



WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

News from the Wake County Genealogical Society

Vol. 8, Issue 3

Spring 2025

Upcoming Event Schedule

March 25

Gravestone Symbolism

Robin Simonton

Apr 22

Going Postal

Cynthia Gage

May 27

U.S. Census: Non-population Schedules

Barbara McGeachy

Jun 24

Squeezing All the Facts Out of Your DNA Matches

Kate Penny Howard

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

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Spring Update

Join Our Team: Programs Coordinator Needed!

The Wake County Genealogical Society is seeking a volunteer Programs Coordinator to start planning for 2026. Our current Program Chair, Carla Stancil, has already arranged all webinars for 2025, and she is eager to mentor you through the transition.

About the Role:

- Arrange monthly presentations on genealogical topics of interest
- Contact and schedule potential speakers
- Set up and manage Zoom meetings for presentations
- Create recordings of the meetings and share them with members
- Attend quarterly Board Meetings and provide quarterly program reports

The Program Chair is an appointed member on our Board. Board meetings are virtual. This position and board participation can be done remotely. You do not have to live in Wake County to apply.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone passionate about genealogy to contribute to the society and help shape its educational offerings. We look forward to welcoming you to our team! If you're interested in taking this role with WCGS, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator – [Saundra Cropps](#) via email.

In-person Opportunities in Our Future!

President Barbara McGeachy consistently finds opportunities for us, including teaching Beginning Genealogy Classes in the Spring and Fall at the Laurel Hills Recreation Center (page 6). We are grateful for her vision. Her efforts will provide us with a very nice in-person meeting space for several events this year. It will be so nice to gather face-to-face regularly again. Watch the blog and newsletter for updates on scheduling and topics.

Be Sure to Check the Meeting Event Handout.

Don't forget to download the monthly event handout offered at our virtual meetings for the most up-to-date WCGS events schedule. Don't miss a thing!

Recent NC Archives Acquisitions: Wake County Topics

By **Barbara McGeachy, President**
Wake County Genealogical Society

The North Carolina State Archives actively seeks new records and collections. In January 2025, a panel of archivists shared highlights of the 2024 acquisitions in a webinar *New Year, New Collections: 2024 in Review*. The staff will create a new video each year if people are interested, so let them know if you would like to see an annual update!

Here is a summary of the webinar focusing on Wake County content.

Rebecca Stubbs, Audiovisual Materials Archivist, shared several new collections with Wake County ties. She first discussed the new *Elizabeth Fenn Photograph Collection, ca. 1980s*. Ms. Fenn is a professional photographer who donated her slides to the Archives. These are photographs of cemeteries, primarily African-American and other minority cemeteries, in Wake County and other counties. Notice the guitar in the center photo and the tire rim in the lower right photo.

Rebecca discussed the new *Heck-Andrews House Photograph Collection, 1988*. This house, built ca.



Heck-Andrews House, 2009. [View full collection.](#)

1870, is on Blount Street in Raleigh (near the Archives!). The collection contains photographs of the house taken in 1988 when it was undergoing one of many renovations.

PhC.303 Elizabeth Fenn Photograph Collection, ca. 1980s



Recent NC Archives Acquisitions - *cont'd*

Continuing with audiovisual updates, Rebecca shared an update to the ongoing *News and Observer Photograph Collection*. This photo collection includes thousands of photographs taken by N&O newspaper staff photographers, only a fraction of which were published in the newspaper. In 2024, the staff added thousands of lines of metadata to assist patron research and access. Keep in mind that the Archives houses the collection which the public can view, but the N&O retains the copyright.

The slide below shows additional audiovisual collections added or updated in 2024.

Ashley Latta, Military Collection Archivist in the Special Collections Section, discussed the new collection *Mary Jones and Elizabeth Jones Papers*. Mary and Elizabeth were sisters born in Raleigh. They volunteered in Europe during World War I with the Red Cross and the Y.M.C.A.

