D-OGS Newsletter – December 2016

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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2016 dues – $20

2016 President – Ginger Smith

D-OGS MEETING FOR DECEMBER 7, 2016

The next general meeting of the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society will be held on Wednesday evening, 7 December 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 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. 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 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.

Instead of a quiz this year we will do something different which will involve sharing part of our heritage. Most people have some phrases, mottoes or "code words" that are passed down through our family that are unique and memorable to us and to those we share them with. They may represent a family member's line of work, their national origin, or some family event that the family recognizes.

Let's share these phrases with each other at our annual birthday dinner! We will be handing out a sheet of paper and asking each attendee to describe 2-3 of their words or phrases in a sentence or two. We will then take turns sharing them with each other.

Hope to see you there!

MEETING MINUTES FROM THE D-OGS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2016

The minutes for the November meeting were not available at publication time.

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA READING ROOM CLOSURES

(**If you have Virginia roots and are doing research there, the next two articles from George Eastman may be of interest to you. - *Editor***)

The following message was posted to the Virginia Roots mailing list:

The reading rooms of the Library of Virginia will be closed on Saturdays and Mondays starting November 14, 2016. The move is a result of the drop in recent revenue projections, which led to Governor McAuliffe reducing the operating budgets for executive agencies by 5 percent for the current fiscal year. The Library had no option but to turn to staff cuts to absorb the 5 percent operating budget reduction. With the loss of 18 employees, the Library is unable to keep the reading rooms open six days a week. Effective November 14, 2016, the reading rooms will be open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

“The decision to close the reading rooms was made reluctantly but providing effective service on Saturdays and Mondays for patrons without adequate human resources was no longer possible. Since the Governor’s announcement of the staff reductions at the Library of Virginia I and other members of the Library Board have been contacted by members of the general public who are very upset about these staff reductions,” said R. Chambliss Light, Jr., chairman of the Library Board.

Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway said, “Closing on Saturdays and Mondays is necessary because of the loss of 12 full time and 6 part time employees. Suspending our Saturday hours and closing our reading rooms on Mondays is heartbreaking for us, but is necessary. It will make it difficult for citizens who do research in the Library’s unique holdings; however, we will continue to offer our constituents alternative avenues to information. When the Library is not open, citizens can still access numerous reference and research resources through the Library’s main website (www.lva.virginia.gov) and also via Virginia Memory (www.lva.virginiamemory.com).”

Other service areas will also be affected. It will take longer, for example, to fill orders for digital images of material in the collections. Training for state and local records officers will be offered less frequently, and response times for records management-related questions may be extended. Moreover, it will take longer to provide access to new collections, and the Library’s ability to offer programming will be diminished.

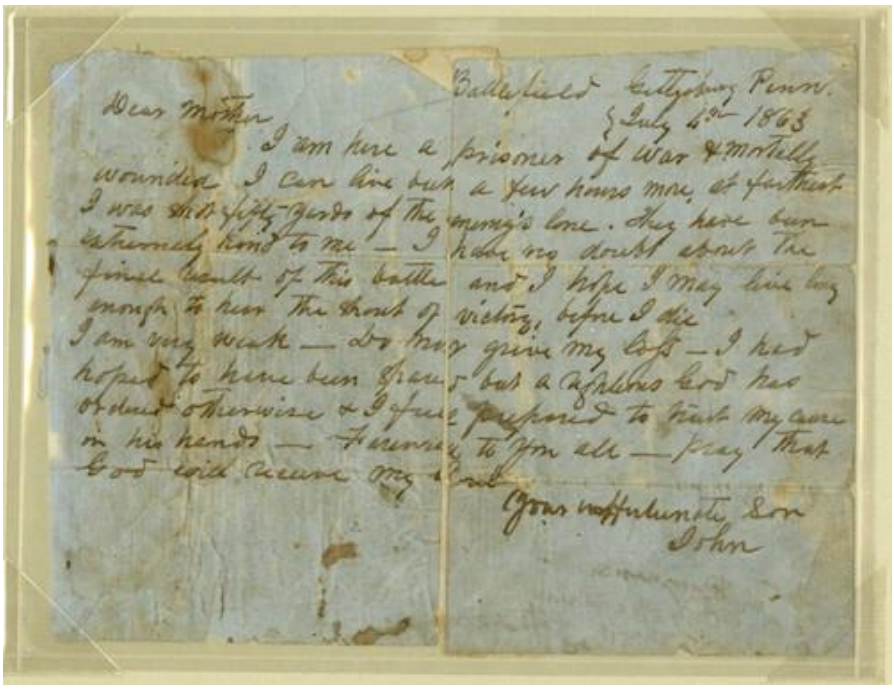
The agency will remain open from Monday through Friday. Full-time public service staff will continue to respond to mail, email, and telephone requests and will pull materials to fulfill research, photocopying, and digitization requests. This work will primarily be done on Mondays, since there is not sufficient staff coverage to complete this work when the reading rooms are open to the public.

