# D-OGS Newsletter – December 2014

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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2014-15 dues – $20
2014 President – Fred Mowry

## D-OGS MEETING FOR DECEMBER 2014

The next general meeting of the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society (D-OGS) will be held on Wednesday evening, 3 December 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Golden Corral on NC55, just south of the intersection of NC54 and NC55. Address: 5006 NC Highway 55, Durham, NC 27713, (919) 544-2275 - Map: http://tinyurl.com/6bk38j. There is a "Senior Discount", if you qualify.

This is not a regular meeting. There will be no speaker or fixed program. There may be a quiz. We have had these quizzes several times before and they have always provided a lot of fun! This is our annual "birthday party" for everyone to enjoy. Come and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow D-OGS members and their guests. Dress will be as formal or casual as you desire.

When you arrive, pay for your meal and proceed to the back right of the restaurant to their meeting/party room. This is a good time to bring your spouse, a significant other, friend or potential new member so that you can introduce them to all those people that you have mentioned during the last year.

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## MEETING MINUTES FROM THE D-OGS MEETING OF 5 NOVEMBER 2014

President Fred Mowry opened the meeting at 7:00 pm at the Chapel Hill Historical Society and asked if there were any visitors and if so, could they introduce themselves.

- Ed Webb said he is from Apex and his is researching the Webbs of North Carolina.
- Trudy Davis-Long said she has authored several books and she learned about D-OGS by visiting our booth at the Family History Fair on October 25th, 2014.
- Jaime Patrick-Burns said she is a Library student at UNC and she is interested in writing a paper on genealogy and genealogists. She learned about D-OGS at the Family History Fair.

There were 23 total attendees: 18 members, 5 guests.

The program "Andrew Goff, Revolutionary War Patriot: What Could I Learn? 1960-2014," was presented by D-OGS member Ann Regen Myhre. She discussed what she's learned about her Revolutionary War Patriot named Andrew Goff over the course of the past 54 years. Her lecture was informative in that she presented several resources that we don't often think to use while we are researching our ancestors. These resources are outlined below:

1. Make friends with a local genealogist in the area where you are researching. They can often help you find places that were important to your ancestors' lives.
2. DAR Website – member applications can be ordered for $10.00. Each application contains a minimum of 4 pages which includes information on the submitter, their Revolutionary War ancestor and his children and the sources they used to present their case.

3. Family Bible – someone has to have it – Find that person who has it and secure copies of it; Encourage them to donate it to the local archives or historical society
4. County Formation maps for the area your ancestor lived in
5. Draper Manuscripts (Wisconsin Historical Society) – he interviewed people and collected materials; most volumes are indexed on Ancestry.com, including "The Calendar of the TN and Kings Mountain Papers of the Draper Collection of Manuscripts."
6. Library of Virginia digital collections which contain articles on TN as well
    a. Lord Dunmore's War – payroll for service
    b. Land office grants
    c. Gordon Aronhime Papers – he was a newspaper man and he wrote down everything he learned about the people who lived there.
    d. Petitions signed by men and their neighbors
7. Check the personal accounts of men who were in the Battles your ancestor fought in – Benjamin Clark's account of the Battle of Kings Mountain.
8. Library of Congress and the Library of Virginia has the "Early Virginia Religious Petitions" online – you can view your ancestors' actual signatures in petitions
9. 1790-1800 Tax lists of Virginia act as substitute census reports because VA does not have census reports from 1790 and 1800
10. Historical Quarterlies often give you historical context; in this example, Ann learned why and how her ancestor moved about 315 miles north to south along a newly opened wagon road
11. NC and TN Early Land Records, 1753-1931 from Ancestry.com
12. Newspapers – the Tennessee Gazette from 1800 (Newspapers.com)
13. Check for unusual events, including weather
14. Virginia Historical Society Library has letters
15. Slave Trials
16. FindAGrave Website – in this example provided by Ann, the FAG memorial had a snippet of a newspaper obituary posted that said her ancestor was a "dutiful father." No where had she heard this said before and she questioned the article. She found the original article which said so much more.
17. Family Associations - join them!
18. DNA Studies
19. Pension records – Heritage Quest which is accessible with your NC Library Card
20. Southern Campaign Revolutionary War Pension Statements and Rosters – www.revwarapps.org

The Business meeting opened at 8:04 pm and was presented by our President, Fred Mowry.

