jan Meisels Allen
Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

WARRANT ISSUED PERMITTING POLICE FULL ACCESS TO GEDMATCH DATABASE

I bet this issue gets debated in the courts before long!

The following announcement was posted to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) mailing list by Jan Meisels Allen and is republished here with her permission:

Accessing public DNA databases to find a potential familial match for a criminal act such as murder or rape started in April 2018 when California police used GEDmatch to identify someone whom they believe is the Golden State Killer. Since then there have been many law enforcement agencies that applied the same method to their own cases. Private DNA testing firms such as 23andMe, Ancestry, MyHeritage, etc. have pledged to keep their client's genetic information private, and GEDmatch, a public site restricted police access earlier this year, by requiring the use to opt-in for law enforcement access to their genetic information.

Last week a detective in Florida announced at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference convention that he was successful to "penetrate" GEDmatch and search its full database of almost one million users. It appears to be the first time a judge approved such a warrant. With a court overruling the company's policy may be a game changer for those who upload their genetic information to such a site. Remember, when you are sharing your genetic information that encompasses not only your own personal information, but those family members who share your DNA. It is anticipated that a similar approach will be used to see if law enforcement may access the larger private genetic databases.

FamilyTree DNA, like GEDmatch, makes it possible for anyone to upload their DNA information and start looking for relatives. FamilyTreeDNA permits law enforcement searches of its database of 2 million users for certain types of crimes.

For more information read: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/game-changer-warrant-let-detective-125158273.html>.

The article originally appeared in the New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/05/business/dna-database-search-warrant.html>.

Thank you to Bill Forsyth, ProQuest, for sharing the article with us.

Jan Meisels Allen
Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

WE'RE LOSING GENERATIONS OF FAMILY HISTORY BECAUSE WE DON'T SHARE OUR STORIES

Here is a quote from an article by Rachael Rifkin in the *Good Housekeeping* web site:

"Most people don't know much about their family history. This is because people usually don't become interested in genealogy until they're in their 50s and 60s, when they have more time to reflect on their family identity. The problem is that by that time, their grandparents and parents have often already passed away or are unable to recount their stories.

"Because of this, we're losing generations of stories, and all of the benefits that come with them. 'Because our families are among the most important social groups we belong to and identify with, stories about our family tell us who we are in the world, and who we should be,' says Robyn Fivush, Ph.D., one of the researchers behind the study *The Power of Family History in Adolescent Identity and Well-Being*. 'Stories about our parents and grandparents provide models of both good and bad times, as well as models of overcoming challenges and sticking together.'

“The solution to this problem is to get people interested in their family histories when they’re still adolescents or young adults, when they can still hear directly from relatives. But how do we cultivate an interest in each other to begin with?”

You can find a number of answers in Rachael Rifkin’s article at:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/a29610101/preserve-family-history-storytelling/>.

WHY SHOULD WE HIRE A PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST?

As most of you know, I've been researching my genealogy for nearly 45 years and working within the field on a professional level for over 35 years - most of that time spent as an editor, publisher, educator and speaker. I've done some "for hire" research projects, but most of my thousands of hours of research time has been spent searching my own family - often extended family, but family nonetheless.

Every now and then I've hired a "pro" to help me with areas I found difficult. And it's paid off nearly every time. I've also hired professionals to work the Salt Lake Christmas Tour for the last 35 years. These people are worth hiring when the time is right - and in today's ever-changing and often high-tech research environment, it makes more sense than ever.

I am writing this because I've been approached by friends at [Trace](#), asking if I'd be interesting in working with their company, by simply letting my readers know about what they do - and explaining why hiring professional genealogists is important to each of us. I've visited with their CEO, Wesley Eames, at RootsTech conferences over the years, and have been very favorably impressed with their approach to professional research. [Trace](#) has a network of over 4000 professional genealogists and experts working worldwide, with access to over 2000 archives and repositories. These professionals are in over 90 countries throughout the world, and include subject matter experts, such as private investigators, historians, religious scholars, archivists, clergy and university professors. For a very short time, *Genealogy Newsline* readers can get a specialized review of your research for just \$99 (that's a \$51 savings over the normal \$150 fee). This \$99 rate is only for *Genealogy Newsline* readers and it expires this next Tuesday, November 19. So, [fill out the short form and get started](#). But first, you might want to know a bit more about why hiring a professional makes sense for all of us. Please note that not all of the following is my wording, but I'm in full agreement with every word - mine or otherwise.

