



WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

News from the Wake County Genealogical Society

Vol. 7, Issue 1

Fall 2023

Our Fall Schedule

Sep 26

Empower Genealogists With AI

Steve Little

Oct 24

DNA and Genealogy Uncovered

Long Lost Father

Melvin Collier

Dec 5

Genealogy Escape Room: The Case of William Sydney Porter

- Oh Henry!

Thomas MacEntee

Jan 23

Bounty Land, Military Pensions, & Alt. Records

Debra Dudek

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

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Autumn Update

Have you checked out the Wakecogen Homepage lately? Webmaster Cynthia Gage has been doing a redesign to make our offerings easier to find. The latest changes are these:

- A handy event scroller on the right side of the homepage to keep you apprised of our events for several months to come.
- A consolidation of the links on the left hand side to reduce the amount of scrolling. The Wake Publications and Research Resources tabs both feature drop down menus to provide access to some of the links that were previously in the left column.
- Space reserved at the top of the front page for various highlights and features including events, member recognitions, special publications, bog content features and more. Check back often to see the latest focus.

If you are on a phone or tablet, remember to scroll right to see the events highlights or left for the topic sidebar. If you are missing the Wake Genealogy Watch link, you will find it handy at the top of the homepage!

We hope you enjoy the new look. Many thanks to Cynthia Gage for the time and thought she has put in to this lovely redesign.

Sandra Cropps has assumed the post of Diversity & Inclusion Officer. Look for a full description of her new role and some associated research content in the new feature space on the Wakecogen homepage soon.

You can look forward to a very creative line up of virtual presentations this Fall. In addition to presentations that include the use of solid genealogy and genetic skills to uncover your family mysteries, we will have a special presentation for our holiday meeting from Thomas MacEntee that promises to be anything but expected. September's topic of Artificial Intelligence used for Genealogy is both timely and cutting edge. Recent speaker and WCGS member Steve Little will share a great introduction to the possibilities and products that we can use to speed up our research and creative process. I guess the new catch phrase will be **"Work smarter, not harder... With bots!"**



Reminder: Membership year starts Sept. 1, 2023
To renew or join visit the [Join WCGS](#) page at the [WCGS website](#).
Instructions in the "How to Join/Renew" section.

Turning the Page on Wake Treasures: A Legacy of Genealogical Riches Continues to Shine

By Carla Stancil, WCGS President

Wake Treasures is our multi-award-winning journal first published in 1991. Over the years, *Wake Treasures* has brought us a mountain of primary source documents with historical or genealogical significance for Wake County. It has also published primary source documents from related counties when there was no other outlet for those records.

As technology has evolved and record access has improved, the WCGS Board of Directors has made the decision to combine the journal with the [WakeCoGen Blog](#) and [Wake Genealogy Watch](#), our award-winning newsletter, to better bring our members and researchers the best possible resources.

To our current editor, **Donna Shackle**, we offer sincere and humble thanks for curating a wonderful archive of important Wake records and information. Donna has been editor of *Wake Treasures* for the past several years and has worked diligently to provide well-sourced and documented data and records that cannot be found online and have not been published elsewhere. Donna plans to return to graduate school to prepare to work in historical archives – a perfect fit and surely a benefit to all researchers.

Our previous editor, **Diane L. Richard**, massaged the journal into the masterpiece it is today before handing over the reins to Donna. She continues her own genealogical journey that has benefitted Wake and

North Carolina researchers as the current editor of the North Carolina Genealogical Society journal.

We have been very blessed to have such talented editors and a multitude of dedicated volunteers to assist in creating *Wake Treasures*. You can be sure your efforts will continue to give back to researchers for many years to come.

To Donna, Diane, all of our past editors and our tireless volunteers....**THANK YOU** for the gift of *Wake Treasures*.

This news doesn't mean the journal is completely going away, however! There is still one issue of new content in the pipeline to publish sometime this fall or winter. In addition, all the past issues of journals are archived [on our website](#) for members to use in their research. All the rich content curated for the past thirty plus years is still available at your fingertips! There is also a subject matter index that anyone can use for free for volumes 1 – 25.

