



WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

News from the Wake County Genealogical Society

Vol. 4, Issue 3

Spring 2021

Spring Schedule

Mar 23

NC History - Red, Black, White

Dr. Arwin Smallwood

Apr 27

Native American Record Research

Debra Osborne Spindle

May 25

Photographic Alteration

Stephen J. Fletcher

Jun 22

NC Archives - Records/ Research

Doug Brown

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

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Spring 2021 Update

Who's got spring fever? ...Zoom fatigue? ...your vaccine? I am still waiting on mine. I never wanted to get older faster so bad in my life. (I was not a very rebellious teen.) This photo started me thinking about all the differences since last year at this time.

This was the last time WCGS was able to hold an in person meeting, February 25, 2020. It has been one full year.

We currently plan to meet virtually through the September 2021 meeting. The status of future meetings will be evaluated closer to that date. Keep up with these plans and changes via the WCGS homepage, blog and Facebook feed. We will publish details as they occur.



Last month, we welcomed two new members to the WCGS Board. In addition to serving as WCGS journal editor, **Donna Shackle** has stepped into the role of Communications Vice President. **Stephanie Ernst** has joined us as Treasurer. She is also doing a stellar job as moderator of the GenHelp sessions that happen monthly. Get to know both in our Meet the Board Members feature on page 10.

Take a moment to consider Wake County as it was 250 years ago and ponder its unique place in history. There is much more to the story on page 2.

Our Programs Director, **George Thomas** has some great events lined up for us. In March, Dr Alvin Smallwood explores with us the mixed race (tri-racial) communities of NC. In April, Debra Osborne Spindle will provide insight into researching Native American roots through the 1896 Applications, Dawes Final Rolls, and Guion Miller rolls. In May, Stephen J. Fletcher addresses the current trend of image alteration by computer. I am most curious to hear how he feels about the newest alteration craze - My Heritage's Deep Nostalgia. We hope you will join us. Be sure to register - you can always find the link on the homepage.

Carla's Corner

Hello Everyone.

WCGS has been more active than ever over the past months. We are so grateful to our many volunteers who keep us moving on and giving back to the genealogical community. I'm particularly grateful to our new Treasurer, **Stephanie Earnst** – who also leads our GenHelp program. GenHelp is an outreach to the community to help genealogists of all experience levels with their questions and to offer resources. I'm also pleased to report that WCGS is making an extra effort to help fund local cemetery cleanups and restoration, transcribe previously unavailable records, and to support organizations who align with our mission.

In addition to GenHelp and our regular monthly meetings (which have gone off without so much as a hiccup during the pandemic), we provide ongoing resources to genealogists via our blog, FaceBook

page, and web site. If you haven't checked these resources out lately, do yourself a favor and take a peek! You'll be impressed! Many thanks to **Cyndi Deal**, our hardworking blogger, newsletter editor, and social media specialist. And just in case you've been wondering, our web site at www.wakeogen.org is still spinning and is regularly updated by our awesome web mistress, **Cynthia Gage**.

It takes a village to run a genealogical society, especially one like WCGS that considers giving back a critical part of our mission. I'm very honored to work with this beautiful group of dedicated volunteers. Our door is always open to new volunteers...please consider joining us. There is much to be done! Stay safe!

Carla Stancil, [WCGS President](#)

Celebrating Wake County's 250th Year - by Cyndi Deal

It would be remiss to ignore Wake County and its place in history of both state and nation as well as its importance to the many first settlers of the region. In researching the creation of Wake, I was most intrigued to find its creation firmly entangled with the fiery politics of the day.

Did you know that Wake owes its founding directly to the turmoil caused by the Regulator Movement of the pre-Revolution period from 1765 - 1771?

Life, survival, and politics was rough for the inland North Carolina colonists of this period. A drought and crop losses created a serious economic depression. They were forced to buy food and supplies from eastern merchants who were charging top prices for their wares and were quick to press charges when the colonist were not able to pay. The merchants and the judges, lawyers, and sheriffs charged with collecting these debts had no ties or allegiances to these struggling souls, only to the

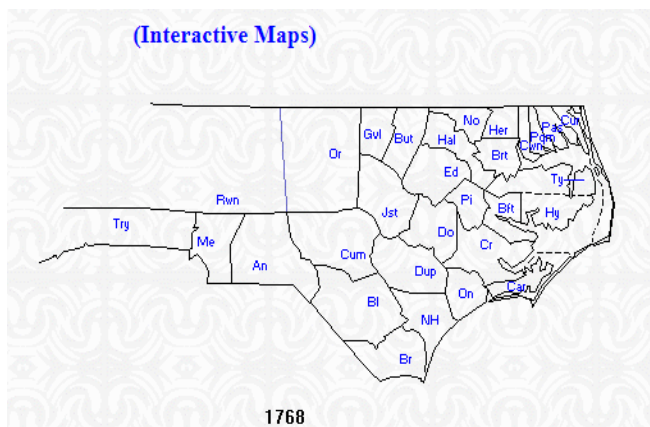
British sovereign who had no concerns but to collect all that was owed and collect quickly.