1. The joint meeting we had on Oct 14th with WCGS went well. We had 37 attendees, 9 from D-OGS, 12 from WCGS and 16 guests. We spent about $162 for the event which was our half of the costs, including the venue, the speakers, and the food. This event was highly advertised. Diane Richard discussed the survey she conducted among Professional Genealogists about what they expect from their clients and about what the clients expect from the Professional Genealogist. She had two guests on her panel who also answered questions and shared their experiences. Diane's handout is on the website in the Members Only section. We gained one new member named Irene Mandeville from Durham.
2. Treasurer's Report – there is none at this time
3. Membership Report – We have 97 members

4. Fred reported that D-OGS had a table at the Family History Fair at the State Archives in Raleigh on Oct 25 which was right by the front door. We had two laptops to show off our website. It was a good event.
5. Webmaster's Report – Ginger Smith
    a. A description of the Trading Path was added to the Member Files page and 6 issues of the Trading Path journal have been uploaded to the website
    b. The Family History Fair (Oct 25th) Announcement was removed from the Home page
    c. The "Links" page was renamed to "Local Resources"
    d. Links to the BCG and APG websites were added to the "Local Resources" page to help users locate a professional genealogist
    e. The 1920 Orange Co Census Index was added to the public pages
    f. An announcement about the 1920 Orange Co NC Index was posted to the homepage and emailed to the mailing list
    g. An article about the joint D-OGS and WCGS meeting was posted to the homepage
    h. An announcement about the Nov 5th Monthly Meeting was added to the home page
    i. Meeting minutes from 2010-2014 were added to the members download files page
    j. Newsletters from 2010-2012 were added to the website. We now have 2010-2014 uploaded
    k. The Query Submission Form was moved from the old website to the new website and a new Query page was added to the new website. The queries will now be posted to the Forums / Query Board.
6. Trading Path Report – Ginger
    a. A list of document types have been compiled
        - Church Records – Watts Baptist Church directory 1942
        - Directories – 1917 Hill's directory of Durham
        - Indexes – Durham Co Will Index 1881-1968, A-B (ready to go), the Chapel Hill
        - Newspapers – Vol IV, no. 49 of *The Durham Tobacco Plant*
        - Obituaries from the *Durham Herald,* 17 Nov 1970
        - Articles of Genealogical Interest
    b. I have a lot of Durham materials ready to go, but I've ordered some microfilm for Chapel Hill from the Archives – Orange & Durham Co., Marriage Registers, Orange Co., Tax Lists, Orange Co., grantor indexes (deeds)
    c. I have created a spreadsheet to keep track of who is transcribing what
    d. I have created a forum to discuss transcribing docs for the Trading Path on new website
    e. I will post a document with transcribing best practices with links to transcribing software
    f. I created some transcription forms that volunteers can use if they want - the directories are a good example
    g. I sent a blast email to members and an email to the mailing list asking for volunteers – using the new tradingpath@dogsnc.org email address and so far I've had a great response! Some volunteers include:
        a. Dominique, a "far away" member from Virginia has agreed to transcribe some of the Durham Tobacco Plant newspapers. I have left them in copy form and snail-mailed them to Dominique.
        b. Cheryl Hopkins is a new member from Catawba Co., NC and she has agreed to start with some easy stuff like the directories. I have compiled them in PDF format and emailed her the links so she can download them to her computer while she figures out how to use Dropbox.

c. A couple of people have offered to help transcribe materials and contribute their own stories after the holidays. I'm very excited and grateful for everyone who has volunteered to help. We will have a lot more materials coming in once the microfilm arrives.
d. We are still looking for people to help transcribe materials and your family stories. If you have something to contribute, please send an email to tradingpath@dogsnc.org.

