D-OGS Newsletter – August 2017

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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PO Box 4703, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4703
2017 dues – \$20
2017 President – Ginger Smith

D-OGS MEETING FOR AUGUST 2017

We will be holding our Annual Show and Tell - Genealogy Road Show meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the OWASA Community Meeting Room.

We invite you to attend and to share your latest genealogical find with us. It can be a photograph of your ancestor, a new cousin found through DNA, new research, research technique or just an interesting story about something that has happened to you this year.

Please email Vice-President David McCorkle at <u>vicepresident@dogsnc.org</u> to let him know you would like to present so he can add you to the presenter's schedule. If you need, we can set up tables for display.

Also, please let us know of your A/V requirements: projector, slide clicker, computer, and connecting (PC or MAC) cables, etc., so we can make your presentation run smoothly. If you bring your slide show or images on a flash drive, we will have a laptop set up for you to use. We plan to tape the Show and Tell meeting to share with the rest of our members.

WHERE SHOULD D-OGS BE MEETING?

Over the years, D-OGS meetings have been held in a number of locations. Lately we have been meeting at the OWASA (Orange Water & Sewer Authority) Community Meeting Room in Carrboro. OWASA makes this space available to organizations in the area for free. We have been meeting there primarily because the space is free to the public and is equipped with projection equipment for presentations. We have no commitment to OWASA to continue meeting there.

The main issue is cost and convenience. It is difficult to justify spending D-OGSS limited funds to rent a space when the current free space is so perfect for our needs.

Would you like to meet at another location? Do you have a place in mind? Is there a cost to use that space? If so, what is the cost? The D-OGS board and program committee would be glad to hear what you have to say about meeting locations. Please let us know what you think by going to the MEMBERS page on the D-OGS website (dogsnc.org) and clicking on the "Contact D-OGS" link. Click on any officer's name or click the "General Inquiry" link and fill in the online form. You can also mail in your comments to our P.O. Box, if you like.

We hope you will take the time to express your opinions. We look forward to hearing from you.

A FEW NOTES FROM THE D-OGS MEETING OF 10 JULY 2017

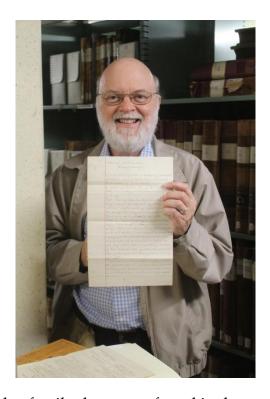
We had a special program for the month of July. We got a "hands-on" tour of the State Archives and some of its contents. Our tour was conducted by Josh Hager and his boss. Josh showed us some displays in the hallway that highlight some of the special items they hold in the collection. He also pulled out a selection of unique documents for us to peruse from their Durham & Orange County records.

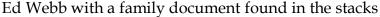
He displayed a book of Orange County cohabitation records for documenting the common-law marriages of freed slaves who had not been allowed to do so before Emancipation. He also had a book of Durham County Alien Registrations from the 1940s, as required by the Federal government. Many of these folks had lived in Durham County since the early 20th century.

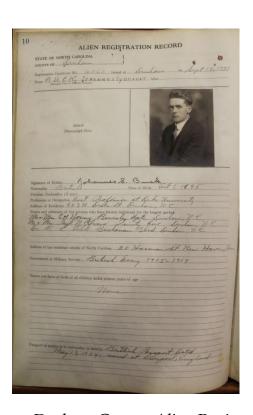
We were also divided into small groups and given a guided tour of the closed stacks.

After the tour, several members enjoyed some good Eastern NC-style BBQ in downtown Raleigh.

Here are some photos of the meeting:







Durham County Alien Registration



Josh explaining what collections are there



Josh highlighting Orange & Durham records

FREE INFORMATION LOOKUP FOR D-OGS MEMBERS

Several D-OGS members who have some expertise or access to historic materials have volunteered to offer assistance with your research. Go to the D-OGS website, login and then click on the tab on the left side of the page that says "LOOKUPS". You will be presented with a list of members and the specialties that they can assist with.

If you would like to add yourself to this list, please contact the webmaster with the necessary info.