By 1765, King George III had promoted General William Tryon as governor. Tryon pressed the tax collectors, sheriffs, judges and increasingly, the military to ruthlessly pursue the collection of all debts. Tryon and the King's agents were hampered by the fact that these farmers were in backcountry woodlands that were not easy to access, govern or maintain control. In addition to the perceived lawless stubborn nature of the colonist, there also a notable amount of corruption within the ranks of the merchants and the King's agents.

Stress grew into hostility and protests. Tension in Hillsborough, the closest town for the colonist to press their grievances and seek legal redress, became volatile and reached a crescendo in September 1770 with an uprising that rocked the town and was forever after labeled the **War of Regulation**.

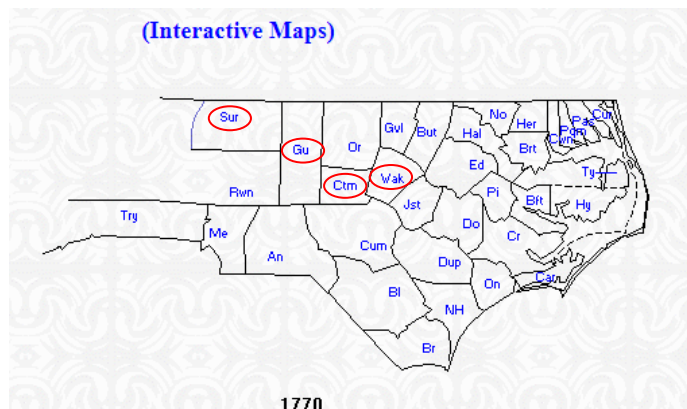
Wake's 250th - cont'd

The ensuing violence prompted the colonial General Assembly to explore ways to dampen the violence and regain control over the rebellious and unruly colonists. One consideration was a plan to carve up the large counties in the middle of the colony which proved the most difficult to govern. This map from 1768 shows the expansive regions with limited access to government and legal services.



[View source image at Rootsweb for detail](#)

In December 1770, a bill to create a county carved out of portions of Orange, Johnston and Cumberland was presented to the House of Commons by Joel Lane, then a Johnston County Representative. The bill was enacted on **March 12, 1771**, and the new county was named to honor Royal Governor Tryon's wife, Margaret Wake Tryon. The Assembly carved out three more inland counties after the formation of Wake. Those were Chatham, Guilford and Surry. The second map shows the new counties and resulting changes.



[View source image at Rootsweb for detail](#)

This effort to quell resentment and rebellion did not succeed. It surely sowed the seeds of the Revolutionary War in the very near future. Wake County owes its very existence to this tumultuous time in American history.

More Reading:

[Wake, Capital County of North Carolina, Volume 1: Prehistory through Centennial](#), by Elizabeth Reid

[Murray](#). Available online at DigitalNC. Focus on Wake and Regulator Movement- Ch 2 image 54 and Ch 3 image 77.

[What Was the Regulator Movement? History and Significance](#), by Robert Longley. [Thoughtco.com](#)

[Historical Raleigh, With Sketches of Wake County \(from 1771\) and Its Important Towns; Descriptive, Biographical, Educational, Industrial, Religious](#), by Moses Neal Amis. C. 1913. Available for free reading on Google Books. The text of the "Act for the Erection of Wake County and St. Margaret's Parish", the order directing Wake's registration, and a list of the 19 townships and the prominent and influential citizens of the time are included in this book. *Very much worth the read!*



Lend a Hand Volunteer Opportunities at WCGS

WCGS currently has volunteer opportunities open on the **Wake Treasures Journal team**.

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".

Transcriptionists. Multiple opportunities exist for dedicated volunteers who want help to transcribe records for the journal. We can accommodate work from home volunteers and those who live outside Wake County. Much of the material to be transcribed can be accessed, transcribed and uploaded remotely.

Please reach out to our volunteer coordinator, Saundra Cropps, at Info@Wakecogen.org if you would like to join the team!

RootsTech Connect Round Up

All genealogy content providers have had to do some major pivoting this year to continue to offer content and stay in the forefront. RootsTech has done an amazing job. I hope you participated, but, if not, it is not too late, and it is free! - CD

This year RootsTech billed itself as **RootsTech Connect 2021**, and connect it truly did with three days of round the clock content streamed internationally in late February. Over 1 million people registered world wide. There were hundreds of sessions offered on every genealogical topic you can think of. One new aspect of the streaming format this time was the offering of short length sessions clocking in at just around 20 minutes. Short, sweet and convenient. All virtual conference are offered as on demand viewing for a full year. The Main Stage events were recorded for viewing at a later time, too.

