D-OGS Newsletter – February 2013

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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2013 dues – $20
2013 President – Fred Mowry

D-OGS MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 2013

This regular D-OGS Meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, 5 September, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Duke Homestead Visitor's Center, 2828 Duke Homestead Road, Durham 27705. Phone: (919) 477-5498 - One-half mile from I-85 and Guess Rd (Exit 175), Follow the brown historic site road signs.

The speaker, Lynn Richardson, will relate some of the inspiring and groundbreaking events that occurred as African Americans in Durham sought equal rights--from the first sit-in in 1957, to the visits Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made to town, to the story of a Ku Klux Klansman who became the best of friends with a militant black housing activist. Photographs from the library's Durham Civil Rights Heritage Project collection will accompany the talk.

Lynn is the local history librarian for the Durham County Library's North Carolina Collection, whose primary mission is to preserve and make available the historical record of Durham County. She is a native Tar Heel and has been a resident of Durham since 1986. She received her undergraduate degree in English and masters in library and information science from UNC-Chapel Hill. She has worked in several special collections libraries, as well as in arts management and publishing.

MINUTES FROM THE D-OGS MEETING OF 9 JANUARY 2013

Eight members were present, along with one enthusiastic guest, to hear a top-notch presentation by Richard Ellington on how to save, back up and protect our computer files on an on-going basis at the Christ United Methodist Church office building in Southern Village, Chapel Hill, NC.

A few important facts taken from his talk are: Regard saving files as a **temporary and continual** exercise. Use a **variety of methods** to save your genealogy work: CDs and DVDs, the cloud, flash drives, and back up on exterior hard drives on a **regular schedule**. It is important to replace your **surge protectors** every two years or so. They do break down. **Unplug laptop** cords from both ends. A cord still plugged into the wall can waste some electricity (Do the same for toasters, phone chargers, etc.) Richard graciously offered attendees a CD filled with helpful files on his topic. (There will be additional copies of the CD available at the February meeting)

The business meeting was called to order at 8:23 p.m. by President Fred Mowry

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the last meeting were read as printed in the January 2013 newsletter. We would still like to have a volunteer or two to serve as **editor**(s) to reinstitute our journal, *The Trading Path.* We have lined up several folks to help out with the items, etc. that would fill the next issue. Check the web site for past issues.

Treasurer's Report: The balance as of 12/31/12 was $ 4970.96. Deposit of dues was $20 in December. December expenses were $730.95: $632.95 for the development of our new website, $40 for NCGS dues, and $58 for postage.

Web Site: Is under development. Anyone interested in training please contact our webmaster, Ginger. Three training spots are available.

Membership: Our membership stands at 144.

Queries to the D-OGS website: (See website for query details)

- Looking for parents and siblings of Andrew Pugh b. 1816
- Looking for information on Marvin Dunn b. 1898 and his parents Samuel Dunn and Hester Roxanne Martin (Hester was from Terrell Creek)
- Looking for information on Pinckney Jones, Sidney (1842-~1892), Sidney Dallas Jones (1845-~1880), and wife Jane Holley (1849-1924), etc.
- Sarah Proctor and Bermillion (sic) Holloway m. 5 Feb 1798 - Trying to identify her parents.

Two members present at the meeting might have some information about two of the families and will contact the senders.

Richard Ellington read selected announcements from the newsletter and recently received information.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at the Duke Homestead in Durham.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Vance
Acting Secretary, Director

NEW GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IN THE TRIANGLE

In case you haven't heard, there is now a Triangle Jewish Genealogical Society in our area. They were formed this past Fall, I understand, and have only met a couple of times. One of the earliest members was Tom Krakauer who was also an early member of D-OGS. Their Facebook page is www.facebook.com/TriangleJewishGenealogicalSociety.

KIT UNEARTHS DNA'S PATH TO YOUR PAST

By ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ - Chicago Tribune

Want to be a part of ancient history? The National Geographic Society's Genographic Project is inviting the public to join its massive effort to map the history of human migration using DNA.

More than 560,000 people have participated since the project began in 2005. A second phase that launched in December uses more advanced technology to provide a deeper picture of how our ancestors populated the globe over the past 60,000 years.

The test reveals an individual's maternal ancestry through mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), passed from mother to child, and for men reveals paternal ancestry through the Y chromosome, passed from father to son. Another 130,000 genetic markers across the human genome reveal broader regional affiliations, so women can get a sense of their paternal lineage, as well as any cross-pollination with Neanderthals and Denisovans, our now-extinct hominid cousins who resided in Eurasia when Homo sapiens started their trek out of Africa.

