



Established 1974

# NCGS News

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Genealogical Society

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Volume 41, Number 6, November 2017

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## Fall Conference Highlights

The multi-track genealogy conference held on 28 October 2017 at the McKimmon Conference and Training Center featured four outstanding speakers. **Dr.**

**Deborah Abbott** presented the keynote lecture, "You Only Have a Death Announcement: Now What?" and three other lectures focused on methodology, critical thinking, and African American records. Other lectures included several by **Jeffrey Haines** on the topics of strategies for working in counties with lost records, how to use North Carolina tax records, and the tools for DNA research provided by the GEDmatch website.

**Ginger Smith** also spoke on the topic of DNA and demonstrated how to use it to break down brick walls. In recognition of the centennial anniversary of the United States' involvement in World War I, **Craig R. Scott** lectured on the tools and techniques to successfully research an ancestor who served in the war.

The annual meeting and awards presentation took place while guests enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Lip Service Contemporary Catering of Cary. Beautiful fall centerpieces, created by NCGS volunteer Joyce Wilder, graced the tables and were taken home by lucky winners.



## In This Issue

[2017 NCGS Awards](#)

[Upcoming Live Webinar](#)

[Fall NCGS Conference Attendee](#)

['Tis the Season for Gifts](#)

[Journal Jottings](#)

[Online Newspapers](#)

[Accessions at the NC Archives](#)

[Tools of the Trade Library](#)

[President's Message](#)

[NCGS Journal Table of Contents](#)

[NCGS North Carolina Webinars](#)

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## Save the Dates

**10 March 2018**

**Spring Workshop**

Co-sponsored by the Old New Hanover Genealogical Society, the workshop will be held at the New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch, in Wilmington, North Carolina.



**Jeff Haines presenting an afternoon session, "North Carolina Tax Records," rounding out a wonderful day of learning from four excellent speakers.**

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## 2017 NCGS Awards

The 2017 NCGS Awards were presented at the society's annual meeting during its Fall Conference on 28 October 2017. Seven individuals were recognized for outstanding published efforts and personal contributions to the North Carolina genealogical community. The awards were presented by Pam Toms, Awards Chair, and Victoria P. Young, NCGS President.



The **Award for Excellence in Periodical Publishing** for a newsletter published by a local North Carolina genealogical society: the *Albemarle Genealogical Society Newsletter*, published by the Albemarle Genealogical Society and edited by **Dr. Laura R. Ostrander**.

The **Award for Excellence in Publishing** for a book, or set of books, of abstracts or transcriptions of an original North Carolina record (and published within eighteen months preceding the 15 August 2017 closing date): *Early Hyde County, North Carolina, Marriage Records: 1735-1899*, edited by **Linda Gray Mayo** and published by the Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society.

The **Award for Excellence in Publishing** for a book of

## 23 June 2018 Speakers Forum

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Archives, the event will be held at the State Archives of North Carolina.

Watch the NCGS website and the *NCGS News* for more information about these two upcoming events.



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Visit the NCGS Website

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## NCGS Subscriptions

The [NCGS electronic subscriptions sign-up page](#) offers several newsletters available to both members and non-members of the Society: the NCGS News newsletter, NCGS webinar notices, and notices for local society leaders. You may opt out of the subscriptions at any time.

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## New Members

NCGS welcomed 94 new members since the last issue of

family history relevant to North Carolina genealogy (and published within eighteen months preceding the 15 August 2017 closing date): *Ancestors and Descendants of John Vernon Guyer and Georgia Winifred Pate Guyer: Their North Carolina Heritage*, Volumes 1 and II, by **Nancy Sherrill Wilson** and **Mary Katherine Sherrill Lowder**.

The **Award for Outstanding Contribution to North Carolina Genealogy** for an individual whose longtime genealogical contributions have greatly enhanced the study of family history in North Carolina: **Lois Johnson Meekins**.

The **Award for Outstanding Contribution to NCGS by a Member** for an individual whose work with NCGS has been outstanding: **Lisa Marley** and **Phyllis Matthews Ziller**.

**Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Performance and Exceptional Commitment** were awarded to **Jennifer Crowder Dougherty** as Director and Publicity Chair; **Ann Christnacht Hilke** as Past President; **Lisa Lisson** as Director and Membership Chair; **Mabel Dillard**, Nominating Committee; **Virginia Thomas**, Nominating Committee; and **Victoria P. Young** as President.

To read more about the award winners, visit the [Awards page](#) on the NCGS website.



**2017 NCGS Award Winners**  
front row: **Lois Johnson Meekins**  
back row L-R: **Mary Katherine Sherrill Lowder**,

the *NCGS News*.

