



WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

News from the Wake County Genealogical Society

Vol. 6, Issue 3

Spring 2023

WCGS Spring Schedule

Mar 28

**Rev Records: Finding Wake,
Orange & Durham**

Mark Chilton

Apr 25

**Making Sense
of your Research**

Robyn N. Smith

May 23

**Visualizing Complicated
Relationships**

Steve Little

Jun 27

Songs of the Enslaved

Mary Dobbin Williams

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

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Spring Update

There is so much going on here this month. In addition to the usual newsletter tasks, and Cemetery Survey research, I was tasked as Survey coordinator to create a video representing WCGS and our Cemetery project. This will be a submission to the **NGS SLAM! Idea Showcase**, part of the upcoming NGS Conference in Richmond late May. There are two other brave souls working on the video presentation with me, **Lynne Deese** and **Cynthia Gage**. I appreciate their time and effort so very much. Creating content for a format I am not familiar with and jumping through the hoops for submitting (writing two accompanying documents) has been a whole new learning curve. I hope you can cut me some slack and forgive any dangling prepositions or trailing thoughts. While it has been a month of challenges, all the projects are important and worthwhile.

Thanks to all those who submitted content for this issue. Brenda Carbon has shared a great case study exploring Ancestry's new ethnicity SideView feature. Several local citizens have shared cemetery information leading to productive connections made and clean up efforts going forward. That makes my heart happy. Check out the detailed descriptions of our upcoming presentations at the WCGS Events page. I am sure you will be as excited by the lineup as I am. Lots of great learning will happen in our near future!

Here is new innovation! I present the first ever crossover article from the WCGS blog to newsletter. Prepare to absorb the tidal wave that is RootsTech! While you are there, you can sign up to receive blog updates to your email if you like what you see.

RootsTech Roundup 2023:

All the Tools, All the DNA, All the AI, All the Stories

Here is a short recap of highlights from my sampling of sessions from RootsTech 2023 (March 2-4). **AI (artificial intelligence)** is popping up often as vendors are discovering new ways to harness its power in the field of genealogy. **Story telling** and story automation (fueled by AI) are the activities of the year. **DNA tools and methodology** continue to be a steady interest and driver of presentations at this yearly genealogy and tech convention. >> [Details at blog post](#)



Reminder to Members: Are you missing important event notices and updates from WCGS?

Take a moment to sign into [your member profile](#) to check your contact info. Contact: [Carol Kimball Stall - Membership chair](#) if you need to update.

WCGS Winter Meet Up Highlights: JoCo Heritage Center

WCGS Quarterly Meet Ups are where its At! Don't miss out on adventure and camaraderie! If you missed this February gathering, be sure to check in with us this spring. Here is a glimpse of February fun. - CD

Saturday, February 11 turned out to be the perfect day for an indoor field trip to the [Johnson County Heritage Center \(JCHC\)](#). It was a cool, cloudy rain threat of a day after a spell of tantalizing early spring weather. It was a perfect day for indoor sleuthing through the indoor stacks and vertical files at the JCHC. Our tour guide for the event, Bennett Chapman shared with us the story of the close relationship between Wake and Johnston Counties. The Readers Digest version goes that a portion of what is now Wake was carved out of Johnston County in 1771. Records for the eastern and southeastern portions of Wake for years prior to that time should be researched in Johnston County. JCHC maintains a growing collection of records for Johnston, and the eastern half of Wake county. Their website claims they hold approximately 2,500 books, 800 reels of microfilm, 300 maps/atlases, 100,000 photographic images, 600 private collections of books and papers, and vertical files on genealogy, biography, and local history.

Once orientation was over, Bennet gave us a tour of the Heritage Center building. The first floor holds reference books, surname files (updated regularly),

subject index files and the reference desk. The third floor holds many private collections and bound versions of several regional newspapers including The Johnstonian-Sun (Selma) and The Smithfield Herald.

The real draw to the third floor is the shiny, new **Zeutschel OS-12002** large format scanner just recently purchased to start the process of converting their many holdings to digital format. Because WCGS participated in providing a portion of the funding for the scanner, members are welcome to visit JCHC and use the scanner to digitize their large pictures, large format books and ledgers and oversized papers and documents. In fact, one WCGS member came ready to put the "Big Z" through its paces as you can see in the photo.



It was an easy walk from the JCHC to the Ava Gardner Museum and the Johnston County History Museum just down the street. The history museum has a nice collection of photos and memorabilia reflecting the rural, agricultural history of the county.