If you would like more information about the Library, please visit our website, www.lva.virginia.gov.

CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS TUCKED AWAY IN SHOEBOXES ACROSS VIRGINIA HAVE BEEN DIGITIZED AND PLACED ONLINE

The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission funded the State Library to send two archivists around the state with digital scanners, making high-resolution copies of documents brought by residents. They roamed Virginia between 2010 and 2015. The archivists traveled the state in an “Antiques Roadshow” style campaign to unearth the past. Organizers had thought the effort might produce a few hundred new items. They were a little off. It flushed out

more than 33,000 pages of letters, diaries, documents and photographs that the library scanned and has made available for study online. The originals were all returned to the owners.



Best of all, the documents are available online and can be searched at http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/cw150.

My thanks to the several newsletter readers who sent me links to this article.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM GRANVILLE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1746, INC.

Greatly Reduced Prices on Our Books

You have been wanting your own copy of these books. These books make perfect and special gifts for Christmas giving. From now through the end of the year you can save on the prices of printed books from the LULU Store of GCGS. http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/GCGS1746

Go to the GCGS store at Lulu and choose the books you want. No need to enter any special code. The prices have already been reduced.

Hurry today before this offer expires.

8 REASONS TO GO DIGITAL WITH YOUR GENEALOGY

Genealogists are well-known paper-lovers. We tend to hang on to each photocopy, printout, and note "just in case" we need to refer to it again. But, many of us don't like managing all that paper.

We'd much rather be following ancestral clues than filing old paperwork. Digital copies can ease much of that paper burden.

Digital copies are:

- **economical** - saving a digital file costs pennies compared to the paper, ink, and physical storage equipment needed to maintain paper files
- **efficient** - with consistent file naming and folder organization, it can be faster to locate a digital file than a paper file
- **ecological** - digital files do not require paper, ink or printer

Information recorded in digital format can be:

- **preserved** - when saved in multiple places, a digital file can be used to recreate an original lost or damaged in fire, flood, theft or natural disaster
- **restored** - damaged photos can be brought back to the original condition
- **shared** - via email, Facebook and other social sites, or blogs
- **printed** - to create a paper copy whenever needed
- **used in multiple ways** - one digital copy can be used and viewed by many people in many different projects

(Reprinted from Family Tree Magazine blog)

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3 TIPS FOR USING GOOGLE FOR GENEALOGY

(The following article was recently posted on the FamilySearch blog)

June 16, 2016 By Tyler S. Stahle

It's likely that we've all turned to Google at some point in our genealogical research. After all, simply typing in our search topic, hitting "Enter," and hoping for the best is one of easiest ways to be led to heaps of helpful (and sometimes not-so-helpful) sources. But there's a better way to use Google for family history research says Lisa Louise Cooke, host of The Genealogy Gems Podcast. "I've discovered that there actually is a methodology to using Google for genealogy," said Cooke in her presentation at RootsTech 2016. "There really is a science to it."

