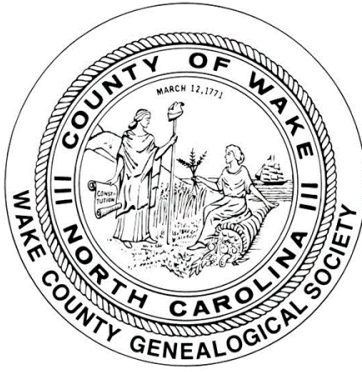




# WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

*News from the Wake County Genealogical Society*

*Vol. 4, Issue 2*

## Winter Schedule

**Jan 26**

**Wake's Origins - Johnston County**

K. Todd Johnson

**Feb 23**

**Family Stories**

Barbara McGeachy

**Mar 23**

**NC History - Red, Black, White**

Dr. Arwin Smallwood

**Apr 27**

**Native American Record Research**

Debra Osborne Spindle

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

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## Winter 2021 Update

### *A Salute of Appreciation to our Members*

We appreciate our WCGS members and want you to know that we would not be the vibrant genealogical community that we are without you! We are particularly grateful for our members in these challenging times. Thank you for hanging in there as we made the transition from face to face to virtual meetings. And to our NEW members who joined in 2020 when we've largely been able to meet only virtually....THANK YOU! Our members sustain this organization. Your dues and volunteer participation allow us to provide rich genealogical content including free speaker presentations, as well as written and online content to our members and followers. Without you, none of it would be possible. We thank you.

### *Virtual Meetings for now*

We will continue to meet virtually through the first quarter of 2021. We will evaluate the situation after February and make an announcement at that time for the Spring meeting schedule.

### *Join us*

If you are a follower of WCGS and would like to become a sustainer of the Society, please visit our [membership page](#) to join.

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

We need a volunteer for a **Journal Copyeditor/Proofreader**. This person would work closely with editor Donna Shackle on our bi-annual journals. Once Donna has the journal nearly complete, you'll step in to catch all the "oops" and "gotchas". Interested? Please reach out to our volunteer coordinator, Sandra Cropps, at [Info@Wakecogen.org](mailto:Info@Wakecogen.org)

We have an ongoing need for **Transcriptionists**. The journal is looking for volunteers to transcribe original documents for the purpose of publication in *Wake Treasures*, the Wake County Genealogical Society's journal. We provide templates and you can transcribe from the comfort of home while ensuring that these records are published for all to use. Whether you have time to transcribe a page or a series of pages, your contribution is greatly appreciated. All skill levels are welcome! Please reach out to our volunteer coordinator, Sandra Cropps, at [Info@Wakecogen.org](mailto:Info@Wakecogen.org)

## Carla's Corner

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It's hard to believe we have been meeting virtually since March. I just couldn't be more proud of how our members, speakers and volunteers have stepped up to the challenge! We will continue to meet virtually only for a bit longer into 2021, at least through March. That will be a full year of great programming and participation in the Society during difficult circumstances. I'd like to thank each and every member of the Society for supporting us so beautifully this past year. The same holds true for our volunteers - some wonderful volunteers have stepped up recently and we are extremely grateful.

We do have additional volunteer slots to fill and our fingers are crossed that you'll consider offering your time and expertise to the Society. What a beautiful way to give back to the genealogical community! There is much to be done and surely a

task for anyone who wants to be part of the fun. All our volunteer positions are remote and you'll be working with some very friendly and grateful folks. Please reach out to our volunteer coordinator, Sandra Cropps, at [Info@Wakecogen.org](mailto:Info@Wakecogen.org).

To keep up with WCGS news and events in between newsletters, follow our [Facebook feed](#) and [our blog](#). You can even subscribe to the blog to have updates delivered right to your email. Be the first to know when we have a schedule change or a new event offered.

Lastly, be good to yourselves and to others. Take care!

**Carla Stancil**, [WCGS President](#)

## GenHelp Sessions Extended thru First Quarter 2021

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Do you need a little help with a question about genealogy software or databases? Do you need ideas for where to look for more records?

Wake County Genealogical Society will continue the GenHelp virtual sessions to provide free genealogy assistance to hobbyists. Mark your calendar for the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm ET.

You will have an opportunity to ask questions and share knowledge during the 90-minute session. The

session will be moderated. Please note this program will not include research requests or queries. All assistance will be given only within the time constraints of the monthly virtual session.

It is not necessary to be a member of WCGS to participate. There is no cost, but you must register. The first session for 2021 is **January 7, 6:30pm**.

[Visit the Wakecogen Events page to register.](#)



### Wake Treasures Journal Tips - Twenty years of Journal content

[Index](#) (free and accessible to all) - View the subject index on the Wakecogen webpage. Access the index from the [WCGS Journal tab](#) on the left side bar at the home page.

**Full Journal access** is provided with your WCGS membership. Members should log in via the [Members Area tab](#) in the left side bar. Choose the **Wake Treasures** link from the member benefits dropdown to access the full twenty years of content.

Content is **searchable** within each pdf file once downloaded.

