

D-OGS Newsletter – December 2018

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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2018 dues – \$20

2018 President – David McCorkle

D-OGS MEETING FOR 5 DECEMBER 2018

**D-OGS Annual “Birthday Party” – THURSDAY, December 6 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM - Golden Corral
5006 Apex Highway 55, Durham NC** [MAP](#)

Bring yourself and a guest and join us for some fun times at our Annual Birthday Party at the *Golden Corral*, 5006 Apex Highway 55, Durham, NC, on **THURSDAY December 6** from **6:00 PM** to **8:00 PM**. 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.

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

GINGER MANN RECEIVES AWARD

Ginger Mann of Durham, NC, has been honored as one of two recipients of the North Carolina Genealogical Society's 2018 “Award for Outstanding Contribution to NCGS by a Member.” The awards were presented at the NCGS annual meeting during its fall conference on October 27 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

The award recognizes Mann's work as a volunteer for the *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, in which she has wholeheartedly tackled any abstracting or transcription project presented to her, regardless of the type of record, location, or time-period. Her contribution has played a significant role in ensuring that each issue of the *Journal* includes a variety of material and has made it easier for the editor to plan future issues. Mann was commended for her tireless commitment and reliability in helping the *NCGS Journal* continue as a valued and respected publication documenting North Carolinians.

NCGS RECORDED WEBINAR WITH BLAINE BETTINGER

Friday, December 7 @ 12:00 am - Sunday, December 9 @ 11:59 pm - The North Carolina Genealogical Society is delighted to present: Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD

“Using Autosomal DNA for 18th and 19th Century Mysteries”

This recorded Webinar will be freely available to the public from midnight Thursday night through midnight Sunday night (EST), 7-9 December 2018. (The live webinar was originally presented on 18 November 2016.)

The **handout** for this presentation is only available to logged-in members, and is accessible on the main Webinars page. (On the top menu, under Education & Events, select Webinars to go to the main webinars page. The box at the top right of that page has a link to “Member Webinar Handouts”, which is arranged in alphabetical order.) This webinar is always available to members in the Member Webinars area of the website.

About the Webinar:

Even though our 18th and 19th century ancestors have been dead for decades, their DNA still survives in their descendants. Learn how to use autosomal DNA to attack and potentially solve genealogical mysteries and brick walls for ancestors who were born or lived in the 1800s, 1700s, and beyond. Together we'll also examine some of the ways that leaders in the field have attacked or solved their 18th and 19th century mysteries using autosomal DNA.

About the Speaker:

Blaine Bettinger is an intellectual property attorney by day and a genetic genealogist by night. In 2007 he started The Genetic Genealogist (<https://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com>), one of the earliest blogs on the topic. Dr. Bettinger has been interviewed and quoted on personal genomics topics in *Newsweek*, *New Scientist*, *Wired*, and others. He authored *I Have the Results of My Genetic Genealogy Test, Now What?* in 2008, which is distributed by Family Tree DNA to all of their new customers.

Blaine frequently authors articles and gives presentations to educate others about the use of DNA to explore their ancestry. He is an instructor for genetic genealogy courses at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), Salt Lake Institute of Genealogical Research (SLIG), Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research, and Family Tree University. Blaine was also recently elected to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's Board of Trustees and graduated from ProGen Study Group 21 in 2015.

This webinar is always accessible on the website to NCGS members as a member benefit.

Downloadable/printable pdf [Flyer](#) for this webinar.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD AN ENTIRE WEBSITE FOR OFFLINE READING

NOTE: *This article has nothing to do with genealogy. If you are looking for genealogy-related articles, you might want to skip this one. However, the article describes some very useful methods of storing information from web sites onto your local hard drive. That can be useful for genealogists and for many other people as well.*

It is easy to save individual web pages for offline reading, but what if you want to download an entire website? Would you like to download part or all of a particular web site and store the information on your computer's hard drive? There are several different programs for Windows and Macintosh that will let you do just that. Some of the programs are available free of charge.

Joel Lee has published an article in the *Make Use Of* web site that describes four such programs. He even describes my favorite one, called SiteSucker. He writes:

"If you're on a Mac, your best option is SiteSucker. This simple tool rips entire websites and maintains the same overall structure, and includes all relevant media files too (e.g. images, PDFs, style sheets). It has a clean and easy-to-use interface that could not be easier to use: you literally paste in the website URL and press Enter."