While there are many ways you can use Google to aid your research, here are three of the most beneficial:

1. Formulate Specific Queries

The first and most important step to using Google successfully is identifying what you want to find. That may sound simple, says Cooke, but many people will simply pull up Google and search "Johnson." Instantly, the searcher will be overwhelmed with results that likely aren't relevant due to the commonality of the name "Johnson."

"We've been a little too global in what we're requesting," says Cooke. "So don't throw your genealogy brain out the window just because it's going to Google.com. Structure a question about what you want in really specific terms. Are you looking for a particular record collection? Are you looking for a particular ancestor in a family? Are you just trying to figure out how to upload your family tree?"

Cooke says it's a good idea to formulate your question to Google just as you would to a reference librarian.

“How would I describe it to a reference librarian? Ask yourself that. That will help you in doing this.”

2. Use Quotation Marks and Minus Signs to Narrow Search Results
One of the best ways to get relevant results from a Google search is to use quotation marks in your search query. Quotation marks tell Google to display only an exact keyword or phrase in all results. “If I’m doing newspaper research in the San Francisco area, I put ‘newspapers’ in quotes and also ‘San Francisco.’ I’m telling Google something very specific about—it’s got to have ‘newspapers,’ and it’s got to have ‘San Francisco,’” said Cooke.
To further refine search results, you can also use the minus sign (-) to get rid of keywords that you know have nothing to do with your family.

3. Set Up Google Alerts
After you’ve flushed out the perfect search query for your ancestors, turn to Google Alerts. Google Alerts will take the keywords or phrase you’ve developed and will run it across the internet every hour of every day until you tell it to stop.
“Setting up Google Alerts is like getting your own genealogy personal assistant, somebody who’s going to do this for you in the background,” says Cooke.
To create a customized Google Alert, go to www.google.com/alerts. In the search bar near the top of the page, insert your query or the keyword you want to search. In the box below that, type the email address you wish to have results sent to, and click “Create Alert.”
Your customized Google Alert will then send you links to web pages that match your query.
After you set up the alert, Google will email you updates on new and updated web pages. Cooke also said, “You can have up to a thousand [alerts]. You’re going to sign in, make one query after another, and in your sleep, Google will be searching and finding ancestors. And you will wake up, and it’s just like Christmas every day. I love it.”
You can learn more about using Google for genealogy by watching Cooke’s RootsTech presentation here.

GENEALOGY TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

Did They Go Back?

A couple of Ohio natives move with their two children to Illinois in the 1860s. By 1877, the wife and husband are dead. The grandmother who moved from Ohio with them is apparently dead by this time as well.

The children apparently went back to Ohio to live with paternal relatives instead of going west with maternal ones. The maternal line was the "connection" and until I considered the "in-laws" and the reality of "going back" I failed to locate the children.

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The Neighbors of Every Sibling

The "trick" to locating one ancestral sibling was to look at each sibling in every census and "say out loud" the names of the neighbors. That was when we realized that the married sister was "right under our noses" with a rendering of her last name that was difficult to transcribe and impossible to

find with creative soundex and wildcard searches.

Sometimes you just have to look at the other names one by one and think "could this sound like" the name for which I'm looking?

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Widows Who Had to Prove

Did any sisters of your ancestors survive their husband who had military service? Would those ladies have qualified for a military pension based upon the service of their husband? If so, the "proof" of their marriage and relationship to the soldier may have included testimony from some of their relatives documenting the relationship.

It is always good to check out the siblings in any records, but pension records may contain unexpected family details.

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Do You Know The Geography?

What was the nearest river to where your ancestor lived? What was the local terrain and climate like? All three of these things impact transportation and how easily your ancestor could "up and move." And, if you have no idea where the nearest river is to where your ancestor lived, what other things about the area do you not know that could have a direct and immediate impact on your research?

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Was It Always The Same House Number?

Your ancestor might have always lived in the house that is presently at 1234 North Apple Street, but 1234 North Apple Street might not always have been 1234 North Apple Street. It might have 345 North Apple Street or 1234 Broad Street. In some cities homes have been renumbered and street names have changed. Local libraries, courthouses or other organizations in the area may be able to assist you in determining if there have been changes over time.