Photos - Trading stories in the stacks at JCHC. Rural housing project on display at the History Museum. Zeutschel OS-12002 photo from Steve Deal.

[Spring MeetUp](#)
[Wendell Museum](#)

May 13 at 12 Noon

122 W 2nd ST, Wendell, NC 27592

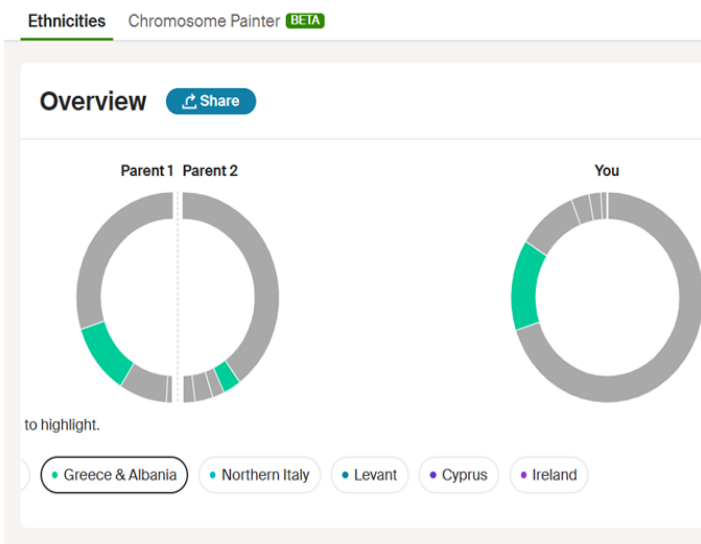
Visualize Ethnicity with Ancestry's SideView

by Brenda Carbon

Ancestry recently launched a new tool called SideView. This tool predicts the ethnicity estimates from each of your parents regardless of whether your parents had their DNA tested in Ancestry. This takes your ethnicity estimates to a new level by helping to answer questions like, "I wonder which side of my family my Greek ancestry comes from?" This is exciting and fun, but as with ethnicity estimating tools, caution should be used.

How were they able to accomplish this? Ancestry has a database of over 22 million testers with over 68,000 reference samples from various regions. Reference samples come from people who are native to a place or group based on their proven family history and DNA confirmation of their ethnicity. To estimate your ethnicity, they use a reference panel of these reference samples and compare them to your DNA. For example, in the region Greece/Albania, there are 598 reference samples in the reference panel.

Ethnicity inheritance



To access this feature, select DNA Story from the DNA menu. On the right side, scroll down to the ethnicity inheritance. You can select the "View Breakdown" button for additional information and also to identify your parents on each side. A note of caution on the matches by parent and the unassigned matches. Viewing these subsets of matches can be

confusing, incomplete, and even wrong especially if you have endogamy in your family. Endogamy is when marriage occurs within the same family, clan, religion, or culture group. If endogamy exists in your tree, the DNA matches by parent tool may be more confusing than helpful. In that case, rely on other tools such as shared matches, reviewing trees and hints (the green leaves) and Thrulines® to identify which side of the family each match originates from.

Detailed comparison [Share](#) [Edit parents](#)

Same data, more detail. This chart shows the percentages of each ethnicity you inherited from your parents. Added together, the percents from each parent for a region equals your percent for that region.

Region	Parent 1	Parent 2	You
Total: 6	50%	50%	100%
Southern Italy	30%	40%	70%
Greece & Albania	11%	3%	14%
Northern Italy	8%	2%	10%
Levant	0%	3%	3%
Cyprus	0%	2%	2%
Ireland	1%	0%	1%

Let's look at a case study as an example. The DNA sample is from a first generation American whose parents are from Italy. His father was born in Italy to Italian parents and his maternal grandparents were born in Italy so the DNA sample is from someone that has an Italian heritage on both sides of his family and has been researched back to second great grandparents on several lines and to at least great grandparents. Before SideView, this tester identified as 14% Greece/Albania ancestry. This is a surprise and needs to be investigated. When SideView became available, the majority of the Greece/Albania ancestry, 11%, was on his maternal line. This helps narrow down the research priorities. With 11%, this could mean ancestry back to the first or second great grandparent level. His maternal branch of the family tree traces back to lines, all born in Italy. Three lines are back to great, great grandparents, one line to great grandparents and one line only to grandparents, the Esposto surname line. There are known matches with cousins on the Esposto line who have not found any earlier ancestors either, but the next step is to check with them to see if there is Greek

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Visualize Ethnicity with Ancestry's SideView - cont'd

ancestry on their Esposto side of the family. Do this by checking with them or have them share their ethnicity and their SideView with you. So now there is a more targeted plan for research based on the information from SideView.

