D-OGS Newsletter – March 2021

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

NCDOGS-admin@rootsweb.com
PO Box 4703, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4703

2021 dues – $20

2021 President – David McCorkle

D-OGS MEETING FOR 3 MARCH 2021

City Directories are an often-overlooked genealogical tool. Please join us ONLINE on Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00 PM to hear Jeff Houser present "***Using City Directories as a Genealogical Aid***". Jeff will cover what city directories are, what is contained in them, and how they can be used for genealogical and historical research projects as well as the interesting tidbits that can be found in the directories! Jeff will also give specific examples, including how they can be used in conjunction with other resources.

Speaker Biography

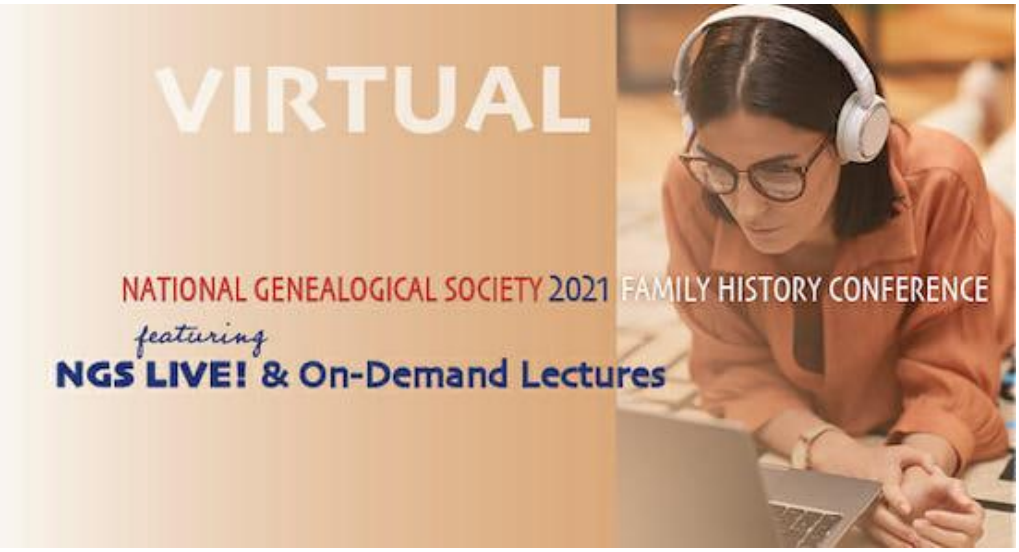
Jeff Houser is the President of the Mecklenburg Genealogical Society and has given lectures on various topics related to genealogical research.

Accessing the Presentation

We will be using the popular Zoom software which runs on PCs and Macs, as well as mobile devices like phones and tablets. It will be free for you to use. You do not need a microphone or video camera - just speakers and a screen, but it will be easier to ask questions if you have a microphone. There is an option to call in via telephone but note in most cases the presentation assumes you can see the slides or demo. Access information will be emailed to you on the day of the lecture.

NGS ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL 2021 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

The following announcement was written by the (U.S.) National Genealogical Society:



Registration for the National Genealogical Society (NGS) 2021 Family History Conference opens 1 February, 1:00 p.m. (EST). Plans for the forty-third annual conference include a full week of virtual events* for individuals, societies, and organizations 17-21 May 2021.

The main event for individuals runs from Wednesday and Thursday, 19–20 May. The NGS premier two-day virtual conference event—**NGS 2021 Live!** —features award-winning authors Dani Shapiro and Ric Murphy; an opening session by esteemed genealogist and Virginia expert Barbara Vines Little; and presentations by nationally recognized speakers including

- Elizabeth Shown Mills,
- Thomas W. Jones,
- Judy Russell,
- Eric Grundset,
- Craig Scott,
- Janice Lovelace, and more.

Two full days are planned by NGS to offer exciting new ideas to energize family historians' research, announce the winners of NGS awards, and offer a unique experience—the camaraderie of thousands of fellow genealogists from throughout the United States and the world. Program content will include bonus lectures provided by conference sponsors and sponsoring organizations.

