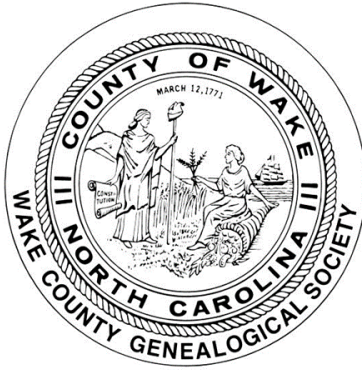




WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

News from the Wake County Genealogical Society

Vol. 1, Issue 3
Spring 2018

Spring Meeting Schedule

February 27

Confederates of Color
Earl Ijames

March 27

North Carolina in WW1
Jackson Marshall

April 24

Break Down Brick Walls w/ DNA
Ginger Smith

May 22

Research in New England
Jane Bartlett

[full details at wakecogen.org](http://wakecogen.org)

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once upon a time in the west...

Scenes from our December 2017 **Westward Ho** experience. Massive thanks to **Jennie Gunther** for making it so memorable, complete with covered wagon, trail dust, and campfire stew! Mmmmmm. That was good.



Photos by Kathy Ruse, 12-2017



Want to see more of the fun? [Visit the Westward Ho Album on the WCGS Facebook page.](#)

ch...ch...ch...changes

are coming to our schedule, that is...

New Meeting times!
6:30 Social/ Refreshment time
Presentation starts at 7:00.

More Meetings!
We are going year round. We will add summer meetings and gather a total of eleven times this year.

Read Carla's Corner for full details.

For spring meeting details and soon to be announced summer meeting topics, visit [WCGS Events](#).

Survey says...

We want to know what YOU think!

Your opinions are important to us and shape the direction of our Society. Please take our survey - [click here](#).

The survey will remain open until **March 31, 2018**.

As an incentive, we will draw for two one-year memberships - one each for a new member and a current member for completing the survey. Drawing winners will be announced in April.

Carla's Corner

We have a lot of news to share!

The WCGS will start meeting **YEAR ROUND** beginning this year! Traditionally, we've taken a break in the summer. Starting this year, we will have meetings on the 4th Tuesday year round except November when we combine it with the December meeting on the 1st Tuesday. And there's more - we'll start meeting at 6:30 to allow our attendees more time for networking and refreshments. We'll have announcements at 7 and start the program very shortly thereafter. I'm very excited about these changes - so be sure to add our summer meetings to your calendar!

I always enjoy bragging about our volunteers. They are invaluable and I am so grateful for their service.

If you haven't already met **Jennie Gunther** at one of our meetings or heard one of her presentations, you've missed a LOT! Jennie is one of the most energetic people I know. She's a real powerhouse when it comes to living history and especially on topics such as westward migrations as she showed us in December with her presentation Westward Ho!

Jennie is also a wonderful hostess at meetings, serving refreshments and making sure we are celebrating the season with her beautiful arrangements. Thank you so much, Jennie. I don't know what we would ever do without you!

Carla Stancil, [WCGS President](#)

Content Request for *Wake Treasures*

Diane and I share a common goal - to generate as much Wake-centric content as possible, much of it with your input. - CD

Message and request from Wake Treasures quarterly journal editor, Diane L. Richard:

Going forward, we would love to include more narrative pieces – case studies, family stories, short memory pieces of life back when, etc. Stories don't need to be long or involved. They can be stories about family, about communities, about activities (church, sports, service organizations, scouts, schools, businesses, and so on), buildings and landmarks that existed and no longer do so, and the list is endless. Any bit of Wake County history involves people ... History is invaluable to our genealogical research and our search into family histories provides value and context to history.

And, do you live in Wake County and like me don't have family here? There are still stories we can share. For example, [Milburnie dam and associated equipment recently came down!](#) ([click to view story](#))

What a long history not just for the dam and for the various "crossings" that have existed in that location since the late 1700s. I will be writing a story about this for the next issue since I live near this landmark and visited it often before, during, and since its dem-

olition. I will be sharing some of my own personal photographs to help tell the story.