If you did not register or attend, don't feel like you missed out on all the fun. The content is free and accessible just by showing up at the [RootsTech](#)

[Connect home page](#). You don't have to sign in to view the content. There is a benefit to creating a sign in though. You will have the ability to create your own Playlist of the sessions and series that you wish to watch. When you get to browsing this list, you will probably see the merit in that. [RootsTech Connect 2021 Sessions](#). There are 18 pages of offerings here.

[Visit the site to start your viewing adventure.](#)

You may find these links helpful:

[RTC2021 orientation tutorial](#)

[Sessions](#) - Search and access the content in the pdf

[Innovators Portal](#)

[FAQ](#)

More options - Upper right menu on homepage!

GenHelp from WCGS: Free Assistance for Genealogy Hobbyists

*WCGS **GenHelp** sessions are closing in on six months now and becoming increasingly popular. **GenHelp** is a way for hobbyists to speak to a group of researchers and get hints and suggestions informed by the varied experiences of the group members.*

*The GenHelp virtual gatherings are ably hosted by **Stephanie Ernst**, our new WCGS Treasurer. Stephanie has shared her summary of one of the latest sessions so you can see the type of help you could receive from GenHelp. Thanks, Stephanie! - CD*

This excerpt of Stephanie's summary show examples of the type of help and guidance you might receive. The questions and answers are from the February 4 session.

Pre-Submitted Questions*

Question 1:

I don't have a lot of experience searching for ancestors but am working on both my parents' ancestors. As I've been able to confirm burial sites, I've tried to visit the sites and the areas where they lived. My Mother's family lived in and around Beaufort, Pamlico and Carteret counties, farming and living off the water i.e. fishing, crabbing, etc.

Edward Gorham Clark is my Great Grandfather on my Mother's side. His death certificate indicates he's buried at **Patan's Point** in Lowland which is an unincorporated community in Pamlico County. The first reference I could find on Patan's Point was on an old map at the Heritage Center in Grantsboro that's no longer in distribution. They suggested I call a lady in the Map Room in Bayboro, and then I found the book by Dixie Willis which gave me better information to find the cemetery. The 'Map Lady' was

GenHelp - cont'd

very helpful, I think we each thought we knew exactly what the other person was talking about. Long story short, the directions got me to a cemetery, but not the right one. It appears the cemetery in question is totally surrounded by private property. Expanding Google Earth all you can doesn't reveal a cemetery. Are cemetery deeds recorded just like other real property? Unless there's been an ownership change in the last year, the surrounding land is locally owned. And there's always a possibility these graves could be underwater.

The person at the Heritage Center also volunteers at Craven County Library's Kellenberger Room so I asked if he knew where Dixie Willis' (now deceased) notes or data supporting her books were, but I didn't get a response and didn't pursue further.

Question 1_Panel Response:

Thank you for providing files so we could review the documents submitted with the question. There are several options are available for you.

Contact the local county office, Register of Deeds, and request assistance to identify the current landowner.

Try looking at the Government and Heritage Library in Raleigh.

There is a copy of the reference book from your submittal in Chapel Hill at the UNC Library.

Note - Due to the age of the cemetery, natural disasters may have impacted the area and the cemetery may not exist anymore.

Check Family Search's Catalog for county records online: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&placeId=191235&query=%2Bplace%3A%22United%20States%2C%20North%20Carolina%2C%20Pamlico%22>

Contact the Pamlico Genealogical Society Facebook Page

Discussion Questions

Question 1:

Why do you subscribe to Ancestry.com if you can sync a tree with Family Tree Maker?

Question 1_Suggestions

You can create a tree for free that can be shared with others online. Although you can sync the tree using

Family Tree Maker, the software is private and not easily shared without creating a gedcom file.

You can gift yourself a membership at a lower price sometimes. Watch for the sales!

Question 2:

GG Grandfather is the person of topic in Durham County. Children are in two records of the 1880. Did the father die, and children were in both homes at the time of the census?

Question 2_Suggestions

More people were double counted than not counted. Probably just visiting one location.

Question 3:

Are there any census records that would work around the 1890 missing census? How can I find information about family during that time?

Question 3_Suggestions

North Carolina didn't take census between the Federal Census, but the 1890 Veterans Schedule is available. Ancestry has indexed the veterans - both union and confederate.

There are a lot of newspapers from the area try searching some of these:

Newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com>
Library of Congress, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
The Ancestor Hunt <https://www.theancestorhunt.com/>, <https://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/north-carolina-online-historical-newspapers-summary#.YByQ1ehKiM8>

Check the Register of Deeds office for land records.

Look for family in city directories.

Local Library Staff is working - try the North Regional Branch.

Family Search - Durham County: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&placeId=191026&query=%2Bplace%3A%22United%20States%2C%20North%20Carolina%2C%20Durham%22&subjectsOpen=1337924-50.454312-50>

The Durham Preservation group has been doing webinars this year. The group may have done some research about Glenn School.

GenHelp - cont'd

Contact the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society as they are highly active.

Question 4:

I'm interested in learning more about Italian family history.

