

D-OGS Newsletter – February 2018

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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2018 dues – \$20

2018 President – David McCorkle

D-OGS MEETING FOR 7 FEBRUARY 2018

The next D-OGS meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at the **Chapel Hill Public Library**, meeting room D. **Please note the earlier starting time of 6:30 and the location – this is because the library closes promptly at 8PM.**

This meeting will serve as a general planning / brainstorming session to present and discuss new services and projects for our organization, especially with respect to members who cannot typically attend our monthly meetings. We will present projects and ideas we are working on, and will solicit input from the members. Topics will include The Trading Path journal, website content, the Bastardy Bond project, monthly meetings (content, location, and schedule), and hands-on workshops.

All members are welcome to submit ideas, concerns, comments, etc. prior to the meeting so we can discuss them. Just reply to this email address.

NOTES FROM THE D-OGS MEETING OF 20 JANUARY

The January meeting was a departure from the norm in that we met in the Chapel Hill Public Library for the very first time. We also met on a Saturday morning, a different day from our usual first Wednesday evening.

The discussion revolved around DNA studies, the offerings available and the different outcomes from the different vendors. Based on the popularity of the topic and the size of the audience, we need to have more workshops to deal specifically with DNA topics.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH: THIS MONTH WE HONOR AND CELEBRATE OUR COUNTRY'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

African American History Month first began by Presidential Proclamation of Gerald Ford in 1976. The year 1976 was also the 50th anniversary of the celebration of Negro History Week which began in 1926 by the efforts of [Carter G. Woodson](#). [Negro History](#) week emerged from the founding of the [Association for the Study of Negro Life and History](#) (ASNLH) in Chicago in 1915. An historian, journalist, and advocate for systematic research into the neglected and buried history of African Americans, Woodson was one of the first scholars to study African American history, and he had put the event in motion

in 1924 by urging members of his fraternity, [Omega Psi Phi](#), to organize Negro History and Literature Week. This later became Negro Achievement Week.

In 1925, the 50th anniversary of Emancipation, the ASNLH organized the national celebration to take place the following year in February. The organizers chose February for two birthdays historically celebrated in Black Communities: Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and [Frederick Douglass](#) on February 14. The event quickly spurred the growth of organizations and community groups who responded with annual celebrations. By the 1950s, Negro History Week was celebrated in cities and communities across the country. And building on the heels of the 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement, and the 50 year history of Negro History Week, President Gerald Ford made the first federal proclamation of African American History Month in 1976. Since that time, all of the country's presidents have issued the February proclamation.

This month we'll feature the history and achievements of Black and African Americans. We'll begin today by sharing a few super useful resources to get you started exploring African American history and to help you follow the celebration throughout the month. Some of these resources are based in North Carolina and feature North Carolina's history. Others connect to the national celebration. Please check them out to learn more!

From [NCpedia](#), North Carolina's online encyclopedia:

[Exploring North Carolina: African American History](#) — <https://www.ncpedia.org/exploring-north-carolina-african-american-history>. This collection brings together numerous topics, with links to encyclopedia articles. Some of the topics include: biographies, history of African American Education and the state's HBCUs, organizations (civic, business, political and religious), culture and the arts, law, segregation, politics, civil rights, and historic places. The collection also includes an extensive list of links to local and primary source collections online, as well as an extensive print bibliography. Educator resources and lesson plans are also included.

From the National African American History Month commemoration website:

[African American History Month](#) — <https://africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>. This site is a joint initiative by a number of federal institutions — the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. It's a fabulous compendium of information and access points to biographies, historical essays, historical collections and documents, audio and video materials, legislative materials, and more. They have included a special resource page for [teachers](#). And the site also includes a [calendar of live events](#) throughout the month, some available by live-streaming.

From [Blackpast.org](#) — the online reference guide to African American History:

With more than 13,000 articles, [Blackpast.org](#) provides comprehensive access to the history of African Americans in the United States and around the world. The online

resources includes access to speeches, photographs, and primary sources and has many special features including support for [genealogy research](#).

From the [North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources](#):

[Celebrations, exhibits and educational events around the state for African American history month](#) — <https://www.ncdcr.gov/news/press-releases/2018/01/18/black-history-month-programs-nc-department-natural-and-cultural>. Whether you find yourself on the Coast, in the Piedmont, or the Mountains, visit this calendar for happenings and learning opportunities near you.

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK HAS COMPILED THE STATE'S FIRST SLAVERY RECORDS INDEX

The New York Slavery Index, created by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York (CUNY) , provides records dating back to the year 1525 all the way through the American Civil War. The database includes records, documents, narratives and other sources that identify individual enslaved people and their owners.