GRACE A. DOW MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN MIDLAND, MICHIGAN SUSTAINS \$1.5 MILLION FLOOD DAMAGE

(Have you done any data backups of your family history research lately? How much would it cost you to re-create it? COULD you re-create it? This might be a gentle reminder to back up your family file data – Editor)

Here is still another example why we cannot depend upon paper documents alone to be accessible in the future. Homes, streets, businesses, parks and city buildings in Midland, Michigan got soaked in a flood several weeks ago. In the city alone, more than 1,000 homes had some type of damage. Of interest to genealogists, the hardest hit city building was the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. The early estimate puts clean up and repair work for the library at \$1.5 million.

The library had never flooded before.

Library Director Melissa Barnard said the basement was covered in at least three inches of water. "We've lost pretty much everything downstairs, except for the books. You know, built in furniture, the furniture that was on the floor. You know, the carpeting, the walls had to be cut because they had absorbed so much water," Barnard said.

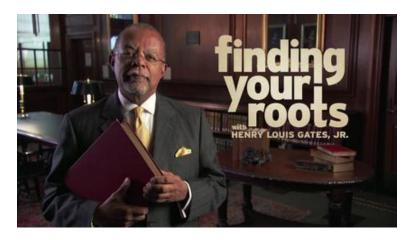
The books were moved to storage, and the services in the basement have been relocated. All ebooks and online databases are safe as they were hosted on servers located elsewhere.

Barnard said library visits have dropped since the flood, but they hope to spread the word that they are open for business.

My thanks to newsletter reader Mary K Freel for telling me about this story.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter)

PBS TO RENEW "FINDING YOUR ROOTS WITH HENRY LOUIS GATES JR."



The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has announced its fall lineup of new television programs. Of interest to genealogists, "Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr." is returning Oct. 3. Celebrities who will learn about their ancestors include Scarlett Johansson, Aziz Ansari, Bryant Gumbel, and Garrison Keillor. Check your local listings for show times.

NEW YORK JEWISH GENEALOGY COURSE BEGINS AUGUST 4

The following announcement was written by the folks at JewishGen:



Did your family live in New York? There are many interesting research possibilities in the Big Apple! **JewishGen's Intermediate Course, Breaking Brick Walls in the United States**, will focus on New York Resources. This course will be especially useful to those who visit NY; we'll have suggestions on where to research, where to wander and how to get there.

If, despite basic online research (census from FamilySearch & Ancestry, vital records from ItalianGen) you have not yet found the Hebrew names, birth year or town for your U.S. immigrant ancestors consider this course as it focuses on the more esoteric documents our ancestors generated, including naturalization, military and governmental records, death records (probate, obituaries, cemeteries), and local archival research.

We are proud to feature a personal mentoring program; students use our online FORUM, post an ancestral branch, set goals for research, and work one on one with the instructor. Eight text lessons can be downloaded to read at your own pace and an optional field trip to a New York archive will be scheduled. Details and registration may be found at:

www.jewishgen.org/education/description.asp?course=40088

NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WEBINAR

The North Carolina Genealogical Society is delighted to present **Diane L. Richard and** "Freedman's Bureau Records" - An encore presentation!

A free viewing period of the recorded webinar will be 4-6 August 2017.

About the Webinar:

Are you seeking records for your southern ancestors in the immediate post-Civil War time period (1865-1868)? Learn about this little known and used Federal record collection that is full of invaluable records for many ancestors, regardless of skin color or circumstances, who lived in North Carolina (or elsewhere from Delaware to Texas). After the war many people needed assistance, from maimed soldiers, to widows with children, to the aged and feeble, to ex-slaves and their former owners. Examples of records relating to rations, contracts and indentures, courts, abandoned land, schools, hospitals, and more are presented.

Webinar Viewing Options

- The free public three-day viewing of the recorded webinar will be 4–6 August 2017.
- After the free replay weekend, the webinar and accompanying handout PDF will be accessible on the website to NCGS members as a member benefit.*
- Full audio/video webinars on CD (playable on a computer) may be purchased by anyone from the NCGS Store. Webinar CDs also include the handout PDF.