7. Nominations – The President presented the slate of Officers for 2015:
    a. Fred Mowry: President
    b. Ginger Smith: Vice President
    c. Ava Nackman: Treasurer
    d. David Strausfeld: Director 1
    e. James Ward: Director 2
    f. The position of Secretary remains vacant
    g. The slate was accepted as presented and the board for 2015 was approved.
8. Fred also pointed out the list of Committee Chairs in agenda and thanked them for their service.
9. Local Events – Richard Ellington - See the newsletter for calendar of events
10. The Bennett Place State Historical Site – Fred – The board was asked to support the purchase of the acreage of the land across from the Bennett Place. We pledged $250, but they were able to raise the funds and suggested we support them at a later date.

Our Next Meeting will be Wed., Dec. 3rd, at 6pm at the Golden Corral off of HWY 55 in Durham. This is our annual Anniversary meeting. We will celebrate our 25th Anniversary this year!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ginger Smith, Secretary

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO D-OGS!

In case you have not been connected to D-OGS as long as I have, you may not know that 2014 is the 25th anniversary of D-OGS as a society! The meeting where D-OGS was formed took place in 1989, I am told. I have been a member since 1992 so I missed out on the very early years but I have enjoyed the ride since then. I hope we make it another 25 years. – Editor

## CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH THE START-UP OF THE TRADING PATH JOURNAL

D-OGS Vice-President Ginger Smith is on a mission to get the Trading Path journal back into publication. Some folks have volunteered to help but we still need others. If you are willing to do some records transcriptions or write an article about your family history or do anything else that would help, we want to hear from you. Please contact Ginger via email at vicepresident@dogsnc.org if you want to volunteer or if you have questions about what you can do to help.

# STATE LIBRARY OF NORTH CAROLINA FEATURED IN *OUR STATE* MAGAZINE

In the December 2014 edition if Our State Magazine, there is an excellent article about the State Library of North Carolina on Jones Street in Raleigh. I know that many of you are very familiar with this wonderful facility and its contents. If you are not, then you are missing a genealogical jewel. Some of the wonders of this facility are detailed in the article so find a copy and read it. The article points out the expanding digital collection now available through their website at digital.ncdcr.gov.

# NC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AWARDS FROM NOVEMBER'S ANNUAL MEETING

**The award for excellence in web presence for a freely accessible website promoting North Carolina genealogy** was presented to two winners.

The first co-winner was David M. McCorkle's *North Carolina Land Grant Images and Data* (http://www.nclandgrants.com). This website contains easily searchable data (grantee name, land description, acres, and various dates and numerical identifiers) for the entire land grant collection in the North Carolina State Archives MARS database of 216,000 land grants issued by North Carolina from 1663 to 1960. The website also includes 12,000 grants issued for what is now Tennessee. Researchers who visit this website will find high quality digitized images for the State Land Patent Books, volumes 1-30, with records of land descriptions almost always containing the full metes and bounds. For Mecklenburg County, grants are directly linked to 28,000 images of original warrants, surveys, and receipts. In addition there are images of the State Archives Land Grant Catalog for the "Lord Proprietor Grants," "Granville Grants," and "No County Given" collections, which though not yet indexed are not available in the MARS database or anywhere else outside the State Archives. The source for each image is indicated and McCorkle tells the user what is available on the website and what is not. For those images not on website, there is a reference to the State Archives microfilm reel number and county file number. This website is a real treasure for North Carolina researchers and represents a great deal of work.

David is a member of D-OGS as well as other genealogical societies in North Carolina. Our congratulations go out to David for his wonderful project.

**The award for outstanding contribution to North Carolina genealogy for an individual who outstanding genealogical contributions have greatly enhanced the study of family history in North Carolina** was presented to two winners.