# New WCGS Resources Links for Wake Researchers

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**Cynthia Gage**, our WCGS Webmaster, has been hard at work restructuring portions of the Wakecogen website. Her efforts have been focused on expanding the curation of our link and resource page to enhance the usefulness for Wake researchers, both local and remote. What was previously one **Links and Resources** page has grown into three separate pages of Wake centric content, each with their own focus and curated list. Be sure to visit [Wakecogen.org](http://Wakecogen.org) to check them out. You will find the three resource pages linked in the left side bar visible from any page on our website.

Here is a brief overview of what Cynthia has created for our use:

## Wake Digital Resources

"This page is intended to provide direct links to free searchable sites pertaining to Wake County or to North Carolina sites which contain Wake County records..." The Wake Digital Resources page can be filtered to search various categories - Church records, Death records, Directories, Land records, Military records, or Miscellaneous.

## Wake History Resources

"The history of Wake County and its cities explains the progress of the area through time, gives us a glimpse of our ancestors' struggles and successes, and if we are lucky, will include their names. Here are some resources to give context to their lives, some of which contain surnames." The Wake History Resources can be filtered to search city or county categories.

## More Wake County Links and Resources

This page provides a list of links of a more broad focus that are relevant to research in Wake County and North Carolina. Categories on this resource page include county and state resources, research facilities, social media, local affiliation groups, and blogs with a local genealogical focus. These resources are less focused on Wake County but still very relevant and useful.

Please visit our website, [Wakecogen.org](http://Wakecogen.org) and give these new pages a try. I hope you find some juicy leads for your research. If you know of a resource that should be added to one of these lists, let Cynthia know via email, [webmaster@wakecogen.org](mailto:webmaster@wakecogen.org). - CD

# Cousins Where You Least Expect Them - By Ann Regen Myhre

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When I was growing up, I knew that I had to behave myself because there were always relatives around. If I misbehaved, somebody would tell my parents, and I would get into trouble. Fifty-six years ago John and I married and moved to the Raleigh area where neither of us had relatives, so I was safe! My closest relatives were over a hundred miles away, and John always said he didn't have any relatives because his parents were only children. But was that true?

Our parents are long dead, but, as of 2020, I have found multiple cousins in this part of North Carolina. Four of them are from my paternal grandmother, who died in 1912, one

from my paternal grandfather, and one from my maternal grandfather; two are John's cousins. What are the odds? I guess it has to do with how much genealogy and how many people you know—and how many genealogy societies and lineage societies there are in the area.

Through Wake County Genealogical Society (WCGS) several years ago, we learned that the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society (D-OGS) had invited a speaker to discuss Guilford County Quakers. - Cont'd

### Local Relatives?

*My closest relatives were over a hundred miles away, and John always said he didn't have any relatives because his parents were only children. But was that true?*

## Cousins - Cont'd

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I had recently discovered my Quaker ancestors (paternal grandmother), so we attended the meeting. The first person we met, **JP**, and I began discussing Quakers in our families and discovered we were cousins through the Bills family; Bills was my grandmother's maiden name. The name goes back to William Bills, my 8th-great-grandfather, who came from England and was in Massachusetts before 1639. **JP** descends from a different daughter of William's son, Thomas.

We joined the group and continued to attend meetings. Some years later, a new man, **WP**, showed up. As we usually do, we asked where the man was from, where he was researching. "Norway." "Where in Norway?" "A small town." "Which small town?" "Trysil." John's reply: "My great-great-grandfather was Mayor of Trysil." **WP** and I compared Trysil ancestors for a couple of months; finally, we determined that he and John are fifth cousins.

While discussing Norwegians, we need to discuss local groups of cultural societies. For example, when John's mother was alive, she was a member of Friends of Scandinavia, an unofficial group of Norwegians, Swedes and Finns. About twenty years ago, the international organization Sons of Norway checked census records and discovered that there were several thousand Norwegians living in the Triangle area. We became charter members of the local lodge. People attend the meetings for various reasons, but some come looking for help with their genealogy. One couple came because the husband was looking for information about his grandmother who had immigrated from Norway. I was volunteered to assist him. Her name and birthdate were enough to get me started. She had come from Østre Toten, home of John's paternal great-grandmother. As I researched, the names started to sound familiar. I contacted someone on a Norwegian Facebook site, and his friend had the farm books I needed to continue the research. **WL's** grandmother was the older sister of John's great-grandmother.

My next cousin find was really strange! I was talking to **BM**, a man we had known slightly for some years. For

reasons I still don't really understand, I asked him if I could look into his family tree. He said his younger brother had done it, and he seemed very disinterested. I persisted, and he gave me his parents' information. I started looking at what he had given me, and it began to look familiar a few generations back; I had seen those names before! We share three sets of famous early Massachusetts ancestors: George Bunker, as in Bunker Hill; Tristram Coffin, who was one of the original purchasers of the Island of Nantucket from the local tribe; and the other primary purchaser, Thomas Macy, also the ancestor of the actor, William Macy. In addition, **BM** can claim four of the original *Mayflower* passengers. One of my Plymouth ancestors tried to come on the *Speedwell*, the sister ship of the *Mayflower*, but he returned to Leiden after the *Speedwell* sank within sight of Plymouth, England. His wife and children came to the Plymouth Colony later.