This webinar is just one of the 176+ free videos the archives staff has created. The videos are on their YouTube channel "[State Archives of North Carolina.](#)" Enjoy!

Additional 2024 Collections

- PhC.305: The Courthouses of North Carolina Photograph Album Collection, 1980 – 2000
- PhC.306: Democratic Club of North Carolina Photograph Collection, 1943-1969
- PhC.307: Wilmington, NC Switchboard Operators Photograph Collection, ca. 1950s
- PhC.308: The Heck-Andrews House Photograph Collection, 1988
- PhC.309: Bernetiae Reed Digital Video Collection, 2020-2023
- Except: News and Observer Photograph Collection:
 - ~3,364 items



Another Recent Addition to NC Archives ~ Wake Cemetery Survey c.1978 Hardcopies

As planned since early in the Wake Cemetery Survey Image Project collaboration, the binders of original records gathered by project leader Irene Kittinger has been donated to the NC Archives for preservation and safekeeping.

On February 10, 2025, Carla Michaels of the Upchurch and Allied Families Association (UAFA) made the donation, accompanied by Cyndi Deal, who coordinated the digitization project hosted on the Wake County Genealogical Society (WCGS) website. Reference Archivist Katherine Crickmore accepted the complete collection of hard copies on behalf of the Archives. These records will

be incorporated with files from twenty other counties that participated in the original state-level survey. The State Office of Archaeology will also receive access to the digital data from these files.

The collaboration between UAFA and WCGS has proven highly successful. Most importantly, many Wake County researchers have already benefited from having these files accessible online. We believe Irene Kittinger would be proud to see her project find its permanent home.

Explore the digitized [Wake Cemetery Survey Image collection](#) on our website.

Meet-up: Tour of Archives & Library on February 10, 2025

by **Barbara McGeachy, President, Wake County Genealogical Society**

About thirty people, members of the Wake County Genealogical Society and interested parties, toured the NC Archives and Government & Heritage Library in downtown Raleigh. After the tour, about a dozen of us walked to lunch next door in the legislature building.

Our tour guides Doug Brown, Reference Unit Supervisor in the Archives, and Taylor Wolford, Outreach Librarian in the Government & Heritage Library, were ready for us with interesting documents. In the archives, we saw the original Sanborn maps of Raleigh, the will of John Rex whose bequest founded Rex Hospital in 1894 (still thriving in Raleigh today) and other documents. In the library, Taylor shared newsletters and meeting minutes of the Wake County Genealogical Society! We toured behind the scenes, going into the storage vaults and the rare book room of the library.

Taylor shared this information about the library:

- All NC residents are eligible to get a free library card. With the card, you can check out books and access many databases from home. To register for a library card, [use this link](#).
- Here is the link to access the SLNC [online databases](#) mentioned on the tour.
- Here is the link for more information about the [Book-A-Librarian program](#) (free 30-minute one-on-one consultation, available over the phone or in person to anyone).
- Any inquiries regarding donating materials to the GHL can be forwarded to this email address: slnc.acquisitions@dncr.nc.gov. [This page](#) on the SLNC website has more information about the types of materials we are interested in collecting and the donation process.



Enjoy these photos from our tour of the Archives and State Library provided by George Thomas.

Clockwise from top left:

A drawer in the vertical files in the library - chock full of items donated by people. These files are not on-line due to copyright restrictions so you'll need to plan an in-person visit!

Doug Brown describes sample documents in the archives search room. The large Sanborn map of Raleigh is in the foreground.

Behind the scenes, Doug Brown shares the archives storage vault. Most visitors never see this area!

Behind-the-scenes: the rare book room in the library stacks. Some people reported seeing a ghost here but not with so many people on a tour!

Thanks to Barbara and George for capturing the day. - CD

Access the BIRLS Database: Get 20th Century Military Records

A BIRLS file is the “modern version of a Civil War Pension file” according to Reclaim The Records (RtR). We are very much indebted to RtR for their multi-year lawsuit that made their new database public and searchable.