The first award posthumously honored "Pat" Shaw Bailey, who died of cancer on 8 December 2013. Accepting this award were her daughters Barbi Bailey-Smith and Patsy Bailey Allard. Remembered as a unique individual who was full of energy and drive to get things done, Pat Bailey was tireless in promoting her passion for history and genealogy. A longtime member of the Alamance County Genealogical Society, she served in several official capacities and contributed numerous articles to its journal. She was the compiler of four works of land grant records for Orange, Chatham, Guilford, and Rockingham counties and also wrote *Cemetery Survey: Bethel*

*United Methodist Church (on the Snow Camp Road)*. That Pat relished both a good story and adventure is well illustrated in the introduction to her Chatham County land grant book where she relates the legend that the county line between Alamance and Orange was "to accommodate a 'moonshine run on the Major Hills.'" She describes being "allowed to study the surviving original documents" (back in the day when the original grants were still housed in the Secretary of State's office) as an adventure that made her feel "as if I were an explorer, wandering through the lands of Orange County" and had met "those settlers of two centuries ago." Pat's devotion to all things historic can be seen through her many accomplishments in Alamance County: co-chairing the county's 150th anniversary celebration, working for the erection of Revolutionary War markers at three sites, helping in the restoration of the 18th century Brick Church, serving on the county's historical preservation committee, and zealously supporting and marketing the annual local Uncle Eli's Quilting Party. Pat Bailey's legacy will live on in her genealogical publications and in the many projects and events she initiated, organized, and championed.

Pat Bailey was a wonderful character with boundless enthusiasm in the search of history. I miss her greatly.

## CONSIDER FAMILY HISTORY-RELATED GIFTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As the holidays approach, consider giving those hard-to-buy-for individuals in your family a family history-related gift. This might be something they treasure more than anything that could be purchased in a store, and it serves the double purpose of preserving family history at the same time.

Photo albums or scrapbooks are family history-related gifts that can be excellent preservation projects for important photos. Besides preserving the actual photos or good quality copies of the images, they can ensure that the identification of who is in those photos is passed down to subsequent generations. Scrapbooks also can be a place to record memories of the individuals or events in the pictures. They do not have to be elaborately-decorated like the ones featured in magazines about the craft. Scrapbooking your photos can be as simple as using adhesive to attach the pictures to the pages, making sure to use all photo-safe materials, and identifying the individuals and events by writing on the pages around the photos. Or you can choose photo-safe albums with clear sleeves in pre-set sizes that fit the individual photos. Consider using some of the sleeve pockets to hold paper or cards with written information about the photos.

Another possible family history holiday gift might be to record your personal memories for the younger members of the family. There are many ways to do this. You can write on paper in your own handwriting, type a document in a word processing program on the computer, or create a series of index cards in a box, each one holding a specific memory and categorized with dividers. You might choose to audio- or video-record yourself telling family stories or relating memories. A related idea is to video-record family heirlooms and tell the stories behind each one or, better yet, have someone record you pointing out or holding each object and describing it, telling who it belonged to and any associated stories.

Give your loved ones the gift of their heritage this holiday season. As these kinds of gifts take time, start today.

(Reprinted from Genealogy Gems, Fort Wayne Public Library newsletter)

## NEW FAMILY HISTORY 4 BEGINNERS DISCUSSION BOARD

Peter Smith has formed a new discussion board, called *Family History 4 Beginners*. It is a totally free service with experts on hand to guide everyone through their family history efforts. The goal of the discussion board is to offer an environment where everyone can feel safe and welcome.

The discussion board runs on pb Pro Boards, a discussion board hosting service. It does have advertising. After all, they have to pay the bills somehow. When I looked at the site, there was one ad per page and that one ad never looked intrusive.

The Family History 4 Beginners discussion board currently has sections for United States and United Kingdom discussion and other countries will obviously be added as necessary. Other sections are earmarked for military records and for other genealogy web sites.

There isn't much content yet on the Family History 4 Beginners Discussion Board. After all, it is brand new so there hasn't been time yet to build a large number of messages. I suspect that will change as usage grows.