Why Hiring A Genealogist Makes Sense

It makes sense to hire a genealogist if your excitement and commitment are overshadowed by frustration and discouragement. It makes sense to hire a genealogist if you can't access local records, translate documents in a foreign language, or interpret DNA results. Even if you have extensive genealogy research know-how, it makes sense to hire a genealogist if you simply don't have enough extra time or money to tackle your project. Surprisingly, hiring a genealogist can save a lot of money in the long run.

Time is Money

Let's face it, researching your family can be all-consuming, especially when dealing with records that are not indexed, or historic documents that are written in a foreign language or old script. Professional genealogists, who specialize in a specific subject or geographic location, are well acquainted with a wide variety of sources that a less experienced genealogist may overlook. As my readers know, I never have enough time.

Spending a little money can move things along even when I'm buried with the publishing business. It can do the same for you.

Brick Walls

"I've hit a brick wall and I need help!" We've all said it at one point or another while trying to create accurate timelines and confirm family relationships. Brick walls happen to all of us, and the key to extending a line can be a professional with "boots on the ground," or just a different perspective. It also takes a trained eye to keep a family tree from going off track. When dealing with a difficult project, a professional genealogist has the knowledge and experience necessary to solve these difficult puzzles. Allowing fresh eyes to methodically examine your brick wall allows new information to surface. Professional genealogists are an excellent resource to validate research passed down by other family members or to verify work you have completed yourself. Not only can they make new discoveries, but they have also been trained, utilizing the *Genealogical Proof Standard*, to analyze and interpret existing evidence, which may lead to new conclusions. They are experienced in working with specific information on a variety of record types over various time periods.

Digital Resources Can Only Get You So Far

With advances in technology and online genealogical databases over the past 20 years, many census and other vital records are now widely available to the public, leading some to wrongly assume that if it can't be found online, it does not exist. This is a mistake. Only a small percentage of records are available online compared to the number that are still held in local or state repositories. In some cases the only way to find information is to access original records on-site. This requires time and travel and can be very expensive. It is always more cost effective to hire a local professional researcher on the ground. A local researcher is well versed in which records and which repository will likely hold the answers to the research question at hand. At [Trace](#), they work with a wide variety of tested genealogists who can help individuals access records all across Europe, South America, Australia and the United States. It is more cost effective to pay a local professional researcher to obtain needed information than it is to take time off work and foot the bill for travel expenses in order to do the research yourself. Local professional researchers not only speak and understand the language, but they can also navigate the local customs and laws. They understand the fluidity of boundary changes caused by war or political disputes. In some countries multiple languages have been spoken over time, which affects the languages records may be written in. These variables can be overwhelming while trying to gather genealogical information. It is best to rely on a professional to help you understand the language, conventions and customs of a region or time period.

(I saw this article on a blog from a Family Roots Publishing. I thought it would be of interest to many of you.)

HELP WANTED: LOOKING FOR FORMER TMG USERS TO HELP TEST A FUTURE VERSION OF FAMILY HISTORIAN

(I know there are several D-OGS members who have used and loved the now defunct The Master Genealogist (TMG) software. I hope this following article may give you some hope for the future. - *Editor*)

The Master Genealogist, usually referred to as "TMG," was a very powerful genealogy program for Windows. I have to use the word "was" because the company that produced TMG folded up and went out of business. TMG is no longer available for purchase, is no longer being upgraded, and no longer has a Customer Service department to answer customers' questions and to help with using the program.

Despite all that, many TMG users remain loyal to the program as they have not yet found any replacement program that includes all the power and advanced features offered in TMG. Actually, I believe that at least one program is as powerful as TMG and has been available for years but many TMG users have not been aware of its existence. However, Simon Orde, the owner of Calico Pie Limited and the creator of Family Historian genealogy software, is looking for **experienced TMG users who are also Family Historian 6 users**, to test a new upcoming version of Family Historian. The new version (7) includes features added specifically for TMG users, such as an improved TMG import routine which automatically converts sophisticated TMG narrative sentences containing ‘variables’ (TMG users will know what I’m talking about) to Family Historian equivalents. I would refer to these volunteers as “beta testers” although that is my terminology, not Simon’s.