Visitors to the free public database can search 35,000 records related to New York State, including the names of the slave-owning senators and records of people who escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad. The goal is to deepen the understanding of slavery in New York by bringing together information that until now has been largely disconnected and difficult to access. This allows for searches that combine records from all indexed sources based on parameters such as the name of an owner, a place name, and date ranges.

The New York Slavery Records Index is available to all at no charge at: <https://nyslavery.commons.gc.cuny.edu/>.

4 TIPS FOR DIGITIZING YOUR GENEALOGY EFFECTIVELY

Why should you digitize your genealogy?

Genealogists are well-known paper-lovers. We tend to hang on to each photocopy, printout, and note “just in case” we need to refer to it again. But many of us don’t like managing all that paper. We’d much rather be following ancestral clues than filing old paperwork. Digital copies can ease much of that paper burden. Below are 4 reasons to digitize your genealogy research with some tips to get you started from our course, [Digitizing Your Family History](#).

1. Clear some space

Digitizing your genealogy paperwork means clearing out space where all those old binders and bins of paperwork used to live. By going digital, you’re not getting rid of the information – you’re just storing it differently. Take the time to separate those items that

can be scanned, then binned from original items you want to keep, such as old photos and heirlooms. Then, tackle the piles in short, timed intervals so you don't get overwhelmed. Both need to be digitized, but once you're done and you've tossed all those extra copies and surplus notes, you'll find you have a lot more space to showcase the items that really matter.

2. Organize as you go

There are so many ways to organize your research digitally that it would take weeks to cover them all. You can easily find and adapt tools and systems that help you keep all your research together. Before you begin to digitize your research, determine the best system for you and divide the job up into smaller tasks so you don't get overwhelmed. You'll be surprised as what you can accomplish in fifteen minutes.

And learn from my cautionary tale: In my excitement at finding several new photos at my sister's house and trying to cram them in before I left, I neglected to label or scan them as I went. I can go back and review them, but that may not be an option for everyone. Label and cite them as you scan so you aren't left scratching your head down the line. Bonus tip: scan the backs of the photos as well for any notes or identifying information.

You can learn more about [Organizing Your Genealogy in a Week](#) with our workshop.

3. Preserve your research in the cloud

No one likes to think about disasters happening, but floods and fires can destroy decades of work. Digitize your genealogy research not just on your computer, but by storing it in the cloud. Even if your originals are lost, you'll still have the reproductions and even if your computer breaks down, you'll be able to access them on another device.

Tip: Photograph or scan everything. You don't need fancy equipment for most items; there are apps you can use on your camera to scan and many of them are free. It may take some time, especially if you follow the advice in number 2, but you'll find it's worth it.

4. Take it with you

Whether you're going to the local cemetery, courthouse, or library or you're heading out of town for a big research trip, having your research digitized means you don't have to haul a bunch of paperwork with you — it's all at your fingertips in your phone, tablet or laptop. So if you need to reference a record you already have, or double-check dates in your family tree, you can do so easily. Use an online app such as Evernote to create your list of items you want to find to save time on your trip, and use the [Ancestry.com](#) or [RootsMagic](#) apps to access your online trees.

(Reprinted from the Family Tree Magazine blog)

DEVELOPER MISTAKENLY GRADES, OR LEVELS, A CENTURY-OLD WAKE FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA, CEMETERY

A Facebook video claiming a family cemetery that dates back more than a century in Wake Forest had been bulldozed triggered hundreds of angry comments, but officials are saying it is all a misunderstanding. Mungo Homes is building a new neighborhood in the area, but the developer says no graves were bulldozed. However, the site had been graded, or leveled, by mistake.

The North Carolina Office of State Archeology came out and determined that 2 to 4 inches of dirt had been scraped off, but the graves themselves were not disturbed. However, scraping the dirt off was itself a violation of state cemetery preservation laws. Mungo Homes now faces a \$24,000 fine from the town.

You can read more in an article, with a video, in the WRAL.com web site at: <http://bit.ly/2D2yaQa>.

LIBREOFFICE 6.0 RELEASED



I have written often about the free office suite of programs called LibreOffice. (See <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=site%3Aeogn.com+libreoffice&t=hg&ia=web> for a list of my past articles about LibreOffice.) I have both LibreOffice and Microsoft Word installed on the computer I am using at the moment but I find LibreOffice's word processor to be my favorite. It is easier to use than Word and is compatible with more file formats, including: .doc, .docx, .rtf, .html, .xhtml, .epub3, .odt, and a bunch of other formats as well.