The project's important scientific discoveries include detecting Western European DNA in some Christian Lebanese men that likely is a legacy of the Crusades.

"The more people we can enroll, the more power we have to see these genetic patterns," said project director and population geneticist Spencer Wells.

It has also affected participants on a personal level. Tamecca Tillard, a 38-year-old entrepreneur from Brooklyn, participated in hopes of confirming that she has native Hawaiian blood. Tillard's mother's family, over several generations, took part in the Hawaiian tradition of "hanai," a practice of informal adoption. Through the Genographic Project, Tillard discovered she does have native Hawaiian blood, as well as sub-Saharan African, South Asian, Southeast Asian, Southwest Asian, Northern European, South African and Mediterranean. Her mtDNA showed her mother's ancestors were in the first wave of migrants who left Africa. She also is 3 percent Neanderthal or Denisovan.

"It was extremely powerful to think how deeply connected I am to so many people," Tillard said.

The Geno.2 ancestry test kit, which collects DNA through cheek swabs, is $199.95 at genographic.org. Results are ready in six to eight weeks.

(This article was originally printed in the Chicago Tribune. It was reprinted in the News & Observer. D-OGS and this newsletter editor are not endorsing this product, either implicitly or explicitly. We are merely making our readers aware of new potential genealogical tracing aids.)

A SIMPLE WAY TO READ OLD TOMBSTONES

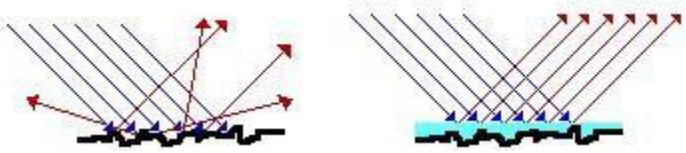
Old tombstones are often worn and difficult to read. Here is a simple trick to help you overcome this common problem. The next time you go to the cemetery take a bottle of water with you. Pour the water over the face of the tombstone. It won't hurt the tombstone. What it will do, however, is to help make indents on the surface stand out more.

Basically, this simple trick will make it much easier to read the remains of chiseled letters on old tombstones. Give it a try and you will be amazed at how much it can make old letters pop out.

Technically, what is happening is that the surface of a worn and faded tombstone presents what is known as a *diffuse reflection* surface. This means that light reflecting off the tombstone tends to

scatter and move in different (diffuse) directions. This makes it difficult for the human eye (or an image taken by a camera) to discern the pattern of faded letters chiselled into the surface.

When water is added to the face of the tombstone, the water will fill in the letter crevices and make the surface more reflective. Scientifically, this is known as a *specular reflection*. In essence, the application of water to the surface of the tombstone helps convert it from a diffuse reflection surface to a specular reflection surface, as shown in the image below. The lining up of the light rays in a specular reflection makes it much easier to discern the pattern of letters on a faded tombstone.



Diffuse reflection is shown on the left. Notice how the light gets scattered. This makes it hard to read the underlying letters on the tombstone. When water fills in the crevices (as shown on the right) a specular reflection is formed. This helps line up the rays of light making it easier to discern the underlying pattern of the chiseled letters.

This technique is particularly useful if you want to get good photographs of old tombstones. It is always a good idea to wet the tombstone first.

Now the next time you meet up with your genealogy friends you can impress them with your scientific knowledge as to why pouring water over an old tombstone can make it so much easier to read.

(Reprinted from the GenealogyInTime newsletter)

MEGA.CO.NZ OFFERS 50 GIGABYTES OF STORAGE IN THE CLOUD FOR FREE

(The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at http://www.eogn.com.)

Mega.co.nz launched today as a cloud storage service. However, it is unlike any other cloud storage service I know of. First of all is the pricing: free for up to 50 gigabytes (that's 50,000 megabytes) of storage space. This is a huge amount of free storage. It's easily more than the 2 gigabytes offered by Dropbox, the 5 gigabytes by Google Drive, or the 7 gigabytes from Microsoft's SkyDrive! For those who need even more space, very low fees are charged: 500 gigabytes of storage space for €9.99 a month (roughly $13.31 US dollars), 2 terabytes of storage space for €19.99 a month (roughly $26.62 US dollars), and 4 terabytes of storage space for only €29.99 a month (roughly $40.00 US dollars) a month.