According to Reclaim the Records:

“The Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS) database was originally created and maintained by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (the VA). It provides an index to basic biographical information on more than 18 million deceased American veterans who received some sort of veterans benefits in their lifetime, including health care, disability or life insurance policies, educational benefits (the GI Bill), mortgage assistance (VA loans), and more. The BIRLS database includes people who served in all branches of the US military, including some branches that no longer exist, such as the Women's Army Corps (WACs) and the Army Air Corps, as well as a few associated non-military groups and government agencies, such as NOAA. It even includes files for some non-US nationals, including veterans of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Philippine Scouts and Guerrillas, who served prior to and during the Second World War.”

How many ancestors might you need to track down in BIRLS file system? I bet your mind is racing. These documents are rich with genealogical information. I did a few quick searches by name and birth dates and found a BIRLS listing for my father (request in process!) and two uncles. I found it was best not to be too specific on name, but with a first name, surname and birthday, it was a pretty easy search. If I filled all boxes, the interface was more contrary. You can also use wildcard (*) searches to broaden the name pool for better success.

Reclaim the Records has detailed instructions and a

search form for the database at [this link](#). If you find a name of interest you can see limited information about the person from a dropdown that also provides a link to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) form. Request the veteran's C-file for free. The form is quick and easy to fill out. There is no indication of how long it will take the Veterans Administration to research and return the file contents.

If you search and do not find your veteran listed, you can still file a FOIA request at [this link](#). There are some names missing. “Many veterans who did not have any contact with the VA (and whose families did not either) within the past forty to fifty years will not be included in BIRLS, although the VA may indeed still have some records about them, which would potentially be accessible to a researcher under the Freedom of Information Act.”

The BIRLS search page at Reclaim the Records has a lengthy explanation of the database, its history, and what is or may be included. You can read all that information, right below the search form. Be sure not to click away without reading the full account.

You will also want to check out the RtR newsletter article describing the database and their detailed account of the efforts to gain access to these records and make them free for all. Included in this blog post are samples of files from various C-Files as showing the varied contents, including handwritten letters, applications for military life insurance, a financial report for a baker with medical problems and meager funds, and a medical psychological evaluation documenting an early case of PTSD.

Read about other collections saved by Reclaim the Records [here](#). Happy Hunting - CD



Beginning Genealogy Classes: Offered Locally Beginning in April

Barbara McGeachy, President of Wake County Genealogical Society, is teaching a series of in-person classes in Raleigh. These classes are in partnership with the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation. Classes will be held Mondays from 10:30 am to noon in the large meeting room in the Laurel Hills Community Center, 3808 Edwards Mill Road.

Each class is \$16 whether you are a Raleigh resident or not. Sign up for each class independently, although the first class "Getting Started!" is a pre-requisite for most of the other classes.

Barbara will teach 7 classes in the spring and early summer. Class limit is 40 students. Please share this opportunity with friends and neighbors!

April Classes are listed now open for registration at the website. Enroll online at

<https://ncraleighweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/splash.html>

Click the funnel at top right and search "Genealogy. You can also stop by any staffed Parks & Rec center.

Monday, April 14

Genealogy: Getting Started!

Learn how to research your family history. Start with yourself and work back in time. Start with records you already have. Find records on-line to fill in the gaps. Learn how to record names, dates, and locations. Learn how to keep track of what facts you find and where you found them.

***This class is a pre-requisite for many other genealogy classes*

Monday, April 21

Genealogy: Hatch 'em, Match 'em, Dispatch 'em

Learn how to find vital records (birth, marriage, and death) which are essential to genealogy.

Pre-requisite: Getting Started

Monday, April 28

Genealogy: Making Sense of the Census

The census records all Americans every 10 years, from 1790 to 1950. Learn what information is in the census and how to find your ancestors!