Because you need to have the contemporary address when using certain records.

LOCAL SITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

CHAPEL HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY – the historical society has a growing collection of local history and local reference materials for the Orange County area that may be useful in your research. They have bound volumes of all the Chapel Hill Weekly newspapers from 1923-2010. They have all of Stewart Dunaway's local records reference books of Orange County. They have a complete set of William Bennett's books on Orange County deeds and miscellaneous records. They have many books on local history and local figures. They are adding many local references

and resources as they become available. They have vertical files on manylocal historical topics and some local families. Research assistance is available from staff.

The Society is located in suite 47 on the lower level of the Chapel Hill Public Library on Library Drive off Estes Drive. Their hours are 10:00am-2:00pm on Tuesday & Wednesday, Thursday 1:00-3:00pm, and 1:00pm-5:00pm on Friday. Their website can be found at chapelhillhistoricalsociety.org and they can be contacted at 919-929-1793 or via email at chhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN STATE HISTORIC SITE - December 1 - March 31: ***Crossroads: The Life of Wilhelmina Crosson -*** *Tuesday - Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm* - "Crossroads" explores the life and legacy of Palmer Memorial Institute's second president, Wilhelmina Marguerita Crosson. Ms. Crosson was a pioneer in the field of remedial reading and a life-long advocate for the inclusion of African American history and literature in the curriculum. The exhibit includes documents and images from our collection and a children's area ("Ms. Crosson's Bookshelf") featuring hands-on activities and excerpts from Ms. Crosson's favorite books. Exhibit open through March 31, 2017. Closed on state holidays. Free admission!

GRANVILLE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - December 1st Program Details: Featured Speakers: Mr. Lee Chandler and Mr. Bill Barker "What Happened to Our California 'Barker' Cousins".

Mr. Lee Chandler and Mr. Bill Barker will present the program for the December 1, 2016 meeting of the Society. These gentlemen will present a program on the "What Happened to Our California 'Barker' Cousins." They are so excited to present this to you all on how all of their research over the last almost year has led them on an incredible journey to find out more about their kin folk!

A lifelong resident of Vance County, Lee Chandler has done much research on his ancestors and related families, including Wilsons, Barkers, Knotts, and Robards to name a few. Much of what he knows he gleaned from listening to his older relatives. He currently lives in Williamsboro with his wife and daughter—his family having lived in the area for over 200 years. Lee will help discuss the genealogical research odyssey that he has shared with his “Cousin” Bill Barker.

Please join members of the Society in attending this meeting, to be held at 6:30 P.M. on December 1, 2016 in the conference room at the Richard H. Thornton Library in Oxford, N.C. All GCGS meetings are open to the public, and visitors and guests are always cordially invited to attend.

DUKE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE - December 2 and 9: *Christmas by Candlelight -* *Friday (both nights): 6:45 - 9:15 pm* - Costumed interpreters will lead you on a candlelit tour through the Historic Area festooned with period decorations as we celebrate Christmas in the 1870's. Enjoy traditional storytelling, hot cider, and cookies. Join our costumed interpreters in live music and historic dancing. Become a part of Christmas at Duke Homestead as you move through the historic home and help decorate a Christmas tree in true Victorian style. Join our carolers for songs around a fire. Due to the popularity of this event, advance ticket purchase (adults, $6 plus

tax; kids under 10, $3 plus tax) is highly recommended. Tickets are on sale now through Eventbrite.com!

DURHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - JINGLE BELL JAZZ WITH RANDA MCNAMARA AND ALISON WEINER -
Saturday, Dec. 3, 3:00 p.m. - Main Library

Please join us for a very special set of performances by the Triangle Reader's Theatre Ensemble and friends! Come enjoy a presentation by TRTE's founder, Ms. Joan Njie, as well as music from blues singer Randa McNamara, who will be accompanied on piano by Alison Weiner. Everyone welcome!