You can be one of the early users of the Family History 4 Beginners Discussion Board by going to http://famillyhis4beginners.boards.net.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter)

## GENEALOGY TIP OF THE MONTH FROM JOHN MICHAEL NEILL

**Google That Incorrect Spelling**

If you are having difficulty reading an old document, consider typing the word the way it looks into Google. You might be surprised to find that the "incorrect" word is actually right and it, even more, that it actually means something relevant to the document or to your research.

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**Print**

If your handwriting looks like a scribble, print clearly when identifying people in photographs, making handwritten notes, etc. Any part of your research that is written in your own hand should be legible. Writing is meant to be read. Save the scribbles and doodles for the staff meetings and leave the hieroglyphics to the caves.

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**Away From the Fire**

Research in "burned" counties can be difficult. Try and think of what sources were not present "at the burning." Federal records, state records, church records, newspapers, private papers, books, etc. all would have hopefully been in a separate location from the facility that had the fire.

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**Were They Fostering Something More?**

Family members may have taken in the child of a relative to raise as their own. That child, in various records, may be listed as "adopted" or the "foster child" of the parents who raised them--with no indication of the biological relationship. Never assume that an adopted or foster child has no biological relationship to the one of the adoptive parents.

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**How Did War Impact Your Ancestor?**

If your relative lived through a war, try and determine how that war might have impacted their life. Did they serve? Were they drafted? Did any of their children serve? Did any relatives later receive a pension or bounty land? Did they contribute materially to the cause? Was their violence in the area where they lived?

There's more to war than service records.

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**What Kind of Brother Is He?**

The document refers to John as Tom's brother? Keep in mind that the actual meaning may be full brothers, half-brothers, step-brothers, or brothers-in-law. One record may not necessarily tell the whole story.

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**Did the Widow Remarry?**

Even if no one mentions it, even if people insist it did not happen, consider the fact that a widow married again after her husband's death. A marriage, and consequential change in last name, could be the reason why you are unable to find her after her husband's death.

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**Moved In With the Children?**

If late in their lives, you can't trace one of your older relatives, consider the possibility that Grandma moved in with one of her children or grandchildren. This could easily have been a distance from where she lived most of her life and where her husband is buried. It is also possible that a "disappearing" grandparent moved near one of their own siblings instead of one of their own

children.

It's also possible that your "disappearing" older relatives moved away and did not live near any of their children as a pair of mine did in the 1870s.

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**Did Grandpa Really Sell the Farm?**

If your land-owning ancestor's name does not appear in the grantor (seller) index to land records, consider that he might not have been the actual seller when the property changed hands. It could have been his widow or his heirs (after his death), the sheriff (if he didn't pay his taxes), or the judge (if there was some type of legal action). In all of these cases, the deed will not be indexed in your ancestor's name since he was not the grantor.

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**Allegiance Changed Even If They Never Moved**

As borders changed, your ancestor may have found himself in a new country even if his actual location of residence did not change. And the reason his country of birth changes is becaue the boundaries keep moving.

# WEBSITE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Colonial Roots is an online bookstore with titles that cover most of the Atlantic coast states. As their name implies, they specialize in colonial-era record sets in book and CD format. Their website is http://shop.colonialroots.com/main.sc.

D-OGS is not endorsing this vendor, merely making you aware of a potential resource that may be of interest to you.

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**GRANVILLE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY -** Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM, except for the month of July, in the large meeting room of the Richard H. Thornton Library in Oxford, NC, located at 210 Main Street. The December meeting will be held on **December 4th.**

Featured Speaker: **Mr. John Caknipe -** "Randolph Macon College In The Early Years -- Making Preachers, Teachers and Confederate Officers". John Caknipe will be the featured speaker for the Granville County Genealogical Society meeting on December 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the large conference room at Richard H. Thornton Library in Oxford. He will discuss his latest book, Randolph Macon College In The Early Years -- Making Preachers, Teachers and Confederate Officers.