Pre-requisite: Getting Started

Monday, May 5

Genealogy: Where There's a Will

Learn about estate records, a rich source of genealogical information. Wills list heirs; inventory lists describe all the person's worldly goods and their value. Learn where to find your ancestors' wills and other estate records.

Pre-requisite: Getting Started

Monday, May 12

Genealogy: Read all about your ancestors!

Local newspapers were the internet and TV of their day! Find wedding descriptions, obituaries, family reunions, arrest records, and lots more genealogical data. Learn where to find old newspapers online.

Pre-requisite: Getting Started

Monday, June 2

Genealogy: Should I take a DNA test?

Why take a DNA test? Where can you take a test? How much does a DNA test cost? What are the pros & cons of testing? No pre-requisite

Monday, June 9

Genealogy: Understanding DNA test results

Learn how to use the results of your DNA test. We'll explain the ethnicity report and the match list. Any testing company has similar results. No pre-requisite

Please share this opportunity with friends and neighbors! Class limit is 40 students. Any questions? Email Barbara president@wakecogen.org

Look for more classes starting in September. - CD

Grabbing all the Clues From Online Index Records

This happens to us all the time at Ancestry.com. You find an interesting tidbit about your ancestor, but the link turns out to be only an index record. That dreaded little nondescript placeholder image that tells us nothing and may or may not link to the original source material. It might as well say, “Do Not Enter.”

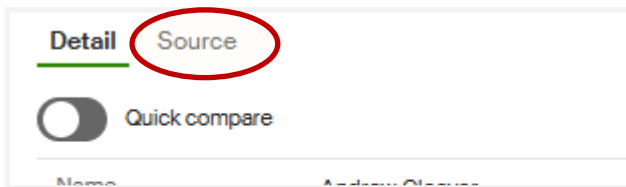


What Now?

1. **Watch this short video** (less than 8 minutes): [“Finding the Images NOT Available on Ancestry \(or other sites\)”](#) presented by Aimee Cross on her Genealogy Hints YouTube Channel.

2. Don’t skip the Source Tab

This is the crux of Aimee’s video. She shows three different strategies to accomplish the task to move from the meager index listing on the detail tab to an original source or image. All the good clues are hidden under that source tab.



I decided to use my 2nd great-grandfather Andrew Cleaver (1828-1900) as a test case. I will share what I learned by exploring the source tab for [his record](#) on Ancestry.com in the *U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865* collection. This index record was provided by the Ancestry Hints system.

Index Record (#1) provides a brief description of his role in the Civil War. The details tab shows the information included in this index. We learn that he

Detail	Source	Index Record #1
Name	Andrew Cleaver	
Side	Confederate	
Regiment State/Origin	North Carolina	
Regiment	7th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry	
Company	I	
Rank In	Private	
Rank Out	Private	
Film Number	M230 roll 7	
Other Records	Learn More about this Regiment	

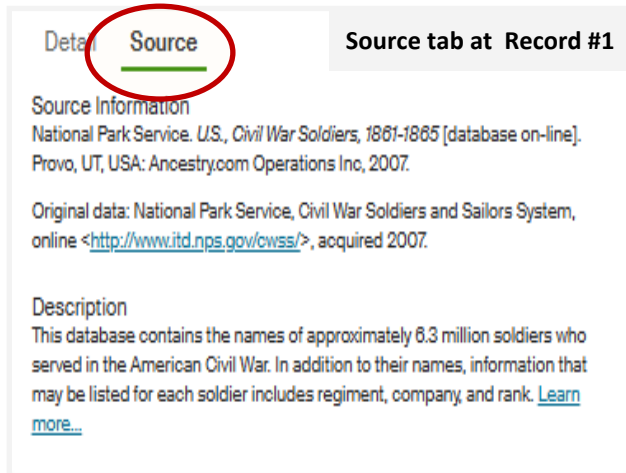
fought for the Confederacy and enlisted in North Carolina in the 7th Regiment, Infantry, Company I with the rank of private. There is a microfilm number and roll attached and a [hyperlink](#).