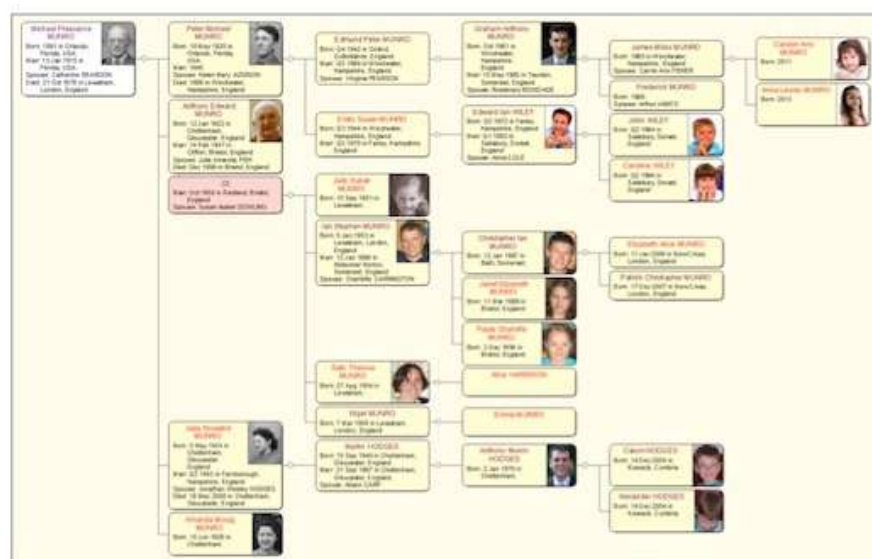
[Family Historian](#) is a very powerful and very flexible genealogy program for Windows. In my opinion, Family Historian has **always** been one of the leading Windows genealogy programs available. It always has been a very strong competitor to TMG and Simon Orde plans for the next release to be even stronger. I understand that a formal program of testing version 7 with selected customers, is due to start shortly. Last week, I met Simon at the RootsTech conference in London and I asked him if he could predict a release date for Family Historian version 7. He replied, “As soon as my testers tell me it is ready for release.” I suspect he also meant, “... and not one day sooner” although he didn’t use those exact words.

I am guessing version 7 is a few weeks or months away, certainly not years.

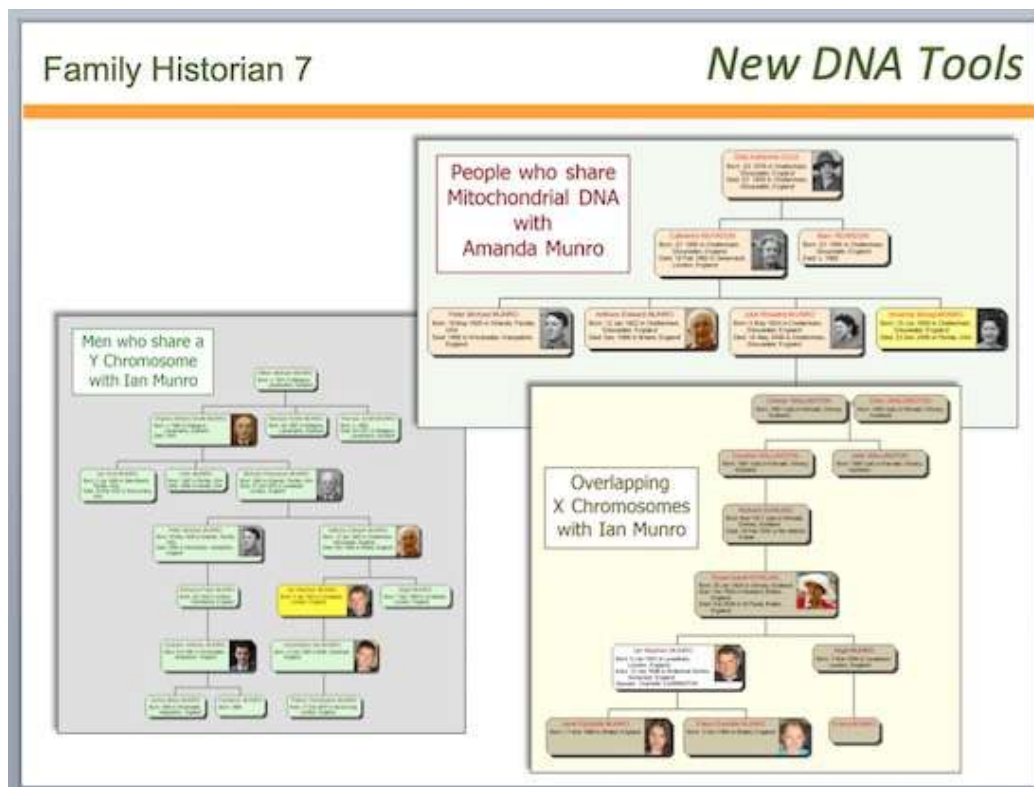
Version 7 of Family Historian will include a very powerful word processor that provides familiar word-processing features such as bullets and tables, but also includes embedded record links (that is, links to records in your project), web links (links to websites), private notes-within-notes incorporating hash tags (similar to hash tags used on Twitter and elsewhere), and embedded source citations (that is, numbered source citations which can be inserted into the text itself, rather than just attached to the note as a whole). The new version also includes improved support for sources and source templates, new relationship diagrams, new DNA tools, quite a few new reports, and quite a few enhancements to existing features.