Another man, **CC**, who lives in Garner and whom we have known since we came here in 1967, shared his story of his Plymouth Colony ancestors some years ago. He actually published a book about them. As I later discovered, his ancestor was listed as a guardian for the son of my ancestor who had tried to come on the *Speedwell*; back in Leiden, before they came to Plymouth, our relatives knew each other.

The first lineage society I joined was the DAR, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. A friend had invited me. I was seated across the table from **DH**, a woman from Greene County, TN. We discussed our families, and, yes, we are related on Mother's side. She has since moved back to Greene County. By the way, as of 2020, over one million women have joined DAR since it was founded in 1890.

Some years ago, I was Registrar for the local chapter of the National Society, United States Daughters of the War of 1812. **CH** contacted me about joining our chapter even though she and her husband were then living in Kentucky. As we talked, she mentioned connections to Tyrrell County on the south side of Albemarle Sound. I said I didn't know why anyone

## Cousins - Cont'd

would want to live in that godforsaken place! We had recently visited the area because I wanted to see what it was like; Jonathan Bateman, my eighth great-grandfather died in Perquimans County and his son Jonathan, from whom I descend, died in Tyrell County. After a brief silence, she said, "My parents grew up there." It took a bit of work, but we finally figured out our relationship; we both descend from those Jonathans. We visited them a few years later. Now John and I have a neighbor diagonally across the street, **AS**, who is probably related to both the Kentucky cousin and me. A 3rd cousin, once removed, is also a member of this chapter.

In late 2011, I joined a local chapter of Colonial Dames, XVII Century, based on my descendancy from the above mentioned Jonathan Bateman. The Registrar, **TO**, and I were talking about our ancestors and discovered that we are related through the Bills line. She later filed papers for William Twining, whose daughter, Joanna, married William Bills' son, Thomas. Lineage societies are happy to have additional ancestors for payment of additional fees, but I have chosen to file papers for only one ancestor per society.

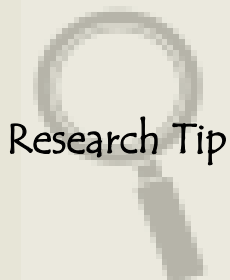
Another random encounter led to another cousin. I was eating dinner alone in a local restaurant in Raleigh and was seated next to another table with two couples. I heard one of the men start talking about a man of the 18th century named Cornelius Dysart. I knew who Cornelius was and had, in fact, spent some time trying to figure out if or where he fit in my Dysart line. Before I left the restaurant, I told the man, **WA**, that

Cornelius didn't fit into the NC Dysart tree. The man discussing him is a cousin.

Finally, a very special couple in my life came out to our house to go to dinner. They walked in and **CD** said, "Are you descended from Thomas Antrim and his wife, Frances Butcher?" I said, "Yes, on my mother's side. Are you also?" Her affirmative reply was not surprising.

Several people have asked me why I continue to chase "dead people." Finding all these folks is part of the reason. It's almost like working on a never-ending jigsaw puzzle—I just keep finding bits and pieces—and our lives are richer because of them.

I started working on genealogy about sixty-five years ago. It was a lot more difficult then, but both my grandmothers were interested in it. Mother's mother, Grandmother, knew a great deal about both her family and my grandfather's family. He had been dead three decades when I got involved. Nannie, Daddy's step-mother, was actually my grandfather's second cousin once removed. She was, at one point, the Regent of the local chapter of the DAR. When I became interested and wanted to pursue my Regen line about 1960, she paid a local genealogist to assist me. The woman found two or three census records for my Regen great-great-grandfather, but that was it. He still doesn't want to be found! His own children didn't know where he came from per the 1880 census, so he remains my brick wall. Fortunately, the rest of the ancestors have been much more cooperative!



### ***Need historical perspective on your ancestors' travels and experiences?***

Check out the **The Chronicles of America** - a 50 volume book series on American history that was published between 1918 and 1920. The series is truly expansive in its coverage of the American story. I suspect that there are many topics covered that get skipped or skimmed over nowadays. The volume that caught my eye was *The Paths of Inland Commerce: A Chronicle of Trail, Road, and Waterway* by Archer Butler Hulbert. This is an excellent choice to answer the perennial question, "Where did they go, how did they get there, or why did they go that way?"

The entire set of volumes is available online for your curiosity and reading pleasure at Archive.org. The full list is linked at Wikipedia for easy viewing. [Visit this link for access to all the Chronicles of America volumes.](#)

# Researching a Family Tradition - by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

This article describes how we researched one of our family's traditions about the Revolutionary War. We found absolute proof that the story is completely false.

When Benedict Arnold betrayed the Revolution by giving military information to the British, the army officer who received the information from him was Major André. The Major was caught, court-martialed, and hanged as a spy. A family tradition says one of our relatives ordered the hanging.

"English" was my mother's maiden name. Shortly after beginning to research our family tree, one of Mom's distant cousins sent me this in a letter:

"Another interesting thing is when Benedict Arnold gave the plans to Major Andrea the Man who was Presiding Officer at the trials was our relation He Was Brevet Gen. Alexander English who ordered Major Andrea Hanged - He is Buried in West Point cemetery I visited his grave Many times when I was stationed at the "Point." in 1924 to 1928."