We all live and/or drive by places where history happened – let's learn more about this history or share what we already do know! No Wake County ancestry is needed for these types of contributions. Please consider how you might help share our "collective" history, family lore and more via the journal. Thanks! - Diane



If you would like to contribute your memories or stories, contact Diane at journal@wakecogen.org. Contributions accepted from WCGS members and non-members alike!

Plan a Research Trip to Wake County

*I was asked by someone living remotely for advice in planning a research trip to Wake county. I thought my resulting notes might be helpful to others. Please note that all blue text is a working hyperlink, valid as of **2-9-2018**. Special thanks to Barb, Ann, and John for their suggestions. - CD*

When planning a Wake County research trip, your top 3 must-visit destinations are:

- [Olivia Raney Local History Library](#)

This is the repository for all things historic pertaining to Wake county. Contact the wonderful research librarians, [Saundra Cropps](#) and [Judy Allen-Dodson](#), for specific sources that would be useful for your research. They are very knowledgeable and would love to help. Check out their online [Collections page](#). And the [Local History Information Guide](#).

- [The State Archives of North Carolina](#)

Next stop is a twofer! Visit 109 E. Jones St. in downtown Raleigh to visit both **NC Archives** and the **Government and Heritage Library**. Before you travel, Visit both websites to plan your research strategies.

Check the [Researchers page](#) at the Archives for records you might find useful. You just never know what you will find - diaries, ledgers, photos, family papers.

Visit the [G&H Library page](#) for a whole host of services and research guides that can help you fine tune your goals.

- [The Wake County Justice Center](#)

at 301 McDowell St. houses land, marriage, and probate records. (Check the website before going for restrictions on what you can carry in.) Visit the [Register of Deeds](#) for marriage and land records. Visit the [Clerk of Superior Court](#) for probate records.

If time and travel allow:

[UNC Southern History Collection](#) (located in Chapel Hill if travel permits)- Browse or search the collection in advance or contact for guidance.

Search online pre- and post-trip:

These sources are online and can be accessed as needed:

[NC Land Grants](#) - can be searched online. Searchable data plus 160,000 images for 216,000 land grants issued by the State of North Carolina from 1663 to 1960.

[Wake Treasures Journal](#) (WCGS publication) - over 20 years' worth of transcribed data available to WCGS members - While this requires a WCGS membership to access online, the sheer volume of local, original sources, not accessible elsewhere, makes your membership worthwhile. Here are examples of Wake County material which has been abstracted/transcribed and published in the journal.

- Bastardy Bonds (1772-1937) - Divorce Record (A-Z)
- Levy Dockets (1805-1815) - School Census (1897)
- Tax Records - Poor House Records
- Apprentice Records - Court Minutes
- Military Records - Newspaper Articles
- Deed Book R ... and much more!

[Free to view index is here.](#)

Location based research - These may point you in some direction that I have not mentioned here.

- [Family Search Wake County Wiki](#)
- [Cyndi's List Wake County](#)

I planned a similar trip two years ago to a family spot in Louisiana. The pre-planning was daunting, but the trip was so much fun and the findings so rewarding that it is worth all the effort. I wish you the best of luck in your family hunting.

Do you have other favorite places to visit for research locally? Share with us. Send them to News-letter@wakecogen.org



Reminder!

Add the summer meetings to your calendar.
Note the earlier start time beginning in February!
6:30 Networking and Refreshments, 7:00 Meeting