I have to agree with Joel Lee's description. I have been using SiteSucker for years to make backup copies of my own web sites and have been pleased with its operation. I even wrote about SiteSucker in this newsletter in 2014 at <http://bit.ly/2yZhewZ>.

SiteSucker costs \$5, a modest amount considering how useful the program has been for me.

I have also tried another program he describes, called Wget. I wasn't too enthused about Wget and I noticed that Joel Lee didn't say much about it either, other than to give a basic description of the program. He didn't offer any opinion of how useful Wget is compared to the other three programs.

One thing that Joel Lee does not mention is that these programs download all static web pages but will not retrieve dynamic web pages.

NOTE: Dynamic web pages are those created at the moment a user requests information. For instance, a visitor to MyHeritage.com or Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org might enter a query for an ancestor named John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt. The web site then creates a **BRAND NEW** web page at that moment and displays it to the user. The web page is then deleted from the web site as it is no longer needed.

SiteSucker cannot create queries so it will not ask for new web pages. You won't be able to download the billions of records that are available on these large genealogy databases. That's a good thing as you probably don't own enough disk drives to hold all that data anyway. However, these programs will copy all pages that are not database-driven, such as the static web pages at <https://www.cogn.com>.

You can read Joel Lee's entire article, *How Do I Download an Entire Website for Offline Reading?*, at <http://bit.ly/2D1k2pI>.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter)

RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

Introduction: In this article, Gena Philibert-Ortega provides tips for researching court records and preparing to visit a courthouse to learn more about your ancestors. Gena is a genealogist and author of the book ["From the Family Kitchen."](#)

Courthouses hold treasures for the genealogist – but visiting one can be intimidating if you've never researched court records in person. It's important to learn all you can about what the courthouse holds, the procedure for obtaining records, and costs involved. The following are some tips to consider as you think about researching your family history in court records.

What Records Do Courthouses Hold?

Like the description "church records," the term "court records" is too general. Court records cover a vastly diverse set of records that document our ancestors from America's early history. "Court records" can include "probate, naturalization, divorce, debt, adoption, guardianship, licenses, appointment to public offices, taxes, civil lawsuits, property disputes, and crimes."*

What records can you find at a courthouse? Well, the short answer is, "it depends." Why? Every courthouse is different and the records they hold depend on the location, type of courthouse, and what they retain onsite. In the California county where I live the Superior Court holds records like probates, civil, and criminal cases, but if you want a divorce record you have to take a walk across the street to the Family Court. Some records have been digitized and are available online while others must be ordered and retrieved by court staff. In a

neighboring county, some older records from the early 20th century and prior can be found at the county archive.

The [FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki page on United States Court Records](#) states that there are three main types of court cases that involve records you may be interested in:

- “These cases involve violation of laws when an individual (but not society) is harmed, such as property damage, trespass, or libel. In these cases, one or more individuals file suit against other individuals to enforce private rights or to receive compensation for violation of rights.
- “These involve disputes or arguments between individuals and do not involve violation of laws. In these cases, individuals petition the court to reach a fair decision for both parties. Examples of equity action are cases involving probates of estates and property rights. Today this function is mostly handled by civil courts.
- “These involve the violation of laws in which society is or may be harmed, such as drunk driving, theft, or murder. In these cases, the state (or “the people”) file suit against the defendant. Serious crimes are felonies. Minor crimes are misdemeanors.”

While court records are probably not the first records you should search when beginning a family history project, they are vital as you expand your search for your ancestor to probate records, wills, possible divorces and other cases.

Start Online

It probably won't surprise you to learn that some records can be found online, either through a third-party website or from the courthouse itself. Always start your search using genealogy websites like [FamilySearch](#). To find court records, see the [FamilySearch Catalog](#) and then conduct three Place searches: for the state, county, and town you're researching. Subjects listed in the Catalog that have court records include Court Records and Probate Records.

Remember that court records may be held in places other than a courthouse. Depending on the type of records and court, you may find them archived at a regional branch of the National Archives and Records Administration (for federal court records), as well as state or county archives.

Don't forget to also check the courthouse website. In some cases, you may find digitized records or even an index on the court's website. It's always best to ask another researcher or to email the court before visiting. You don't want to visit a courthouse only to find out that records you need are stored offsite or require a search fee and a notification by mail.

Every court has different rules/policies about records access. In some states, I've walked right into the courthouse and been allowed to research and copy whatever I need. In others, like where I live, the availability of records is limited to a paid search and waiting for a letter confirming that the records exist. Do your homework before you visit the courthouse to avoid disappointment.