Family Historian 7

New Waterfall Chart



While in London, I watched Simon give a demonstration of the new version 7 of Family Historian and must say I was impressed. I believe that Family Historian has been the most powerful and flexible Windows genealogy program for some time now and version 7 will only enhance its reputation when released.



If you have Family Historian 6 and are interested in helping the development and fine tuning of one of the leading Windows genealogy programs of today, please send an email to support@family-historian.co.uk and include a brief summary of why you think you might be qualified to examine the Family Historian beta test version and to provide feedback from a TMG user's viewpoint. If you don't have version 6, apparently since November 1st and until version 7 is released, anyone who buys a copy of Family Historian 6 as a download (full version only) from the Family Historian website, will get a free upgrade to version 7 when available.

Comment by Dick Eastman: I will say that Family Historian has a different "look and feel" from The Master Genealogist. In my mind, that's a good thing. If you become one of the new testers providing feedback, don't expect Family Historian to look exactly like TMG or to emulate TMG's menus in any way. These are two very different programs from different software developers, with different screens, and different reports. In my opinion, Family Historian has the more user-friendly user interface of the two programs.

The goal is to see if the proposed version of Family Historian provides the **EQUIVALENT FUNCTIONALITY** that is important to experienced TMG users, although not necessarily the identical functionality. In other words, does Family Historian version 7 meet the needs of TMG users?

Again, if you are interested in helping the development and fine tuning of one of the leading Windows genealogy programs of today, please send an email to support@family-historian.co.uk.

NOTE: The screenshots shown above were made with new Family Historian software still being developed. Don't be surprised if the final product to be released has some differences. In fact, YOU may be able to define some of those differences!

GENI INTRODUCES CONSISTENCY CHECKER TO THE WORLD FAMILY TREE

The following announcement is an excerpt from a much longer article posted to the [Geni Blog](#):

Today we are excited to introduce the new Consistency Checker to Geni's World Family Tree. The Consistency Checker will constantly monitor changes to profiles in the family tree to detect common errors or inconsistencies and bring them to your attention so that you can make the necessary changes to improve the quality and accuracy of the family tree.



This helpful tool checks for 26 types of inconsistencies, ranging from obvious issues, such as a child born before their parent, to more subtle problems, such as an event after death. It offers you a fast and easy way to fix mistakes to ensure that the most accurate information is found on Geni profiles.

And it is available to everyone for free!

The Consistency Checker has been running on all newly added and edited profiles since the beginning of this year. We will soon back fill inconsistencies for older profiles in batches, until all profiles on Geni have been checked.

You can read the full announcement, including detailed instructions on how to access the new Consistency Checker, at: <https://www.geni.com/blog/introducing-the-consistency-checker-to-the-world-family-tree-3104764.html>.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THANKSGIVING FAMILY DAY – Stagville State Historic Site - Saturday, November 30, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit Stagville over the Thanksgiving weekend to explore the history of one of the largest plantation in North Carolina. Stagville's historic structures will be open to explore from 10 am to 4 pm, with hands-on activities for families. Join us for tours of the buildings featuring stories of African American families at Stagville. Perfect for kids and families to explore Stagville's history and the Horton Grove Nature Preserve Trails.