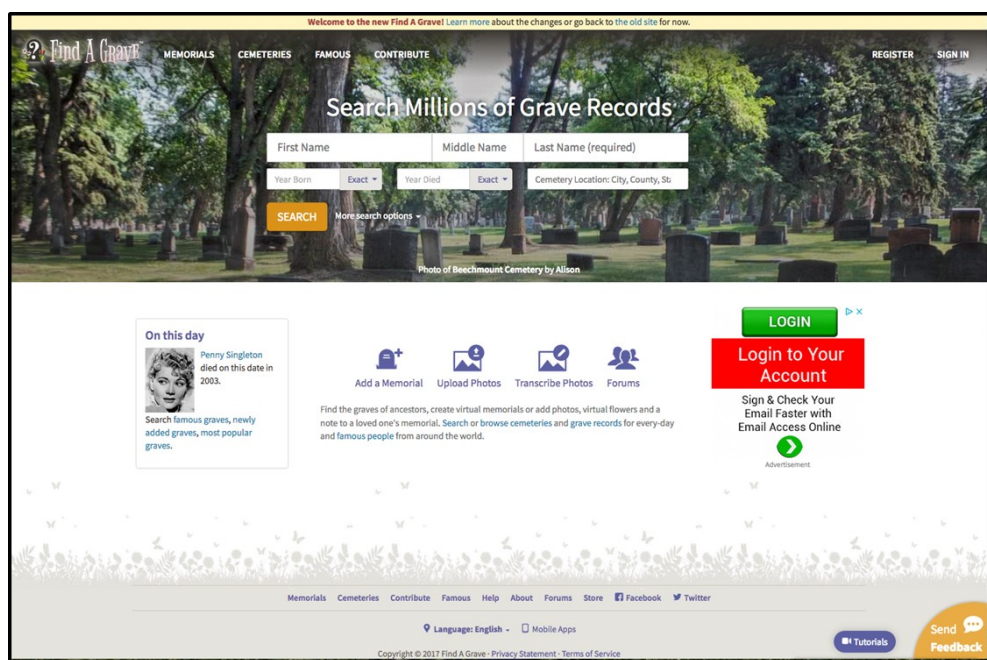
Getting Acquainted with Revised Find-A-Grave.com

Submitted by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

[Find A Grave](#) is a web site that collects individuals' cemetery and other information, whether a grave marker is present or not. The site's database includes over 165 million people's memorials, and adds about 1 ½ million per month. It contains information from almost half a million cemeteries around the world. This free site can be searched in several ways, and its information is easy to download onto a home computer. The site is menu-driven and intuitively easy to use. Registration, which is optional and free, gives the visitor access to features that are not otherwise available. Everybody should explore the tutorials.

Think of the home page as being organized into four areas:

- the main menu, near the top of the page and filling its entire width
- the search panel for individuals' graves, which dominates the background photograph
- the link to findagrave tutorials, a blue oval button near the bottom right of the page
- other less-frequently used items, occupying the rest of the screen below the background image



Hunting A Person

By far, the most common use of findagrave is hunting individuals. The simplest search is done as follows. Enter a first name in the box provided near the center of the background photo. (This is optional, but if you don't do it you will get an enormous hit list for all but the most unusual surnames.) I recommend leaving the box for middle name blank, because grave markers usually don't show middle names. Put a surname in the appropriate box. (This is required.) There is no option for "similar spelling" or "similar sound", so do separate searches for each variant spelling of the first name and surname. Click the search button. A hit list appears, showing records that match your request and headed with the count of how many records are on the list. Search the hit list for the person you want, then click that person's name. You will see that person's in-

Getting Acquainted - *Cont'd from page 4*

formation page. (If a picture of the grave stone exists, look at it in detail. Sometimes this will show that the typed information on the page contains an error.) To save the information on that page, you can command a “print” from your computer’s operating system. Alternatively, you can scroll to the top of the page, click “save to”, click “copy to clipboard”, open the program you will use to save the information, paste the clipboard’s content into that program, and save within that program. To save the source citation scroll to the bottom of the person’s page, click “source citation”, copy the text of the cite, paste that text wherever you want it to be, and save that destination’s content within the appropriate program. The person’s page might include links to findagrave pages for relatives. Click those links to see their information.