In addition to NGS Live!, NGS will offer a choice of either a twenty or forty lecture package on-demand. Those who purchase a package may choose from more than eighty-five on-demand sessions available for viewing starting in June. Other programs will be priced separately. Throughout the week a virtual Expo Hall will be available.

Take advantage of the discounted Early Bird registration fee, plus member discounts, when you sign up by 15 March 2021.

NGS is also hosting three days dedicated to societies and organizations.

Monday, 17 May, begins the week with a Kickoff Workshop for the NGS Delegate Council, the new advisory committee for NGS member organizations. This event is invitation only.

Tuesday, 18 May, presents the debut of the SLAM! Idea Showcase, which highlights creative and innovative projects or programs by societies, libraries, archives, and museums (SLAMs). This event is for individuals and organizations looking for ideas and fresh approaches in serving research constituencies.

Friday, 21 May, caps off the week with Focus on Societies, which offers expert advice for society leaders on managing and growing their genealogical or historical society.

*Note: Due to ongoing mandates in Virginia in regards to COVID-19 and our concern for the well-being of our attendees, exhibitors, volunteers, and staff, NGS will no longer be able to host an in-person conference in Richmond, Virginia in May 2021.

(BTW, our very own D-OGS President, David McCorkle, will be presenting at this year's NGS Conference!)

7 KINDS OF MARRIAGE DOCUMENTS

From marriage banns to bonds, from prenuptial contracts to intentions, there is a wide variety of marriage documents that are generated before a couple says "I do." While all of these won't exist for any one couple, all are worth looking for.

Marriage Banns

Banns are church-generated documents that were a custom dating back to colonial America. Banns of a couple's intention to marry were posted or read on three consecutive Sundays.

Marriage Certificates

The document given to the couple after the ceremony may be found among family papers. It may not have all the personal detail that can be found on a license. Copies of certificates may be recorded in the church or with a town or county clerk.

Marriage Returns or Registers

Ministers and justices of the peace sent a record of the marriages they performed to the town hall or county courthouse. These were recorded in books called returns or registers. Unfortunately, some marriages were never recorded beyond what the minister or justice of the peace kept in their private journals or ledgers.

Intentions

Similar to church banns, except filed with the county or town clerk.

Marriage Bonds

Common in Southern colonies and states. A bond was posted before the marriage license by the groom and usually the father of the bride or some other close relative. The bond carried a monetary amount to defray costs in the event the marriage did not take place. Usually recorded in the bride's county of residence.

Licenses

These applications to marry usually contain the most genealogical information of all marriage documents, giving personal information on both the bride and the groom, but licenses may not have been required in all states or have survived. They're most common after the Civil War, when they replaced banns and bonds.

Prenuptial Contracts

Most common in the South, where the bride brought substantial real or personal property to the marriage that was to remain in her family and not become part of her husband's property. "Prenups" are more common prior to a second marriage, where the widow wants to insure that her property passes to her first husband's heirs. Look in deed books and in other court documents.

RESEARCHING CATHOLIC ANCESTORS

By Sunny Jane Morton

A History of Catholicism in Europe and the United States

Early missionaries spread Christianity along Mediterranean shores. By 380, the Roman Empire officially became Catholic. The faith swept Europe during the Middle Ages. Sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Protestant offshoots notwithstanding, Catholicism expanded with European empires to North and South America.

Cross-carrying settlers raised chapels in the future United States long before New England Protestants built their meetinghouses. Spanish missions were active in Florida and New Mexico in the 1500s and 1600s, and into the 1700s in California and Texas. In the late 17th and early 18th centuries, French Catholics descended from Canada to Louisiana Territory, populating parts of what's now Michigan, Illinois and Arkansas on the way to New Orleans.

In the Protestant-leaning British Colonies, the only Catholic diocese before 1800 was in Baltimore, Md.—a colony founded as a haven for English Catholics. The diocese of Mexico (established in 1530) then included today's American Southwest. The dioceses of Quebec (1674) and eventually New Orleans (1793) ran New France. The United States gained its first significant Catholic population with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and later with Western land acquisitions.

