



WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

News from the Wake County Genealogical Society

Vol. 5, Issue 1

Fall 2021

Fall Schedule

Sep 28

Establishing a Big-Y Research Group

Janine Cloud

Oct 26

Finding the Law

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL

Dec 7

Find Clues Hidden in Social History

Lisa Lisson

Jan 25

TBA

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

Inside

Visit the WCGS Website	2
Seeking Content Curator	2
Small Town Newspaper Research	3
Clues from GenHelp	6
Lend a Hand	6
Changes to WCGS Blog Subscription	7
Local Railroad Magnate	7
Wake Cemetery Survey c. 1978	8
Events	12

A Message for You...

...from our Membership Chair:

September is [membership renewal](#) time at the WCGS. While much of the activity of the WCGS is open to the public, such as meetings, newsletters and general access to the website, the closer relationship of membership gives you special privileges. In the "Members Only" section, you have access to over 25 years of award winning journals, Wake Treasures. You have the opportunity to participate in Special Interest Groups; those currently open for participation are ones on German ancestors and on using Family Tree Maker. The educational materials posted by the Advanced DNA SIG can be viewed (membership in that group is capped for now). You will also be able to access past program presentations and view the membership list. You can add to the Surnames section - a publicly searchable collection. There is also a Welcome Kit where members can retrieve information about resources in the area to help in their research. The Members Only section is certainly a great benefit for members.

The membership year for the Wake County Genealogical Society runs from September 1 to August 31. Please take a moment to renew your membership! Simply click on your Profile on our website to see the button titled "Renew Membership". Also, if you are so inclined, renewing for multiple years is always helpful in busy lives; it saves annual efforts! And, as always, we appreciate the financial support you give when maintaining your membership.

- Carol Kimball Stahl, Membership Chair

...from our Program Chair:

The Wake County Genealogical Society wants our members to know that we program with a very real commitment to "safety first" being forefront in the planning process. We push ahead with doubled efforts to bring you top-shelf presentations by those who know their subject best while we remain virtual. You deserve it! Just like in the old days (pre-virus), we encourage you to invite a friend and bring them with you to the meetings. All that is needed is a simple click; you don't even have to find a parking place! Again, we are the Wake County Genealogical Society but know also that our diverse organization offers an equally diverse schedule of programming suitable for anyone, at any skill level, who is interested in learning about their genealogical past.

We want everyone to know that the Society plans to meet virtually at least through the end of this year. For your convenience in planning, we ask you to peruse the fall schedule (upper left column) and make sure to save the dates!

- George Thomas, Program Chair



WAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Shaw University

[Home](#)

WELCOME to the Wake County Genealogical Society website!

GENEALOGY CLASSES

Get the most out of your research with help from WCGS! Visit our website and you will find it rich with content for both members and visitors. Our webmaster and other members take great pains to curate our site with great sources that you may not have encountered yet. Events, publications and member content are all updated regularly. Be sure to check out the great resource pages curated by webmaster, Cynthia Gage!

[Visit Wakecogen.org today](#)

Resources

[Wake Digital Resources](#)

[Wake History Resources](#)

[Other Links and Resources](#)

Events

[View WCGS events here](#)

[View other events](#)

Member Content

[Log in for member content](#)

Publications

[Wake Treasures - Journal](#)

[Wake Gen Watch - newsletter](#)

[WCGS Publications for Purchase at Lulu.com](#)

Wanted: a Real Live History Detective

We have a super exciting volunteer opportunity for you as a Content Curator for our Wake Treasures Journal.

Have you ever wanted to be a real live History Detective?

Are you interested in Wake County history and family stories? Do you enjoy the thrill of the hunt? Do you love hanging out in libraries, archives and other repositories of local historical lore? If so, we have *the* volunteer opportunity for you.

Our journal editor, Donna Shackle is looking for a **Content Curator** to work closely with the WCGS journal team. This person would canvass libraries, repositories, and other sources for content for the journal. You don't need to worry about transcription, although that's a bonus. Our journal requires

content be focused on Wake County unless a neighboring county lacks a genealogy society and material must be previously unpublished. If you are interested in this position, please contact Donna Shackle via email - Journal@wakecogen.org

This looks like so much fun. I wish I didn't have so many ongoing commitments. I think I would be all over this one!

We also have ongoing needs for **Transcribers** and that need will only grow with the efforts of our new Content Curator.

If you want to have the "first look" at original source content you will enjoy being part of the Transcription team. If you want to make lasting contribution to the Wake research community, this is a great way to participate.

Hey Paper Boy! Where Is My Paper? - Finding Small Town Papers

By Cynthia Gage

Do you think to yourself “My 19th and early 20th century ancestors were just common folk and didn’t live in large towns, so there is no way I can find any newspaper articles about them”? If you think this, then you are under the influence of the customs of the time you live in now, where big city papers dominate.