Next, all data sent to Mega.co.nz is encrypted with a user-created, 2048-bit RSA key before it leaves your computer. Nobody can decrypt your data, not even the Mega.co.nz employees, as

long as you do not tell anyone else the encryption key that you created. Even the file names are encrypted although you can see them after entering the encryption key. If some person does manage to hack in and copy the data you uploaded (which is unlikely), the result will be useless without the encryption key. He or she cannot even see the file names or tell where one file ends and the next begins. This guarantees safety of your data. In fact, there is no option to upload unencrypted data; everything is always encrypted. With Mega.co.nz, you control the encryption, you hold the keys, and you decide who you grant or deny access to your files with no risky requirement to install any software.

It's important to note that you must remember your encryption key. If you forget it, there is no method of retrieving it again from Mega.co.nz. The company says this is for two reasons: (1.) to make sure no one can impersonate you and ask for the password and (2.) Mega.co.nz and its employees have no idea what your encryption key is! If you lose the encryption key, your files are lost forever with no hope of recovery.

It is possible to share files or even complete folders with friends or relatives. However, you have to define explicitly what is to be shared and who is allowed to access the file(s), and then you must give the encryption key to each friend or relative that you allow in. (**NOTE:** Never send encryption keys in plain-text email messages!)

There is no need to install any software on your computer as everything is done from a web browser. In fact, you can upload from one computer and download to another computer at any time, assuming the same user name and encryption key is used on both systems. The encryption key is not stored on the computer or anyplace else; you must manually enter the encryption key each time you use Mega.co.nz.

Mega.co.nz does not limit the size of any single file being uploaded. However, some older web browsers have limits. If you are using the latest version of your browser, you shouldn't have any problems with large files.

Finally, Mega.co.nz owns very few servers. While the company is based in New Zealand, it contracts with web hosting companies around the world for disk space. All newly-uploaded data is immediately stored on at least two different servers in two widely-separated locations. If any server goes down for any reason, the duplicate data on the second server is immediately copied to a third server. Every file always has at least two copies available, located on two different servers in different parts of the world. As such, it is almost impossible for Mega.co.nz to lose your data. However, I always keep my own copies of all my data, whether it is stored in the cloud or elsewhere. I never depend upon any one company that might go out of business at any time or be destroyed by fire, earthquake, hurricanes, or other disasters. While Mega.co.nz's storage security is better than that of most other firms, it still isn't perfect. In fact, I don't know of any person or company that has a perfect system. I'd strongly recommend always keeping your own copies of your data as well as placing backup copies in the cloud.

As a brand-new service, Mega.co.nz does not yet have some of the services that its established competitors offer. For instance, you cannot yet upload or download files with an iPhone or iPad or any of the Android devices. It is designed to work only with Windows, Macintosh, and Linux desktop and laptop computers. The company does promise to add handheld capabilities "real soon now." However, I suspect that all the employees are busy right now getting the initial product out

the door.

The new Mega.co.nz service is launching exactly 365 days after authorities raided the owner's mansion and shut down his previous site, Megaupload. (See my past articles at http://goo.gl/nf3DG for more information.) That site had a reputation as a haven for pirated materials. The owner maintained his innocence, and charges against him were dropped when the authorities eventually realized they had no case.

The new Mega.co.nz obviously was designed with legalities and security in mind. Data uploaded by customers is even more secure than the previous service and completely unreadable by anyone without the encryption key. Unlike the previous service, unencrypted files may not be uploaded. Everything is always encrypted and the Mega.co.nz employees have no "backdoor key" to see any of the data. Mega.co.nz does require users to pledge that they will not upload copyrighted material to the web site for anything other than their own personal use.

All in all, Mega.co.nz probably will shake up the cloud storage business with its low prices. It should be interesting to watch and to see if the competitors can match these prices!

Mega.co.nz is available at https://www.mega.co.nz although early indications are that the company's web servers are overloaded. Approximately 1,200 users were signing up per minute in the first few hours after the system launched early this morning. If you are unable to access the site, I'd suggest you try again in a day or two.

(Neither D-OGS nor any of its officials are endorsing this product. We are just making our readers aware of products that may be helpful)

5 TIPS FOR FINDING FEMALE ANCESTORS

How many of us begin our genealogical searches by just typing names into online databases or Google? While this "shot in the dark" approach can occasionally yield some positive hits, it isn't the most effective method to ensure long-term research success, particularly when it comes to fleshing out those elusive females in your family tree.