Typing only the first and last name probably will produce a hit list that is too long to read. If that happens, search for that name again but narrow the search by using the pull-down menus next to the “year born” and “year died” boxes below the name boxes you used. In addition to or instead of those restrictions, you can use the location box next to those date boxes. As you type a place into that box, an auto-fill list appears. When you see the appropriate place, select it from the list. (Typing the name and clicking the “search” button instead won’t give good results.) If you use all three restrictions and the new search doesn’t find the person you want, remove one of those restrictions and search again. If that search fails, replace that restriction and remove another one. If you fail again, repeat. If all those searches fail, use only one restriction at a time and do all three restricted searches. Repeat this process until you are successful. (But remember that not everyone is in findagrave, so all your searches might fail. In that case, try again later, remembering that findagrave adds about 1 ½ million records per month.)

Next to the “search” button you can see “more search options”. Clicking that makes the following available:

- “Famous” separates a famous person from others

who have the same name. (Asking for Marilyn Monroe creates a hit list of 29 people. Going to the top of the list, clicking “refine search”, pulling down “more search options”, clicking “famous”, and then clicking “search” shows only the movie star we all know.

- “Sponsored” shows only pages that have no advertisements because somebody paid to remove them.
- “Nickname” must be checked if you ask for somebody by nickname instead of given name.
- “Maiden name” must be checked if you ask for somebody by maiden name instead of married name.
- “Partial last name search” lets you search by putting only the first letters of a first or last name in the appropriate boxes. (Requesting “wana” shows Wana, Wanamaker, Wanabaker, and other surnames that begin with those four letters; but it doesn’t list Wanamaker.)
- “No grave photo” gives only people who have no grave photo on their information page.
- “Grave photo” gives only people who have a grave photo on their information page.
- “Flowers” gives only people who have virtual flowers attached to their page. (Asking for Clarence Bainbridge without this option clicked gets five names, but clicking this option reduces the list to two.)

Hunting A Cemetery

The next most common use of findagrave is hunting cemeteries. There are three ways to find a cemetery:

- On the main menu click “cemeteries” and type a name in the box provided. (This is an auto-fill box. Use it as above.) Click “search”. A hit list appears. Click the name of the cemetery you want. That cemetery’s page of information appears.
- On the main menu click “cemeteries” and type a place in the other box. (This also is auto-fill.) Click “search”. A hit list appears. Click the name of the cemetery you want. That cemetery’s page appears.
- On the main menu click “cemeteries” and type a

Getting Acquainted - *Cont'd from page 5*

place in the appropriate box. (This is an auto-fill box. Use it as above.) Don't click "search" or press the "return/enter" button. Instead, look at the map. If the map doesn't show any location markers, click the '+' button near its lower right corner. Zoom in or out and pan in any direction until you see the area you want. Click any marker to see the name of that cemetery, then click the name to see its information page.

Favorite Cemeteries

If you registered as a member, you can create a list of your favorite cemeteries. Go to the information page of the cemetery you want to put on your list. Near the top right corner of that page, click "add favorite" and proceed.

You can create virtual cemeteries by linking interesting individuals to a collection that you create. (For examples, you might link all of your Blankenship relatives' information pages to a group called "My-Blankenships", or you could gather all your relatives who served in the Civil War.) Go to the page of a person you want to add to a virtual cemetery. Near the top right corner of that page, click "save to", click "virtual cemetery", and then proceed. At this location you can create a new v.c. or add this person to an existing v.c.

Other Features

The main menu at the top of findagrave's home page includes an item called "famous", which allows a search for a famous person, as was described above. That menu also has an item called "contribute", which people use to add information to findagrave's database.

Between the home page's background photograph and the button for tutorials is a large white space that offers links for these items:

- read about a random person
- famous graves
- newly added graves
- most popular graves
- add a memorial
- upload photos
- transcribe photos
- forums
- search cemeteries
- browse cemeteries
- search grave records
- browse grave records
- famous people
- log in
- memorials
- cemeteries
- contribute
- famous
- help
- about
- forums
- store
- facebook
- twitter
- language
- mobile apps
- privacy statement
- terms of service
- end feedback

Most people probably can ignore most or all of those items, but feel free to explore and experiment as you like.