At the link, there was a page of other links to various different Infantry regiment groups from NC. There were two links listed for 7th Infantry, and I checked both. Together, the links provided a historical timeline of the actions of the 7th Infantry from 17 Aug, 1861 through May 1865. The format was very strange and not really readable, as seen in the image below showing its formatting. If this was all that was available, I would be happy to have this and use it, but I wondered if there was more.

Battles	Fought on 8 Feb 1862 at Roanoke Island, NC. Fought on 14 Mar 1862 at New Berne, NC. Fought on 14 Mar 1862 at New Bern, NC. Fought on 17 Mar 1862 at New Bern, NC. Fought on 26 Apr 1862 at Fort Macon, NC. Fought on 27 May 1862 at Hanover Court House, VA. Fought on 28 May 1862 at Hanover Court House, VA. Fought on 30 May 1862 at Near Richmond, VA. Fought on 30 May 1862 at Hanover Court House, VA. Fought on 30 May 1862. Fought on 31 May 1862 at Richmond, VA. Fought on 31 May 1862. Fought on 10 Jun 1862 at Richmond, VA. Fought on 15 Jun 1862 at Richmond, VA. Fought on 25 Jun 1862 at Richmond, VA. Fought on 26 Jun 1862 at Near Richmond, VA.
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Grabbing all the Clues - cont'd

Following Aimee's lead, I checked the source tab. I found this information with source details and another link.



The source information provided included a complete citation, a link to source material, and a description of the types of information included in the collection. The description reads as follows:

“About U.S., Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865.”

“This database contains the names of approximately 6.3 million soldiers who served in the American Civil War. In addition to their names, information that may be listed for each soldier includes:

Side (Union or Confederate); Regiment name; Company; Rank (in and out); Alternate names; Film number (NARA microfilm series and roll number) where soldier's information is found; If African American; whether included in the African American Civil War Memorial; If included in the African American Civil War Memorial; and the name displayed there and the soldier's plaque number.”

Unfortunately, the file link supplied at the source tab was broken. I was able to Google the record title and get the desired file. I used this search phrase: “National Park Service. *U.S., Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865* [database on-line].” I was rewarded with an abundance of information on the National Park Service site about my ancestor's Civil War regiment.

The very readable historical timeline summary of the 7th Infantry is provided with details as follows:

7th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry

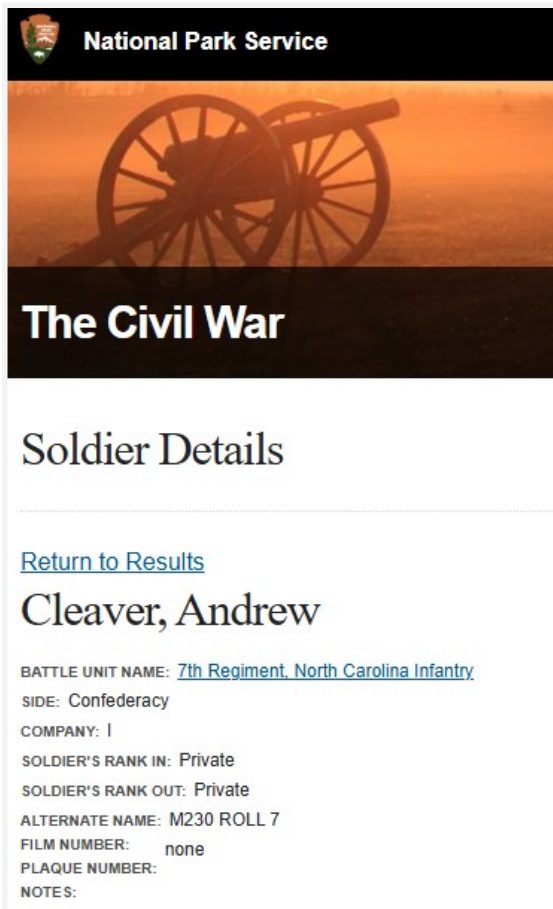
- Side: Confederacy
- Location: North Carolina
- Function: Infantry
- Unit Type: Regiment