LibreOffice includes a word processor (competing with Microsoft Word), a spreadsheet program (somewhat like Excel), a presentation program (similar to PowerPoint), a drawing program, a database program, and a mathematics program. LibreOffice Writer also includes such useful features as a spellchecker, a thesaurus, AutoCorrect, and hyphenation as well as a variety of templates for almost every purpose. You can also create your own templates using the wizards.

Version 6 introduces a revamped design with new table styles, improved Notebook bars, new gradients, new Elementary icons, menu and toolbar improvements, and updated motif/splash screen.

This article was written with LibreOffice 6.0.

Microsoft Office 365 subscriptions start at \$70 per year for a single home user and other versions with more capabilities are more expensive. In contrast, you can get most of the same functionality, although not all of it is 100% compatible, with the FREE LibreOffice for Windows, Macintosh, Linux, and even a native app for the Chrome operating system.

Not bad for a **FREE** suite of programs. You can download LibreOffice at: <https://www.libreoffice.org/download>. You can also find an article describing "what's new" in version 6.0 at <http://bit.ly/2BIcgvT>.

You can watch a video showing the new features of LibreOffice 6.0 at <https://youtu.be/YHBve8v13VY>.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Eastman's online Genealogical Newsletter)

GENEALOGY TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

Human Maps

Genealogists use maps of political and geographical features for many reasons, including to see where records might have been maintained and where an ancestor might have easily traveled to find a spouse or a job.

But maps of human relationships, biological, legal, and social may help as well. A family tree extending for ten generations may be nice to display, but is it helpful to your research when you are stuck on a specific person? A smaller chart, showing the relatives they may have interacted with may be more helpful. Don't neglect to include "step" relatives and "in-laws" as those are people your ancestor may have interacted with as well. Another chart showing people the "problem" ancestor interacted with may be helpful also--just be certain the nature of their interaction (witness, neighbor, etc.) so that you don't get more confused.

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Beyond the Immediate Person

I'm becoming convinced that I probably won't find my Ira Sargent in the 1870 census. However, in an attempt to locate him, I've reviewed information on his:

- siblings
- step-father
- half-siblings
- aunts and uncles

I've also tried to locate all these people in 1870 thinking that Ira could be living with them or near them. I still haven't found him, but I have learned quite a bit about his extended family in the process.

Have you gotten beyond your immediate person?

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Grave Mapping

Locations of graves within a cemetery can hold clues as to possible relationships among people buried in relative proximity to each other. Don't just record names of burials and make a "list" of who is in the same cemetery. Proximity can be a clue, make certain you include a map showing geographic proximity and relative position of burials.

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Are You Really Concentrating?

If your time for genealogical research is limited, make certain you are in an environment where you can truly concentrate. While it may not be practical to completely tune out "real life," various online notifications and the internet can make it difficult to focus. Consider closing out all your online activities for a time and really concentrating on the material you already have.

WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

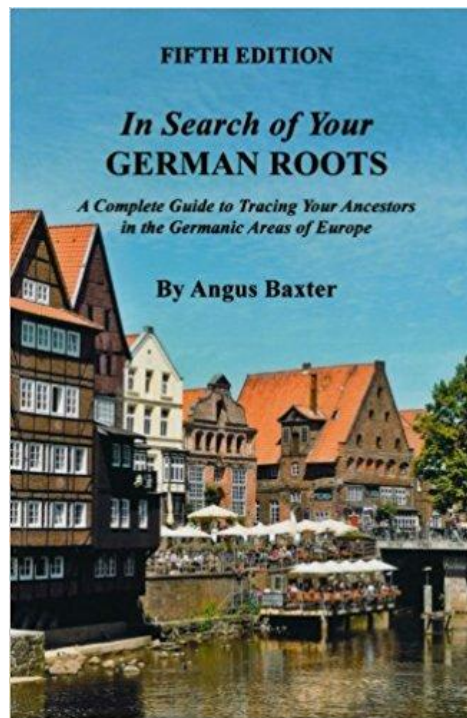
How to Easily Restore an Old Family Photo Using Photoshop

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/easily-restore-old-family-photo-photoshop/>

BOOKS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

In Search of Your German Roots

(The following book review was written by Bobbi King)



by Angus Baxter.

This Fifth Edition was updated and revised by Marian Hoffman.
Genealogical Publishing Co. 2015. 125 pages.