During the times of your ancestors, small town papers were the societal norm, even towns of a few hundred! And to help fill those papers, the editors needed stories about the citizenry: who was sick, who had relatives visiting, who was leaving to visit relatives, who was making home improvements, who was having an anniversary, and more! Even very small communities can be represented in county-wide newspapers. Since both small town and county papers needed subscribers to encourage business advertising, the papers drew content from the citizenry in neighboring communities as well.

How do you find out if your ancestor’s small town had a paper? You follow the money, the advertisers’ money that is. Advertisers needed information about the locations of papers and the number of subscribers.

While regional lists of area newspapers were in use starting around the time of the civil war, the first national list to be developed was Geo. P. Rowell & Co.’s [American Newspaper Directory](#) published in 1869. National directories were published annually, not just by Rowell, but also by N.W. Ayers and Sons and by S. M. Pettengill and Co. All of the directories were designed for the advertisers to help them make informed decisions about which papers to place their ads in. Most of the directories also included information about papers in Canada, and all directories were organized by country and then by state then by both county and city. This double listing helps if you cannot find a paper published in the city of your interest, then you check the county listing for those neighboring community papers.

Let’s take a look through one of the directories. Notice in the alphabetical list from the 1884 edition of the [Ayer’s directory](#) (Figure 1) that papers were not

ALPHABETICAL INDEX					
TO CATALOGUE AND LIST BY COUNTRY.					
	Catalogue.	List by Country.		Catalogue.	List by Country.
ALABAMA.....	142	476	PENNSYLVANIA.....	81	411
ARKANSAS.....	162	507	RHODE ISLAND.....	39	390
CALIFORNIA.....	316	643	SOUTH CAROLINA.....	131	457
COLORADO.....	310	687	TENNESSEE.....	171	582
CONNECTICUT.....	41	298	TEXAS.....	103	494
DELAWARE.....	110	429	VERMONT.....	35	361
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.....	115	434	VIRGINIA.....	119	435
FLORIDA.....	140	473	WEST VIRGINIA.....	134	444
GEORGIA.....	134	461	WISCONSIN.....	246	581
ILLINOIS.....	210	555			
INDIANA.....	195	544	TERRITORIES:		
IOWA.....	270	601	ARIZONA.....	331	613
KANSAS.....	293	621	DAKOTA.....	332	615
KENTUCKY.....	166	513	IDAHO.....	339	661
LOUISIANA.....	140	473	INDIAN TERRITORY.....	340	663

Figure 1: Partial Table of Contents of 1884 Ayer’s Annual.

just published in states, but also in U.S. territories! Besides local papers, the directories (Figure 2) contained specialty papers, such as religious, college, trade and other publications, including “secret societies”! Also listed were foreign language papers published in the states. In 1884 for example, Iowa had 37 German papers, 5 Scandinavian papers, 3 Dutch papers, and one Bohemian paper.

The North Carolina section of the Ayer’s directory lists 81 towns with publications such as the Reporter and Post published in Danbury (population 144) with a circulation of 600. This is an example of a small-town paper with readership from across the county. (Stokes County population in 1884 was more than fifteen thousand.)

RELIGIOUS, AGRICULTURAL, AND CLASS PUBLICATIONS . . .			
RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS			
AGRICULTURAL PUBLICATIONS			
COLLEGE PUBLICATIONS			
EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS			
MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS			
SCIENTIFIC AND MECHANICAL PUBLICATIONS			
TRADE PUBLICATIONS			
MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS			
AGENTS'.....	711	FOREMEN'S.....	712
ART.....	711	INSURANCE, LEGAL, ETC.....	712
BICYCLING.....	711	JUVENILE.....	713
DENTAL.....	711	MILITARY AND NAVAL.....	713
FASHION.....	712	MINING.....	714
CO-OPERATIVE NEWSPAPER LIST			
PUBLICATIONS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES			
GERMAN.....	719	BOHEMIAN.....	720
FRENCH.....	720	HOLLANDISH.....	720
SCANDINAVIAN.....	721	ITALIAN.....	721
SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE.....	722	POLISH.....	722
		WELSH.....	723
		IRISH.....	723
		LATIN.....	724
		HUNGARIAN.....	724

Figure 2: Specialty papers from 1884 Ayer’s Table of Contents

Hey Paper Boy! - cont'd

RALEIGH †, pop. \$12,500; WAKE Co., pop., 47,939.									
African Expositor (Colored).....	Quarterly...Relig. & Educ	1879	*11×16	8	2,000†	.50			
Biblical Recorder	Wednesday	Bapt....	1835	26×42	4	4,320†	3.54		
Christian Advocate	Wednesday	Meth....	1855	30×44	8	4,500†	3.54		
Christian Sun.....	Thursday.....	Chn....	1844	25×37	4	900	1.60		
Evening Visitor.....	Evg. ex. Sun.....	Ind.....		20×26	4	800	5.00		
Farmer and Mechanic.....	Wednesday.....	Fam....	1877	26×40	4	2,300	2.50		
News and Observer....(see page 792)...	Morn..ex.Mon....	Dem....	1872	24×36	4	2,200†	10.00		
News and Observer....(see page 792)...	Tuesday.....	Dem....	1872	24×36	8	3,500†	5.00		
North Carolina Farmer.....	Monthly.....	Agric....	1876	*9×13	24	7,000	1.00		
North Carolina Teacher.....	Monthly.....	Educ....	1883	*6×9	48	1,200†	.50		
Register.....	Wednesday.....	Dem....	1885	27×42	4		2.50		
Spirit of the Age.....	Wednesday.....	Temp....	1867	24×36	4	500†	2.50		
State Chronicle.....	Friday.....	Dem....	1883	24×36	4		4.00		
Wake Forest Student.....	Monthly.....	Coll....	1882	*6×9	48	500†	.75		

Figure 3: Ayer's 1884 listing for papers published in Raleigh, NC.