Question 4 Suggestions

From Panel - Start at <http://www.FamilySearch.org> using **Research Wiki** - It will help you identify what records are available online.

Next, look for locations and not just people as all **not the**



records are indexed.

Family Search presents free webinars that are location based. Sign up online.

Other Options:

Great webinars available at <http://www.Legacyfamilytree.com> ex: March 3 - Italian Catholic Records

Try <https://www.findmypast.com/>

Upload your DNA on <https://www.myheritage.com/>

Look for region specific groups on Facebook.

Links and Sharing from Discussions

Conference Keeper - A site devoted to genealogical events and volunteer opportunities. Lots to search on their pages. <https://conferencekeeper.org/>

Wake County Genealogical Society - [Homepage](#) | [WCGS Events](#) | [Join WCGS](#) | [Publications](#) | [Digital Resources](#) | [History Resources](#) | [More Links and Resources](#) | [Contact](#)

OLLI at NC State Lifelong Learning Program <https://mckimmoncenter.ncsu.edu/olli/>

OLLI at Duke University <https://learnmore.duke.edu/olli>

Many courses of interest for genealogists - Search under programs

*OLLI is not restricted to NC Universities - look online for other supporting schools.

Raleigh Senior TechEd <https://www.raleighseniorteched.org/>

Several genealogy classes taught by Wake County Genealogical Society members.

Facebook Groups - Katherine Wilson keeps track of genealogy groups:

<https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>

*Some questions were emailed to host prior to the monthly call and distributed to panelist for review and responses to support the discussion.

Please note that all participation is voluntary, the opinions offered by attendees should not be considered to be an exact answer for any question but rather a guide for further research.

GenHelp virtual sessions are scheduled on the **first Thursday of each month at 6:30**. If you are interested in attending a GenHelp session, **please register via our registration page**. You may drop in with a quick question. If your question is of a more complex nature, please submit in advance [via this email link](#).

Join us at a Genhelp session. You will be glad you did. - CD

Using Cyndi's List - by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

Cyndi's List is the brainchild and effort of noted genealogist, **Cyndi Ingle**, and has nothing at all to do with this editor. - CD

Cyndi's List is a web site that collects information about and provides live links to other web sites that can help with your genealogical research. By January of 2021 this free site had been functioning for over twenty years and offers more than 319,000 links. Those links are organized in various ways, enabling you to *browse* for interesting resources. Alternatively, you can *search* by using key words. If you are starting a research project, this is a great place to discover "what's available". If you have worked on something for a while and run out of sources before you ran out of questions, use *Cyndi's List* as a checklist of resources and look into the ones you haven't already used. New items are added continually, so check back now and then to see if anything useful to you has been added.

The Home Page

The list lives at <http://www.cyndislist.com/>. Cyndi's home page is not big, but it contains several items of information and several access options. If this is your first time visiting, you should browse each item to get acquainted with what is available.

Two menu bars appear at the top of the page and another is at the bottom. A fourth menu appears as a column of choices at the left side of the home page. First-time visitors should read [FAQs](#) (accessible on the top and bottom menu bars) and [Terms of Use](#) (on the bottom menu). You also might want to use the [Site Map](#) (at the bottom left corner of the page).

Returning visitors probably will want to use [What's New](#) (on the second menu bar at the top of the home page), [Browse New Links](#) (in the column menu at the left of the page and about two-thirds of the way down the home page's center column), [The Cyndi's List](#)

[Daily](#) (near the center of the right side of the page), [Browse New Links](#) (about two-thirds of the way down the home page's center column), and perhaps [Cyndi's List Blog](#) (in the column menu at the left of the page).

Enthusiasts might use [Follow Cyndi](#) (on the top menu), [Follow me](#) (on the bottom menu), [Follow Us](#) (in the column menu at the left of the page), and [Mailing List](#) (in the column menu at the left of the page).

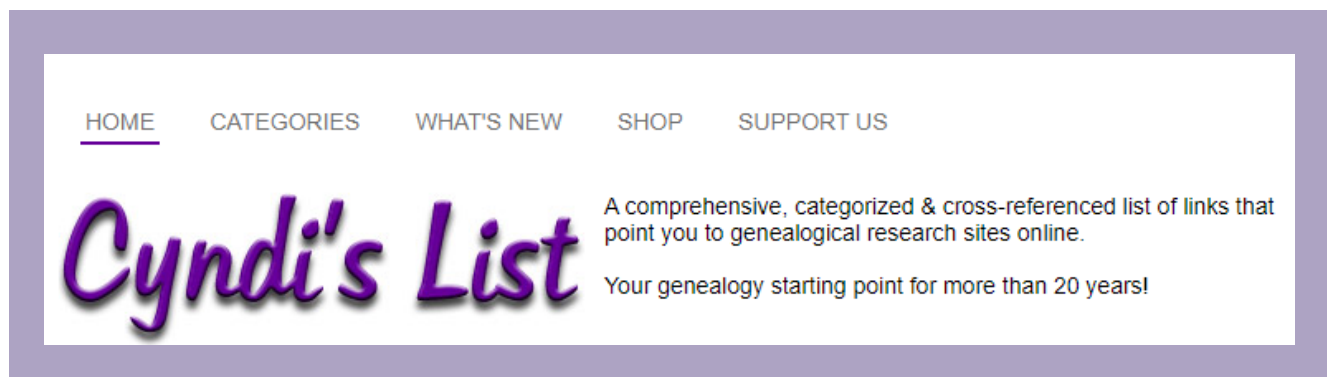
If you encounter problems or have questions, use [Contact Us](#) (on the bottom menu) or [Report a Broken Link](#) (in the column menu at the left of the page and about two-thirds of the way down the home page's center column).