The mid-1800s saw the start of widespread Catholic immigration. The Irish fled potato famines for northeastern US cities and inland jobs. Italians landed in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago,

Baltimore and San Francisco. Southern and western Germans, Poles, Slovaks, Slovenes, Hungarians and other Eastern Europeans flocked to the farmlands and mines of Pennsylvania. Basque Catholics came to Boise, Idaho.

By 1924, laws slowed immigration. In the later 1900s, Hispanic Catholics arrived along with those from Vietnam, India, Iraq and Lebanon. Northeastern and southwestern states now have the highest percentages of Catholics; the Southeast and Utah have the lowest. Mid-US states such as Texas, Illinois, Louisiana, the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Minnesota are one-quarter to one-third Catholic. Today, the Catholic Church claims about 74 million members in the United States.

What Records the Catholic Church Keeps

The Roman Catholic Church encompasses several autonomous churches under the banner of Rome. The Latin rite dominates in the United States, but several Eastern churches are represented as well, including Orthodox, Byzantine, Maronite and Syriac.

Church governments are generally organized into regional dioceses (Latin) or eparchies (Eastern), which are in turn made up of congregations or parishes. Groups of dioceses form archdioceses. Records of individual members, which may be certificates and/or registers, are created at the parish level. They may stay there, or over time might migrate to another church, or diocesan or archdiocesan archives. Religious orders, though affiliated with the church, often have separate administrative structures.

Sacramental records celebrate religious milestones of Catholic life. They also can be the salvation of genealogists looking for their Catholic relatives. Godparents or sponsors named in them may be relatives or close friends. Look for photos commemorating these events among family sources:

- **Baptism**: Infant baptismal records can include the child's full name, birth date and baptismal date, parents' and sponsors' names, and an indication if the birth happened out of wedlock ("illegitimus"). Sometimes the baptized child's marriage data is added later (even if the marriage took place in another parish).
- **First Communion** and **confirmation**: These sacraments are celebrated at age 7 and 12 or 13, respectively, in the Latin Church, and in infancy in many Eastern Catholic churches. Participation indicates a family was affiliated with the parish and wanted to raise the child in the faith. Because a class would often receive the sacrament together, parish records may contain group photos.
- **Marriage**: These records may include names of the couple and their parents (including the bride's maiden name), date, witnesses and home parish, if other than the one where the marriage took place.
- **Death**: You may find multiple types of death records. A record of a Mass of Christian Burial, a service performed in the deceased's honor, will likely contain a name, age at death, death/burial date, and occasionally other details. If the person was interred in a Catholic cemetery, a burial record may also exist at the parish or diocese or at an administrative office for the cemetery.
- **Holy Orders**: If your ancestor was a priest or permanent deacon (i.e., deacons who could be married), he received this sacrament. Multiple religious orders exist, and each keeps its own records about members' lives of service. Some orders also publish biographical sketches, which may mention an Old World hometown and other details. This record may appear in diocesan sources or in records kept by the religious order.

Finding Catholic Records

To locate Catholic parish records, you'll need to determine what parish your ancestors worshiped at using sources such as family Bibles, obituaries, cemetery records, funeral cards, marriage announcements, church bulletins and other memorabilia.

If these don't offer clues, identify parishes located near your family's address using web searches, city directories, censuses or property records. Look for ethnic parishes nearby, as well. From 1817 in the United States, the annual Official Catholic Directory lists active parishes and diocesan boundaries.

Contact existing parish offices for old sacramental records. Locate Latin rite parish offices via this database or the current Official Catholic Directory. For Eastern Orthodox parishes, examine this list.

Contact the parish office to ask where records are kept for the period covering your ancestor's membership there. Records from a defunct parish may be with a parish it merged with.

One exception to the church's organizational structure is the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. Baptisms on American military bases or installations are recorded here, as well as later sacraments for that person. Records for marriages performed on bases are sent back to the home parish. You can request records (they go back to 1917) with a form on the Archdiocese's website; click on Offices, then Sacramental Records Form.