As the Society moves forward, look to the WakeCoGen Blog and *Wake Genealogy Watch* newsletter to continue to provide curated Wake centric content in the same tradition as our journal editors. Cyndi Deal has long been the editor of both the blog and newsletter, as well as managing WCGS social media efforts. She intends to keep focus on the Society's commitment to provide Wake researchers with the records and tools we need to further our research.

 WAKE TREASURES VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1 – SPRING 1991 Wake County Genealogical Society	Volume 26, Number 1 – Winter 2016 Wake Treasures Journal of the Wake County Genealogical Society  Ochs Family Library Raleigh, North Carolina 27610-7713 www.wakecogen.org info@wakecogen.org Diane L. Richard, Editor dianerichard@wakecogen.org	 WAKE TREASURES Wake County Genealogical Society Volume 30 Issue No. 2 Donna Shackle, Editor	Wake Treasures in its many iterations, left to right: Volume 1.1, Spring 1991, Lynne Belvin, Ed. Volume 26.1, Winter 2016, Diane Richard, Ed. Volume 30.2, Fall 2021, Donna Shackle, Ed. “Thank you for the gift of <i>Wake Treasures</i>.”
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Reading Room: The Life and Times of Lucius Griffis 1839-1918

The Life and Times of Lucius Griffis (1839-1918): Including a Detailed Study of His Participation in the American Civil War (1861-1865), written by Brian Craig Griffis. 119 pp.

Brian Griffis shares this glimpse into his Wake County family story with us. He researched for years to discover and round out the context of his ancestor, Lucius Griffis. - CD

Lucius was a Wake County native born and bred, a fatherless son who was raised by two women. He was not much of a student and chose to pursue farming as soon as he could get away from the classroom. He was a soldier, a deserter who paid the consequences and rejoined his unit, a soldier again drilling and marching all over the South without seeing any real battle action until a very pivotal moment. He was a husband and father of a family unit tragically broken by the war and its aftermath, a husband again twice over, a veteran so crippled and debilitated from his injuries during the war that he spent his later years on the dole in the poorhouses of Raleigh.



Battle flag of the NC 47th

That was my elevator speech version of Lucius' life. I am being deliberately brief here because Brian has done so much research on his 2nd Great grandfather over many years. He has done a masterful job of pushing past the easy task of snagging links at Ancestry.com. You will find he has dug deep to find records that not only document Lucius' presence in the many phases of his life, but jaw dropping accounts of what his ancestor faced as a soldier, deserter, and veteran. Brian has also captured the desolation of Lucius and various family members as they struggle to survive in the chaotic place that was the Reconstruction South. Brian's book will be of

interest to a wide variety of readers' interests including:

- Wake County research
- Civil War history in both North Carolina and Virginia especially those interested in the NC 47th's role in battle and eyewitness accounts of battles and last days of the war
- Raleigh's occupation by Federal troops in the immediate aftermath of the war
- Social support and reform in the postbellum era
- History of the Wake County Home and Cemetery

Those seeking a model of best practices for research and family history writing will want to make time for a nice leisurely read to enjoy not only the story, but Brian's strategy for "filling in the dash." Brian presents us with a richly told story of a Wake County man and his cohorts as they struggle through some historically tumultuous events in our history.

In pressing beyond the standard data points of Birth, Marriage and Death records, Brian has made use of a great many alternate resources. These notably include:

- Eyewitness accounts of NC47th from published sketches of Captain Thorp, Co. A and Lieutenant Rogers, Co I, (Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-1865)
- Eyewitness accounts of Surrender at Appomattox
- Eyewitness accounts of the Federal occupation of Raleigh
- Lucius' Confederate service file
- NARA Confederate Archives
- Articles and reports from newspapers on various topics throughout the biography

Brian has made careful and helpful use of his footnotes and source bibliography. He includes photos with illustration credits. At the end, readers will find an Appendix with an eleven generation Griffis pedigree including the author and Lucius.

Click to read or download the [PDF](#). Note that this is a large file and may take a minute or two to open. For printed copies or usage permission, you may contact the author at bchistory@gmail.com.