HILLSBOROUGH HOLIDAY PARADE – 1 December – 4:45pm starting time

HOLIDAY BAZAAR – Carrboro Town Commons – 1 December from noon-5pm – 30+ vendors.

WAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Nov/Dec Meeting - Tuesday December 3, 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm at the Cameron Village Regional Library, 1930 Clark Drive, Raleigh, NC 27605

Program Topic: *Find-A-Grave*

Speakers: Mary Ann Loss and Carol Stahl

Does your heart race when you pass by a cemetery? Ever wondered about those engravings on your family's gravestones? Could you spend hours wondering through graveyards? December is perfect for hearing how these two crazy ladies deal with their addictions to Find A Grave and cemeteries. Come join us as WCGS members Carol Stahl and Mary Ann Loss try to convince you that cemeteries are an important part of your personal genealogical research and how your sleuthing skills can help others searching for their ancestors.

All WCGS meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend! Social time: 6:30-7:00. Presentation will start at 7:00. [info@wakecogen.org]

GRANVILLE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1746, INC. - The program for the December 5, 2019 meeting of the Granville County Genealogical Society will be presented by GCGS member Velvet Woodlief. She will give a presentation based on the book by Sen. Tom Cotton entitled "Sacred Duty."

This book details the history of the OLD GUARD, a military unit which is three years older than our U.S. Constitution and is active even today. The Unit protects our nation's capital, the President and other dignitaries and has served in every conflict in which our nation has been involved. It conducts the burials at Arlington Cemetery, from meeting the fallen at Dover Air Force Base to the final sounding of taps. It's members also guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. Sen. Tom Cotton was a member of this elite branch of service.

Please join members of the Granville County Genealogical Society in attending this meeting, to be held at 6:30 P.M. on December 5, 2019 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. Web site address: <http://www.gcgs.org>

Mailing address:
GCGS 1746, Inc.
PO Box 1746
Oxford, NC 27565-1746

MEBANE CHRISTMAS PARADE – 6 December, starting at 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT AT DUKE HOMESTEAD - Friday, December 6, 2019 - 5:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., 828 Duke Homestead Road, Durham, NC 27705 - For the city's 150th anniversary, Durham's three State Historic Sites invite you to join our Christmas programs, "Spirit, Sacrifice, and Celebration." See how the lives of past Durhamites transformed dramatically in the decade leading up to Durham's founding. Visitors can discover the spirit and culture of enslaved people at Christmas at Historic Stagville in 1860, learn of the sacrifices and compromises local families made in the midst of the American Civil War in 1864, and the post-war celebration and growth at the start of Durham's famed industrial founding at Duke Homestead in 1870.

Come to Duke Homestead for evening candlelight tours and celebrate an old-fashioned traditional Victorian Christmas with the Duke Family in 1870. As the Dukes switched from growing to manufacturing bright leaf tobacco, they enjoyed the start of soaring wealth just a few short years after the hardships of war. Visitors will be invited to join in the celebration with dancing, decorating the house and the Christmas tree with historic decorations, listening to Christmas stories, playing Christmas games, singing along to beloved Christmas songs, drinking some hot cider, and even meeting Santa Claus!
Doors open at 5:15pm

Tours depart from the Visitor Center every 15 minutes. You will purchase tickets for a specific tour time. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early.

Each tour is limited to 25 people total.

Ticket Prices:

\$6 + tax for adults

\$3 + tax for kids (ages 3-12)

We are unable to offer refunds on purchased tickets. All cancelled tickets will be considered a donation to the site and will be used for future educational programming.

BAHAMA CHRISTMAS PARADE – 7 December, starting at 10am

13TH ELF HOLIDAY CRAFT MARKET – 7 December - Carrboro ArtCenter from 10am-4:30pm

WINTER IN THE GARDEN FESTIVAL – 7 December - NC Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill from 5-9pm.
Fees.

SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS FAIR – 7 December, State Fairgrounds from 10am-5pm.