A search for papers in Raleigh N.C. yields listings for 14 papers (Figure 3) in 1884. Each paper includes information about what day they publish, the first year of publication, the size of the pages, the number of pages in an issue, the circulation, and the cost for 10 lines of advertising for one month – the last column. Issues are typically weekly, but the News and Observer was published both daily and weekly. The papers also list their affiliation. Several of the papers are politically Democratic, but there is one Independent and one associated with the temperance movement. Several others are religious publications, and there are some agricultural and educational trade publications, as well as one college newspaper (Wake Forest Student), and one “Colored” newspaper (African Expositor).

Having found where papers were being published, the next question is whether those old issues still exist. One option a researcher can use after finding the name of papers of interest is to perform a web search. For example, a search for the [Wake Forest Student](#) led to Digital NC, which has digital copies of 110 volumes. A search for the [African Expositor](#) led to Chronicling America which has a digital copy of the Oct. 1886 issue. This method however is not the best for finding old issues as web searches for papers which are still being published will lead you to their present-day website.

There are a few methods to locate repositories holding old issues of papers. In 1936 the Bibliographical Society of America initiated a survey of libraries across the U.S. and Canada to develop a list of newspaper holdings to help students and

scholars with their research. The result was published as [American Newspapers 1821-1936, A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada](#). Listings are alphabetically organized by state and city, then by name of the paper. The listings will indicate if a paper has changed names or has been combined with another publication. Figure 4 shows the listing for the Raleigh temperance paper, [Spirit of the Age](#). It appears that this paper had two different publication runs. The first was weekly between 1849 and 1865, and the second was between 1867 and 1896, also a weekly publication.

SPIRIT of the age. w 1849-65 ?	
DLC	F 19 1862
MWA	My 27 1857
NNH	F 20 1861
Nc	Mr 3,30 1852;Mr 30,S 28 1853;Ja 4,Je 14 1854;Je 13 1860;O 16-23 1861;S 15-1862[My-D 1863]F 15-29,Mr 28 1864
NcD	[Jl-D 1852]-[55-60]Ja 30 1861;N 12 1864;Ja 7,F 4 1865
NcU	Mr 21,Ap 11,My 30,Jl 25,Ag 21,O 10,N 14 1851;Ja 9,Mr 10-17,Ap 28 1852;F 16,Mr 9,23,My 4,25,D 7 1853;My 17,31,Je 28,O 11 1854;Ag 29 1855;Ja 2,Mr 26,Ap 30,Je 4,25,Ag 15,O 29,D 24 1856 Ja 7,F 18,S 30,N 25 1857[58]Jl 20 1859;N 7-14,28-D 12 1860;Ja 23,F 13,Ap 3,17,Je 12,26-Jl 3,Ag 10,S 11-25 1861;S 29 1862;Mr 16 1863
SPIRIT of the age. w 1867-96 ?	
NcD	D 5 1874;N 23 1881;Ja 23,Ag 12 1882;Mr 19,Jl 30,S 24 1884;Ja 22 1890;Je 27 1894
NcU	F 27,O 9 1875;Ap 8 1876;Ag 11 1886

Figure 4: Union List for "Spirit of the Age".

Repositories holding various issues of the paper are listed by abbreviation followed by the publication dates held at the repository. The first capital letter (and the second letter if lower case) indicate the state which houses the repository. The specifics of the repository are found in the abbreviations list for that state. Many issues of papers may be held in areas outside of their publication location. For example in Figure 4, DLC indicates the Library of

Hey Paper Boy! - cont'd

Congress; MWA indicates the public library of Waltham, MA; and NNHi indicates the New York Historical Society in New York City. The remaining abbreviations represent North Carolina repositories, specifically the NC State Library in Raleigh (Nc), Duke University library in Durham (NcD), and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (NcU).

A more recent survey of repositories holding newspapers was performed by the National Endowment for the Humanities in the early 2000's. The result from this survey were published on the Library of Congress' website *Chronicling America* under U.S. Newspaper Directory 1690-Present.

Figure 5 shows the search page for the directory. A search can be performed on the newspaper title but this can be overwhelming. For example, searching for titles which start with "S" yields over 15,000 entries, and they are not completely in alphabetical order. Narrowing by state, county, and city yields far fewer titles to search through.

Figure 5: US Directory Search on *Chronicling America*.