In closing, the science of ethnicity continues to improve and your ethnicity estimates can change over time so check back periodically on your DNA

story and ethnicity. Don't take ethnicity too seriously, but as you see, it can lead to some new explorations and findings. Happy researching! *Thank you, Brenda. This is a nice case study on how to get the most out of the SideView ethnicity tool. Ancestry has added **sorting by parent lines** to the SideView tool since this article was written. For more info see [p.8 of the Winter 2023 newsletter](#).*

Cemetery Savers

Save Cemetery of Rev War soldier - Captain Matthew McCullers (1759 - 1825)

Holt Anderson, Joel McCullers Hobby, and Tommy Broadwell (all McCullers descendants) are in the early stages of organizing a cleanup project of the **McCullers Family Cemetery** in southern Wake County. They seek other descendants and interested parties to assist in planning and executing the effort to clear the site located at **Donny Brook Rd and US 401 south of Raleigh**. The site is the burial place of documented Revolutionary War soldier, **Captain Matthew McCullers** and includes a total of 19 graves. An associated slave cemetery is located nearby.



Matthew Jones McCullers (1759-1825) married Sarah Lane (1763-1843). McCullers served in the Revolutionary War and attained the rank of Captain. He fought in the Battle of Moore's Creek (NC), Battle of Brier Creek (GA), Siege of Charleston and Battle of

Lindley's Mill (NC).

View Captain McCullers Rev. War Pension file here - <http://revwarapps.org/w7415.pdf>

View the Cemetery Find a Grave records here - <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2242193/mccullers-cemetery>

Known associated surnames include Adkins, Anderson, Banks, Heflin, Perkinson, Johnson, Lane, Nance, McCullough, and Rand.

If you are interested in helping plan and execute this cleanup project, please contact Holt Anderson. Please share this information with anyone you think may be interested and willing to participate.

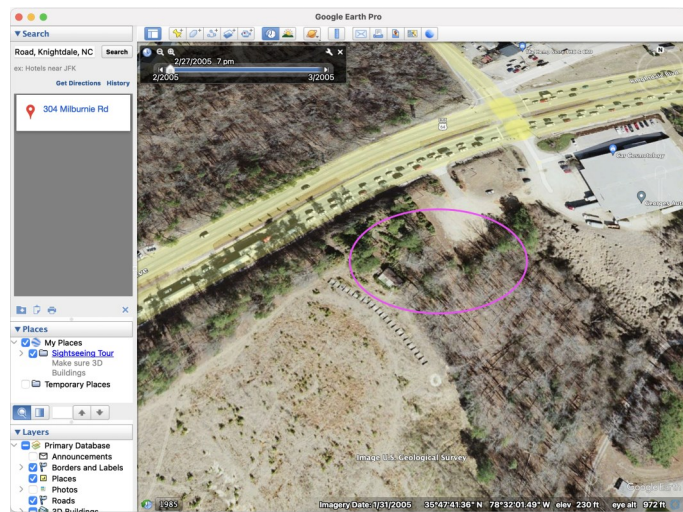
Holt Anderson
17 Chancery Place
Durham, NC 27707-5001
919-740-8697 (Mobile)
919-489-9310 (Home)
holta@mindspring.com

Seeking information about the location of a lost/abandoned cemetery near Neuse River and Knightdale Swim Club

Description from Mr. George Hess:
"There is a property on the south (east-bound) side of New Bern Avenue / Business 64 just east of the Neuse River, St Matthews Township. Wake County PIN 1734748135. There are plans to build an apartment complex there and I've heard that there is a cemetery somewhere on the property, but I've no idea what kind or where it is, nor do I have permission to access and look for it. I've been looking for a map of cemeteries in Wake or this

Cemetery Savors - cont'd

particular area but haven't been able to find one. Can you provide any insight as to how I might track this down? I'm also trying to get up with Town of Knightdale, which has zoning jurisdiction, to see if they have no information."



Wake County iMAP PIN 1734748135
(view online for larger image)

If you can provide information or help save this cemetery, please contact George.

George Hess
304 Milburnie Road
Knightdale, NC
919-810-3834
bikestrong@gmail.com

***Late breaking update** - On 2/13, I posted this same request on Facebook and was informed that the cemetery in question was the burial grounds of the **former enslaved population at John H Hinton's Clay Hill plantation**. Any Hinton descendants or descendants of this enslaved population please contact George.