Let's see how many of those claims we can prove or disprove.

1. Googling "**major andre court martial**" without quotes produced a hit list of 289,000 items. Near the top of the list is this item:

[Proceedings of a board of general officers respecting Major John ...](https://archive.org/details/proceedingsofboa00andr)

<https://archive.org/details/proceedingsofboa00andr>

Proceedings of a board of general officers respecting Major John André ... André, John, 1751-1780, Trials (Espionage), Courts-martial and courts of inquiry.

The title sounds targeted to the search and Archive.org appears to be a collection of documents rather than descriptions. Selecting that item shows it to be a book, described as follows:

Originally published: Proceedings of a board of general officers held by order of His Excellency

Gen. Washington, commander in chief of the Army of the United States of America respecting Major John André, adjutant general of the British Army. Philadelphia : Francis Baily, 1780

The André incident took place in 1780, so this item was prepared very near the time of the incidents it describes. The web page offers full-screen images of the booklet as well as downloads of the document in several formats. The prefatory material includes the cover letter used to transmit these Proceedings to the Congress. That letter says the Major was hanged on 2 October 1780. After the prefatory material, the first page of the booklet names the members of the Court Martial Board:

P R E S E N T,  
Major General Greene, President,  
Major General Lord Stirling,  
Major General St. Clair,  
Major General The Marquis de la Fayette,  
Major General Howe,  
Major General The Baron de Steuben,  
Brigadier General Parsons,  
Brigadier General Clinton,  
Brigadier General Knox,  
Brigadier General Glover,  
Brigadier General Patterson,  
Brigadier General Hand,  
Brigadier General Huntington,  
Brigadier General Starke,  
John Lawrence, Judge-Advocate General.

So we see that the presiding officer was not named English or anything like that. There was no such person on the Board, and so could not have ordered the hanging.

2. The Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot Index shows no English or any name like that with a rank above Lieutenant. There WAS no Brevet General Alexander English.

3. The Proceedings ends with a report to General Washington that Major André, "ought to suffer death." That recommendation was followed by the signatures of every member of the Board. Thus, the Board as a body recommended the execution to George Washington. That he accepted the

## Researching a Family Tradition - Cont'd

recommendation and ordered it to be carried out is proven by the fact that André was hanged. George Washington ordered the hanging in spite of the Major's request that he be shot. (That request letter is transcribed in the appendix material following the Proceedings.)

4. Our relative said he visited that grave at the "Point", meaning West Point which is in New York. Searching **findagrave.com** for Alexander English, buried in New York, produces a hit list of three names. Only one is buried at the United States Military Academy Post Cemetery, which is West Point.

He died in 1840, aged 23. So he was born in 1817, which was 37 years after André was hanged. He did not participate in the André incident. The tombstone does not say he was a general, and that is highly unlikely for a man only 23 years old.

5. So we discovered that: (1) The presiding officer of the court martial board was named Greene, not English. (2) There was no Revolutionary officer named English or anything like that above the rank of Lieutenant. (3) The Board recommended death

and Washington ordered the hanging. (4) The man buried at West Point did not participate in any events related to Major André. (5) Every claim in this family tradition has been proven false.



## Meet our Board Members



### **Barbara McGeachy, WCGS Recording Secretary**

I began researching my family history about 1995 and have attended four National Genealogical Society conferences and a week-long institute (IGHR). I started writing my family stories in 2011. Since

retiring from IBM as a software engineer in 2012, I devote most of my time to genealogy. My first book won the 2014 N.C. Genealogical Society award for excellence in publishing a book of family history. While theoretically working on book #2, I lead genealogy and writing groups that meet monthly, serve as the Recording Secretary of the Wake County Genealogical Society, make genealogy presentations, and teach genealogy at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at NCSU.

**What is your genealogy super power?** I like to keep up with what's going on in the genealogy world, and I watch webinars and take classes in subjects that are not always pertinent to my family. As a result, I know a little bit about a lot of things. I enjoy helping people find resources.

**What is the coolest/best/most exciting find you have made in your own research?** In 1888, my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother Catherine Wagner was accused of pension fraud in an anonymous note to the pension office. The author turned out to be her grandson. She was acquitted. I found this story in a Union pension file for one of her sons. She was illiterate and owned no land, yet she left a will. I wrote a blog post about her will <http://doublefirstcousins.blogspot.com/2015/12/will-of-catherine-wagner-stout-1806-1901.html>.