Going to the Courthouse

If the courthouse does have the records you need, keep in mind a few things:

- Dress professionally when you go but consider refraining from wearing white or light colors. Bound court records can be heavy and dusty.
- Be respectful of the court staff time. They are there for current cases and may not have time to help you as much as you require.

- Be prepared to wait. I've waited close to two hours just to fill out a form. On the other hand, court record research takes time, so remember to allot yourself plenty of time for finding what you need.
- If you must pay for parking assume you'll be there longer than you expect.
- You may be required to go through a metal detector and/or have your purse or other belongings searched. In some cases, a cell phone may not be allowed in the courthouse.
- You will most likely be required to pay a fee for copies. Depending on the amount of records you need, this fee may be substantial. You may want to inquire in advance whether credit cards are accepted, or bring enough cash.
- Consider talking to someone who has researched at that courthouse to provide information about what to expect.

Don't Forget Newspapers Published Court Records & Legal Notices

Don't forget the importance of newspaper research in learning more about your ancestor's legal dealings. Various types of articles might exist including schedules for court hearings, individual articles about court cases, and the legal notices found at the back of a newspaper serving notice to creditors, or those that are party to a court case. Search an online collection of newspapers such as GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#).

To Learn More

I recommend learning more about courthouse research by reading [Genealogy at a Glance: Court Records Research](#) and [The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy](#).

(Reprinted from GenealogyBank online blog)

WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

North Carolina Secretary of State Wills

The digitized collection of North Carolina Secretary of State Wills contains wills from 1663 to 1789. These are the loose wills before original wills were kept by the clerk in the county in which they were probated. The [wills can be searched or browsed](#) on the State Archives of North Carolina website. Although some are difficult to read, this digitized collection brings these fragile documents to researchers while protecting the originals.

Read the [State Archives of North Carolina blog post](#) about this collection.

BOOKS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Delamar Transcripts: Transcriptions of Petitions to the General Assembly of North Carolina Relating to the Revolutionary War

This new book contains over 400 pages of petitions, depositions, and resolutions involving service members, their heirs, or the people they sold their compensation to. The book contains soldiers, mariners, scoundrels, speculators, widows, children, siblings, and more, so even if your ancestor didn't serve in the Revolutionary War from North Carolina, he could have been mentioned in this book.

Before now, the transcripts of these Revolutionary War petitions have just been available to those in the North

Carolina State Archives who knew that these transcripts existed. Like so many treasures at the archives, these are not well advertised or easily accessible. Although there was an index to the 900-plus pages of double-spaced transcripts, it was not a robust index and didn't include every person mentioned. This NCGS book solves those problems and puts the data right at your fingertips.

Using a well-indexed book (indexes for both people and places) like this can help you find men who died at Valley Forge (who aren't listed on the Valley Forge Muster Roll at <http://valleyforgemusterroll.org/encampment.asp> or find men who served in the First Regiment of the North Carolina Continental Troops with your ancestor, or those who fought and were possibly wounded at Eutaw Springs or Brandywine, or men who died of small pox and those who were pleased to be able to get the shoes of someone who died of small pox. You can see people as they lived, suffered, and died through their eyes or the eyes of their comrades.

This book is unique in that it documents men who fought in North Carolina who, through no fault of their own, were not listed on the Muster Rolls and had to prove their service through the North Carolina General Assembly in order to get their just compensation, whether it was their pay, their bounty land, or some other compensation.

Delamar Transcripts is available in the [NCGS Store](#). Members, be sure to log into the website to get special members-only pricing on items in the store. The list price is \$48.00.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

ISLAND OF LIGHTS FESTIVAL - Carolina Beach, November 23 - December 31, 2018 - Carolina Beach decks the hulls and halls in this island-wide festival featuring a month of yuletide-themed events. Island of Lights kicks off with Lighting at the Lake, featuring a one-mile trail of beautiful lighted displays around Carolina Beach Lake Park and a visit from Santa. The annual Christmas Parade features floats, a band and Santa Claus with an evening full of entertainment and holiday cheer. The traditional parade of lights gets a coastal twist at the Christmas Flotilla, featuring boats decorated in their holiday best cruising the waterways and competing for prizes. See how coastal residents decorate their homes for the holidays at The Holiday Tour of Homes. Celebrate New Year's Eve on the beach with the New Year's Eve Celebration, a family-friendly event featuring a DJ, dancing, refreshments and party favors available for purchase.