Browsing

There are two ways to find links to web pages that might help you with your genealogical research; *browsing* and *searching*.

To begin browsing, use [Categories](#) (in the second bar menu at the top of the page) or [Categories](#) (in the column menu at the left of the page) or [Browse Categories Alphabetically](#) (at the bottom of the page's center column). All three buttons lead you to the same destination. When you click one of those choices a hit list appears. Clicking an item on that list might take you to a list of relevant web sites or it might show you a subsidiary hit list. Continue drilling down until you arrive at a web site that appears to address your current research project. When you have exhausted that site, hit the [Back](#) button on your browser and choose another interesting item on that list. When you have investigated every item on that list, hit the Back button again to revert to the predecessor list, then drill down through all of its options as before.

If you repeat that search-and-use process through all available options but still haven't found what you



Using Cyndi's List - cont'd

want, browse another topic. Exhausting all possibilities on every branch of every hit list for every topic you think of will take a very long time, so when you feel yourself getting sloppy or impatient stop and resume your search some other time.

Searching

To begin searching, type something into the box above "Search Cyndi's List" at the top right of the home page. Click the [Search](#) icon. A hit list appears. Use this hit list as above, drilling down through each list of available choices until you find what you want, or convince yourself that the present search has been completed.

If that search failed, consider typing fewer words in the search box. Also consider changing a search word to something less specific (such as requesting a county instead of a town). Further, consider changing the form of a search word you have used (use a singular form instead of a plural form, or change the tense of a verb). If those searches also fail, think of a different way to approach your task. (For example: if you searched for a person's government death record and failed, request church records and hope to find a funeral register that might help you. Also, look for morticians/mortuaries/undertakers in city directories; if you can't read their

records on-line, phone or mail or email them and ask if they have records as old as your project indicates. And if they are defunct, contact every mortuary in the area to see if they have that other company's old records.)

Persist

Thoroughly working through all of the lines of reasoning described above can be very time-consuming and might seem to be overwhelming. Persist. Work each time until you "lose your edge" mentally and then stop. Note where you left off so you can resume your efforts at the same place some other time.

Don't hurry through a site; exhaust its possibilities before moving on to another site. Exhaust all the reasonable possibilities within each hit list and its resulting tree of subsidiary possibilities. Ignoring either of these pieces of advice might cause you to miss the exact thing you are looking for. Remember that you are working for results - not for speed and not for the appearance of trying.

*Editor's Note - The **What's New/Browse New Links** feature is so much fun. You never know what you will find there. A personal win for me is the day I found two railroad research links that I can definitely use for my own search. Thanks, Ted. - CD*

Reading Room - Esley Hunt: Early NC Portrait Photographer

[Esley Hunt: Early Portrait Photographer of North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee](#), by Christopher Hunt Robertson, M.Ed., 2018

Those of you with ancestors in middle North Carolina in the 1840s and 1850s, especially in the counties of Orange and Wake may be interested in this biological sketch of Esley Hunt's time in North Carolina. Originally from Johnson City, Tennessee, Esley settled in Orange County in the late 1840s and established the first photography studio in Orange County. By 1859, he had relocated to Raleigh and with his artistic partner, Joshua P. Andrews, received many awards for their photographs at the North Carolina State Fairs.

Mr Hunt was well situated in Raleigh during the Civil War years. As many soldiers passed through town,

sitting for a photo at his studio was a destination for them. He soon gained the reputation of being one of the most prolific and talented photographers of the period.

The abundantly illustrated biography which includes details of Hunt's business and family life is available for reading free at Google Books. This sketch [can be read online at this link](#).

Esley Hunt's story is an excerpt of the book, **Full Steam Ahead: The Family of Brigadier General Charles Lutterloh and Eliza Comerford Lutterloh of Central and Eastern North Carolina**, by Christopher Hunt Robertson, M.Ed.

Note: The Google Book app is dynamically sized. If you open on anything less than a full screen, the images may appear too small. Use the display options tool (double T) in the upper right to resize the images. - CD

Find Digital Records for Your North Carolina Ancestors

By Cynthia Gage

Did you know there are two *different* digital collections associated with the State Library of North Carolina? Importantly, researchers should know that these collections have different records.