If a parish has passed along its older records, contact the diocesan or archdiocesan archives. *US Catholic Sources: A Diocesan Research Guide* by Virginia Humling (Ancestry) has descriptions of dioceses and their archives. Many of these archives also have excellent websites; search for the name of the diocese plus the word archive. Diocesan boundaries change over time; the Official Catholic Directory can help you track those boundaries and church archivists can help you determine where records are today. Likewise, you can find a list of eparchies here.

Remember that the church's primary purpose is ministry, not genealogy. Keep requests limited and specific, include all known information and a donation to the church, and be polite and patient. You may not get direct access to sacramental records, which are considered private. Staff likely will copy or transcribe records before 1930; request a photocopy of the record rather than an abstract.

Catholic Parish Records

Local parishes, especially ethnic ones, offered an active social life and often parochial education. Religious orders ran hospitals and orphanages. Their records can tell you a lot about your ancestors' lives.

- **Parish histories**: Often published for 50- or 100-year church anniversaries, these could contain history, membership or donor lists, group photos, school information, lists of priests and social events. Find them at parish offices or diocesan and Catholic university archives. The American Catholic Historical Society has more than 1,300 parish histories in its collection at the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center (PAHRC). Find a directory to nearly 4,000 parish histories at the University of Notre Dame.
- **School records**: Look for these in school (if still operating) and parish offices, diocesan archives and other regional repositories. Though student files may be hard to come by, archives may have class

photos, school histories, news clippings and other memorabilia. Search for Catholic school yearbooks at sites such as E-Yearbook.com and Old-Yearbooks.com.

- **Other institutional records**: Did your ancestor stay in a Catholic-run hospital, asylum or orphanage? Contact the facility (if it still exists), administrative offices of the sponsoring order, or the diocesan or other regional archives for records. Run a Google search with the name of the facility, town and a descriptor such as *orphanage*.
- **Newspapers**: Diocesan and archdiocesan newspapers date to the early 1800s. The *Catholic Miscellany* (Charleston, S.C.) ran from 1822 to 1861 and was revived in 1990; *The Pilot* (Boston) has published continually since 1829. Catholic papers rarely appear in major online newspaper collections. Check with dioceses to see whether they keep old newspapers, as Denver does (the *Denver Catholic Register* is searchable here). PAHRC and UND maintain large newspaper collections; check with regional archives, too. Another resource worth checking for your ancestor is the annual Records of the American Catholic Historical Society (1886 to 1920), indexed and available at many genealogical and Catholic university libraries. You can browse several digitized volumes from Villanova University's website**.** Several volumes also appear at Internet Archive and its Open Library.

Catholic Records on FamilySearch

Use the Family History Library online catalog to see what records the library has for your ancestors' parish. Run a place search for the county or town and click on Church Records.

More Resources

Websites

- Catholic Internet Directory
- CatholicLink.org: Archives, Libraries
- Local Catholic Church and Family History Genealogical Research Guide

Publications

- *The Official Catholic Directory* (P.J. Kenedy & Sons)
- *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society* (ACHA annual, 1886–1920)
- *Records of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States* by Cora C. Curry (National Genealogical Society)
- *US Catholic Sources: A Diocesan Research Guide* by Virginia Humling (Ancestry)

Organizations and Archives

- American Catholic Historical Society
- Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center
- University of Notre Dame Archives

(This article was originally published in FamilyTree Magazine)

WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Church Records Resources for Genealogy Research

A sampling of the resources available for some common and historically important church groups:

African Methodist Episcopal Church

Dennis Dickerson, Historiographer

Box 301, Williamstown, MA 01267
(413) 597-2484
www.ame-church.com

Baptist

American Baptist Historical Society

Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 768-2378
www.abhsarchives.org

Canadian Baptist Archives

McMaster Divinity College
1280 Main St. W.
Hamilton, ON L8S 4K1
Canada
(905) 525-9140 Ext. 23511
www.mcmaster.ca/divinity/archives.html