- Cont'd

## Board Members - Cont'd



**Carla Stancil,  
WCGS President**

Carla has been researching her central North Carolina roots since childhood when she'd help her father plot cemeteries around Stancil's

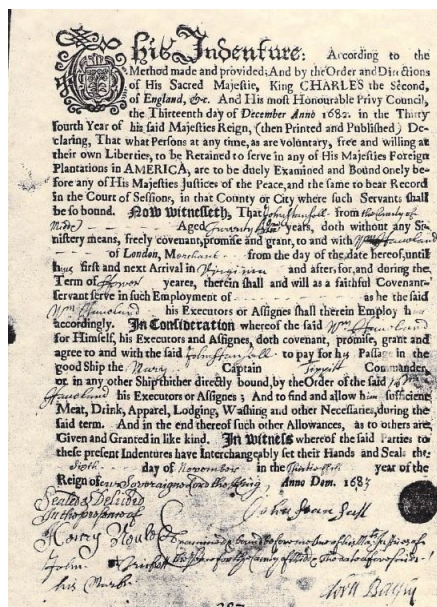
Camp in Johnston County. She recalls sitting at the kitchen table in her footy pajamas with a nubby old #2 pencil filling in faded mimeographed family group sheets while her father dictated names and dates. She inherited her father's research and spends many happy hours furthering his work and learning more about her ancestors in Wake, Granville, Franklin, Johnston, Edgecomb, and Lenoir counties. She has been active in the Wake County Genealogical Society for a number of years and has served as its President since June 2017.

Although her own research efforts and work with WCGS has been hugely gratifying, she's also very appreciative of the wonderful friends she's made along the way. Genealogy friends are the best!

**What is your genealogy super power?** My genealogy superpower is my determination! Like a dog with a bone, I do not give up when faced with a brick wall or interesting tidbit to chase. I've been known to stay up ALL night chasing an answer.

**What is the coolest/best/most exciting find you have made in your own research?** The most interesting news? DNA taught me never to assume anything! It turned a great deal of my research on its head when I discovered a NPE. But the most exciting discovery was my immigrant ancestor's (John Stansell) indenture paper dated 13 December 1683. It still gives me goosebumps.

**Who would you most like to spend time with and interview if you could zip back in a time machine for a day?** I'd love to spend a day with my 3rd great grandmother, Cornelia Dillard Davis. I'm told she was very beautiful and wicked smart....I'm positive she could clear up a family mystery or two!



**John Stansell Indenture, 1693**

*(view online for detail)*

### **Linda Hames, WCGS Corresponding Secretary**

As most of us, I began my search of family history before it all went digital – no internet, no software, no databases. Most of my research was from interviews, cemeteries, and trips to the Burton Historical Library in Detroit.

James Leonard (eleven generations before me) came to the Plymouth Colony in 1646. Generations of his family had been ironworkers in Pontypool, Wales, and he came here to continue that work. He helped build forges in Taunton, Braintree, and Lynn, all located in what is Boston today. It was a lively spot with the blending of three cultures – the Pilgrims and the burly, immigrant ironworkers and the Wampanoag Indians. The Leonard Ironworks thrived, and members of the family remained there for over 200 years.

Seven generations after James, came an ancestor that I would have most wanted to meet and know. He is Amos Pease Leonard. Amos was born into the

## Board Members - Cont'd

ironworkers' family in 1830 in what is now Connecticut. His father died at age 34 leaving Lucy with five children. But this is not a hardship story. Lucy owned a large house and farm and the children had more than they needed, including good schools.

Amos was ready for adventure. At age 17, he had left Connecticut and was teaching in Morgan County, Illinois. At age 24, he was farming many acres in Woodford County, Illinois, was married and had eleven children. The West was opening, and at 54 he was awarded a land grant for 160 acres near Kearney, Nebraska. He would have had to travel by horse and wagon and crossed the Missouri at the new bridge in Omaha. Four of the children went with Amos and Frances and remained their entire lives. At Kearney, they built sod houses and had to battle blizzards, drought, and Indians. Supplies were ordered from Montgomery Ward and delivered by the Union



**Amos Pease Leonard**

Linda's adventurous ancestor

Pacific Railroad. What an adventurous life for Amos Pease Leonard, to have left many generations of the family ironworks in Connecticut for Illinois and finally the inhospitable Prairie.

## Take Your Research Off the Beaten Path

*We all hit **Ancestry** and **FamilySearch** and the rest of the large well known record sources regularly but sometimes the fact or clue that you need is hiding in the weeds. Barbara McGeachy has passed on a couple of great links and I stumbled across a few more in the process of researching and writing this issue. We hope you enjoy these out of the ordinary resources and finding aids. – CD*

**From Barbara:**

### **National Archives and Records Administration - Record Group Explorer**

New records are added to the NARA holdings every day by citizen archivists. The Record Group Explorer shows what is available online via link and what percentage is left to be archived.

<https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery>

### **Classes offered by the FamilySearch Learning Center**

Build your skills in your down time or become familiar with an area of research unknown to you. The FamilySearch Learning Center posts a new roster of classes each month so check this link often.

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Classes\\_in\\_the\\_Learning\\_Center](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Classes_in_the_Learning_Center)

Since talking to Barbara, I have also made a few serendipitous research discoveries of my own! Here they are.

### **History Hub**

This great puzzle buster is also offered by NARA. History Hub is a research community for everyone. Get help on research techniques, historical context, record sets, places, time periods, anything else you can think of. This site for questions and answers is set up like an online forum. It is the ultimate history nerd hangout. Ask your specific question or browse the list of things already asked and benefit from the knowledge of the NARA hive mind!