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### **NCGS Donations**

NCGS thanks the following individuals for their donations to the Society.

Margaret Daugherty  
Jeffrey Elliott  
Patty McAlexander  
Jane Murtishaw  
William O'Bar  
Cynthia A. Overcash  
Tina Stovell  
Jeanne Zielinski

Donations to the Society are used to support its Mission. More information is available on the [Giving Opportunity](#) page.

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### **Volunteer Opportunities**

NCGS has many volunteer opportunities whether you live nearby in the Raleigh area or live in another state. Visit the [Volunteer page](#) on the NCGS website for more details.

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### **NCGS Memberships**

NCGS 12-month memberships cost \$40 for individuals and institutions, \$45 for families (same residence), and \$100 for patrons.

Save on our new Digital Membership that delivers the *NCGS Journal* electronically rather than printed. You may join online on the [Join NCGS page](#) on the website.

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### **Officers and Directors**

**Nancy Sherrill Wilson, Lisa Marley, Linda Gray Mayo,  
Phyllis Matthews Ziller, Dr. Laura R. Ostrander,  
Pam Toms, and Victoria P. Young**

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## **Upcoming Live Webinar A Member Benefit\***

**1 November 2017 at 7:00 EDT**

J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA, will present  
**"Learning More About the Families  
and Records of the Moravian  
Church of North Carolina"** at 7:00  
p.m. EDT on **1 November 2017**.

Discover the detailed and carefully-kept records of these religious people in Western Carolina along with their neighbors. We will examine the series of records, review some of the families, and explain how to learn more about these exploring and mission-oriented folk. With records beginning in 1753, these church records should not be ignored. Don't miss learning about this great record set and the reach far beyond the borders of North Carolina



[Visit the NCGS website](#) for more information about the webinar and to register.

\*NCGS live webinars with Q&A participation are a NCGS members-only benefit. [Join NCGS today](#) to participate in the live webinars.

## **Upcoming Webinar Free Replay Weekend**

### **"Finding a North Carolina Revolutionary War Ancestor"**

by Craig R. Scott, CG, FUGA

**1-3 December 2017**  
on the NCGS website



NCGS webinar replay weekends are free for all to view.  
No registration required.

## **Executive Committee**

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Victoria P. Young

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## **NCGS Journal**

The *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Submit articles, comments, questions, and suggestions to [Diane L. Richard, editor](#). Please contact [Cassandra Shaw, Book Review Editor](#), if you have a book to review.

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Note: The NCGS News is a two-column newsletter. If you do not see the narrow right-hand column in your e-mail, please click the link ("View this email in your browser") at the top right of this newsletter.

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## Fall NCGS Conference Attendee Sponsored by Wake County Genealogical Society

The [Wake County Genealogical Society](#) (WCGS) sponsored Anna Killian, a student in the North Carolina State University Public History program, to attend the 2017 NCGS Fall Conference. With the assistance of Dr. Craig Friend, Humanities and Social Sciences Distinguished Graduate Professor of History and Director of Public History at NCSU, the WCGS solicited applications from students who were asked to write a paragraph or two about why they would like to be sponsored to attend the conference. After the conference, the winning student will provide the WCGS with a summary of what they learned and how they may be able to apply this knowledge in the future.

### The winning submission from Anna Killian



"As a young girl growing up in Appalachia, the family and our roots were always near and dear to my heart. I spent hours by my great-grandmother's side recording her stories before she passed away, countless days were spent with my grandmother learning

tricks in the kitchen that had been passed down from her mother, and notebooks are filled with anecdotes, pictures, and genealogical information I collected from my grandfather and uncles. Before I could drive, I hauled tape recorders to family reunions and asked about ancestors no one remembered, hoping to uncover missing links in our genealogy. Upon arriving at the university for

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### NCGS News

*NCGS News*, the newsletter of the North Carolina Genealogical Society, is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submit articles, comments, and suggestions by the 15th of the prior month to [Phyllis Matthews Ziller, MLIS, editor](#).

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### Consider a Bequest to NCGS

A bequest is one of the easiest and most meaningful ways to make a gift to the North Carolina Genealogical Society. Gifts of any size made through a bequest help ensure that the Society receives valuable ongoing support that will benefit genealogists and historical researchers far into the future.

Donors can make a bequest by simply including a provision for the Society in their wills or trusts. Donors can choose to give the Society a specific dollar amount, specific property, or a percentage of their estates. Your bequest is a gift not just to the Society but to all genealogists, historical researchers, and to your own posterity.

For more information about bequests, please contact our [Treasurer](#).