FamilySearch Research Tip : Location is Critical

Contributing - Barbara McGeachy

and **Hannah Cox**, *manager of the Olivia Raney Local History Library*

Special thanks are in order for sharing this essential user tip on location searches. This will apply everywhere even though the examples here are for Wake County.

On FamilySearch.org, the search results for a COUNTY do NOT include all the cities within the county! For example, here are Wake and Raleigh (filtered for online records only). Make sure you try both a county search and a county + city/town search.

▼ United States, North Carolina, Wake Cemeteries (1)
Pre-1914 cemetery inscription survey, Wake Co. Author: Historical Records Survey (North Carolina)
▼ United States, North Carolina, Wake - Census (1)
School records (Wake County, North Carolina), 1856, 1871-1939 Author: Wake County (North Carolina). Board of Education; North Carolina. Superior Court (Wake County)
► United States, North Carolina, Wake - Church history (1)
► United States, North Carolina, Wake - Church records (8)

▼ United States, North Carolina, Wake, Raleigh Buildings, dwellings, etc. (1)
North Carolina's capital, Raleigh, [1760-1967] Author: Waugh, Elizabeth Culbertson; Mills, Ralph
▼ United States, North Carolina, Wake, Raleigh - Business records and commerce (1)
Registers of signatures of depositors, April 9-20, 1868 Author: Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (Raleigh, North Carolina)
▼ United States, North Carolina, Wake, Raleigh - Cemeteries - Indexes (1)
Inscription card index
► United States, North Carolina, Wake, Raleigh - Church history (3)

The search above is for Wake County only, while search at left includes Wake county + Raleigh. This second search will pull records that will be missed by the first attempt.

Use both searches to find all the records you need and maybe some you did not realize you were missing!

Great tip Barbara and Hannah!

Allied Families Records Online

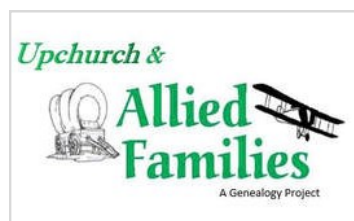
[Upchurch and Allied Families Association](#) (UAFA) has recently updated their website. The latest improvement has been to provide much of the work of the late Phil Upchurch and his contributors online. These files include Phil's Biofiles, Narratives and Enrolled Family files.

Those familiar with UAFA will know how valuable this is. Those unfamiliar are in for a research treat. These files are filled with genealogy gold that is available whenever you wish to browse.

In addition to the files online on their own webpage,

UAFA is in the process of placing family trees of the Enrolled Families on Ancestry.com. Again, they are sharing the wealth here.

For details on their project including file links and access instruction, see the [April 2023 issue](#) of the Upchurch and Allied Families Newsletter.



Milling in Wake County: History from an unexpected source

I am fascinated by the defining role of early historic watermills in the thread of survival that runs through the story of Wake County from the days of our early settlers up until the not so distant past. Much of this story has been erased in the repeated rounds of growth, development and building frenzies that Wake has experienced from the late 70's until today. Sadly, in our county, there is only one mill active today and only partial remains of one other.

As the colonial settlers of Wake County carved out homes and communities, they had to meet several high priority needs to do so. Highest on this list were shelter, a water source, fields to grow their food and roads to barter, trade and sell the products of their labor.

Somewhere in the process, mills became as important as these other needs. Mills, from early days right up until the very recent past fueled the economy of Wake County at both a micro and macro level. The mills of the past provided food products and lumber locally and farther afield as the county grew and demand increased.



Fendol Bevers Map of Wake County,

The span of the 1800s through the first third of the 1900s found Wake County heavily populated with many mills. In this clip of the [Fendol Bevers map](#) of Wake from 1871, you can count no less than eight mills in the House Creek Township (a ninth, if you

are sharp and enlarge the map to its full size in the online version and look just over the township boundary at the upper right). Did you know that in the late 1800's there were more than seventy mills operating within Wake County?

Early colonial mills most often were situated on the rivers and streams that were so important to early settlers. These mill sites also drove the creation of roads for community connection and trade. In later years, mill sites also figured heavily in where the railroad lines would run.