Samuel Colgate Historical Library

(American Baptist)
1106 S. Goodman St.
Rochester, NY 14620
(716) 473-1740
www.crds.edu/abhs

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archive

901 Commerce St.
Suite 400
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 244-0344
www.sbhla.org

Church of Christ, Scientist

The First Church of Christ, Scientist

Christian Science Plaza
175 Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 450-2000
www.themotherchurch.org

Church of the Brethren

Brethren Historical Library and Archives

1451 Dundee Ave.
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 742-5100
www.cob-net.org/fobg/library.htm

Congregational

Congregational Library

14 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 523-0470
www.14beacon.org

Disciples of Christ (Christian Church)

Disciples of Christ Historical Society

1101 19th Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37212

(615) 327-1444
users.aol.com/dishistso

Episcopal Church

Archives of the Episcopal Church

606 Rathervue Place
Box 2247
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 472-6816
www.episcopalarchives.org

Free Will Baptist

National Association of Free Will Baptists

Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011
(615) 731-6812
www.nafwb.org

Greek Orthodox

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

8 E. 79th St.
New York, NY 10021
(212) 570-3500
www.goarch.org

Huguenot

Huguenot Historical Society

Box 339
New Paltz, NY 12561
www.hhs-newpaltz.net

National Huguenot Society

9033 Lyndale Ave. S. #108
Bloomington, MN 55420
(952) 885-9776
www.huguenot.netnation.com/general

Jewish

American Jewish Archives

3101 Clifton Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45220
(513) 221-1875

American Jewish Historical Society Library

Hebrew College
160 Herrick Road
Newton Centre, MA 02459
(617) 891-8110
www.ajhs.org

Avotaynu

www.avotaynu.com

Center for Jewish History

15 W. 16th St.
New York, NY 10011
(212) 294-8301
www.cjh.org/archives

JewishGen

www.jewishgen.org

Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

Family History Library

35 N. West Temple St.
Salt Lake City, UT84150
(801) 240-2364
www.familysearch.org

Lutheran

Concordia Historical Institute

(Missouri Synod)
801 De Mun Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63105
(314) 505-7900
chi.lcms.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Archives

321 Bonnie Lane
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
(847) 690-9410
www.elca.org/os/archives (Records of disbanded US ELCA churches are here and in regional archives **www.elca.org/os/archives/regsyn.html**.)

Lutherans Online Genealogy Exchange

www.thrivent.com/lutheransonline/genealogy

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center

Augustana College
639 38th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 794-7204
www.augustana.edu/administration/swenson
(Also has microfilmed records of Swedish Baptist, Evangelical Covenant, Evangelical Free Church and Swedish-American Methodist congregations.)

Mennonite

Archives of the Mennonite Church

Goshen College
1700 S. Main St.
Goshen, IN 46526
www.goshen.edu/mcarchives

Menno Simons Historical Library

1200 Park Road
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 432-4175
www.emu.edu/library/histlib.html

Pennsylvania and Mennonite Research Center

www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/mennonit.htm

Methodist

Drew University United Methodist Archives Center

Drew University
Madison, NJ 07940
(973) 408-3590
www.depts.drew.edu/lib/uma.html

General Commission on Archives and History

Box 127
36 Madison Ave.
Madison, NJ 07940
(201) 408-3189
www.gcah.org

Researching Your United Methodist Ancestors

www.gcah.org/Searching.htm

Moravian

Moravian Archives (North)

41 W. Locust St.
Bethlehem, PA 18018
(610) 866-3255
www.moravianchurcharchives.org

Moravian Archives (South)

4 E. Bank St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(336) 722-1742
www.moravianarchives.org

Moravian Church Genealogy Links

www.enter.net/-smschlack

Presbyterian

Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Presbyterian Church by Robert Benedetto (Greenwood Press)

Presbyterian Historical Society (North)

425 Lombard St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 627-1852
history.pcusa.org/about/phila.html

Presbyterian Historical Society (South)

Box 849
318 Georgia Terrace
Montreat, NC 28757
(704) 669-7061
history.pcusa.org/about/montreat.html

Reformed Church in America

Reformed Church in America Archives

21 Seminary Place
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
www.rca.org/aboutus/archives

Roman Catholic

Most records are kept in individual parishes or in diocesan offices.