Editor's note: My personal favorite tip is this: When viewing on a desktop or laptop, resize the screen to half-width or narrower. Since the new Find A Grave is optimized for smaller screens (i.e. smartphones and tablets), it behaves much better on a narrower screen. – CD



Fun Facts about the FamilySearch Digitization Project

As we all adjust to the lack of microfilm, here are some mindboggling stats about the amount of work involved in bringing the collection into a digital format. — CD

From [FamilySearch](#):

- Over **1.5 million** microfilms (ca. **1.5 billion** images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide.
- FamilySearch plans to finish microfilm digitization by **2020**. Digital images may have contractual, data privacy, or other restrictions. Insofar as possible, restricted images are accessible by logging in with a FamilySearch Account or by viewing FamilySearch.org at a family history center or affiliate library.
- Microfilms not yet available may be:
 - Not a high priority scan at this time.
 - Scheduled for future scanning because it

has not been borrowed in the last five years.

- Restricted by a contractual, data privacy, or other restriction preventing access.

FamilySearch is making every effort to ease restrictions, which are dependent on decisions of record custodians and applicable laws.

More information about the digitization schedule, access, and process is available from this FAQ at the Family Search website: [Frequently Asked Questions: Digital Access Replacing Microfilms](#)

There is also a video available for viewing: “[Where are the digitized records on FamilySearch?](#)”

“FamilySearch is committed to meeting customers’ needs as much as possible during this transition to digital access,” said Diane Loosle, FamilySearch’s Director of Patron Services.

RootsWeb, Missing In Action... Ways to cope

After a data vulnerability in late 2017, Ancestry.com pulled content at RootsWeb off the web. Have you missed it?

Ancestry’s plan is to restore full functionality over time. As of the time of this writing, [WorldConnect](#) is back online in a read-only capacity. Search and view works, but no uploads or modifications at the present time. They expect those features to come back in the next few months. Ancestry expects to restore full functionality to Hosted Web Sites, Family Trees/World Connect and their Mailing Lists (with restored archives) over a matter of months. Progress can be monitored at [their update page](#).

Thank goodness all that data is not lost. In the meantime the serious (read seriously impatient) researcher must find way to cope with limited access.

Sometimes, “wait until later” just won’t do. If you are really desperate to find something that was previous-

ly found at RootsWeb, you may wish to try the “**Wayback Machine**.”

More properly known as the [Internet Archive](#), the Wayback Machine is the online repository of more than 310 billion web pages saved to date.

Judy Russell, has written a very useful post on her blog, The Legal Genealogist, with great instructions on how to access RootsWeb using the Wayback Machine. She walks us through the process used to retrieve the content that you are missing. Her post is here - [Using the Internet’s time machine](#).

You may find this to be an acceptable work around until RootsWeb is fully restored.

In another blog post on this subject, Judy makes a very good point about the importance of having back up content stored elsewhere. That post is here—[Bad news about RootsWeb](#).

Spring 2018 Events Calendar

Feb 27

WCGS Meeting: Black History Month. Speaker: Earl Ijames, of NC Museum of History. **6:30pm.** Olivia Raney Local History Library. [Details](#)

Mar 7

NCGS Webinar: "Black and White Southern Families in Antebellum Plantation Records" A LIVE Webinar. 7:00 PM EST. [Details](#)

Mar 10

NCGS Spring Workshop: Advancing Your Research with DNA. Speaker: Patti Hobbs. 9:30 am - 4:00 pm. New Hanover Public Library, Wilmington. [Fees, schedule and info.](#)

Mar 10

We Are Family - Family History Discovery Day 2018. Greensboro Family History Center. 8:30am - 1pm, Free to Public. [Details](#)

Mar 27

WCGS Meeting: North Carolina in WWI. Speaker: Jackson Marshall, NC Museum of History. **6:30pm.** Olivia Raney Local History Library. [Details](#)

Apr 6

Tartan Day - all things Scottish. NC Museum of History. 9am - 5pm. [Details](#)

Apr 15 -20

Guided North Carolina Genealogical Research offered by Tar Heel Discoveries. [Fees, schedule and info.](#)

Apr 24

WCGS Meeting: Break Down Brick Walls w/ DNA. Speaker: Ginger Smith. **6:30pm.** Olivia Raney Local History Library. [Details](#)



Check the [webpage](#), detail links, and/or [Facebook page](#) for late additions, schedule changes and updates to the WCGS calendar between issues. This Calendar is accurate as of **Feb. 9, 2018**

Last Minute Updates

Read the latest [Upchurch and Allied Families update](#) here.