Figure 6 shows the results for searching for papers in North Carolina – Wake – Raleigh. It yields 318 papers of which four are the Biblical Recorder, the Baptist paper listed in the Ayers Directory. Notice they are different time periods and have slight title changes. To find the repository which carry issues of the Recorder and Watchman, select the paper and scroll to the very bottom of the results page to find the "Holdings" line (Figure 7). Notice also that there

Figure 6: NC-Wake-Raleigh results for *The Biblical Recorder*.

are links to the other preceding and succeeding titles for the paper. If the paper is one digitized on *Chronicling America*, there will be a link to the paper in this area, too.

When "Holdings" is selected, there are seven repositories which carry issues of this title. Most of the holdings are not in North Carolina! The holdings will indicate which issues are available at each repository.

Figure 7: Partial results page for the Recorder and Watchman.

It would be wonderful if this directory also indicated which database companies (Newspaper.com, NewspaperArchives, Genealogy Bank etc.) held digitized copies of the papers, but it doesn't. To help find digitized papers, refer back to page 3, [Vol 2, Issue 2 of this newsletter](#) for hints and help on using **The Ancestor Hunt!**



Reminder!

WCGS is a Member of AmazonSmile. You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the eligible purchase price to Wake County Genealogical Society, Inc. Please bookmark & use this code: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1392575>

Stumped? Get a clue at WCGS GenHelp Sessions!

GenHelp is a free help session that combines the knowledge of a rotating panel of the sharpest genealogical minds in our society. Come get a clue! If you are interested, just submit your question in writing providing as much detail as you know to allow our crack team to mull and ponder. Then, attend the next monthly session for some guidance and clues. **GenHelp sessions are regularly scheduled on the first Thursday evening of each month.** The group is facilitated by WCGS member and Treasurer, **Stephanie Ernst**. Here are some great clues from a recent GenHelp session. Panelists included WCGS members: Carla Stancil, Barbara McGeachy, Heather Choplin, Saundra Cropps, and Sue Olmsted.

Q1: How would you know if someone was cremated? Also, if someone was cremated and their ashes were scattered, then how would you document that (location)?

A1: Try looking at the death certificate.

Q2: Hi! I recently found out I have a half aunt! How can I help her find out who her family is on her other side? She was adopted at birth. No one in my family knew about her! I am not able to find anyone that she and I aren't related to. I have her log ins on 23andme. I think I want to know who her other side is more than she does!

A2: Try Facebook Groups, Adoption Angels, MyHeritage Tools, Legacy Family Tree Webinars.



WCGS GenHelp:
Free Genealogy Assistance for Hobbyists
1st Thursday each month
Register at Wakecogen.org

Click image to sign up for the next GenHelp

Q3: My maternal grandfather was adopted in Durham County, this was never discussed & most of family are unaware of this adoption. He did not have a birth certificate until later in life that was created by a lawyer. His birthdate has always been celebrated June 3, 1915. Would there have been any legal papers vs. They took him in & he was their child?

A3: DNA is the best option. NC Birth Certificates were required by 1913. <http://www.Ancestry.com> has an index that can be searched by date. NC has adoption records on <http://www.FamilySearch.org> Check hospital records - there may be a record if the child was born in a hospital before becoming a foundling.

Q4: Did North Carolina have a State census that occurred mid-way through federal census years the way that a few other states did?

A4: Before 1790 yes, but nothing after the national census. Tax and militia lists. A school census in 1840 is available, identifying children and the adults that are responsible for them.



Lend a Hand

Volunteer opportunities abound! Contact Saundra Cropps via email if you would like to expand your community to include us (we are a fun bunch).

Open Positions include:

Journal - Content Curator, see page 2 for description.
Journal - Transcribers.

Wake Cemetery Survey - need Excel help to clean up some spreadsheets. This is an immediate need.

Wake Cemetery Survey - GPS data gathering and Find a

Grave look up. This will include computer searches and field work. You may volunteer for either or both.

Beginning DNA SIG Leader - We need another DNA SIG! Cyndi Deal will work with you to get you started. If two members want to sign up together and be co-leaders, that is a great option, too.

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

WCGS Blog Changes: New Email Subscription Service

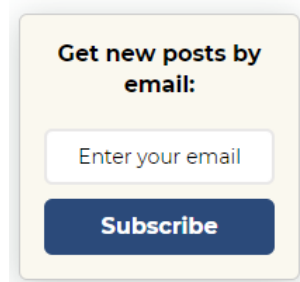
If you follow the WCGS Blog through your email, you have no doubt noticed a change or you may have stopped receiving your updates altogether.

Google and Blogger discontinued their Feedburner email subscription service at the end of June. Our subscribers on file were switched over to the new service in mid-June and all appears well. I have my helpers providing updates that they are continuing to receive email notification when new posts publish. The emails look a bit different and are addressed from the new service, **follow.it**.

If you have stopped receiving updates and you want to continue, visit the the WCGS blog home page and complete the ["Get posts by email" box in the upper right corner of the blog page.](#) [This blog post](#) addresses the change in look and what

to expect from follow.it.