A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS AT BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD - Saturday, December 7, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. - 5466 Harper House Rd, Four Oaks, NC 27524 - Come celebrate a Civil War Christmas during this Holiday open house event. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cider while listening to period music. Members from the 27th NC Co. D will demonstrate how soldiers spent their holidays.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS IN COLONIAL CAROLINA – Alamance Battleground - Saturday, December 7, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. - Join us at Alamance Battleground to learn about the traditions, food ways, and culture of North Carolina's German communities as we celebrate the Christmas holiday with our special event, "German Christmas in Colonial Carolina." By the 1770s, the backcountry of North Carolina boasted several communities of Germans who had settled here after migrating from their original settlements in

Pennsylvania. They brought with them traditions and culture that still shape our region today.

Demonstrations will include 18th century cooking, sausage and sauerkraut making, and music. Children will have the chance to decorate their own springerle cookies and try their hand at the German paper-cutting art of scherenschnitte. Warm beverages and snacks will be available in our Visitor Center, and food will be available for purchase from Kat-N-Around Authentic German Food Truck. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children under the age of 12

JONKONNU AT STAGVILLE - Saturday, December 7, 2019 - 4:30 p.m. - Celebrate Jonkonnu, a remarkable African American holiday tradition, with Historic Stagville and St Sya Academy!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jonkonnu-at-stagville-tickets-68526036219>

A troupe of local musicians and St Sya students will perform at Horton Grove to honor Jonkonnu, a masquerade celebration with roots in West Africa and the Caribbean. Stagville is one of the few sites in North America with historical documentation of Jonkonnu. Today, Jonkonnu at Stagville celebrates the spirit of resistance and resilience of enslaved people.

After the performance, take a lamplight tour of the historic slave dwellings and learn more about the meanings of Christmas during slavery.

Tickets are \$5 per person; ages five and under are free.

FLORIDA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 2019 Fall Virtual DNA Conference - Saturday, 7 December 2019 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Join us for our Virtual DNA Conference – a way to renew your genealogy research skills without having to leave home. The conference will be presented via GoToWebinar. Attendees will be able to attend the “live” presentation or listen to the recorded video which will be available to registered attendees only, for a period of 2 weeks after the conference.

What you will get:

- * 5 hours of lectures by noted presenters
- * Viewing "live" or attend via recording up to 2 weeks after the conference
- * Door prizes throughout the day
- * Handouts will be available for each session

Presenters and their Lectures:

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., JD – /The Danger of Distant Genetic Matches/

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Diahan Southard – /The YDNA Test Should be Your Favorite/

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Angie Bush, MS – /Your Cousins are Your Secret Weapon/

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Mary Eberle, JD – /GEDMatch – Tools to Interpret DNA Matches and Find More Matches/

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL – /Doing DNA Right: The Ethical Side of Testing/

Cost: FSGS Members: \$45.00; Non-Members: \$55.00

For more information and registration go to <https://flsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=268>

PITTSBORO CHRISTMAS PARADE – 8 December, starting at 3pm.

STATE TREE LIGHTING & HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE - Thursday, December 12, 2019 - 5:00 p.m. - Join the State Capitol and Gov. Roy Cooper for the annual tree-lighting tradition on Thursday, Dec. 12th! The festivities begin on Capitol Square at 5 p.m. with luminaries and holiday music. There will be music performances by the Raleigh Concert Band and dance by Alicia's School of the Performing Arts. The governor and dignitaries will make their way to the South grounds at 6:15 p.m. to officially begin the ceremony. The lit tree will be visible the length of Fayetteville Street. The Junior Woman's Club will give away cookies and hot chocolate – and even Santa is scheduled to make an appearance!

The Capitol's annual holiday open house will begin at 6:30 p.m. following the ceremony, with the Wake Med Chorus performing. The public is invited inside to see holiday decorations and natural greenery located throughout the building.

From Thursday, Dec. 12th – Saturday, December 14th (from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.) the Capitol will have holiday music in the rotunda!

The NC Executive Mansion will also be open following the tree lighting ceremony at the Capitol on the 12th from 6 - 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13th - Saturday, Dec. 14th, the Mansion will also be open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and on Sunday, December 15th from 1-4 p.m.

Sponsors of the holiday festivities are the State Capitol Foundation, State Historic Sites Division of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, N.C. Department of Administration-Facility Management, and the Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh.