If your computer skills need a boost, check out the class offerings at **Raleigh Senior TechEd**. Offerings listed for March through June. www.raleighseniorteched.org

If you have ancestors in New York, check out **Fulton History** in this [great blogpost](#). Free New York newspapers on line.

May 22

WCGS Meeting: Researching in New England. Speaker: Jane Bartlett. **6:30pm.** Olivia Raney Local History Library. [Details](#)

Ongoing Learning opportunities

Genealogy Webinars. Mondays thru May 21. Olivia Raney Library. 1-3pm. Free. [Schedule and Info](#) see events calendar tab.

OLLI Family History Group. 2nd Friday of the month, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. NC State University, McKimmon Center, conference room 232. Membership in the annual OLLI program is required for participation. Contact OLLI 919-515-5782.

NC Government & Heritage Library's Drop in Genealogy Class. 2nd Wednesday of month. 9am - 9:45am. Free. Call for details - 919-807-7450.

Genealogical Societies in the surrounding area

Durham-Orange Genealogical Society: 1st Wednesday of Month, 7pm. [Details](#)

Granville County Genealogical Society: 1st Thursday of Month, 6:30pm. [Details](#)

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society: 3rd Tuesday of Month, 6:30pm. Details - TRCGS@Brasswell-Library.org

Johnston County Genealogical and History Society: 1st Saturday of February, May, August, and November, 10:30am. Details - PO Box 2373, Smithfield, NC 27577

♥ The major DNA testing companies are offering autosomal kits at sale prices right now. Apparently, we should show our love with DNA. (Insert winks and cheesy taglines here.) ♥

Offers good through February 14 include. [23&Me](#) (\$79 and free gift wrap), [FTDNA](#) (\$59), and [My Heritage](#) (\$59). [Ancestry](#) is offering their kit for \$69. They are calling it a Winter sale and extending the special price thru February 25.

Try Transcription!

Have you wanted to help WCGS or another organization with transcribing historical documents but felt unsure about your skills or are you unfamiliar with the transcription process in general?

Our Wake Treasures Editor, Diane Richard, has provided us with an option to learn these skills at our convenience. Diane has recorded a virtual session for the NCGS which is free to all for viewing.

This one-hour training provides examples, tips, tricks, and resources in best practices for transcribing documents for publishing and for genealogical research in general. To view "[Accurate Transcription for Historical Records](#)", click on the title and scroll down to the viewing window. Then we hope you will visit our [Projects](#) page to find the right transcription project for you to help us!

Contact WCGS

Board Members

President: [Carla Stancil](#)

President-in-training: Monique Bunch

Director: Sallie Szymczyk

Director: Cynthia Gage ([Webmaster](#))

Corresponding Secretary: [Linda Hames](#)

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VP Communications: [Cynthia Deal](#) ([newsletter](#))

Please send all other emails to
info@wakecogen.org

Postal mail:

Wake County Genealogy Society

P. O. Box 17713

Raleigh, NC 27619-7713

'Til Next WGW

I hope this issue finds you well, warm and curled up somewhere doing some armchair research. It has certainly been perfect weather for that. As always, I hope you find something useful in these pages.

Please, join us and see for yourselves, the changes we have made to invigorate and streamline our monthly meetings. Also, do click through and take our [survey](#). All our content offerings depend on a two way conversation with you!

Deadline for the submissions to the Summer 2018 issue is May 2, 2018. Submissions: newsletter@wakecogen.org

Speaking of changes, the genetic genealogy world continues to change at a brain searing rate with new tools and techniques. I hope to share a few with you next time. If I can keep up...

Your humble editor -

[Cyndi Deal](#)