JOEL LANE MUSEUM HOUSE - "The Birthplace of North Carolina's Capital," will sponsor its annual Colonial Christmas Open House celebration on Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is 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; living historians 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 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.

For more information, please call (919) 833-3431, email: joellane@bellsouth.net, or visit www.joellane.org.

***Location*:** 160 South Saint Mary's Street, Raleigh, NC (at the corner of Hillsborough and St. Mary's Streets), which is two blocks south of Hillsborough St. and not far from downtown.

***Admission*:** Free—donations requested

HISTORIC STAGVILLE – December 3 from 10:00am-4:00pm - ***100 Years of Christmas at Stagville -*** During the day, visit the historic homes of slaves, sharecroppers, and slaveholders, and learn about the Christmas traditions of enslaved and free people in North Carolina. After dark, purchase a ticket to see some of these buildings lit by lanterns, while your guide shares stories of holidays during slavery. The open house of the historic homes will run from 10am to 4pm and is free and open to the public. Lantern tours are ticketed. Tours begin at 4:30pm, 5:00pm, 5:30pm, and 6:00pm. Tickets will go on sale to the public Tuesday, November 15th. Tickets are $5 per adult and $3 per child and include hot drinks and gingerbread. There is a limit of 25 people per tour. Tours are expected to sell out quickly. Visit Stagville in person or call the site at 919.620.0120 to purchase tickets.

SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS FAIR – State Fair grounds, Raleigh - December 3 from 10am-5pm – fees

10TH ANNUAL ELF FAIR – 30 artists, Carrboro ArtsCenter - December 3 from 11am to 5pm

2016 HILLSBOROUGH GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION - Exhibit open at the Masonic Lodge, 142 W. King Street - Saturdays, Dec 3rd, 10th, & 17th from 1-5pm. All amateur gingerbread architects welcome! Prizes awarded in both youth and adult divisions.

RALEIGH WINTERFEST FESTIVAL – City Plaza - December 3 & 4 from noon to 8pm

FESTIVAL OF THE EPISCOPAL WOMEN'S SEWING SOCIETY TREE (FEST) - December 3 - December 4 - Since 1866 the "Society" artisans have knitted, sewn, thrown pots, stained glass, painted and beaded and made all manner of home and garden goods to sell at its annual FeST. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SOCIAL MINISTRIES such as OCIM and Habitat for Humanity. Primarily the proceeds go to serve the needs of our local community. FeST takes place the first weekend of December; this year it is December 3 and 4. Saturday 9:00am to 3:00pm and Sunday 12:00-3:00. As well has hand crafted goods one can shop the undercroft where holiday gift items are "child centered", and/or one can visit The Ordinary Cafe for a luncheon of homemade soups and breads. On the way out of cafe, be sure to stop by the bake sale – fudge, holiday treats, cakes, cookies and canned goods – all homemade and offered by parish bakers/cooks. St. Matthew's is located at 210 St. Mary's Road – join us Saturday for lunch and holiday shopping and then off to the hometown parade.

BENTONVILLE BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE - **December 3: *A Civil War Christmas -*** *Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm* - Come celebrate a Civil War Christmas during this Holiday Open House event. Costumed interpreters will decorate the kitchen in festive themes using natural materials such as holly, magnolia, fruits, & popcorn strands. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cider while listening to period music. Costumed military interpreters will be available to discuss how the common soldier spent his time on furlough with friends and family. This event is free, and open to the public.

DURHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - SISTER CITIES: WINTER HOLIDAY SONG TRADITIONS - *Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m. - Main Library*

Don't miss our 2nd annual celebration of winter holiday music from around the world. Sister Cities of Durham will co-host our global holiday celebration through an exploration of winter songs and traditions from our Sister Cities in China, Japan, Tanzania, Russia and the United Kingdom.

WAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - ***Enhancing Your Genealogy with DNA -*** Tuesday Dec 6, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Olivia Raney Local History Library, 4016 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC 27610

Speakers: Cyndi Deal, Carla Stancil, and Bruce Allen, WCGS Members

Have you considered DNA testing as part of your genealogical experience? Do you wonder what all the excitment is about? We will discuss the types of tests available, the companies that offer them and some of the questions that you can answer when you add DNA testing to your genealogy tool kit. We will also cover education options, 3rd party tools for analysis and steps you can take while you await your results.