All Capitol and Mansion events are FREE and no reservations are needed or accepted.

CLONE OF CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT AT DUKE HOMESTEAD - Friday, December 13, 2019 - 5:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. - 2828 Duke Homestead Road, Durham, NC 27705 - For the city's 150th anniversary, Durham's three State Historic Sites invite you to join our Christmas programs, "Spirit, Sacrifice, and Celebration." See how the lives of past Durhamites transformed dramatically in the decade leading up to Durham's founding. Visitors can discover the spirit and culture of enslaved people at Christmas at Historic Stagville in 1860, learn of the sacrifices and compromises local families made in the midst of the American Civil War in 1864, and the post-war celebration and growth at the start of Durham's famed industrial founding at Duke Homestead in 1870.

Come to Duke Homestead for evening candlelight tours and celebrate an old-fashioned traditional Victorian Christmas with the Duke Family in 1870. As the Dukes switched from growing to manufacturing bright leaf tobacco, they enjoyed the start of soaring wealth just a few short years after the hardships of war. Visitors will be invited to join in the celebration with dancing, decorating the house and the Christmas tree with historic decorations, listening to Christmas stories, playing Christmas games, singing along to beloved Christmas songs, drinking some hot cider, and even meeting Santa Claus!
Doors open at 5:15pm

Tours depart from the Visitor Center every 15 minutes. You will purchase tickets for a specific tour time. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early.

Each tour is limited to 25 people total.

Ticket Prices:

\$6 + tax for adults

\$3 + tax for kids (ages 3-12)

We are unable to offer refunds on purchased tickets. All cancelled tickets will be considered a donation to the site and will be used for future educational programming.

CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO HOLIDAY PARADE – 14 December, starting at 10am.

DURHAM CHRISTMAS PARADE – 14 December, starting at 10am. **Funfest** on Blackwell Street from 1-4pm

WAKE FOREST CHRISTMAS PARADE – 14 December, starting at 1pm.

CARY CHRISTMAS PARADE – 14 December, starting at 2pm.

CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS IN THE PIEDMONT - Saturday, December 14, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m - Bennett Place State Historic Site, 4409 Bennett Memorial Road, Durham, NC 27705

Visit Bennett Place during the Christmas season and witness how this occasion was celebrated in the Piedmont Carolinas during the American Civil War. Living historians will decorate the farm in a typical modest fashion of the time. There will be cooking demonstrations in the kitchen house, Christmas decorations and packages in the main house, soldiers will be on hand to demonstrate Christmas in the field and of course, a visit with Ole St. Nick. Complimentary hot apple cider will be available. There will also be a bake sale where you can purchase some sweet treats. All proceeds from the bake sale go towards the preservation of the site. - \$3.00 per adult & \$2.00 per child under 5 FREE

CHRISTMAS IN CANARY AT THE CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN MUSEUM - Saturday, December 14, 2019 - 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - 6136 Burlington Road, Gibsonville, NC 27249 - Celebrate the Holidays - 1940s style! Enjoy the halls of Canary Cottage decked with vintage Christmas decor, sample tasty treats from days past, create a holiday craft of your own, and visit with Santa!

\$5 per family. For more information, contact the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at CHB@ncdcr.gov or 336-449-3310.

CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR PROGRAM - Saturday, December 14, 2019 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Bennett Place State Historic Site, 4409 Bennett Memorial Road, Durham, NC 27705 - Under the glow of candle light, you can take a special guided tour around the farm and experience first-hand how soldiers and civilians experienced the holidays during a time of war. Tours will take place every 20 minutes and tickets will be required. Tickets will be available on-line on the website under the link for special events and you will be able to pick the time slot that works with your schedule. Groups will be limited to no more than 15 people. This tour is outside and on uneven ground so please dress accordingly and wear comfortable shoes for walking. Complimentary hot apple cider will be available as well as our wonderful bake sale. <https://historicsites.nc.gov/www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com>

All proceeds from the sale of the baked goods goes directly towards the preservation of the historic site. - \$3.00 per adult & \$2.00 per child under 5 FREE.

HUMOR

Memory of an accident in a Uniontown, Pennsylvania cemetery:

Here lies the body
of Jonathan Blake
Stepped on the gas
Instead of the brake.

PARTING THOUGHT

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

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