One collection is titled [Digital NC](#). This collection was established by the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center which works with NC cultural heritage institutions to publish historical materials on line. The Center is supported by the State Library and the UNC-Chapel Hill University Library. This collection includes images, city directories, memorabilia, audiovisual items, yearbooks, and newspapers. You can search across the entire collection for your ancestor by entering their name in the “quick search” box. Or you can browse a specific county’s records by entering the collection on the [“counties” page](#).

The second collection is the [North Carolina Digital Collections](#). This collection draws content from the State Archives of North Carolina and the State Library of North Carolina. There are many

topics here of interest to genealogists, such as alien registration and naturalization records, colonial court records, confederate pension applications, family records, secretary of state wills (1663-1789), tax lists (colonial and revolutionary period), troop returns (revolutionary war), war of 1812 pay vouchers, and more. You can search for your ancestor within a topic or to search across the entire collection use the advanced search and in the “Enter Search Term” field, be sure to change the dropdown on the right to “exact phrase”. The newspaper topic on this site links to the NC Newspapers which are hosted on the DigitalNC site.



Both of these sites are great NC resources, but with similar words in the collection titles, it could be easy to miss one of them. Make sure you visit both when doing your NC research. Links to these collections and others are on the [Wake Digital Resources](#) webpage of the WCGS website.

Take your search for Digital Collections farther afield. At Cyndi's List, a search for “Digital Collections” produces a list of 10 pages of linked content for every state, many countries and more special interest topics than there is room to list here!
- CD

WANTED: DVDs of Microfilm from NC State Archives

Have you ordered DVDs of digitized microfilm reels from the State Archives of North Carolina for your own research? Would you like to share those images online with other NC researchers worldwide?

North Carolina Historical Records Online, a North Carolina non-profit, is working on a free website to display images of original North Carolina records of all types. These DVDs are a great place to

start because the collections are already cataloged and digitized at high resolution, and many are not available anywhere else. We already have over 250 digitized reels, mostly land grants displayed on our NC Land Grants website.

For more information on this project and our organization see <http://nchistoricalrecordsorg/reels/>

Meet Our Board Members

Ready for another round of "Getting to Know You"? This month we welcome new board members Stephanie Ernst and Donna Shackle. We also shine our spotlight on longtime members Ed Webb and Carol Kimball Stahl.

Stephanie Ernst, **WCGS Treasurer** (and GenHelp host)

Growing up in rural Kansas, my genealogical journey started organically - participating in family events, listening to the stories, and tagging along with grandparents to visit extended family. After settling down to raise my own family, it became very important to have a better understanding of family origins that could be passed to the future generations. Luckily, one grandparent was still alive and there were several aunts that could share their memories to jump start my project.

The internet was just becoming a viable option to connect with extended family and research online. I used the information I found electronically and spent lots of free time at the Midwest Genealogical Center in Independence, Missouri. Very quickly it became clear that if I wanted to learn more about the families, I was going to have to travel. I took advantage of every opportunity to make day trips or weekend getaways where I could research. If my children were playing sports near an important place, we would take a detour. I have used vacation time, extended my business travel and plan extended road trips to find new resources.

Now that more data is available online and people collaborate via social media, it has become so much easier to research. I have tested at several DNA companies and actively identify extended family to test in an effort to test hypotheses and my works in progress. I participate in webinars weekly to improve skills or learn about regions of the world. I volunteer at multiple libraries and archives to give back to this generous community. I encourage all my friends and neighbors to get involved with genealogy to learn about their families.

When we moved to North Carolina, I insisted our new home have dedicated space for my favorite pastime. Considering the amount of time invested in genealogy, I converted a large storage room into my research center. It is a mini office with large white boards, storage and file cabinets. Family portraits are hung to inspire me when I get stuck. Currently I am in the process of a "Genealogy Do-Over" utilizing Thomas MacEntee's processes so I can clean my files and confirm the accuracy of the work I have done over many years. I struggle daily with the Bright Shiny Objects and easily spend long stretches of time in front of my computer screens.

My immediate goal is to create a family book for each direct line. It would be an honor to publish records of ancestors to share with family and libraries across the country. Another goal is to have my records in good condition so they can be donated to archives upon my passing enabling future generations access to my work. Longer term goals include teaching others so they can be successful in their own explorations.

What is your genealogy super power?

My genealogy super power is being a cross between a Honeybadger and a family detective. I don't give up and I don't care how much effort it takes to uncover the information. I work hard to find missing information traveling to ancestral communities, visiting with extended family, using social networks to find family extensions. Most importantly, I love spending time with my ancestors. I find joy in their stories and appreciate all they did during their lives to make my life better. I'm lucky to have such a wonderful family to research.

What is the coolest/best/most exciting find you have made in your own research?