About the Speaker:

Diane L. Richard is a professional genealogist and owner of Mosaic Research and Project Management. She has been doing genealogy research since 1987 and since 2004 has focused more on the records of North Carolina, including African American (and slave) research and into those who migrated into, through, or out of North Carolina. Diane is a member of the national and local chapters of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Speakers Guild. She is the editor of *Upfront with NGS*, the blog of the National Genealogical Society, and *Wake Treasures*, the journal of the Wake County Genealogical Society. She is a regular author for *Internet Genealogy*

and Family Chronicle. Diane can be found online at www.mosaicrpm.com.

To register for the webinar, go to <u>www.ncgenealogy.org</u>

*The handout for this presentation is only available to members, and is accessible from the Webinars page of the NCGS website.

WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

SMALLPDF.com

Do you need to use PDF files occasionally? Perhaps you have a one-time need to convert a PNG, BMP, TIFF, GIF or JPG file to PDF format for free. Another need might be to convert an Excel spreadsheet to PDF. Then again, you might need to convert a PDF file to Microsoft Word's .DOC format. Still other needs might include merging two PDF files together or perhaps splitting one PDF file into two or more separate files. All of these things and more can be done free of charge at http://www.smallpdf.com.

Based in Switzerland, SmallPDF serves millions of users per month. Unlike many other PDF products, SmallPDF is easy to use. You probably won't need SmallPDF often but, when you do, it can be a lifesaver. I have used the web site's services multiple times and find it is one of the handier online tools available today.

SmallPDF is available in two versions: free and paid. The **FREE** service is limited to being used twice per hour. That strikes me as being sufficient for most personal users. However, if you have bigger needs, you may prefer to upgrade to the paid version that offers users unlimited use of the web site and includes a lot of extra features including Connected Functions and Multiple File Processing. The paid version of SmallPDF costs \$6 US per month, if paid monthly, or \$48 US per year, if paid annually.

SmallPDF also respects your privacy. To use the free services, SmallPDF does not ask for your name, email address, credit card number or any other identifying information. The owners of the web site also promise, "We do not access your files, copy, or back them up. They are always deleted after one hour."

SmallPDF is available at http://www.smallpdf.com, naturally! Check it out.

(Reprinted from Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter)

BOOKS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide, by Joy Neighbors

Not all genealogy research can be done from home—sometimes you have to head out into the field. Cemeteries are vital sites for any genealogist's search, and this book will walk you through all steps of searching for and analyzing ancestors' graves, from locating tombstones using resources like FindAGrave and BillionGraves to traipsing through cemeteries across the country and using that data in your research. This comprehensive field guide features a number of resources for genealogists visiting cemeteries, providing an at-a-glance guide to frequently used gravestone markers and practical tips for on-the-ground research. And once you've returned home, this guide discusses how to incorporate gravestone information into their research, as well as how to record your findings in memorial pages on FindAGrave and upload grave locations to BillionGraves.

The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide features:

- Detailed step-by-step guides to finding ancestors' cemeteries through websites like FindAGrave, plus how to record and preserve death and burial information
- Tips and strategies for navigating cemeteries and finding individual tombstones in the field, plus an at-a-glance guide to tombstone symbols and iconography
- Resources and techniques for discovering more death records and for incorporating information from cemeteries into genealogical research

(Author/Speaker/Editor) Joy Neighbors - (Format) Paperback - (ISBN 13) 9781440352126 - (Number of Pages) 240

This book is available online from <u>shopfamilytree.com</u> as well as other vendors. The retail price is \$24.99.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND - Speaker: Mindie Kaplan - Title: "*Organize and Share Your Genealogy: Methods from the Library of Congress*" - Sunday, July 30, 2017, 1:30 p.m - Pikesville Library's meeting room, 1301 Reisterstown Rd, Pikesville, MD

Our research can generate a huge mass of names, places, dates, stories, photographs, and even video and audio recordings. Using examples of genealogies housed in the Library of Congress, Mindie Kaplan will showcase different ideas for presenting your work and making that collection of information accessible to others.