American Catholic Historical Society

263 S. Fourth St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(856) 424-4728
www.amchs.org

Catholic Internet Directory

www.catholic-church.org/cid

CatholicLink.org: Archives, Libraries

www.catholiclinks.org/archivescatholiclinks.htm

Holy Cross Provincial Archives

Box 568
South Bend, IN 46556
(219) 631-5371
Keeps some older North American church records.

Local Catholic Church History and Genealogy Research Guide

home.att.net/~local_catholic

Books and Publications

The Official Catholic Directory (P.J. Kenedy & Sons)
Published annually since 1817; see **www.catholicdir.com**.

US Catholic Sources: A Diocesan Research Guide by Virginia Humling (Ancestry)

Seventh-Day Adventist

Adventist Heritage Center

James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Ml 49104
(269) 471-3274
www.andrews.edu/library/ahc

Seventh-Day Adventist General Conference Archives

6840 Eastern Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20012
www.adventistarchives.org

Shakers

Shaker Heritage Society

1848 Shaker Meeting House, 875 Watervliet Shaker Road, Suite 2, Albany, NY 12211, (518) 456-7890, <**www.crisny.org/not-for-profit/shakerwy**>

Society of Friends (Quakers)

Friends Historical Library

(Hicksite records)
Swarthmore College
500 College Ave.
Swarthmore, PA 19081
(610) 328-8496
www.swarthmore.edu/library/friends

Magill Historical Library

(Orthodox records)
Haverford College
Haverford, PA 19041
(610) 896-1175
www.haverford.edu/library/sc/special

The Quaker Corner

www.rootsweb.com/~quakers

Books and Publications

Monthly Meetings in North America: An Index, 2nd edition, edited by Thomas C. Hill (self-published)

Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, six volumes, edited by William Wade Hinshaw (Edwards Bros.)

Unitarian Universalist

Harvard Divinity School

Andover-Harvard Theological Library
45 Francis Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
www.hds.harvard.edu/library

Unitarian Universalist Association

25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 742-2100
www.uua.org

United Church of Christ

Includes the Evangelical and German Reformed churches and some Congregational churches.

Eden Archives

475 E. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Grove, MO 63119
www.eden.edu/archives/edenarch.html

Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and Archives

555 W. James St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 290-8711
www.erhs.info

UCC Historical Agencies

700 Prospect Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216) 736-2106
www.ucc.org/aboutus/archives

D-OGS Newsletter – March 2021

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

NCDOGS-admin@rootsweb.com
PO Box 4703, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4703

2021 dues – $20

2021 President – David McCorkle

Church Records Websites

- Cyndi's List — Religion
- Locating Church Records
- Religious Organizations
- RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees: Church Records
- UNESCO Archives Portal

Church Records Books

Look for these reference books at your library or local Family History Center:

- *The Encyclopedia of American Religions*, 7th edition, edited by John Gordon Melton (Gale Research)
- *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*, 11th edition, by Frank S. Mead, revised by Samuel S. Hill (Abingdon Press)
- *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada* by Mark A. Noll (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.)
- *National Directory of Churches, Synagogues, and Other Houses of Worship*, four volumes, by John Gordon Melton (Gale Research)
- *New Historical Atlas of Religions in America* by Edwin S. Gaustad (Oxford University Press)
- *Searching American Church Records* by Fran Carter (American Genealogical Lending Library)
- *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches* edited by Eileen W. Lindner (Abingdon Press): Published annually since 1916.

(This article reprinted from the FamilyTree Magazine blog)

HUMOR

Lester Moore was a Wells, Fargo & Co. station agent for Naco, Arizona in the cowboy days of the 1880's. He's buried in the Boot Hill Cemetery in Tombstone, Arizona:

Here lies Lester Moore
Four slugs from a .44
No Les No More.

PARTING THOUGHT

We should follow the example of young children more often. They don't know how to hate, feel fear or discriminate. They are taught these values by us grownups.

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