<https://historyhub.history.gov/>

### **American Air Museum in Britain**

This is a website that I found quite by accident when someone shared in a Facebook genealogy group. The American Air Museum in Britain records the stories of American men and women who served in the UK during World War II. If you have family members who fit that description, be sure to take a look. I was

# Take Your Research Off the Beaten Path

thrilled to find a photo of my uncle, David Courtney, and details of his missions in the UK.



Uncle David is on the left. The men were involved in an intelligence briefing after flying a mission. There are many mission specific details for each person on the site. [Profile for 1st Lt. David H. Courtney.](#)

[Visit the American Air](#)

[Museum in Britain homepage.](#)

## Backdoor link to all North Carolina Records at FamilySearch

How often do you visit the records collection at FamilySearch? Probably not often enough... me neither. I find them kind of hard to navigate.

Someone had the brilliant idea to create a special short link, a backdoor pass if you will, that makes jumping in and hunting records a much less daunting task. Many of the records have been digitized (but not all are indexed) and I was pleased to see how many were easily accessed on line.

Without further ado, here is the link. <https://tinyurl.com/allnorthcarolina>

When you find a category and file that you want to research, Click through to the description. Scroll down and check for the camera search icon. If it is present you can view online. Some books by authors also are viewable online. If you are interested in other states and counties just click backward up the list until you can access the area you are interested in. View more detailed instructions in this [recent WCGS Blog post.](#)

Have fun. Bring snacks. I bet you will be browsing for a while.

## Davis Family: A Virtual Reunion - by Carla Stancil

*This article is reprinted from the personal blog of Carla Stancil. For more of her great blog posts in her easy conversational style visit [Diggin' for Clues](#). - CD*

In these unusual times, we have to get creative. The extensive Davis clan of central North Carolina traditionally meet the first Saturday each October. We meet at the church which has cared for our family spiritually for generations, Good Hope Baptist Church.

Good Hope has recently changed their name to [Covenant Hope Church](#). There's a story there but don't get me started on that one. Regardless, it will always be Good Hope to me and to the many generations of ancestors buried in its [cemetery](#).

Sadly, given the state of the world we could not risk the health of those who attend so the next best option was to host it virtually. Same day, same time. Minus the BBQ. And hugs. And long table of pot luck yummys. And strolls through the family cemetery complete with stories and longing.

Even missing that homemade BBQ, there we were....a handful of faithful Davis family members trying desperately to connect with one another from behind

our devices and maintain our tradition. And you know what? It worked!

For those of us who managed to sign on to Zoom...we connected. We visited. We caught up with one another. We shared news, we appreciated one another's talents as Ellen sang, Marie played the piano and Matt played some mean Johnny Cash on his guitar. It was two whole hours of connecting, in many ways more so than when we are physically together. That's a bit of a headscratcher...but it was good.

I left the virtual reunion feeling like I had truly visited with my family. I don't always have that feeling at our reunions when we are all crowded into Good Hope's fellowship hall straining for conversations to be heard over the din.

An important take away for me is to never feel the current state of the world takes away all the goodness in life. A door was (temporarily) closed, but God opened a window and the breeze blew in gifts I never imagined, such as experiencing the talents in my family I would not have enjoyed otherwise.

It's all in the perception. Right?

# Misspell Surnames For More Finding Opportunities

George Morgan is one of the leaders of [The Genealogy Squad](#) on Facebook. He administers the group along with Drew Smith, his partner in The Genealogy Guys, Cyndi Ingle of Cyndi's List and Cari Taplin, research manager at Ancestry ProGenealogists.

George was one of my first methodology teachers when I became interested in genealogy. That was back in the early days of online classes where everything was typed in, no video, no audio. I learned a lot and it got me off to a great start. - CD

George Morgan posed this idea as a beginner tip on the Genealogy Squad group a couple of months ago. I think it holds up as a useful strategy for seasoned researcher as well.

## Learn to misspell people's names

Misspellings happen. We see them often as we research - census records, obituaries, tombstones, death certificates. Sometimes, when overtired and undercaffeinated, we misspell our own names.

George stressed that it is important to make an effort to keep a running list of the "Alternate Spellings" you find. If you get stalled in your search or the trail runs cold, you can try the many variations.

Here are some of the other very clever suggestions that came out of the online conversation:

Have early elementary school age kids spell it for you. Kids have fewer preconceived notions about how something should be spelled.

Think of how it might be shortened, spelled phonetically or spelled as misheard by an clerk or census taker. Livaudais might become Livoday or Livday. Lejeune's listed as Leshe. Hallorans listed as Holland.

How might it have been spelled by someone unfamiliar with a newcomer's foreign accent? Weitzel might become Whitesell or Whitesale. Martusiewicz turns into Mathewsage. Bestebreurtje morphs to Westenburg.

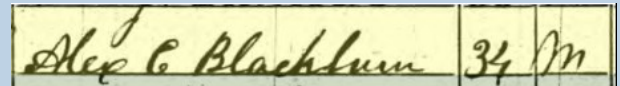
How would the name sound with a drawl or other regional dialect pattern? Meadows might become Medders.