Help and input needed for cemeteries on the Wake/Harnett County line

I received a request for help from Steve Koontz of the newly formed Harnett County Cemetery Preservation Group requesting help from descendants and interested volunteers to assist in the clean up and restoration of several cemeteries on the southern county line.

One has graves with the following surnames: Barbour, Betts, Revels, Smith, Wray. Seventeen graves are named. The earliest burial is dated 1814-1890. Located near **1461 Purfoy Rd.** A clean up day on Feb. 18 made some good progress, but about half the work remains. **[Second cleanup scheduled for March 11.](#)**

There is another cemetery near Fuquay that is on their list to clean up. The **[Stevens Family Cemetery](#)** will be scheduled for date in the near future.

Please contact Steve Koontz if you can help with either of these or any other Southern Wake Cemeteries that the Harnett group has on their schedule.

Steve Koontz
skoontz76@aol.com
[Harnett County Cemetery Preservation Group/FB](#)

Please help us connect preservationists, volunteers, and abandoned cemeteries

WCGS is seeking contact information for any groups or individuals in Wake County who are actively doing cemetery clean up work or interested in doing so. This information will aid in making connections faster when requests are made. If you know of a group or individual or you are this individual (Bless you.), please contact us at **newsletter@wakecogen.org**.

Wake Cemetery Survey, c.1978 Update

The new Index files with added GPS and Links are now live for 2/3 of the project. These are **coming soon - Meredith, Panther Branch, Raleigh, Swift Creek, Wake Forest, White Oak**. Those not listed here already have GPS and links data added in their New Index file. Please visit them to see our vision of the updated index that can grow as new cemetery information is discovered and added to the file. You will find them in section 2 of each township.

Be sure to check out the **[Surname Finder](#)** created by Cynthia Gage to help you find kin in the smaller family cemeteries across Wake County.

DNA Download: Important Concepts for Beginners (and the rest of us!)

I ran across two very good DNA blog posts since last newsletter. They both cover a lot of basic and foundational information that makes working through your shared matches easier. - CD

Whether you are just thinking about testing, are eagerly awaiting your results or have been sorting matches and comparing shared ancestors and cM amounts for years, this lengthy post can answer all your questions. [DNA – What, when, how, why – FAQs for beginners – 2023 Edition](#), written by British genealogist, Donna Rutherford tackles everything from “Where should I test?” to “Do I really need a chromosome browser?” to the all important question - “What is a centiMorgan (cM)?”



The post reads like a genetic genealogist's user manual. Donna has anticipated all the questions and returns answers with links and sources to get you quick answers and deeper understanding as your skills progress.

Sample questions include:

- **What does my match list mean, how do I use this information?**
- **What does shared cM, largest cM and Segment numbers mean?**
- **How do I work with a match with no tree?**
- **What is GEDMatch? X DNA? Haplogroup?**
- **How small a match should I go chasing to find a common ancestor?**

Third party tools such as Leeds Clusters , DNA Painter and WATO are covered. She shares acronym help and a series of video presentations for beginners.

I plan to bookmark this file and keep it handy for review and to share with those just starting out.

Once you have digested all this, you may want to move on to a post from Roberta Estes - [Concepts: Your Matches on the Same Segment are NOT](#)

[Necessarily Related to Each Other](#). Roberta's post covers one of the most important concepts to master if you plan on working with chromosome browsers. She gives a very clear explanation and illustration of what you see with the current state of Chromosome segment matching when comparing with shared matches.



One dimensional stack of shared segments

Current technology can not detect whether your match is maternal or paternal. When you place matches on a chromosome browser at any of the vendor sites that offer them (My Heritage, 23&Me, FTDNA) you will see a one dimensional stack. It is up to the tester to determine who triangulates and which triangulated groups fit on which parental chromosome.

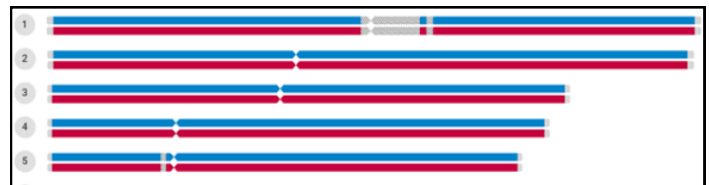


Illustration of several chromosomes including sharing on both parental segments (full sharing between a child and both parents).

Roberta also includes a couple of links to additional blog posts on triangulation if you want to take the process further.

Mastering the concepts of shared segments and triangulation is a bit of a learning curve and Roberta walks the reader through the steps with thoughtful illustrations like those above to ease the process. You might go back and read a time or two to get all the concepts, but it will open your eyes to how you and your shared matches fit together and save you a lot of time and casting about in the long run.