I've been blessed with many exciting finds in my research. The first one has to be an unplanned parental event that I discovered after taking a DNA test and being very persistent with a person who had a high percentage of shared DNA with me. As a result, I have a new uncle and I wish I would have

Meet Our Board Members - cont'd

known about him my entire life and not just after he turned 70! Other great finds have been identifying land or cemetery records and getting to walk the properties or sit with my ancestors for a while to appreciate their life and place in the world. It's been very exciting to share these moments with my parents, aunts and uncles.

Who would you most like to spend time with and interview if you could zip back in a time machine for a day?

If I could go back in time, I would interview my 5 X Great Grandfather, Daniel Twaddell. He immigrated to the colonies from Ireland before the American Revolution and didn't leave much information for me to find about the family origins. I would ask him the following questions to start:

Where he was born?

Who are his parents?

What was the family home like in Ireland?

Why did he leave Ireland?

What does he miss about his homeland?

How did he travel to the colonies?

Who did he travel with?

Where did he arrive?

Why did he settle in western Massachusetts?

How did he get to western Massachusetts?

How was he affected by the Revolutionary War?

Did he participate in the war?

What values were important to his family?

What religion did the family practice?

What are your thoughts on this new government?

How important was education to his family?

Can he play an instrument or sing?

Does he have a favorite story to tell his children?

What was his favorite food?

Does he have any regrets?

That's not everything but it would get me started.



**Donna Shackle,
WCGS VP Communications**

We met Donna in Fall 2018 when she assumed editorship for the Wake Treasures Journal. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and the National Genealogical Society (NGS). She holds a certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University.

Since joining WCGS as the journal editor, she has spent the last year moving the journal closer and closer to her vision. She has some great things in store for us. While she is doing all that, she is still eager for more! She joined the board in January to serve as the new Vice President of Communications. Here are excerpts of her December 2020 profile. [The full profile can be viewed here on page 2.](#)

I'm Donna Shackle, an Alaskan mama of two great teens. I'm also a professional genealogist. Due to my husband's career, we moved to Wake County from England a few years ago. We love it here and are happy to finally be able to put down roots. My own ancestry includes many in North Carolina, but none yet in Wake County, although I'm always hoping to discover a connection. I have a passion for travel and my goal is to visit all seven continents. So far I have been to Africa, Europe, Asia, and North America, and I'm looking forward to seeing the rest! I've climbed jungle temples, ridden an elephant, explored Neolithic tombs, and hiked glaciers and volcanoes. A few summers ago we drove a true cross county trip from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean (and

Meet Our Board Members - cont'd

back again!). Aside from travel and genealogy I am a voracious reader - usually navigating through three to five books at a time. Genealogy became a hobby when I became a mother and realized one day my children will ask me questions for which I would like to have answers ready. My hobby became a passion, and then my passion became my profession in 2014. Helping others in their genealogical journeys has been very rewarding, and I love the feeling of breaking through those brick walls!



**Ed Webb,
WCGS Director**

I've been dabbling in genealogy since the 1980s, about the time my father gave me his copy of *Our Webb Kin of Dixie* (William Webb et al., published in 1940 by Oxford Press). One of my first cousins started sending photo-copied pages of her research about that same time. My mother provided me her copy of a two-volume family history from her grandfather's family in Henry County, Indiana. I found PAF software to use on my Mac for my genealogy database in the early 1990s and moved to LeisterPro's Reunion program in the late 1990s. I've been using Reunion ever since.

I started looking for death certificates at local courthouses, scanning through microfilm there and at other places, and eventually chasing down leads to relatives' graves. I started with the Webbs I knew who were buried at a small church near the Oaks community in Orange County, NC between Carrboro and Graham. A few years and many cemeteries later, I was clambering through kudzu to get to other relatives' graves in a small cluster of trees less than a half mile from that first cemetery at the Oaks, a journey that started by corresponding with a then-unknown relative who had documented the Oaks church cemetery for Find-a-Grave. It was his side of the family that was left in the kudzu-covered stand of

trees.

My research became much more serious in 2011 when my wife and I went to Charleston, SC for my first National Genealogy Society Conference (she played tourist). The Archivist of the United States (director of NARA) was the keynote speaker, and the first person who sat down beside me just before that keynote was a guy named Dick Eastman. I was blown away by the speakers and particularly learned a lot about research and proof from Elizabeth Shown Mills' lectures. I've attended several NGS conferences since.

My participation and membership in several local genealogy societies has expanded my contacts and helped me learn more about the State Library (Government and History Library) and the remarkable State Archives collections, plus other resources. Though I have no Wake County relatives (however some are buried here), my active involvement in WCGS has been very rewarding.

What is the coolest/best/most exciting find you have made in your own research?