When you start researching a female ancestor, the best approach is to first develop a research strategy or research plan that outlines how you will proceed with your search for this woman, what records you will need and what you are hoping to discover.

Create a research plan that includes the "5Ws" approach, asking the questions: Who, What, When, Where and Why? This is also a good strategy when you run into any problem ancestors.

Who - are you researching? Be equipped with all the names they were known by, and all the possible spellings, e.g. Elizabeth could also have been entered as Beth, Betty, Eliza, Liz, Lizzie, Liza, Lisa. Margaret could be Margie, Maggie, Peg, Peggy, etc. And that doesn't begin to address the surnames often mangled in records. Who did she know or associate with?

What - is your question? What do you want to learn? This will give you some insight into what record type(s) you need to locate. What did your female ancestor do?

When - what timeframe are you interested in? Like everywhere, record types started being kept at specific times. If your research starts before certain records were kept you'll need to find alternate record types to use. How records were created and kept changed at different times, and even the names of the locations changed.

Where - did she live? Did your ancestor stay in the same town where she originally settled? Did she migrate or move often? In what country was she born? From where did she emigrate?

Why - do you need this information? What are you hoping to find: If it's a marriage registration you need, perhaps you're also looking for names of the parents of the bride and groom. Just being aware of why you need this record type can often open up other research possibilities. It also helps to keep us focused-something most genealogists struggle with.

MICHAEL JOHN NEILL GENEALOGY TIPS

No Kids, Never Had Siblings, and Died With Some Cash

Is there a relative who never had any children of their own, had no siblings and died owning enough property to require a probate or an estate settlement?

If so, the records of that settlement may be particularly interesting. The deceased person's heirs-at-law typically would have been their first cousins or their first cousin's descendants. Even if there was a will, these heirs-at-law typically would have had to have been notified of the probate. Those records could help determine relationships and indicate where people were living at the time the relative died.

These estate or probate records would typically be filed at the local court level.

Where Did It Have To Be Done?

Vital records are usually recorded where the event took place. A child might not have been born where the couple "lived," they might have been born somewhere a slight distance away, perhaps while the mother was staying with relatives in a neighboring town. A couple might have traveled fifty miles to elope and marry in a different state. A person may die in a hospital in a neighboring town or while a thousand miles away on a trip. That death will be recorded where the death took place, not the person's residence.

Where were they when it happened?

Read Your Ancestor's Paper

When you locate that obituary or death notice for your ancestor, consider reading the entire thing--the newspaper that is.

Reading an entire issue (or two) of a newspaper may give you some insight into the time in which

your ancestor lived. At the very least you might learn about the weather and who knows what real details are waiting for you in those other pages.

You might even get a historical clue that explains something else in your research.

Don't just copy the obituary and head back to your searching. See what other news is waiting for you in the paper.

Check Every Court

At the county level, in some places and time periods, there might have been several different "courts" housed in the same physical location--probate court, court of equity, chancery court, guardianship court, etc. Make certain you've searched all the records when using the indexes. If a "court" housed several different "courts," each court would have had a separate series of records, including indexes.

There Might Have Been No Stone

It's always possible that a grave marker was never erected for your relative. Sometimes financial difficulties or no family living in the area was the cause. The end result, no stone, is still the same.

Non-Verbal Information

Years ago, I discovered that my grandmother had a step-grandmother who had never been mentioned. For a long list of reasons, I never mentioned the step-grandmother to my own grandmother.

However, I did learn where the step-grandmother was buried. A few months later, my Dad and I had cause to go close to the cemetery on a trip somewhere else and I asked if we could stop for a few minutes to see if I could find the stone.

There was no stone.

Dad mentioned to Grandma the next morning that we had stopped at said cemetery. Grandma later very directly asked me WHO I was looking for in THAT cemetery. Grandma probably knew who I was looking for as there are NO other family members buried there.

Her pointed question and the look on her face told me that she knew darned well who was buried there and whose stone I was looking for.

Sometimes clues aren't always written, spoken, or photographed.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

11TH DURHAM MLK/BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARAADE – 2 February, 2013 at noon on Fayetteville Street

GREENSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY WORKSHOP - 2 February 2013, 9AM to 3PM - Afro-American Historical and Geneaogical Society of North Carolina/Piedmont-Triad 14th ANNUAL WORKSHOP at Greensboro Public Library. Guest Speaker: Michelle Lanier, Curator of Multicultural Initiatives, North Carolina, Division of Historic Sites & Properties, Raleigh, NC will talk about "Designing Your Family Tree" and "Gullah/Geechee Culture in North Carolina". For information, call 547-0178 or visit http://www.ncaahgs.org.