Angus Baxter wrote the first through the fourth editions of *In Search of Your German Roots*. His daughter Susan Baxter updated the fourth edition (2008), and Marian Hoffman updated this fifth edition. Mr. Baxter died in 2005, and his name remains as author.

This is not a large book, but it's dense with information about Germans, Germany, and German records research. Chapters and sections are:

- The Germans and Germany
- The Records of FamilySearch
- Jewish Records
- Church Records
- Immigration
- Vital and Other Records
- Archives in Germany
- Genealogical Associations in Germany
- German Genealogical Associations in North America
- Online Resources
- Continuation
- Bibliography and Index

I would say this would be a perfect book for beginning German researchers. There are brief descriptions of the history of the Germans and Germany, their migrations, and their

cultures from about the eighth century on. There are extensive lists of German websites and books for reference.

The nice thing about *German Roots* is that there is not so much minutiae to overwhelm the researcher, but there is enough robust material to provide solid grounding for beginning German research.

In Search of Your German Roots is available from the publisher, Genealogical Publishing Co., at <http://bit.ly/2tmnkiT> as well as from Amazon at: <http://amzn.to/2uvaO0d>.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD - 5466 Harper House Rd, Four Oaks, NC 27524 - Saturday, Feb 10, 2018 10:00 AM - **Hands-On History** - Visitors will get the opportunity to get touchy with items from the 19th century. Interact with interpreters as they perform various 19th Century demonstrations.

CSS NEUSE CIVIL WAR INTERPRETIVE CENTER - 100 North Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28501 – Book Talk - **The Battle of Roanoke Island: Burnside and the Fight for North Carolina** - Join us on February 10, at 11:00 a.m., for a book talk by author Michael Zatarga on *The Battle of Roanoke Island: Burnside and the Fight for North Carolina*. The Battle of Roanoke Island took place February 7-8, 1862. In the winter of 1861, Union armies had failed to win any significant victories over their Confederate counterparts. The Northern populace, overwhelmed by the bloodshed, questioned whether the costs of the war were too high. During the first winter of America's Civil War, Confederate forces were well in control of the fight. Then, Union general Ambrose Burnside marked the beaches of the Outer Banks and little Roanoke Island for an amphibious assault. His victory shifted control of the Sounds of North Carolina. Join author and historian Michael Zatarga as he traces the story of the crucial fight on Roanoke Island.

EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM - For more information about the upcoming courses, contact: Monika Fleming, (252) 823-5166, ext. 241, flemingm@edgecombe.edu or visit <https://www.edgecombe.edu/programs/business-industry-and-technologies/historic-preservation-technology/> or <http://www.facebook.com/HPTatECC>

2/10, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Identifying and Preserving Old Photos– Advanced Genealogy series

This is a half-day course on using historic images in genealogy research. Clues to dating photos, ways to preserve images, and resources for old photos will be discussed. Fee \$25

HIGH POINT PUBLIC LIBRARY - 12 February 2018 (Monday), 6:30 to 7:45 PM - The Heritage Research Center of the [High Point Public Library](#) in the Morgan Community Room, 1st Floor High Point Public Library presents "Al Campbell Remembers" - Al Campbell, former editor and founder of the High Point Tribunal Aid, High Point's only

African-American focused newspaper, published in the mid-1970s, will discuss the history of that publication and its importance to the community. No preregistration necessary. For further information, contact the library at (336) 883-3637.

THIRD THURSDAY TALK: FINDING FREEDOM IN NORTH CAROLINA – February 15, State Archives & History Building, 109 East Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27699 - Towns. Rivers. Businesses and “colonies.” African Americans have relied on unique landscapes, places, and communities in search of freedom in North Carolina. Join the NC African American Heritage Commission to learn about communities and spaces that were key to African American liberation in North Carolina.

This event is presented by the NC African American Heritage Commission, in partnership with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources EEO Committee.

DUKE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE - February 15 and 17: Investigating "TOBACCOLAND U.S.A." - Thursday and Saturday, 1:30 pm - From the experimental to the promotional, tobacco history and film history go hand in hand. See tobacco on the big screen at Duke Homestead presented by Durham Cinematheque's Tom Whiteside. Whiteside is a film collector and historian with a specialty in films about tobacco and Durham.

This event will take place on Thursday, February 15th and Saturday, February 17th at 1:30 pm. Whiteside will present an hour-long program, with time for questions afterwards. A \$5 donation per attendee is requested.