When the Methodists came to the United States, they began to conduct services searching for new members of the Church and converts. The first place they relocated to was Brunswick County, VA in 1784, and from that evolved the Old Brunswick Circuit which encompassed the Piedmont region of Virginia and North Carolina. At the annual Methodist conference held in Oxford, N.C. in 1825, an education committee was established. After several years of work, the result was Randolph Macon College (RMC) which was located in the circuit in Boydton, VA in 1830. In 1844 when the North Carolina folks decided to begin their own conference, they still supported RMC and had several representatives on the Board of Trustees. In 1855, the rift between two powerhouses of the college resulted in a split from North Carolina but even then several of the Board members and sponsors continued to send students from North Carolina. Almost half of the graduating classes from 1837 through 1858 were from North Carolina and about half of the students that took one year of studies at Boydton transferred to UNC and later to Trinity College. Graduates from RMC were responsible for over twenty colleges in North Carolina and several academies.

**DUKE HOMESTEAD -** December **5 and 12 - *Christmas by Candlelight -*** *Friday, 7 - 9 pm* Celebrate an 1870 Christmas during evening tours of the Homestead. The tour features period decorations, caroling, dances, hot apple cider, and other goodies. Tickets are $6.00 for adults, and $3.00 for children 10 & under.

**BENNETT PLACE - December 6 - *Christmas in the Carolinas* -** *Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm.* Visit Bennett Place during the Christmas season and witness how this occasion was celebrated in the Piedmont Carolinas during the American Civil War. Living historians will decorate the farm in a typically modest fashion of the time. In addition to cooking, the traditional wrapping of packages, and Southern soldiers home from the war front, we anticipate a visit from Ole St. Nick. There will be music and caroling, along with hot apple cider and Christmas cookies.

**CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN MUSEUM - December 6 - *Cocoa and Candlelight in Canary***
*Saturday, 4 - 6 pm.* Join us for refreshments, carols, gingerbread men, and examinations of a 1940s Christmas in Canary Cottage, Dr. Brown's home on campus. Admission: $3.00 for adults, $2.00 for children, Tickets sold at the door.

**HISTORIC STAGVILLE** - **Christmas at the Big House, Christmas at the Quarters - Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 12 PM-4 PM**
Enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of an antebellum Christmas with music, living history demonstrators, food, and decorations! Enjoy holiday treats and take a Christmas-themed tour of the site with a costumed interpreter to hear about life on a plantation. Listen to the sounds of folk tunes and some of your holiday favorites. Take a mule and wagon ride through Horton Grove, then sing and dance along with *Jonkonnu* performers! *This program is FREE and open to the public.*

**HISTORIC STAGVILLE – Candlelit Christmas Dinner - Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 6 PM**
Historic Stagville, site of the largest plantation in North Carolina, will be offering a special one-night-only opportunity to dine inside the 18th century Bennehan House, eating food made on site using authentic cooking techniques. This candlelight dinner will highlight the ways in which African foodways influenced Southern cuisine from the 18th century to the modern day. The meal will be prepared by Historic Stagville staff and volunteers, using original recipes and cooking with organic and heirloom produce, including food grown at the site. This will be the first such event since last year's Harvest Festival, a day-long event featuring culinary historian Michael Twitty that was profiled in Garden & Gun. The meal will be served inside the historic 1788 Bennehan House, home

of plantation owner Richard Bennehan. Proceeds for this event will benefit the Historic Stagville Foundation and future cooking programs at the site. **Tickets for the meal are $100, or $85 for Historic Stagville Foundation members.** ***Space is limited - for inquiries please call (919) 620-0120 or email info@stagville.org.***

**JOEL LANE MUSEUM HOUSE - Colonial Christmas Open House - Saturday, December 6 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm –** A Colonial Christmas Open House celebration will take place on Saturday, December 6, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Joel Lane Museum House. Admission will be free, and donations are requested. Colonel Joel Lane was a founding father of North Carolina's capital city and an officer in the Militia during the American Revolutionary War.