Yates Mill ([source](#))

If you too, are fascinated with mills and their impact on early settlements and communities, you will want to read this thesis on the [History of Milling](#) by Leslie Hawkins Meadows hosted at the Yates Mill website. Her work includes information on the various types of mills, their importance in the community, and highlights the last three mills extant in our memories if not our landscape - Yates (the only one still in operation), Lassiter (only the dam remains) and Lake Myra Mill (which fell into disrepair in the 1990's and collapsed).

Meadows' detailed examination of the mills and their history appears in five parts on the [Yates Mill website](#) and includes sources and an extensive bibliography.

You will also find an extensive list of Wake County surnames in the thesis. These include — Yates, Penny, Edwards, Price, Boylan, Pearson, Briggs, Dodd, Primrose, Lassiter, Hunter, Thomas, Rogers and more. I promise you won't regret the read! - CD

OLLI Fall 2023 Offers Content of Genealogical Interest

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at NC State opened its Fall 2023 registration Thursday, July 27. Our own Barbara McGeachy will follow her Intro Genealogy class with **Genealogy: Intermediate Research Skills (Oct 24 - Dec 5)**.

OLLI offers classes that cater to a multitude of interests and genres. OLLI membership is required - minimum age is 50 and cost is \$50/year plus the fee for each class. No affiliation with NCSU is required. Most classes are held at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh between 9 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

View their Fall 2023 course offerings [here](#). There are other schedule viewing options at the OLLI schedule and registration webpage [here](#).

Barbara notes that in addition to her class, there are several others that fit genealogy, local and family history, black history and Wake County interests. Here is a list of these special interest classes.

- Historic Preservation in Wake County
- Battles of the American Revolution 1782-

1783 is a six-week class; the instructor is so popular that he's teaching it twice

- Genealogy: Intermediate Research Skills (Oct 24 - Dec 5).
- Historical Black Neighborhoods of Raleigh
- Wake County Enslaved Persons Project
- Talkin' Tar Heel: History, Voices, Culture, Legacy
- The History and Evolution of the Outhouse
- The Transnational Context of "1619"
- Discovering the Dead at Oakwood Cemetery



Location is Everything: Maps are where it's at!

[North Carolina Maps](#) is a collaborative digitization project by the State Archives of North Carolina, the Outer Banks History Center, and the University Library at UNC-Chapel Hill.

I ran across this collection while searching for a map that showed North Carolina when its borders extended west to the Ohio River. As you can see I was not disappointed. In addition to finding what I sought, there is a wealth of information in this collection.

You will find not only [historic maps](#) (1500 - 2000), but also [interactive maps](#) that include a historic overlay feature to compare changes over time. An unexpected surprise was the [North Carolina Timeline](#) with entries from 1585 to 1938 with links to relevant maps. You will also find [Sanborn insurance maps](#) for much of the state.

An easy and interesting way to add context to your ancestor's story is to use the lessons under the [K-12 Lesson Plans](#). Check out this Grade 8 Lesson on [Discovering North Carolina: A Colonial Map WebQuest](#). I did find some broken links on this one, but was able to find most of the material using search. Another to check out is Grade 11-12 [Tracing Abolitionist Movements in North Carolina](#).

I know you will find ways to use this collection for your own research for location and context.



[Source](#)

A Tale of Two Maps: Maps of Henry Mouzon, 1775 and 1777

Since we are on the subject of maps, I thought it relevant to share this recent post from the [Wakecogen Blog](#). I found the comparison very entertaining. I hope you will too. - CD