If you don't receive your blog updates by email yet, [please sign up and join us!](#)

A yellow rectangular box with a thin grey border. Inside, at the top, is the text "Get new posts by email:" in bold. Below this is a white input field with the placeholder text "Enter your email". At the bottom is a dark blue button with the word "Subscribe" in white.

Local Railroad Magnate - Alexander Boyd Andrews (1841-1915)

In March 2021, Christopher Hunt Robertson shared his profile of local Civil War photographer, Esley Hunt. This month he is sharing a profile from his latest ebook that highlights the local railroad man, Alexander Boyd Andrews (1841-1915). - CD

The introduction and growth of the railroad industry factors quite heavily in the history of Wake County. The locations of the railroads determined the commerce centers of our county. I am a sucker for a good railroad story as I had close ancestors on both sides of my family who worked in the railroad industry.

Andrews married into a family that was already big in building railroads, but he was no slouch himself. He was involved in developing no less than five rail systems in North Carolina, including Raleigh & Gaston and Raleigh & Augusta locally. His profile appears in Robertson's book, [William Johnston: Carolina](#)

[Railroad King](#), free to view at Google.com.

Andrews' profile starts on **page 94** of the ebook. His wife, Julia Johnston Boyd, was the daughter of William Johnston, son of the titular William. There is a profile for her on **page 93**. There is also a feature of the homes that Alexander and Julia occupied in Raleigh. Locals will definitely recognize these. See **page 96** for photos and highlights.

Honestly, if you are into railroad history in North Carolina, you will want to carve out some time with your tablet and just read the whole book. Enjoy!

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 on the upper right to resize the images. - CD



Reminder!

September is membership renewal month

To renew or join visit the [Join WCGS](#) page at the [WCGS website](#). See this section - How to Join/Renew - for instructions.

The Wake Cemetery Surveys - Preserving the Past for the Future

By Cyndi Deal

The WPA Cemetery Survey c. 1936

If you have attempted to do any online cemetery research in North Carolina, you probably have come across the cemetery records that were compiled in the late 1930s by the **Work Projects Administration**.

The same public works effort that gave us the Slave Narratives, the Federal Arts Project, The Federal Writers Project, and the National Theater Project gave rise to the Historical Records Survey which created these records.

A description and background information on the **Historical Records Survey** (cemetery collection) as it impacts North Carolina were most likely written by former State Archives employee Mary Hollis Barnes. Her summaries of the project [appear at this blogpost on the NC Archives blog](#).

The WPA Cemetery Survey of NC c.1936-40 is available online at Digital NC. They were added in 2012, but are difficult to find since they are officially known and referred to as the Historical Records Survey in the collection index. [You can access the](#)

[Wake WPA files here](#).

Earlier I had found a link to the files at a website called East Carolina Roots. Wake is included in a partial collection of counties. This is not a complete set. I am happy to have stumbled on the right set of keywords to direct me to the Digital NC collection where the complete set is displayed.

The WPA Historical Records Survey was a national project. I was unable to find one index or repository for all states. I was able to find some online content in other states by using this Google search phrase "**cemetery records from wpa historical records survey for state name.**" Be sure to include the phrase "historical records survey" since the effort was never officially known as the "WPA Cemetery Survey, though it is often called that today. It is certainly worth the time to try searching this way.

If you wish to search the WPA cemetery collection at the county level for the rest of NC, the records are available at [NCDigital via this link](#). Note the collection is sparse. As an example, there are seventy one cemeteries surveyed for Wake County and only those buried before 1913 were listed.

Worker: James H. McCullers

Compiled by the Historical Records
Survey of North Carolina 1940

WAKE COUNTY
FRIENDSHIP, N. C.

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL CHURCH CEMETERY (COL.)

Location: Located about 1.2 miles northwest of Friendship and about 1 mile northwest of highway U.S. 1.

Condition: Good

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Horton, Elizabeth	May 4, 1829	Sep. 20, 1869	Wife of Nash Horton
Richardson Rebecca	May 15, 1850	Apr. 8, 1889	Wife of William Richardson
Whitehead, Hattie C.	Apr. 17, 1910	Nov. 3, 1912	

Sample Content of WPA Cemetery record in Wake County Collection [Source page 6 at link](#)

The Wake Cemetery Surveys - cont'd

The Wake County Cemetery Survey c. 1978 (WCS78)

Did you know there was a second cemetery census conducted state wide in the late 1970s?

Fast forward to North Carolina in the mid-seventies. So much had changed at this time. Rampant growth and the fact that the 1930s census records were inadequate and in serious need of an update prompted action by the state. NC government sought to fund a statewide, county by county project to catalog and protect all cemeteries. There was initial funding in place to create a vital statistics record of the state's cemeteries. It was to operate at the county level and was a cooperative project between the Archives and the NC Department of Archeology with [these objectives](#):

1. Identify, map, and describe existing cemeteries in North Carolina regardless of size, type, or physical characteristics. Since vital statistics were not kept officially until 1913, the emphasis of the survey is on those graveyards with burials before that date.
2. Permanently preserve historical, genealogical, sociological, demographic, and cultural data contained in abandoned or otherwise not cared for cemeteries, including epitaphs and photographs whenever possible.
3. Provide more recent and comprehensive survey data than that available in earlier cemetery surveys, such as the one conducted by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s and 1940s.