The house will be decorated with traditional greenery and will reflect the very different way in which colonists and early Americans celebrated the Christmas holiday. Information about the house and grounds will be offered by costumed docents; re-enactors will demonstrate scenes of 18th-century life; the sounds of live music will fill the air, and other interpreters will entertain children using colonial games and crafts through the "Hands-on History" program. The Triangle Folk Ensemble will play from 11 am to 1 pm. The Johnston County Militia will teach drilling and fire their muskets.

The museum store will be open with a great choice of gifts under $10 for both young and not so young, and the annual bake sale will feature delicious local specialties and traditional delights. This event is a tradition for many families who start the holiday season in downtown Raleigh. Be sure to join them!

**HISTORIC HILLSBOROUGH -** The **Hillsborough Holiday Homecomings Tour** has a different name and focus this year and will highlight Hillsborough during past war times while saluting area veterans. With this year's tour falling on Pearl Harbor Day, the theme will feature visits to private homes decorated for the holidays and other public sites representing the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War. The tour takes place December 7 from Noon – 6 pm. There will be period living history moments and skits performed on the half hour throughout the day by the Orange Community Players, holiday and war era music and caroling around town. Churches are also participating. Also see historical exhibits as well as period cars at some of the tour stops. Musical entertainment highlights include the Triangle Tuba Quartet, High School Chorus, Handbell Choir, flautists, hammered dulcimer and more.

In honor and remembrance of veterans, people will be able to salute veterans by writing their names on a "Veterans Wall" at the Old Orange County Courthouse. Veterans will be in attendance as well.

New this year is a Civil War Cemetery tour at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Also at the 2014 Hillsborough Holiday Homecomings Tour, attendees can ride a 20-25 passenger train while hearing about Hillsborough's history. The train will make stops at various locations throughout the day. Tour Tickets are $20 day of, $15 in advance; children 10 and under free. Tickets are non-refundable. The train ride is free with your ticket or $5 without. A percentage of the tour's net proceeds will benefit a veteran's charity.

For information call the Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce at (919) 732-8156. Tickets go on sale Thursday, November 6 online at www.hillsboroughchamber.com as well as the

chamber office at 1000 Corporate Drive, Suite 301 and at the Hillsborough Visitors Center at 150 E. King Street. Day of tour tickets are available at the Visitors Center.

**ALAMANCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** - The **Alamance County Genealogical Society** meets the second Monday of each month except June, July and August, at 6:00 p.m., at the Western Steak House, 142 N. Graham-Hopedale Road Burlington, NC 27215, 336-227-1448. The December 8 meeting is the annual Christmas Bazaar and Auction. Members bring items to sell or auction to raise funds for the society.

**WAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY** - Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. The program topic: "***Family Recipes, and the Stories and Photos to Go With Them***" - Featured Speaker: Jennie Gunther. Guests are welcome — bring a friend! See our website for more information: http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncwcgs/index.htm. Meetings are held at the Olivia Raney Library located at 4016 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC 27610.

**STATE CAPITOL - December 11 - *Governors's Tree Lighting -*** *Thursday, 5 - 7:30 pm -* Festivities begin with the lighting of luminaries and musical performances on the Capitol grounds. The Governor and First Lady will light the state Christmas Tree during the traditional ceremony on the south plaza. After the ceremony, visitors are invited inside the Capitol for an open house to view the decorated interior. The Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh will host a holiday festival, featuring music and children's activities on Union Square, in the museums, and on Bicentennial Plaza. Admission is free, and open to the public.

**STATE CAPITOL - December 11 – 13 - *Holiday Open House -*** *Daily, 9 am - 5 pm -* The Capitol will be decorated for the holidays, and local performing groups will provide concerts of holiday music daily during the open house. Admission is free, and open to the public.

**ALAMANCE BATTLEGROUND - December 13 - *Sugar and Spice -*** *Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm*
The Historic John and Rachel Allen Log House will be decorated for the season, in the traditional and simple style of the time period. Light refreshments, including hot, spiced cider will be served. Dulcimer music will be performed at noon and 2 pm, while a musket demonstration and firing will take place at 1 and 3 pm. Admission: Adults are $3; Children $1; Children under 6 are free.