I hope you enjoy these articles and they provide you with useful new tools. - CD

NGS SLAM Ideas Showcase - WCGS Video entry

The National Genealogical Society will hold its annual Family History Conference in Richmond, Va this year from May 31-June 3. Details for registration and schedule are [here](#).

If you are attending and arriving before early evening on Wednesday, May 31, be sure to attend the **SLAM! Idea Showcase Reception at 5:30 pm**. You may see a WCGS video presentation there. The NGS SLAM! Idea Showcase Reception highlights creative and innovative projects or programs from genealogy societies, libraries, archives, and museums.

NGS uses the Showcase to share content that:

- Promotes genealogical research
- Highlights new content whether it be a new database, resource, outreach or programing
- Free and accessible to all

The Wake Cemetery Survey Image Collection fits all of these categories. Our video has been submitted to NGS. **Check our webpage later this spring. If we can share, we will post a sneak peek.**

All videos will be presented on May 31 at the SLAM! Idea Showcase in Richmond, Va.



WAKE COUNTY
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Shaw University

Resources

[Wake Cemetery Survey](#)
[Wake Research Resources](#)
[Wake History Resources](#)
[Other Links and Resources](#)

Events

[WCGS events](#)
Member Content
[Log in for member content](#)
including SIG info, Surname List,
recorded presentations and
more

Publications

[Wake Treasures - Journal](#)
[Wake Gen Watch - newsletter](#)
[WCGS Publications for Purchase at Lulu.com](#)

Have a browse around our website - WCGS has a lot to offer from the comfort of your easy chair! When you visit, you will find our site 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! *Get the most out of your research with help from WCGS!*

Spring 2023 Events Calendar

Mar 13 - Apr 17

OLLI - Genealogy -- Starting with the Basics. Instructor: Barbara McGeachy, WCGS member. 6 week class. [Details](#)

Mar 24-25

NCGS Virtual Conference. Various Speakers. [Details](#)

Mar 28

WCGS Meeting: Revolutionary Records: Finding Wake, Durham and Orange Counties. Speaker: Mark Chilton. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Apr 25

WCGS Meeting: Putting It All Together: Making Sense of All your Research. Speaker: Robyn N. Smith. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

May 23

WCGS MeetUP: Trip to Wendell Museum : in person gathering with Wake Historical Society. Saturday, 12 Noon. [Details](#)

May 23

WCGS Meeting: Vizualizing Complicated Relationships. Speaker: Steve Little. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

May 31 - June 3, 2023

National Genealogical Society: Family History Conference. Richmond, Va. Check website for [Details](#)

Jun 27

WCGS Meeting: Songs of the Enslaved and Downtrodden. Speaker: Mary Dobbin Williams. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

WCGS Special Interest Groups: Meeting monthly 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

Ongoing Workshops thru SeniorTechEd - Genealogy and Tech classes offered online via Zoom include private Ancestry

Coaching, various Genealogy topics, MS Office program instruction to help with organizing and presenting your research - Excel, Power Point, & Word. [Details and fees](#)

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 events content. [View page](#)

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

Legacy Webinar series - Webinars are free to attend with registration and for viewing on demand for 7 days afterward. [Schedule and Registration](#) (Legacy Webinars/WCGS

Member Discount. Log in to the WCGS member area for details.)

Family History Fanatics (YouTube channel) - Great record set reviews, and methodology tips. More and more, I am referring folks here for quick access to information covering basic to intermediate DNA and Genetic Genealogy skills. [Watch videos](#)

DNA help from Diahann Southard: a combination of free and fee based content, but you may find that her teaching style is worth the time and price. [Your DNA Guide](#)



Societies and Sources in the surrounding area

North Carolina Genealogical Society: [Details](#)

Johnston County Heritage Center: [Details](#)

Durham-Orange Genealogical Society: [Details](#)

Granville County Genealogical Society: [Details](#)

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society: . Details - TRCGS@Brasswell-Library.org

Heritage Society of Franklin County: Details - heritagesocietync@gmail.com

Triangle Jewish Genealogical Society: [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 7, 2023**.



One Last Thing

Here is hoping your next quarter is full of genealogy goodness but the workload is much lighter.

If you know of a topic that needs to be shared or have an article, ancestor, research tip you would like to write about and have featured in the WGW, I will be happy to include. See deadline below.

Your humble editor -

[Cyndi Deal](#)

Deadline for submissions for the Summer 2023 issue is May 15, 2023.

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.

Contact WCGS

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