Although the NC government had initially earmarked funds for the project, difficulty finding volunteers and a change in the political winds resulted in a withdrawal of the state monetary support early on in the project. It fell to volunteers and service groups across the state to proceed on their own or disband. Participating groups included Boy Scouts, Church groups, Family History groups, Genealogy groups, and any volunteers who valued the final resting places and ground trod by their ancestors. The project evolved into a grassroots one.

Enter Irene Kittinger and her band of dedicated volunteer surveyors who canvassed Wake County to create the **Wake Cemetery Survey c. 1978 (WCS78)**. Despite losing the promised funding, the group continued to collect records across all twenty Wake County townships and pursued this goal well into the early 1990s.

Think back to the 1970s in Wake County. This was a period of extensive growth. The growth spurt started in the 1960s. The Research Triangle Park was built on Wake's western border at the same time the RDU Airport was seeking more land for expansion. The Falls Lake Project was in progress and new housing and subdivisions were springing up everywhere displacing family farms and the hidden or abandoned cemeteries that rested on them.

The records collected by Irene Kittinger and her army of volunteers stitched the names of the local departed into a rich tapestry of community, location and context across the fabric of Wake County. There are records of burials for first settlers, historical figures, Native Americans, and enslaved. In some cases, stories link the enslaved to their African American descendants.

There are accounts of rich and poor resting side by side. You will find records of homeplaces and landmarks that do not exist anymore. You will find the FAN clubs (Friends, Associates and Neighbors) so clearly illustrated in their place and time. The records tell stories of their struggles, survivals and successes.

The Wake Cemetery Survey is a gold mine for any researcher with Wake County roots. It is a treasure that Irene's group sought to preserve and one day publish for the benefit of Wake researchers.

Although some county surveys of this era did end up at the NC Archives, the Wake Survey did not. Irene had a vision to publish the survey and submitted proposals various local history, genealogy groups and the Wake County Board of Commissioners. Her bid to publish was unsuccessful and the survey went in to storage for many years until she donated them in the last decade to Phil Upchurch for use as reference material in his Upchurch and Allied Families office in Cary. This is where I found them through a casual

The Wake Cemetery Surveys - cont'd

conversation after the WCGS December 2019 presentation on cemetery research. This was right before everything shut down due to Covid restrictions. I was able to get a glimpse of the files contained in this unimposing collection of binders and as described, the contents haunted me with their enchanting level of detail for the first full year of lockdown.



Would you have recognized this as the gold mine that it is?

In January 2020, further conversation with the good folks at Allied Families led to a loan of the entire collection of WCS78 binders to evaluate for a possible WCGS project. A look at the collection showed that not only were there vital statistics as in the original WPA Survey, there were copious notes in margins, post-its and scrap papers. There is an overwhelming amount of data in an undisciplined array of media. All of it is important. I am including snippet images here so you can get a peek at the really precious content hiding in these binders.

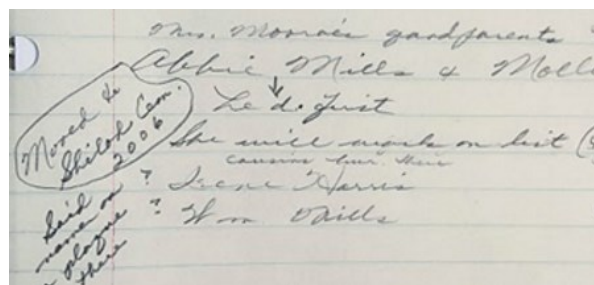
4. Condition

a) ☐ Well maintained and preserved	b) ☐ Poorly maintained
c) ☐ Overgrown, easily identifiable	d) ☒ Overgrown, not easily identifiable
e) ☐ Not identifiable as a burial site, but known to exist through tradition or other means. Explain <u>Original Upright Stone from 1925</u> <u>laid down flat and half covered by developer</u> <u>of Farmridge.</u>	

Foya Hollaway Cemetery, Leesville Township. WCS78

It is also important to note that the WPA survey focused on cemetery data prior to 1913. The newer survey closed the gap from 1913 to the mid 1970's. That is a lot of family history to be saved. Allied Families has graciously agreed to the loan of the material and our plans to digitize and maintain the digital files on the WCGS website. We have three volunteers with overhead scanners working on the initial digitization to work out the process and

troubleshoot any issues. The biggest issue with the record set is that the collection is mostly old handwriting and the typed pages are from old manual typewriters. Neither of these create searchable files very well. We have developed a file naming structure that will save hours of hunting through scribbled pages. As we are building the files for each township, we are using a naming strategy that makes finding at the cemetery and township much easier than sifting through the original binders.