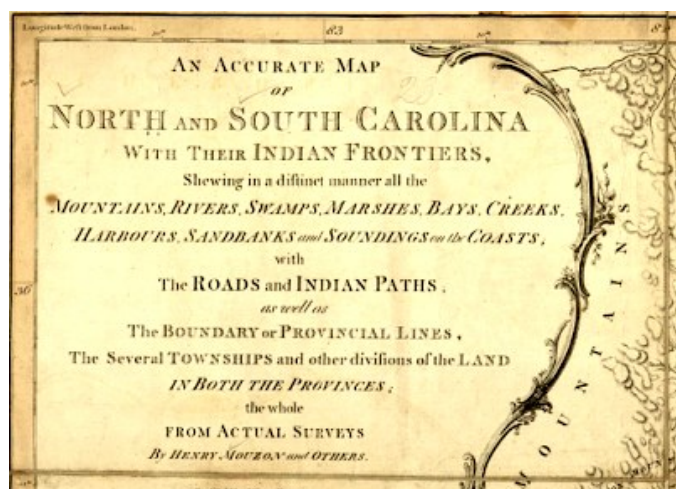
The Maps of Henry Mouzon 1775 and 1777

Have fun spending some time comparing and contrasting these two colonial era maps that are held by the Library of Congress. Both were made under the direction of Henry Muzon. Both show the early colonies of North and South Carolina. Both are hand colored, although each is executed somewhat differently. One was created in London, the other in Paris. They even share a title -

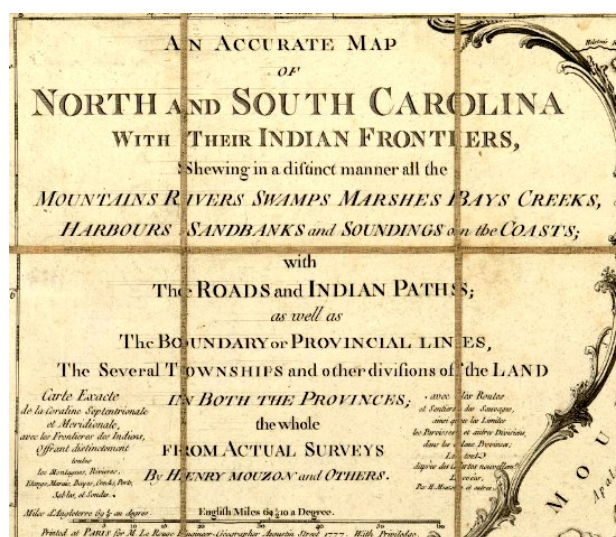
An accurate map of North and South Carolina, with their Indian frontiers, shewing in a distinct manner all the mountains, rivers, swamps, marshes, bays, creeks, harbours, sandbanks, and soundings on the coast with the roads and Indian paths as well as The Boundary or Provincial Lines, the several Townships and other divisions of the Land in both Provinces: The whole from Actual Surveys by Henry Mouzon and Others.

Click through to the [blog post](#) to see larger images, but more importantly, click the hyperlinked dates to view the original maps at the Library of Congress.

[1775](#)



[1777](#)



If you have time for nothing else, be sure to open the 1777 version to see Cornwallis's Route from

-- Cont'd

Maps of Henry Mouzon - cont'd

Charleston to the Piedmont area of North Carolina. No doubt this was colored after the fact by someone other than the makers, because these troop movements happened in 1780-81 time frame. Note also that Cornwallis is spelled "Cournoualis". Interesting. This must reflect its French publication.



Another feature not to be missed in both maps is their wonderful hand drawn craftsmanship. You will see this if you do a tight zoom on the hand lettering in the upper left corner of either map.

Shewing in a distinct mann
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SANDBANKS and SOUN

Are you still up for a challenge? Can you find the location of the land that became Wake County in 1771, but for some reason, is still designated as being in another county on these maps? I guess folks were a little busy with warring and other things at this point.

I hope you enjoy this deep dive into colonial, Revolution era maps. These are so totally fascinating that review could take several hot afternoons to satisfy your curiosity!

WCGS Receives NGS 2023 SLAM! Idea Showcase Award

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) has selected our Wake Cemetery Project video as one of only four winners for the 2023 SLAM! Idea Showcase. Our project received an Honorable Mention! The Showcase honors the best ideas for creative and innovative projects, programs, resources, and practices. The competition also looks to share the processes so that they can be replicated by other societies, libraries, archives and museums (i.e. SLAM) to strengthen the genealogy and family history community.



The multi-year [Wake Cemetery Project](#) was envisioned, designed, and orchestrated by Cyndi Deal, who wears many communication "hats" in our society. Our gratitude goes to her and her dedicated assistants, Lori Winklestein and Lynne Deese; along with other contributors including Cynthia Gage, Carla Stancil, Linda Fogle, Anna Holland, and Jim Johnson. CONGRATULATIONS for this well-deserved honor!