GRANVILLE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - **February 7th Program** Featured Speaker: **Mr. Irving Joyner** "The Intentional Destruction of African-American Schools in Response to Brown vs. Board of Education". Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM in the large meeting room of the Richard H. Thornton Library in Oxford, NC, located at 210 Main Street.

ALAMANCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY meets the second Monday of each month except June, July and August, at 7:00 p.m., at the Western Steak House, 142 N. Graham-Hopedale Road Burlington, NC 27215, 336-227-1448. The 11 February meeting will feature Jim Schlosser presenting a program on "**O'Henry's Life and Writing".**

HAYTI FILM FESTIVAL – February 14-17, 2013 – hayti.org for details.

GUILFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 16 February 2013 - Marilyn Arny will will tell us about "Finding Family History Information In Unusual Places". Our meeting location is the fellowship hall at Peace United Church of Christ which is located at 2714 West Market Street in Greensboro just off W. Wendover Avenue.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR LIVING HISTORY DAY – 16 February 2013 from 10am-4pm - Alexander Dickson House, Hillsborough, NC. Free

CARY AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION – February 18-19, 2013 – Cary Arts Center – 919-469-4069

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FREE WEBINARS - Upcoming FREE classes from the Webinar Extension Series from Southern California Genealogical Society: http://scgsgenealogy.com/extension-series/jes2013.html

Saturday, February 2 - Digital Organization for Documents and Photos - Eric Basir

Wednesday, February 20 - No Will? No Problem - Michael John Neill

And two sessions each month throughout the year.

Sign up today and please share this invitation with your friends, genealogical society members and cousins. http://scgsgenealogy.com/extension-series/jes2013.html

As a reminder, the live webcast is free to anyone who registers.

As a benefit of membership, SCGS members are able to view archived webinars at their convenience, 24/7. SCGS membership costs only $35 per year. Check out our online newsletter for a complete list of archived webinars. You'll also learn about our online library catalog and our one-day Ulster Irish seminar on March 16.

View the newsletter http://tinyurl.com/SCGS-newsletter-2012Dec

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION – 23 February 2013 – Bennett Place State Historic Site – 919-383-4345

WAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Tuesday, February 26, 2013 - 7:00 p.m. - Olivia Raney Local History Library, 4016 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC 27610. The program will be presented by Dennis Daniels, Reference Archivist at the North Carolina State Archives – "British Records Housed at the State Archives of North Carolina"

RALEIGH FAMILY HISTORY CENTER WORKSHOP - 2 March 2013—A free workshop will be held at the **Raleigh Family History Center**, 5060 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. For more information, call 919-783-7752.

ALAMANCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 11 March 2013 - Alamance County Genealogical Society will meet at the Western Charcoal Steak House, 142 N. Graham-Hopedale Road Burlington, NC 27215, 336-227-1448. The buffet and fellowship is at 6 PM and the program, Richard Ellington on "Protecting Your Computer and Backing Up Research", at 7 PM.

MICHAEL JOHN NEILL SEMINARS - We have brought back our popular "Genealogy Computing Week" to Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois, for March of 2013.

Registration is ala carte, sign up only for those days which interest you. Presentations are made at the college's main campus in Galesburg, Illinois, easily accessible via interstate for those driving.

Topics are:

- Swedish Research-2 days--11 and 12 March 2013
- Archive.org-1 day-14 March 2013
- Google for Genealogists-1 day-13 March 2013
- Social Media for Genealogists-1 day 15 March 2013

Sessions are held in state-of-the-art computer labs and registration is limited.

More details are on our webpage at:
http://rootdig.blogspot.com/p/genealogy-computing-week-march-2013.html

Questions? Email Michael at mneill@sandburg.edu or mjnrootdig@gmail.com.

HUMOR

Police are called to an apartment and find a woman holding a bloody 5-iron standing over a lifeless man. The detective asks, "Ma'am, is that your husband?"

"Yes" says the woman.

"Did you hit him with that golf club?"

"Yes, yes, I did." The woman begins to sob, drops the club, and puts her hands on her face.

"How many times did you hit him?"

"I don't know -- put me down for a five."

PARTING THOUGHT

Genealogy: Collecting dead relatives and sometimes a live cousin!

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