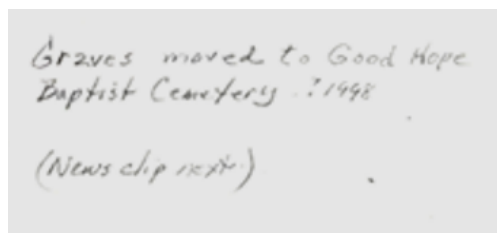
Mills Cemetery, Cedar Forks Township, WCS78

The project is in its very early stages. We hope to provide a digitized body of work that very closely approximates interaction with the actual volumes. Once the digitization is done, there are other project efforts that we hope to enact providing all the details work out in our favor, or rather, in favor of preserving the original record set. That is the ultimate goal. Along the way, we hope to upgrade the storage of the collection to something that is more archivally sound. We hope to enhance the location data by upgrading it with GPS data. There is much potential for creating indexing at the name/cemetery/township level when the Journal team has access to these file. I am sure Donna will find some great way to present this content to the WCGS members and Wake researchers.

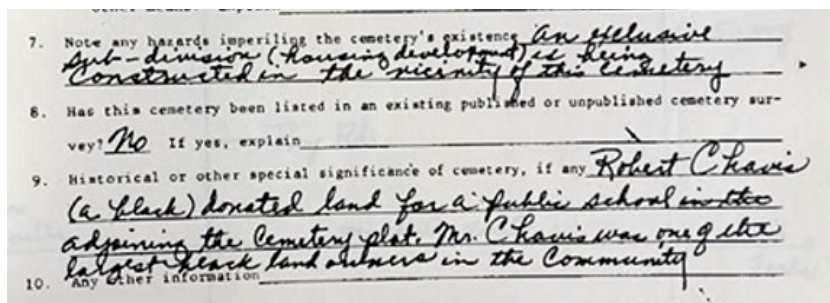
Volunteers Needed For the Wake Cemetery Survey c.1978 Digitization Project

- This is a massive undertaking by WCGS and such a rewarding project. There will be many ways to lend a hand along the way and many skillsets needed to complete the task. If you are interested in taking part, contributing, and getting an early sneak peek at the Wake Cemetery Survey c. 1978, please contact Sandra Cropps, our volunteer coordinator. The most urgent need is someone who is comfortable

Copy and paste - formatted set...

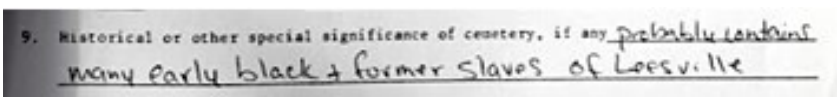


Barbee Cemetery, Cedar Forks Twp, WCS78



Chavis 1, Leesville Township, WCS78

with basic Excel to help clean up some township index files. These Excel files will be the backbone of our updated index that includes GPS data and Find a Grave links. In the very near future we will need folks to gather the GPS data (online or field work) and check for presence on Find a Grave. We will also have need for extra transcribers for the Journal team. I look forward to sharing this Tapestry of Wake County with you. What a treasure!



Chavis 2, Leesville Township, WCS78

Share the WCS78 experience with us!

We can use so many folks.

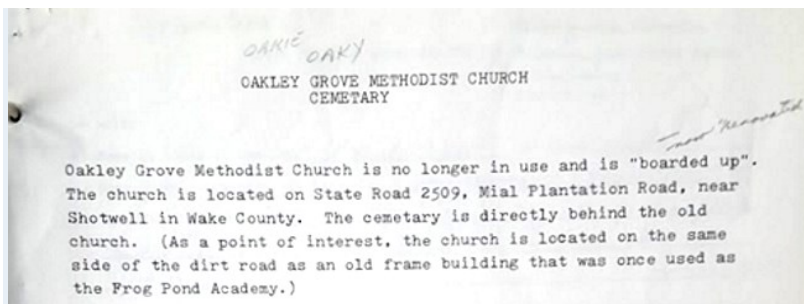
This is an opportunity to keep Wake County family history alive.

Here is your chance to join in preserving the rich legacy of the

county we call home.

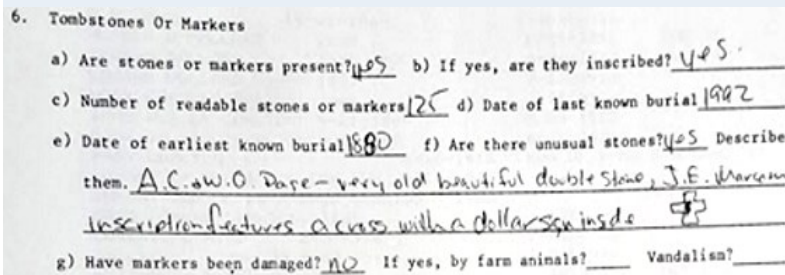
[Volunteer at this link.](#)

Thank you!