Mindie Kaplan has been involved in Jewish genealogy for more than 20 years and has a family tree consisting of more than 3500 individuals. When printed, her Splaver Family Tree is 197 pages long, including photos, biographies, stories, and references. Her Entes Family Tree is 110 pages. She gave a presentation in 2016 at the IAJGS conference in Seattle and has presented programs in the past for both the Maryland and Greater Washington Jewish Genealogy Societies. In addition, she has attended nearly every annual IAJGS conference since the 2003 conference in Washington, DC.

The program is free for paid members and \$5 for non-members (applied to membership fee when a visitor joins JGSMD) after their first meeting. Refreshments will be available. Please check our web site at www.jgsmd.org for late updates and for the time, location, and program of future meetings.

GRANVILLE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - The Granville County Genealogical Society 1746, Inc. August 3, 2017 meeting will afford all society members and guests an opportunity to "show and tell" some of their genealogical experiences. This will be an excellent opportunity to brag a little about your successes and possibly get some assistance from other members if you have been less than successful in your endeavors. You do not have to make any presentation to attend; just come and listen to the "show and tell. Explaining how you solved a particular problem in your research might help save someone else countless hours and much frustration. And showing something in your ancestor's past is always entertaining.

This meeting, which in the past has proven to be an interesting and informative program, and beginning at 6:30 P.M. on August 3, 2017 in the conference room at Richard H. Thornton Library, is open to the public and visitors are always welcome. All GCGS meetings are open to the public and guests are cordially invited to attend.

HILLSBOROUGH NEW TOWN CEMETERY TOUR - August 5 @ 10:00 am - 12:30 pm - For more than 150 years Hillsborough's New Town Cemetery has received almost all Town burials within its walls, rich and poor, black and white, young and old. Join a member of the Hillsborough Cemetery Committee as we explore some of the lives and the history of this sacred place. We'll meet nineteenth century town notables, and watch as styles of tombstones change from religious and formal to more secular and sometimes whimsical inscriptions and depictions. Tombstone spelling mistakes, military warriors, and golf bags will be part of the sociological change that we'll see.

Meet at the Hillsborough Visitors Center, 150 East King Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278. Purchase tickets (\$12) here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-town-cemetery-tour-tickets-31541137391

HOUSE IN THE HORSESHOE STATE HISTORIC SITE - August 5 and 6 - Battle Reenactment - Saturday, 9:30 am - 5 pm and Sunday, 9:30 - 3 pm. What happens when war comes to your backyard? House in the Horseshoe will be hosting its annual battle reenactment on August 5 and August 6. There will be a variety of Revolutionary War activities throughout the day including a reenactment of the fight between Patriot and Loyalist militias held at 2:00 p.m. both days. Event highlights will include militia encampments, sutlers, a blacksmith shop, musket/artillery firings, and period toys and games.

Demonstrators will feature colonial brewing, gardening, and spinning/weaving. Food trucks on site will include Curbside Cravin's, Chewy's Smokin' BBQ, and Kona Ice. Come join us August 5 and 6 to enjoy a day by the Deep River and relive the summer of 1781! Free admission. Parking Fee \$5.

KERNERSVILLE MUSEUM GENEALOGY WORKSHOP – 127 W. Mountain Street – August 12 from 2:00-4:00pm. The Kernersville Museum wants to help you dig deeper into your own family's past. We are collaborating with Kernersville's own genealogy expert, Mr. Jerry Taylor, to put on a Genealogy Workshop this August. Jerry has spent decades researching families in this area, and has amassed a genealogy database of over 96,000 names. Participants in this workshop will learn valuable skills in researching their own genealogy, including (but not limited to) reputable websites, genealogy programs, and ways to research in paper records. Jerry will share how he has been able to access census records, paper records, and more as sources of information for his research. If your family's history has been on your mind, but you don't know where to start, this workshop will be the stepping-stone you need to put together a full and well researched family tree!

The workshop is FREE with a suggested donation of \$10 to benefit the Kernersville Museum.

BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE - August 12: *Make a Gourd Birdhouse - Saturday,* 9:30 am - 4 pm - Calling all you bird fans out there. Come to Bennett Place and take a class on turning a gourd into a house for your winged friends. Diane Frankenfield from the North Carolina Gourd Society will be here to teach you how to make this creative twist on the old-fashioned bird house. At the end of the class, you will take home a finished bird house that you can hang up in your yard. Cost is \$35 per person. This project not only helps your winged friends but also helps preserve this historic site. The revenue generated from the admission to the class goes directly back to the site to help maintain and preserve this historic landmark. This class is open to all ages and skill levels and is limited to no more than 10 students. Contact the staff to learn more and to register.

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION SEMINAR - The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association will host an all day seminar and book fair on Saturday August 12, 2017 in Shreveport, LA. Featured speaker will be Cari Taplin, Certified Genealogist and Lecturer. Her lectures include:

- (1) Using Lists to Find Proof of Your Ancestors;
- (2) Using Church Records to Find Ancestral Origins;
- (3) Canadian Migration Patterns into the U.S. (Examining some of those migration patterns and the documents they created); and
- (4) From Deeds to Dirt: Case Studies in Analyzing Research With Maps.

Barnes & Noble will also be on site with a large selection of genealogy and history books. Lunch and syllabus included if pre-registered. Numerous door prizes. Limited seating. Further details and a printable registration form are available at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/. Online registration is also available. Contact Jim Johnson at jiphnson747@suddenlink.net for further information.

HISTORIC HILLSBOROUGH WALKING TOUR - August 12 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Experience American history through the unique perspective of one of North Carolina's oldest and most historically significant towns, with a guided walking tour of downtown Hillsborough. Established

in 1754 as the seat of government for Orange County, Hillsborough's colonial legacy and signs of its importance in North Carolina and American history can be seen everywhere.

The tour begins at the Hillsborough Visitors Center, located in the eighteenth century Alexander Dickson Farm House, and guides visitors to a variety of historic places from the site of a 1790s African American-owned distillery to the 1840s Orange County Courthouse and the grave of one of North Carolina's signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Meet at the Hillsborough Visitors Center, 150 East King Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278. Purchase tickets (\$6) here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/historic-hillsborough-walking-tour-tickets-31541939791?aff=erelexpmlt

EAST TEXAS PROGRAM - The East Texas Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, August 12, 2017, at the Tyler Public Library, Taylor Auditorium, 201 S. College, Tyler, TX 75702. The meeting will be held from 2-3:30p.m. Kelvin Meyers will present a lecture on "Can a Dead Man Sign a Deed?". Kelvin uses a tombstone that says the person died in 1928, but he is also on a deed in 1932. Kelvin wants to know if a dead man signed a deed? It is resolved using the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). Kelvin shows the research steps he takes and the analysis that gives him an answer. A popular speaker to many genealogical societies and family associations throughout Texas, Kelvin brings a great knowledge of social sciences, history, genealogy and some techniques to his work. His experience includes twenty plus years as a professional genealogist and thirty plus years as an avid researcher-historian. Currently, he contracts with attorneys, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services, and heir-searching companies as a forensic genealogist locating missing or unknown heirs to estates or oil and gas royalties. In January 2007, he was appointed Chairman of the History and Archives Committee for First United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas. He has published three books on his native Crosby County, including Early Records of Crosby County Land District, West Texas 1880-1915, a compilation of early census, marriage and church records. He was the co-compiler of Crosby County Cemetery Records published through the Crosby County Historical Commission. Kelvin has recently published Research in Texas for the National Genealogical Society "Research in the States" series. ETGS meets monthly on the second Tuesday at Tyler Public Library from 2-3:30p.m. Meetings are free to the public, but memberships are available. For more information, contact Scott Fitzgerald at scottfitzgerald@tyler.net.

DUKE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE - **08/13/2017** from 05:00 pm - 07:30 pm - \$40 per ticket includes a sample from each of the 10 trucks on site and live musical entertainment from The Coins! Tickets can be purchased online here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trucks-for-duke-homestead-tickets-35413611064. All proceeds benefit the Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation, a 501c3 non-profit established in 1974 to support Duke Homestead State Historic Site. For this event, each truck will prepare a special "small plate" item. You and your friends can sample a delicious, varied menu underneath the big, hardwood trees that shade our historic property. You can bring your own chairs and blankets or make new friends by sharing one of tables in the site's picnic area. Trained interpreters and staff will be on hand to offer tours of the

historic house. Ticket sharing is encouraged – bring a friend!