The deadline for the January 2018 issue of the *NCGS News* is Friday, 15 December 2017.

an undergraduate degree in history and entrepreneurship, I made genealogy one of my scholarly focuses, and have since tracked my paternal line to the eighteenth century. I also set aside time to create an entrepreneurial business plan that would allow me to one day assist others in discovering their roots.

If granted the honor of attending this conference on a scholarship, I would dedicate my time there to learning from professionals about resources and methodology, and I would network with others who consider genealogical research a fascinating and beneficial field. Moreover, the speakers who are scheduled to present their research and expertise are fascinating, dealing with minimalist data, proxy data, and even the genesis of DNA analysis. As a second-year graduate student at North Carolina State University pursuing my Master's in Public History, I am particularly appreciative of opportunities to learn about the future of our field, and how new technologies affect it. I would be honored to have the chance to discover from other conference attendees and speakers how they view the future of genealogy and how to become a better steward of the past.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application. If I am chosen for this scholarship, I am prepared to hit the ground running on October 28th, and am excited to gain insights into the field." *Anna Killian*

A note regarding genealogical credentials:

The words Certified Genealogist are a registered certification mark, and the designations CG, CGL, and Certified Genealogical Lecturer are service marks of the [Board for Certification of Genealogists](#), used under license by board certificants after periodic evaluation, and the board name is registered in the U.S. Patent & Trademark office.

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**NCGS mailing address:**  
6300 Creedmoor Road, Suite  
170 #323  
Raleigh, NC 27612

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## 'Tis the Season for Gifts

NCGS has that perfect something for the genealogists on your Holiday gift list.

- A jump drive with digitized versions of past *NCGS Journals*. The [jump drive](#), *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal (1975-2016)*, is available in the NCGS Store for only \$40 plus tax and shipping. It contains forty plus years of the *Journal* loaded with abstracts, laws, legislative



petitions, well-researched family histories, and more. The *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* (1975-2016) is also available in [CD format](#).

- [North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History](#), 2nd edition, edited by Helen F. M. Leary, CG, FASG. This book is a valuable resource for all researchers.
- An [NCGS membership](#). For just \$40 per year, members enjoy receiving the *NCGS Journal* and unlimited online access to the library of webinars as well as discounts to attend society-sponsored workshops.

Visit the [NCGS Store](#) for other books and CDs. You might even find the perfect gift for yourself.



**by Diane L. Richard**  
**NCGS Journal Editor**

Happy fall everyone! To help everyone enjoy this delightful time of year, and in preparation for Thanksgiving and beyond, this issue is short and sweet!

### **Contribution Spotlight**

I am always encouraging your submissions for the *Journal*. In the last issue of *Journal Jottings* we talked about how you can contribute photos. In this issue, I spotlight a type of contribution that many of you could also make: a **1-2 Pager**. As you can tell from the name, these are short, sweet, and to-the-point pieces!

Sometimes you come across one particularly helpful document. Or, as you research, you learn about an interesting and new-to-you piece of history. Or you find your ancestor named in a unique document along with other family members and neighbors. Or you just happen to be researching in a non-North Carolina archive and come across a document referring to North Carolinians. Just last week, I was looking in a Georgia collection and found the will of a North Carolinian. All of these are great candidates for the **1-2 Pager** category of contribution. The only

requirements are that they are short and are related to North Carolinians!

### **Toll Roads, et al.**

Recently I became fascinated by toll roads. Many books and articles have been published about the history of toll roads, bridges, ferries, canals, and more.

Guess what my interest is? If you guessed records, you are correct!

I would love to include some data in a future issue of the *Journal* about those who **worked for** or **owned** toll roads, ferries, bridges, canals, etc., or **used** such to transact business and/or travel.

Think how much we can learn about our ancestors by knowing where and how they traveled. If your ancestor was documented as paying tolls on a certain route, then we have more places to look for records. If your ancestor owned or managed a toll road, ferry, bridge, etc., what was on the other side? A different county or state? Are there records there that could be relevant?

I'm not sure if there are records of tolls collected to be found, but let's take a collective look. If you know of possibly relevant records held by your family or in a repository, or you are willing to check out the holdings of an archive, please do so! Maybe we can find some of these fascinating records to publish in a future issue of the *NCGS Journal*. If your ancestor worked collecting tolls or owned/managed a toll road, bridge, ferry, canal, etc., please share with us about that individual.

Thanks again to all who have helped and to those who will volunteer in the future. It does take a village to create the *Journal*. As always, I can be reached at [journaleditor@ncgenealogy.org](mailto:journaleditor@ncgenealogy.org) to answer your questions and to receive your submissions and suggestions.