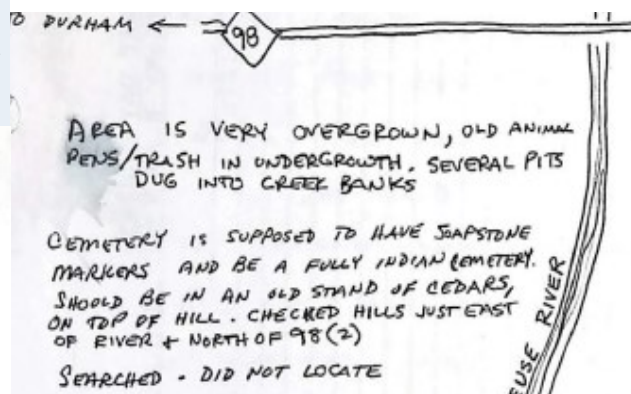


Oakley Grove Methodist Cemetery, Marks Creek Township, WCS78
[Has since moved to Walnut Hill Historic District, Knightdale.](#)

WCS78 wishes to thank **Irene Kittinger** for her vision and her openness to our desire to preserve all the hard work of her team. We also wish to thank **Upchurch and Allied Families** for allowing us access and long term loan of these records so that we may create a quality facsimile of the original documents to share with Wake researchers for decades to come. We plan to ultimately arrange for a safe secure future for the original documents.



Mt Hermon Baptist Cemetery, Cedar Forks Township, WCS78



Cluster of Cedars (fully Indian?), Neuse Township, WCS78

Fall 2021 Events Calendar

Fridays, Sept 3-24

Legacy Family Tree Webinars: Webtember - Free online genealogy conference with live and pre-recorded content. [Details](#). [Flyer](#).

Sep 18

WCGS Meeting: Establishing a Big-Y Research Group. Speaker: Janine Cloud. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Oct 13 - 16

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society: 2021 Virtual Conference. [Details](#)

Oct 29 - 30

NC Genealogical Society: 2021 Conference. Hybrid format - in-person and virtual. Various speakers. [Details](#)

Oct 26

WCGS Meeting: Finding the Law. Speaker: Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Dec 7

WCGS Meeting: Finding Clues to Your Ancestors Hidden in Social History. Speaker: Lisa Lisson. 6:30pm. On-Line Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Jan 25

WCGS Meeting: TBA

WCGS GenHelp* - Free genealogy assistance for hobbyist. Open to all. Meets via Zoom. First **Thursday evening of each month** - Register for upcoming sessions - [Sept. 2](#), [Oct. 7](#), [Nov. 4](#), and [Dec. 2](#).

WCGS Special Interest Groups - Meeting monthly, most via Zoom. *WCGS Members can visit the SIG section of the Member area for information.*

Family Tree Maker SIG - 1st Saturday each month

German Ancestry Research - 3rd Saturday each month

Beginning DNA SIG is a possibility if a member or two will step up to facilitate it. If you are interested, [Contact Cyndi Deal](#) for info.

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

Edgecombe Community College: Continuing Education Series/



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 **August 24, 2021**.

Historic Preservation Trades. (This program is on hiatus until the spring. Look for a new schedule in January at the following link.) Offering online and in-person Saturday classes. Watch their FB page [@HPTatECC](#) for up to date announcements on class availability.

Take advantage of free content online:

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](#)

Ancestry Library Edition— Temporary Remote access for Library Card Holders is extended through **Dec.31, 2021** due to Covid restrictions. Check at [VRL](#) or [NCG&H](#) Library depending on your library card. If this is extended, updates will be posted to the blog and Facebook.



Genealogical Societies in the surrounding area

North Carolina Genealogical Society - Visit webpage for events, webinars, and announcements. <https://www.ncgenealogy.org/>

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](#)





One Last Thing

The fall season is shaping up to be a busy one although there is still a good bit of uncertainty about the physical aspect of our meetings. As previously stated, count on virtual meetings through the end of the year. Please continue to follow us on line for updates and changes. Look for late breaking announcements about events via our [website](http://wakecogen.org), [blog](http://wakecogen.blogspot.com) and [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/wakecogen).

If you get stuck at home with nothing to do during the next covid wave, check out our volunteer activities. Most of these can be done from home on your computer. There might be a few extra Zoom meetings in your life, but if you are like me, that is what saved my mental health over the last year....Friendly, familiar faces!

As always, thank you for reading this far.

Your humble editor -

[Cyndi Deal](#)

Deadline for submissions for the Winter 2021 issue is Nov. 5, 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 book is a quotation;
and every house is a quotation
out of all forests, and mines,
and stone quarries;
and every man is a quotation
from all his ancestors.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Contact WCGS

Board Members

President: [Carla Stancil](#)

President-in-training: Monique Bunch

Corresponding Secretary: [Linda Hames](#)

Director: Heather Choplin

Director: Ed Webb

Membership: [Carol Kimball Stahl](#)

Past President: Kathy Ruse

Program Chair: [George Thomas](#)

Recording Secretary: Barbara McGeachy

Treasurer: [Stephanie Ernst](#)

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](#)

Queries: [Saundra Cropps](#)

Please send all other emails to
info@wakecogen.org

Postal mail:

Wake County Genealogy Society

P. O. Box 17713

Raleigh, NC 27619-7713