GHOSTS OF THE CONFEDERACY TOUR - August 25 @ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Ghosts of the Confederacy Antebellum and Civil War: A Tour of St Matthews' Churchyard

The Ghosts of the Confederacy haunt us still. This churchyard is a microcosm of antebellum and Civil War Hillsborough and the South. Hear stories of love and loss, heroism and death, sacrifice and pride, the end of an era and the birth of a new society. Half of the proceeds go to repairing and maintaining St. Matthew's Cemetery headstones and monuments. Tour begins at Hillsborough Visitors Center.

This tour is led by local historian Steve Peck. "My research on Hillsborough is a labor of love and curiosity. I majored in history at UNC-CH with a emphasis on southern history. However I am a "local historian" by avocation not profession. My research, reading and writing is aided by auditing graduate courses plus having a circle of "credentialed" historian friends. Most of all it is a personal passion."

Purchase Tickets Here or call the Hillsborough Visitors Center at (919) 732-7741

HISTORIC HILLSBOROUGH WALKING TOUR - August 26 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Experience American history through the unique perspective of one of North Carolina's oldest and most historically significant towns, with a guided walking tour of downtown Hillsborough. Established in 1754 as the seat of government for Orange County, Hillsborough's colonial legacy and signs of its importance in North Carolina and American history can be seen everywhere.

The tour begins at the Hillsborough Visitors Center, located in the eighteenth century Alexander Dickson Farm House, and guides visitors to a variety of historic places from the site of a 1790s African American-owned distillery to the 1840s Orange County Courthouse and the grave of one of North Carolina's signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Meet at the Hillsborough Visitors Center, 150 East King Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278. Purchase tickets (\$6) here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/historic-hillsborough-walking-tour-tickets-31541939791?aff=erelexpmlt

BENTONVILLE BATTLEGROUND - August 26 - "Life on Campaign" - Summer Artillery Program - Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm - Hear the roar of cannon fire! Starr's Battery will show how artillery regiments loaded and fired during the Civil War. Infantry displays by the 27th NC Co. D will showcase a common soldier's daily life. Demonstrations will occur throughout the day. This event is free, and open to the public.

HISTORIC STAGVILLE - Saturday, September 2, 2017 - **Craft Saturday: Hornbooks** - 10am to 4pm - Visit Stagville for an Open House and learn about education during the 19th century. Make your own hornbook to take home.

Suggested donation of \$1 per person.

JOHN COLTRANE JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL - Sat., Sep. 2 - Sun., Sep. 3 - Oak Hollow Festival Lake Park, 1841 Eastchester Drive, High Point NC 27265 - The 7th Annual John Coltrane International Jazz and Blues Festival is a two-day event held at the picturesque Oak Hollow Festival Park in High Point. The Festival brings together world-renowned jazz and blues artists to perform over the course of two-days. On Saturday, the lineup is Gerald Albright, Jonathan Butler, Eddie Palmieri, Robert Randolph and Alexis Morrast. On Sunday, the lineup is Special EFX featuring Chieli Minucci, Spyro Gyra, Branford Marsalis and Joey Calderazzo and Matthew Whitaker.

Check www.coltranejazzfest.com for more details.

THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL - Fri., Sep. 8 - Sun., Sep. 10 - 200 N. Davie Street, Greensboro NC 27401 - America's longest-running FREE celebration of our nation's heritage and culture, Greensboro hosts the prestigious National Folk Festival. With over 300 world-class artists across seven stages, this three-day national destination event is an outdoor multicultural celebration of roots, music, dance and traditional arts. Go to nationalfolkfestival.com for more details.

HUMOR

Old people at weddings always poke me and say, "You're next!" So I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

PARTING THOUGHT

"Kiss an angel good mornin', and let her know you think about her when you are gone. Kiss and angel good mornin', and love her like the devil when you get back home."

(Lyrics from an old country music tune made popular by singer Charley Pride. Also, some very good marital advice)

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