At that 2011 NGS conference, I was given a 6-months free subscription to a new genealogy site named Archives.com which I actually searched a couple of months later and discovered online newspaper research. I was startled to learn during that first search that my father was married once before he married my mother. That "be careful what you look for" discovery triggered a more methodical research effort in 2012 to find out if it was true (it was), to locate the marriage license (fading away on "NCR paper" in a clerk of court's office in northern Georgia), to get divorce papers pulled out of warehouse in Atlanta, and then to keep this secret from my siblings until my mother passed away in 2017 (she knew, I learned late in her life).

Who would you most like to spend time with and interview if you could zip back in a time machine for a day?

Other than my parents (so many personal and family

Meet Our Board Members - cont'd

-related questions since they passed away), I would most like to meet my second cousin once removed, James Edwin Webb, who was the director of NASA, chosen in 1961 by John Kennedy to "land a man on the moon in this decade", worked with Lyndon Johnson, and fought off Congressional budget vultures after the tragic Apollo 1 fire to deliver on Kennedy's promise. I was able to meet his daughter, my 3rd cousin, during the April 2019 dedication of a historical marker celebrating James Webb in downtown Oxford, North Carolina.



**Carol Kimball Stahl,
WCGS Membership Chair**

It started with questions about my father's family. As a child, I traveled to the island community where he was raised off the coast of Maine. Islesboro was a curiosity only accessible by a 20-minute ferry ride where I visited my grandparents. She was the island's librarian, and he was a well-liked housepainter and handyman. When my grandmother died, my mother collected items from the home that she used to answer some of my questions about my ancestors. Because my mother's niece & nephew were researching her two lines, I could concentrate on my father's New England ancestors. However, I have recently discovered that Judy Russell (aka The Legal Genealogist) and I share my 5th great grandfather who died in Yancey County, NC!

What is the coolest/best/most exciting find that you have made in your own research?

Finding my father's brother's daughter. Until a couple of years ago, I only knew that Alden had two daughters – no names, birthdates, etc. It took a bit of work, but eventually, I obtained a copy of the divorce decree that provided that info. In 2020, I saw an Ancestry DNA match with one of the daughter's first

name. Connecting with her and her son revealed that she was Alden's daughter. Because she was nine years older, I had hoped that she could share more information about our grandparents. However, the divorce meant she had lost all contact with her father's family. So, while she had no familial stories, she is a first cousin and someone I hope to meet in person in 2021.

Who would you most like to spend time with and interview if you could zip back in a time machine for a day?

My father's great-grandmother Florine (Gilkey) Kimball and/or her father Nelson Gilkey. Florine disappears in the mid-1860's after giving birth to three children by 1859. By 1869, her husband has moved off island and remarried and the three children are living with Nelson Gilkey. He was a prominent islander and has an impressive grave marker as does his grandson. Remember, this is a community that erects grave markers for men lost at sea. I have been unable to find ANYTHING regarding her death and sometimes fantasize that she ran off to serve as a nurse in the Civil War!?



Impressive Gilkey and Kimball tombstones

Contributing: Stephanie Ernst, Donna Shackle, Ed Webb, Carol Kimball Stahl

Spring 2021 Events Calendar

Mar 19-20

North Carolina Genealogical Society 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

National Genealogical Society 2021 Family History Conference - Virtual Event. Richmond Virginia. [Conference Website](#)
[Brochure](#)

May 25

WCGS Meeting: Sacrifices at the Altar of Photographic Alteration. Speaker: Stephen J. Fletcher. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Jun 4-12

Southern California Genealogical Society Genealogy: Jamboree - Virtual Event. [Conference Website](#)

Jun 22

WCGS Meeting: Records and Research at the State Archives of NC. Speaker: Doug Brown. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

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](#).

WCGS is Seeking Journal Volunteers - Work From Your Home

The **Wake Treasures Journal** would not happen without the dedicated volunteers who help to transcribe records for us. We can accommodate work from home volunteers and those who live outside Wake County. Much of the material to be transcribed can be accessed, transcribed and uploaded remotely. You can transcribe at your leisure at home. Contact editor, [Donna Shackle](#), if you would like to volunteer from home.

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

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 **June 30, 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

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 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 March 5, 2021.



One Last Thing

Here's to brighter and warmer days ahead, to increasing safety and freedom to move about, to even more freedom to visit, to mingle and to hug.

We have much to look forward to. In the meantime, I look forward to meeting you online.

As always, thank you for reading this far.

Your humble editor -

[Cyndi Deal](#)

Deadline for Summer 2021 issue is June 1, 2021.

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

Submissions: 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~

Every breath is a sacrament,
An affirmation of our
connections with all other
living things,
A renewal of our link with
our ancestors and a
contribution to generations
yet to come.

- David Suzuki

Contact WCGS

Board Members

President: [Carla Stancil](#)

President-in-training: Monique Bunch

Corresponding Secretary: [Linda Hames](#)

Director: Heather Choplin

Director: Ed Webb

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Recording Secretary: Barbara McGeachy

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Vice President Communications: [Donna Shackle](#)

Volunteer Co-Ordinator: [Saundra Cropps](#)

Webmaster: [Cynthia Gage](#)

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

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

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