HISTORIC STAGVILLE - FEBRUARY 23rd, 6 to 8 p.m.: Stagville Under the Stars. Join Historic Stagville and Morehead Planetarium for Stagville Under the Stars! Hear African folktales about the night sky and peer through telescopes to take a tour of the stars. This event is perfect for kids and families. We will meet in the Visitor Center and then head outside to use telescopes on the grounds.

This event is FREE and open to the public.

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2/24, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Locating Land Records – Advanced Genealogy series

This is a half-day course on learning to locate and use land records – on a federal or state level and learn how to understand deeds and how land records can be used to connect family generations. Fee \$25

CSS NEUSE CIVIL WAR INTERPRETIVE CENTER - Saturday, Feb 24, 2018 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM - **African-Americans and Women in the Civil War** - This is a free lecture event to celebrate the contributions of women and African-Americans during the Civil

War. A member from the City Council in Kinston will also be making an appearance and saying a few words to begin our program. This is the first year in history the entire City Council in Kinston is African-American.

Program Schedule:

11:00 a.m.- Guest speaker Shannon Walker will focus on women's roles in medicine during the American Civil War, and the involvement of African American women in the development of the modern nursing field.

2:00 p.m.-Guest speaker and author, Alex Christopher Meekins will give a presentation on Wild's 1st North Carolina Colored Volunteers (NCCV), who along with some soldiers from the 55th Massachusetts Volunteers were among the 10,000 reinforcements requested by Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore who was in command of Union forces attempting to attack Charleston. Ordered to depart in light marching order, the men of the regiment left their baggage and personal belongings behind in New Bern. The group was raised in North Carolina, but saw action in border states. The regiment became the 35th United States Colored Troops (USCT), fighting all its battles and skirmishes in South Carolina and Florida, including the action at Battery Wagner, later made famous in the movie *Glory*, before seeing Reconstruction era service at Charleston.

3:00 p.m.-Guest speaker and author, Reginald Hildebrand will give a talk on "The First Year of Freedom in North Carolina: Pursuing Freedom with the Hoe and the Sword, the Book and the Lord". Using first-hand accounts, this talk will illustrate some of the ways in which freedom was experienced in North Carolina in 1865, including the accounts of black soldiers entering Wilmington in February, the first 4th of July celebration of the freed people, and a 'watch night' service in Raleigh to mark both the New Year and the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

FORT DOBBS STATE HISTORIC SITE - February 24 and 25: Cherokee Attack

Anniversary- Saturday, 9 am - 7 pm & Sunday, 9 am - 3 pm - On February 27, 1760, the garrison of Fort Dobbs engaged in a bloody, confusing, night-time skirmish with Cherokee warriors. This living history event will give visitors a glimpse of what life was like for the soldiers and settlers seeking protection through on-going displays of camp life, as well as scheduled musket and cannon firing demonstrations. Admission is \$2.00 per person. Note: A special evening firing demonstration will be presented at 6:30 pm Saturday.

"THE QUEEN ANNE'S REVENGE TRAVELING EXHIBIT" RIBBON CUTTING

CEREMONY - Friday, Mar 2, 2018 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM, 207 Carteret Street, Bath, NC 27808 - Historic Bath invites you to the grand opening of "The Queen Anne's Revenge Traveling Exhibit" Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Friday, March 2, 2018 at 11:30. The ceremony will take place in the Northwest wing of the Old Bath High School (new Bath Exhibit Hall). Light refreshments to follow. For more information please contact the Visitor Center at 252-923-3971.

EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM - For more information about the upcoming courses, contact: Monika

Fleming, (252) 823-5166, ext. 241, flemingm@edgecombe.edu or visit <https://www.edgecombe.edu/programs/business-industry-and-technologies/historic-preservation-technology/> or <http://www.facebook.com/HPTatECC>

3/3, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Genealogy Web Sites – Advanced Genealogy series - This is a half-day course about numerous free web-sites to expand genealogical research along with a few of the fee sites. Fee \$25

HUMOR

A burglar got into a house one night. Shining his flashlight on the floor in the dark, he heard a voice saying, “Jesus is watching you.”

He looked around nervously, shook his head, and kept looking for valuables. He again heard, “Jesus is watching you.”

This time, he shone his light all over, and it rested on a parrot.

He asked, “Did you say that?”

The parrot admitted that it had. “I’m just trying to warn you, that’s all.”

The burglar said, “Warn me, huh? Who are you? What’s your name?”

“Moses.”

“Well, what kind of stupid people would name a parrot ‘Moses’?”

The bird answered, “The same folks who would name a Rottweiler ‘Jesus’.”

PARTING THOUGHT

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.” – Abraham Lincoln

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