Go Journal Team!

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## Online Newspapers

Digitized newspapers are a useful and fun resource for finding information about our ancestors. While there are pay websites for researching historic newspapers, there are also several websites that offer their collections for free.

[DigitalNC](#) has digitized community and student newspapers from across the state. The collection can be searched by keyword or browsed by title.

The [North Carolina Digitized Newspapers page](#) on the Chronicling America website, which is a part of the Library of Congress, lists 92 North Carolina digitized newspapers that are available online.

The [North Carolina Digital Collections](#) on the State Library of North Carolina website has digitized newspapers from the years 1752 through the 1890s. The collection is keyword searchable.

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## Accessions at the NC State Archives

The North Carolina State Archives provides a bimonthly list of genealogy-related accessions that may be of interest to researchers.

- [November 2017 Accessions List](#) - three pages of recent accessions covering three counties as well as Bible records and private collections.
- [Library of Prior Accession Lists](#)



## Tools of the Trade Library

The [Tools of the Trade Library](#) is home to over twenty county-specific and record-specific articles to help North Carolina researchers.

Featured article: [Who Owns the Land? A Brief History of North Carolina Land Grants](#) includes key dates in the settlement of North Carolina as well as a resource list of published land grant abstracts.

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**President's Message**  
by Victoria P. Young



**North Carolina Civil War History Center**

Transforming an existing regional museum into a major, statewide history center requires a tremendous amount of planning. The North

Carolina Civil War History Center is affiliated with the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, a branch of the North Carolina Division of History Museums, and will be located outside the archaeological footprint (remains) of the Fayetteville arsenal.

"Our state's history in the Civil War is complicated and full of nuance – not one single legacy but many: of soldiers who fought for both the Union and the Confederacy; of enslaved people for whom the invasion by United States troops meant liberation; of free persons of color caught in the middle of warring armies; of women and families left behind to fend for themselves as their husbands and sons and fathers marched to the battlefield; of all those who labored on the home front to provide food and clothing and medical care and all the rest." [1]

The History Center is designed to be a "teaching museum" rather than a "collecting museum." While hosting a respectable core collection, the History Center will collect and display only those artifacts that advance its mission of telling the story of the Civil War and Reconstruction in North Carolina. Check out the [North Carolina Civil War History Center website](#) for more information or to make a donation.

## In Thanksgiving

November is seasonally the time when we reflect upon a multitude of things for which we are thankful. This year I am especially grateful for the many opportunities I have been given to serve you, the members of the North Carolina Genealogical Society. With my second term as president ending, I count many of you who I have met over the years as friends. I am especially appreciative of the time and talent of numerous individuals with whom I have had the privilege to work on the board since 2007. Over the last decade NCGS has grown in both membership and benefits and is financially healthy, thanks to those who have served -- and continue to serve -- in a variety of capacities. *Thank you* for your continued support of this organization!

On behalf of the Board of the North Carolina Genealogical Society, I extend warm wishes to you and your families for a joy-filled Holiday Season.

Best,  
Vickie

[1] Philip Gerard, "Uniting a Divided History," *Star News* (Wilmington, NC), 10 September 2017.

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## NCGS Journal Table of Contents

A sneak peek at what's coming in the November issue of the NCCGS Journal.

- Editor's Message
- Belk Beat
- North Carolinian or Virginian? When the North Carolina Boundary Moved North by Thirty-Five Miles
- Freedman's Bank Records of NC
- Some Little-Known Records of Revolutionary War Veterans in NC
- The Richard Gay Family of Edgecombe and Pitt

Counties

- A Comparison of Records of Alfred HEfner of Buncombe Co NC and Alfred HAFner of Mecklenburg Co NC
- Henderson Post Office Records (1857)
- Edenton District Records of the Superior Court (1795)
- Slave Insurance (1849-65)
- Edenton Miscellaneous Court Records (1687-1783)
- Methodist Church Records (Franklin County) (1886-1905) (G-J)
- WWI Red Cross – Lee County (1918-1919)
- Book and Media Reviews

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### **NCGS North Carolina Research Webinars**

Don't miss two of the newest NCGS webinars to help you research your North Carolina ancestors, both in Raleigh and online.

[How a Genealogist Uses the State Archives of NC and the State Library of NC.](#) This webinar is free and available to anyone, as is the accompanying handout, which is found on the same web page.

[Online Resources are Key to Successful Research into North Carolinian Ancestry.](#) This webinar will help ensure that you have done what research you can before leaving home so you can maximize your on-the-ground time in North Carolina. (This is an NCGS members-only webinar.)

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