AYR MOUNT HOLIDAY TOURS - December 1 @ 12:00 am - December 15 @ 12:00 am - \$12 - Make plans to visit Ayr Mount for a Guided House Tour between December 1st and December 15th when the house is decorated for the Holiday Season. This beautiful house is always a stunner but never more so than when it is adorned with nature's bounty of freshly cut flowers, naturals, berries, holly, fruits, and evergreens. Tours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 11 AM and Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday at 2 PM. Visit our website or call the Ayr Mount office 919-732-6886 for more information.

EFLAND CHRISTMAS PARADE - December 1 at 10am

APEX CHRISTMAS PARADE - December 1 at 5pm

BENTONVILLE BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE - December 1: *A Civil War Christmas* - Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm - Come celebrate "A Civil War Christmas" during this open house event. Costumed interpreters will decorate the kitchen in festive themes using natural materials such as holly, magnolia, fruits,

and popcorn strands. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cider while listening to period music. Costumed military interpreters will be available to discuss how the common soldier spent his time on furlough with friends and family. This event is free, and open to the public.

HILLSBOROUGH HOLIDAY PARADE - Sunday, Dec. 2 at 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS SHOW - Sunday, Dec. 2 from 9-5 – Hillsborough, Big Barn

HAYTI HERITAGE CENTER - HOLIDAY MUSIC PROGRAM, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m.

The talented members of the Durham School of the Arts choral program return to Hayti for a special event. This free concert will showcase the talents of DSA's Chamber Ensemble. Randa McNamara also returns to delight us with her performance! <https://events.durhamcountylibrary.org/event/1007823>

WAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Tuesday, December 4 - Preservation NC (Meetings)
6:30 pm to 8:15 pm - Olivia Raney Local History Library, 4016 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC 27610

Speaker: Myrick Howard

Founded in 1939, Preservation NC is North Carolina's only private nonprofit statewide historic preservation organization. Its mission is to protect and promote buildings, landscapes and sites important to the diverse heritage of North Carolina. Preservation NC enjoys a national reputation, having been cited by the National Park Service as "the premier statewide preservation organization of the South, if not the Nation" and the National Trust for Historic Preservation as "the model organization of its kind." Join us to hear the stories behind the "saves" and learn more about this important resource.

All WCGS meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend! Refreshments will be served during social time before the presentation. Presentation will start at 7:00.

STATE CAPITOL - December 6: *Tree Lighting Ceremony* - Thursday, 5 pm

Join the State Capitol and Gov. Roy Cooper for the annual tree-lighting tradition on Thursday, Dec. 6th! The festivities begin on Capitol Square at 5 p.m. with luminaries and holiday music by the Kaiser Middle School Eighth Grade Concert Band. At 5:30 p.m. the Raleigh Concert Band will perform.

The governor and dignitaries will make their way to the South grounds at 6:15 p.m. to officially begin the ceremony and light the tree, which will be visible the length of Fayetteville Street. The Junior Woman's Club will give away cookies and hot chocolate. Even Santa is scheduled to make an appearance!

The Capitol's annual holiday open house will begin around 6:30 p.m., following the ceremony. The public is invited inside to see holiday decorations and natural greenery located throughout the building, and the WakeMed Chorus will perform in the magnificent rotunda.

On Thursday, Dec. 6th and Friday, Dec. 7th (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and on Saturday, Dec. 8th from 10 a.m. to 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 6th from 6 to 8 p.m. On Friday, Dec. 7th and Saturday, Dec. 8th, the Mansion will also be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, December 9th from 1 to 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, N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, and the Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh. This year's Tree Sponsor is the City Club of Raleigh.

These Capitol and Mansion events are **FREE**, and no reservations are needed or accepted.

MEBANE CHRISTMAS PARADE - Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m.

DUKE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE - December 7 and 14: *Christmas by Candlelight* - Friday, 6:45 pm to 9:15 pm - You're invited to join us at Christmas by Candlelight. Experience an 1870s North Carolina Christmas with Duke Homestead! Kick off your holiday season with this annual favorite. You will enjoy storytelling, cookies and cider, live music, singing, dancing, and a whole lot of history as costumed interpreters lead you on a candlelit tour through our historic area. This is a unique opportunity to see the Duke family home brought to life as it might have been when the Dukes lived here!

Tours depart from the Visitor Center every 15 minutes, from 6:45 pm until 9:15 pm. You will purchase tickets for a specific tour time. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Each tour is limited to 25 people total.