View 2023 Honorable Mention - Wake County Genealogical Society here - [Digitizing the Wake Cemetery Survey c. 1978 Files](#)

View the entire line up of 2023 SLAM Entries [here](#). There are many wonderful resources and ideas highlighted in this group of videos.

WCGS member and webmaster, Cynthia Gage, presents our video entry at the NGS SLAM open house in May 2023.

Fall 2023 Events Calendar

WCGS Meetups: Location varies. Follow our webpage for details future in person Meetups. Come bond with your fellow local Genies! [Details](#)

Sep 26

WCGS Meeting: Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy: Empowering Genealogists with A.I. Speaker: Steve Little. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Oct 6-8

East Coast Genetic Genealogy Conference - Live and Virtual. Friday thru Sunday. [Details and pricing.](#)

Oct 18-21

AAHGS Virtual National Conference - Virtual. [Details and pricing.](#)

Oct 20

Joy Reisinger Lecture Series - Live and Virtual. [Webinars on Legacy](#) or [Details and Registration for Salt Lake City](#)

Oct 24

WCGS Meeting: How Three Types of DNA and Genealogy Uncovered the Long-Lost Father. Speaker: Melvin Collier. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Oct 27-28

NCGS - Fall Conference. Friday and Saturday Details tba. [Registration and details](#)

Dec 5

WCGS Meeting: Genealogy Escape Room: The Case of William Sydney Porter - Oh Henry! Speaker: Thomas MacEntee. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Jan 23

WCGS Meeting: More than Money and Land: The Evolution of Bounty Land, Military Pensions and Alternative Records. Speaker: Debra Dudek. 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

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](#) (Get the **Legacy Webinars/WCGS Member Discount**. Log in to the WCGS member area for details.)

Family History Fanatics (YouTube channel) - Quick access to information covering basic to intermediate DNA and Genetic Genealogy skills. [Watch videos](#)

DNA help from Diahan 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 August 22, 2023.



One Last Thing

As usual, thank you for reading all the way to the end! I hope you have found some useful tips and links within.

I hope you find inspiration in Brian Griffis' book about his ancestor whether it be style or substance. Are you ready to start writing your own family history or are you ready to jump in and search out those lesser known resources that add so much humanity to the story?

I hope you are inspired to search out any and all historic maps that pertain to your ancestors story. You will never regret the time invested in that endeavor. I hope you become a map nerd for life like me!

As the season of family gatherings looms, I hope you are planning ways to gather and record the family stories at your fingertips from your family's eldest generation.

Happy Fall and Happy Holidays.

Your humble editor -

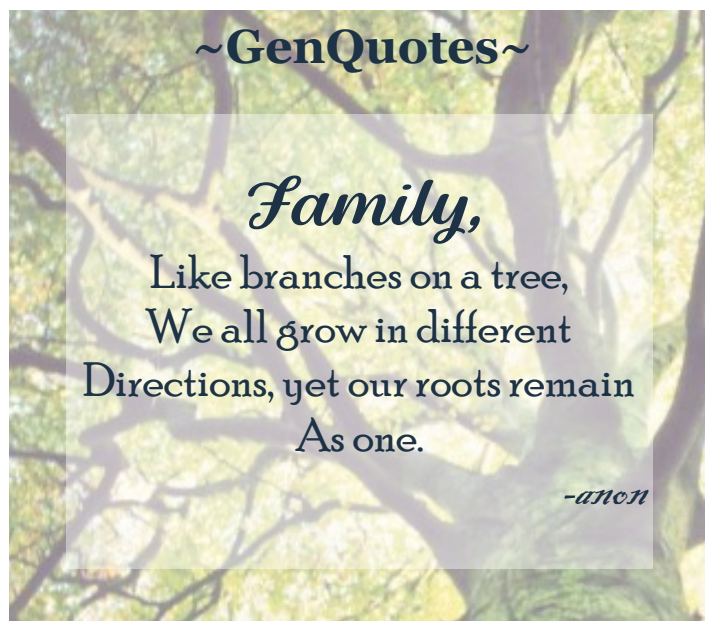
[Cyndi Deal](#)

Deadline for submissions for the Winter 2024 issue is Nov 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.



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