Cyndi Deal considers herself an accidental genealogist despite working at it for 14 years. After hitting a brick wall at a 2nd great grandfather, she became interested in the possibility of using DNA testing to solve the mystery, and has been studying genetic genealogy and testing family members ever since.

Carla Stancil was bitten by the genealogy bug at a very early age when she would help her father work on the Stancil family history before bedtime at the kitchen table while in her footy pajamas. Her personal experience with DNA testing led her to a whole new line of direct ancestors.

Bruce Allen got hooked on genealogy around 1956 when his uncle showed him the graves of his great grandparents, and then a great uncle and aunt told him stories about them. His interest grew when he tried to understand his mother's explanation of her "double cousins", Aunt Olive and Uncle Wiliam T. In 2015, he began researching professionally.

All WCGS meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend! This is our annual combination November/December meeting. Please bring snacks or other holiday treats to share and wear your holiday togs. Refreshments will be served during social time after the presentation.

BENNETT PLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE – December 9 from 6:00-9:00pm - 2nd Annual Civil War Christmas by Candlelight Tour Program - Take a tour by candlelight around the farm to watch as both soldiers and civilians attempted to celebrate the holidays during the Civil War. Complimentary hot apple cider and cookies will be available at the visitor center. Tours will take place every 15 minutes. Tickets - $3 adults and $2 kids 5-16

HISTORIC HILLSBOROUGH WALKING TOUR - December 10 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - $5 - Experience America's history through the unique perspective of one of North Carolina's oldest and historically significant small 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 a late eighteenth century Quaker farmhouse known as the "Alexander Dickson House", which once served as the headquarters of Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston in the closing days of the Civil War. The house now serves as Hillsborough's Visitors Center and the offices of the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough, 150 E. King St.

*****Please RSVP in advance*****

$5 per person, free for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Hillsborough Visitor's Center or over phone (919)732-7741

HOUSE IN THE HORSESHOE STATE HISTORIC SITE - **December 10:** ***Christmas Open House*** **-** *Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm* - You are invited to come and tour House in the Horseshoe decorated for the holidays. Reenactors in Colonial attire will be on site conducting trade demonstrations, and cannon and musket firings throughout the day. Light refreshments will be available as well. Celebrate the holiday season by taking a step back in time. This event is free, and open to the public.

STATE CAPITOL - **December 8 - 10:** ***Tree Lighting and Open House -*** *Thursday – Saturday* - The Governor's tree-lighting tradition at the State Capitol continues when Gov. McCrory lights the Christmas tree on Thursday, December 8th! The festivities begin at 5 with holiday music. The governor and dignitaries will officially begin the ceremony at 6:15. Even Santa is scheduled to make an appearance! The annual holiday open house will begin at 6:30; the public is invited inside to see the Capitol's holiday decorations. From Thursday, Dec. 8th to Saturday, Dec. 10th (from 9-3) the Capitol will have music in the rotunda, and on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 2-4pm, the Capitol will again host Santa and children's storytelling. Visitors are also encouraged to bring monetary donations or new children's clothes (ages 0-12) to our first State Capitol Angel Tree Clothing Drive! We will be collecting until December 10th to benefit the Salvation Army of Wake County.

ALAMANCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Dec. 12, 2016 – Annual Christmas Bazaar and Auction – ACGS 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

HUMOR

Out bicycling one day with my eight-year-old granddaughter, I got a little wistful.

“In ten years,” I said, “you'll want to be with your friends and you won't go walking, biking, and swimming with me like you do now.”

My granddaughter shrugged. “That’s OK. In ten years you'll be too old to do all those things anyway.”

PARTING THOUGHT

A lawyer's epitaph in England: "Sir John Strange Here lies an honest lawyer, And that is Strange".

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