Admission is \$6 plus tax for adults; \$3 plus tax for children. (Infants under 1 year of age are admitted free of charge.)

Tickets are available online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-by-candlelight-tickets-49856853190>

Tickets will not be refunded within 24 hours of event, or for inclement weather, unless the event is canceled.

NC BOTANICAL GARDEN - Saturday, December 8 at 1pm - Winter in the Garden Holiday Festival, Chapel Hill, 5-9pm - donations requested

CARY CHRISTMAS PARADE - Saturday, December 8 at 1pm

DURHAM HOLIDAY PARADE - Saturday, December 8 at 10am and Fun Fest from 1-4pm on Blackwell Street

CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO HOLIDAY PARADE - Saturday, December 8 at 10am

WAKE FOREST CHRISTMAS PARADE - Saturday, December 8 at 1pm

PITTSBORO HOLIDAY PARADE - Sunday, December 9 at 3pm

STAGVILLE STATE HISTORIC SITE - Christmas at Stagville Open House - December 8, 12 to 4 pm - Free - A holiday open house on the history of Christmas at one of North Carolina's largest plantations. Explore the dangers and celebrations of Christmas for enslaved African Americans, and the Christmas traditions of the Bennehan and Cameron families. Historic decorating, tours of historic buildings, and hands-on activities included.

STAGVILLE STATE HISTORIC SITE - Jonkonnu Lantern Tours - December 8, 5:15 pm, tickets required.
- \$5 per person, children 3 and under free. Call 919-620-0120 to purchase after November 14.

Stagville invites you to a Jonkonnu procession featuring local students, drummers, and dancers. This Afro-Caribbean holiday tradition was celebrated by enslaved families on the Stagville plantation, one of the few sites in the United States with a documented Jonkonnu tradition. Enslaved people used the music, dance, and costumes of Jonkonnu to preserve their ancestors' West African heritage, and resist the cultural erasure of slavery. Jonkonnu became a new tradition all its own, and a distinctive part of the African American culture of North Carolina. Holiday refreshments included.

CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN SCHOOL STATE HISTORIC SITE - December 8: *Christmas in Canary*

Saturday, 2 to 5 pm - It's Christmas time in Canary Cottage! Come see Canary Cottage decorated for the holidays. Listen to holiday songs and taste treats from the 1940s and 1950s. Decorate ornaments and paper gingerbread men. Don't forget to find all the hidden candy canes in Dr. Brown's house. Santa arrives at 3 pm for pictures and to collect your Christmas lists!

This event is open to everyone. Admission is \$10 per family, or \$5 with two canned goods.

ORANGE COUNTY SPORTSPLEX - Hillsborough - December 14-15 - *Nutcracker on Ice* - 6pm on Friday; noon on Saturday - tickets available at 919-644-0339

BAHAMA CHRISTMAS PARADE - Saturday, December 15 at 10am

BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE - December 15: *Christmas in the Piedmont* -

Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm

Visit Bennett Place during this special Christmas event and witness how this occasion was celebrated in the Piedmont during the 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 wouldn't be complete without seeing Old St. Nick. There will be complimentary hot apple cider available at the visitor center as well as our annual bake sale where you can purchase some sweet treats. All proceeds from the bake sale go towards the preservation of the site.

BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE - December 15: *Christmas Candlelight Tours* - Saturday, 6 pm to 9 pm

Under the glow of candlelight, you can take a special guided tour around the farm and experience firsthand how soldiers and civilians experienced the holidays during a time of war. Tours will go out approximately every 20 minutes and are limited to no more than 15 people in each group. There will be complimentary hot apple cider at the visitor center and our annual bake sale will also be available for you to purchase some nice sweets. Tour admission is \$3 per adult, \$2 per child (ages 5 to 16), and children under 5 are admitted free of charge.

ORANGE COUNTY SPORTSPLEX - Hillsborough, **Skate with Santa** - 1-3pm - fees - 919-644-0339

BENTONVILLE BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE - December 29: *Hands-On History* - Saturday, 11 am - Visitors will get the opportunity to get "touchy" with items from the 19th Century. Interact

with interpreters as they perform various 19th Century demonstrations. This event will focus on meal preparation during the Holiday season. This special event is free, and open to the public.

HUMOR

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: 'We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods.'

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, 'I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!'

PARTING THOUGHT

Family gives you roots, friends give you wings. - Source unknown.

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