I suspect accent or dialect to be the problem with my

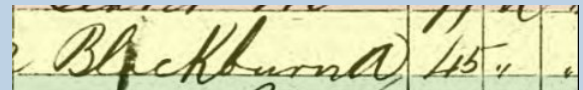
Blackburn search. I had a challenging time tracing Mr. Alexander C Blackburn or Blackmon, Blackman, Blackbun, Blagburn, Blackborn, Blackham as he is listed in census records from 1850 to 1900 and various other records. His children all appear under these different variations at different times as well. It was tiresome teasing the records out of the censuses and my only saving grace was the unique first names given to his second wife and some of the children. Which brings up the next tip - Look at how others members of the same household spell the name for clues. Are there variations within the family group?



1850 - Census taker recorded as **Blackmon**



1860 - Census taker recorded as **Blackburn**



1870 - Census taker recorded as **Blackburn**



1880 - Census taker recorded as **Blagburn**



1900 - Indexer recorded as **Blackham**



1935 - Reported as **Blackman** on Death Cert. for son

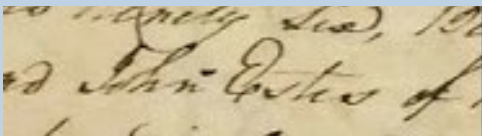
Use wildcard searches. Consider these surnames, all of the same origins - Conkwright, Konkright, Cronkhite, Cronkite, Cronkright, etc. Derived from the original Dutch versions, Krankheyt, Crancheyt. Searching c\*nk\*t\*..... or \*nkr\*t\* will surface about 150 different variations of this surname.

Check for variations within documents. It is not

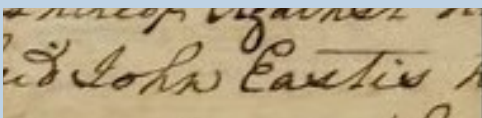
# Misspell For More Finding Opportunities

uncommon to find different spellings within old documents to be transcribed. This is a great place to start your "Alt Spelling" file.

I was tasked with transcribing this document for the WCGS Journal. In this Indenture, the surname of the seller, John Estes, was spelled alternately as Eastis. Often, it is spelled both ways in one sentence! The buyer's signature is shortened. George Brogdon signed as George Brogd. [Link to the original document.](#)



John **Estes** and



John **Eastis** in the same document

Imagine all the ways that a name could be misinterpreted by a transcriber as well. For example, Settle indexed as Little; Landers as Sanders; Moon as Moore; David as Daniel, Fletcher as Tletcher, etc.

Here is an interesting way to discover variations. Put two or three known variations into a google search. And see what else the search produces. Results for Peck/Peche yielded these others - Pecche/Perche/Peccham/Perchy/Pechi/dePeche/dePecche/dePerche

Did an Mc or Mac prefix as in MacElroy or McElwee get written as Mackle\_\_\_\_ or Mickle\_\_\_\_?

Look to indexing and transcribing errors for additions to your "alt spelling" list. A transcriber for the 1910 US Census listed this head of household as **Wark Tarlton**. I know that this is my great grandfather, Wm. G. Tarlton listed with his wife, Fannie. I recognize that as the abbreviation, Wm. G, but if I was a transcriber or indexer seeing this for the first time and unfamiliar with the parties involved, I would be just as lost.

Other frustrations to watch for when tracking names include reversed first and middle names or initials,

alternating first names and diminutives or nicknames.

When searching Newspapers, consider not only misspellings due to phonics and bad handwriting, but also typeset errors and OCR issues that can bungle and distort the name.

What to do when all else fails? **Soundex!** **Soundex! Soundex!** In addition to sounding the whole name, Soundex the initial letter as in K for C.

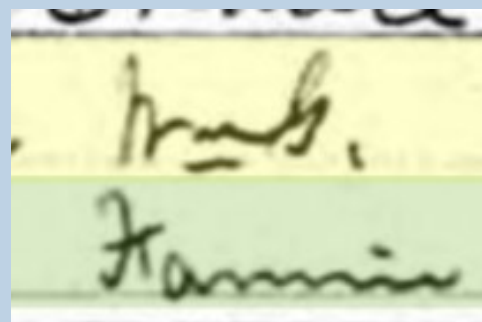
For those who want to know more about Soundex, here is the [Wikipedia definition](#).

"**Soundex** is a phonetic algorithm for indexing names by sound, as pronounced in English. The goal is for homophones to be encoded to the same representation so that they can be matched despite minor differences in spelling. The algorithm mainly encodes consonants; a vowel will not be encoded unless it is the first letter."

FamilySearch Wiki has a very thorough discussion of Soundex, its uses and limitations. [Link to Soundex Wiki page.](#)

Here are some links to Soundex Converters  
[Soundex Converter Form](#)  
YASC - [Yet Another Soundex Converter](#)

Check out the group, [The Genealogy Squad](#), on Facebook for more great tips for your searches. Good Luck with creating your own "misspelling" list.