**HOUSE IN THE HORSESHOE - December 13 - *Holiday Open House -***Saturday, 11 am - 3 pm*
Mark your calendar for this annual tradition . . . details are forthcoming.

**DUKE HOMESTEAD - December 14 - *Victorian Family Christmas -*** *Sunday, 1 - 4 pm*
Spend a festive afternoon at the Homestead as a part of our Victorian Family Christmas. Families can join costumed interpreters to celebrate an 1870 Christmas. Visitors can enjoy cider and cookies in the kitchen, make traditional Christmas crafts in the dining room, meet Santa in the parlor, and sing carols, hear stories, and pop popcorn in the bed room. The festivities continue in the museum where kids of all ages can make and take home Christmas ornaments and crafts. Tickets available at the door: Adults are $2.00; children 6 and under are free.

**OLLI GENEALOGY CLASSES** - The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Duke University is offering 5 different genealogy classes in the winter term, beginning January 5, 2015 and taught by Margo Fariss Brewer. Each class meets weekly for a total of ten sessions. Registration begins December 9th. The OLLI at Duke web site is http://www.learnmore.duke.edu/olli/

"Genealogy I, For the Novice & Beyond" offers a choice of a Tuesday afternoon or evening section for a two hour class. In this course, the new or experienced family historian will learn genealogical research skills and methods to gain or improve their working knowledge of the research process and the most frequently used American records from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

"Genealogy II: The Next Steps" will focus on learning about and using more records than just the Census and Vital Records. This class meets Thursdays at 11 am for two hours.

"Genealogy III" is an interactive course designed to increase the student's skill and ability to create effective research plans to solve genealogical problems. This class meets in a computer lab at 8:30 am Friday for a three-hour class

"Genealogy IV: More than Just the Facts" is a course about adding life and depth to the narrative of your family's genealogical story. Class discussion will include locating historical content, the use of photographs, indexes, table of contents, and self-publishing. This class meets Monday at 11 am for two hours.

"Genealogy V: Advanced Online Genealogy Research" is designed for the student who has searched but not yet found the data or record to move their family history forward. You will learn how to create more effective database search criteria, find new research sources, and weed out unreliable information. During class, access will be provided to several subscription databases, to the Duke Library databases, and to several free databases. This class meets in a computer lab at noon on Friday for a two-hour class.

Genealogy V is very different from Genealogy III. It is designed to enable any genealogist to improve their Internet search skills on a basic level without a specific problem to solve, while Genealogy III is for the advanced genealogy student who is interested in researching a specific problem in their family history and proving their results are correct by applying accepted genealogical standards.

**JOEL LANE MUSEUM HOUSE -** Lecture on “How to Read a House: Identifying Historic Buildings” by Mitch Wilds of the NC State Historic Preservation Office will take place on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7 pm at the Visitors Center of the Joel Lane Museum House at 160 South Saint Mary’s Street, Raleigh, NC 27603. Admission will be $16 for the general public and $11 for members of the Joel Lane Historical Society. Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited, and advanced payment is required. Be sure to include the names of all in your party; nametags will serve as tickets. Tickets are non-refundable unless we must cancel the event.

Changes and development in building materials technology provide great information to help understand the construction date and evolution of your house. Mitch will discuss datable changes in technology relating to the manufacture and use of building materials including saw marks, nails, screws, and other building materials.

Mitch Wilds is the Head of the Restoration Services Branch of the NC State Historic Preservation Office where he has been a member of the staff for thirty years assisting with the restoration and preservation of historic properties across the state. A native of Mississippi, he attended Rhodes College in Memphis and graduate school in historic preservation at Columbia University in New York.

## HUMOR

First you forget names, and then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper. It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

## PARTING THOUGHT

Life is a shadow that runs across the frosted grass – Sioux chant

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