[Wm G Tarlton]

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Age in 1910: | 27             |
| Birth Year:  | abt 1883       |
| Birthplace:  | North Carolina |

# Winter 2021 Events Calendar

**WCGS GenHelp:** Virtual monthly help sessions via Zoom. First Thursday of each month. Registration is required. [See the WCGS Events page for details.](#)

**Jan 26**

**WCGS Meeting:** Wake and Its Beginnings in Colonial Johnston County. Speaker: K. Todd Johnson. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

**Feb 23**

**WCGS Meeting:** Where to Find Family Stories. Speaker: Barbara McGeachy. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

**Feb 25-27**

**RootsTech Connect: Virtual Online Conference.** Free with registration. [Details and Registration](#)

**Mar 19-20**

**NCGS 2021 Virtual Conference.** Various Speakers. [Details and Registration](#)

**Mar 23**

**WCGS Meeting:** Native Americans, Africans and Europeans in North Carolina History: A Brief History of the Evolution. Speaker: Dr Arwin Smallwood. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

**Apr 27**

**WCGS Meeting:** Confusing American Indian Records: 1896 Applications, Dawes Final Roll, Guion Miller Roll. Speaker: Debra Osborne Spindle, PhD, MLIS. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

**May 19-22**

**NGS 2021 Family History Conference.** Richmond Virginia. [Conference Website](#) [Brochure](#)

## Online Learning Opportunities

Use this link to keep up with the great online webinar offerings in the list that Barbara McGeachy curated for us! [Online Webinars at WCGS Blog.](#)

**Ongoing Workshops thru SeniorTechEd** - Genealogy and Tech classes offered online via Zoom. [Details and fees](#)

**Edgecombe Community College: Continuing Education Series/ Historic Preservation Trades.** Offering online and in-person Saturday classes. Watch their FB page [@HPTatECC](#) for up to date announcements on class availability. Email for

information: [flemingm@edgecombe.edu](mailto:flemingm@edgecombe.edu)

## Take advantage of free content online:

Covid restrictions have spawned a multitude of free webinars and perks from the various Genealogy websites. Take advantage of these:

**Ancestry Library Edition**— Temporary Remote access for Library Card Holders is extended through March 2021 due to Covid restrictions. Check at [CVRL](#) or [NCG&H](#) library depending on your library card. (status to be reevaluated in March)

**Family History Library Webinars** - [Link to upcoming webinars.](#)

**Conference Keeper.org** - Follow the virtual page for a constantly updated list of online content. [View page](#)

**Genealogy Bargains** - Follow Thomas MacEntee's blog for tons more free content. [Blog](#) [Newsletter](#)

## ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ 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](mailto: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

**Heritage Society of Franklin County:** 3rd Thursday of Month. Details - [heritagesocietync@gmail.com](mailto:heritagesocietync@gmail.com) or PO Box 45, Louisburg, NC 27549

**Triangle Jewish Genealogical Society:** Meets monthly. See webpage for schedule. [Details](#)

**Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society - Triangle Region Chapter** - see Facebook page for details. [@aahgsnctriangle](#)



Check our [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 **Dec. 17, 2020.**

## Watch Us

Website:

[wakecogen.org](http://wakecogen.org)

Blog:

[wakecogen.blogspot.com](http://wakecogen.blogspot.com)

Facebook:

[wakecogen](https://www.facebook.com/wakecogen)

Twitter:

[@WakeCoGen](https://twitter.com/WakeCoGen)

Wake Gen Watch - Award Winner

NCGS Excellence in Publishing – Newsletter

2018, 2019, 2020

## One Last Thing

Wow. Welcome to the back page - of this issue and this year! Never saw this one coming and glad to see the last of it finally in the rear view mirror. Bye 2020. Don't let the door hit you on the way out!

I hope your holiday gatherings (though likely virtual) were joyful and safe. I hope you made a memory or two and were able to connect with those you hold dear. It seems we appreciate each and every dear one more fully now that in person gathering so difficult to arrange and carry out.

We have much to look forward to. Hopefully the upcoming vaccinations will allow us all more safety and freedom and, especially, the chance to meet in person again. We have a really nice schedule of virtual meetings to look forward to until then. I look forward to meeting you online.

As always, thank you for reading this far.

Your humble editor -

[Cyndi Deal](#)

## Contact WCGS

### Board Members

President: [Carla Stancil](#)

President-in-training: Monique Bunch

Director: Heather Choplin

Director: Ed Webb

Corresponding Secretary: [Linda Hames](#)

Membership: [Carol Stahl](#)

Past President: Kathy Ruse

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VP Communications: [Cyndi Deal](#)

Webmaster: [Cynthia Gage](#)

Wake Treasures Journal Editor: [Donna Shackle](#)

Wake Gen Watch Newsletter Editor: [Cyndi Deal](#)

Queries: [Saundra Cropps](#)

Please send all other emails to

[info@wakecogen.org](mailto:info@wakecogen.org)

Postal mail:

Wake County Genealogy Society

P. O. Box 17713

Raleigh, NC 27619-7713

### Deadline for Spring 2021 issue is March 1, 2021.

Ideas? Questions? Feedback of any kind? We love to hear from you. [Drop us a line!](#)

Submissions: [newsletter@wakecogen.org](mailto:newsletter@wakecogen.org)

**Photo Note:** When reading from a printed copy, please refer back to the [online edition](#), on the newsletter download page, where you can enlarge the photos for better viewing.

*~Parting thought~*

When your 5 year old grandson

says,

“Grandma, tell me again  
about our geniusology”

- read in a genealogy post on Facebook