7th Infantry Regiment State Troops was organized at Camp Mason, near Graham, North Carolina, in August, 1861. Its members were recruited in the counties of Iredell, Alexander, Cabarrus, Rowan, New Hanover, Mecklenburg, Nash, and Wake. The unit took an active part in the fight at New Bern, then moved to Virginia. It was assigned to General Branch's, Law's, and Lane's Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. After fighting at Hanover Court House, it participated in the various campaigns of the army from the Seven Day' Battles to Cold Harbor, then was involved in the Petersburg siege south and north of the James River. The regiment sustained 51 casualties at New Bern, 253 out of the 450 engaged during the Seven Days' Battles, 69 at Second Manassas and Ox Hill, 52 at Sharpsburg, and 86 at Fredericksburg. There were 37 killed and 127 wounded at Chancellorsville, and of the 291 in action at Gettysburg, thirty-one percent were disabled. It lost 5 killed, 62 wounded, and 37 missing at The Wilderness and 11 killed and 28 wounded at Spotsylvania. On February 26, 1865, the unit was sent to North Carolina where it surrendered with the Army of Tennessee with 13 officers and 139 men. A detachment surrendered at Appomattox with 1 officer and 18 men. The field officers were Reuben P. Campbell, William L. Davidson, and Edward G. Haywood; Lieutenant Colonel Junius L. Hill; and Majors Edward D. Hall, James G. Harris, Robert B. McRae, John M. Turner, and Robert S. Young.

Grabbing all the Clues - cont'd

View the file as it appears at the National Parks website [here](#). Scroll down for the 7th Infantry.

While at the NPS site, I searched for my ancestor by name. From the Soldiers and Sailors Database homepage, I selected the [Search for Soldiers](#) link. I found two “Andrew Cleaver” entries. It was easy enough to determine my 2nd great-grandfather’s entry from the other. As shown in the image at right, I had come full circle on this search. This page is the exact summary that I originally found at Ancestry.com. It was a great exercise to get here, and I found out so much more about an ancestor that I did not know very well. Here is [Andrew’s NPS page](#).



The screenshot shows the National Park Service website with a banner for 'The Civil War'. Below the banner is the 'Soldier Details' section for Andrew Cleaver. It includes a 'Return to Results' link and various service details.

National Park Service

The Civil War

Soldier Details

[Return to Results](#)

Cleaver, Andrew

BATTLE UNIT NAME: [7th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry](#)

SIDE: Confederacy

COMPANY: I

SOLDIER'S RANK IN: Private

SOLDIER'S RANK OUT: Private

ALTERNATE NAME: M230 ROLL 7

FILM NUMBER: none

PLAQUE NUMBER:

NOTES:

While looking at Andrew’s Civil War records on Ancestry, I found another index in the Ancestry hints. A portion of his [index file](#) from the *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865* appears in

Index Record #2.

Detail	Source	Index Record #2
Name	Andrew Cleaver	
Enlistment Age	33	
Birth Date	abt 1828	
Birth Place	Rowan County, North Carolina, USA	
Enlistment Date	22 Jul 1861	
Enlistment Rank	Private	
Muster Date	22 Jul 1861	
Muster Place	North Carolina	
Muster Company	I	
Muster Regiment	7th Infantry	
Muster Regiment Type	Infantry	
Muster Information	Enlisted	
Casualty Date	27 Jun 1862	
Casualty Place	Gaines' Mill, Virginia	
Type of Casualty	Wounded	

The details tab offers many tantalizing details to verify. Using the citation from the source tab, I Googled the phrase: “Historical Data Systems, Inc.; Duxbury, MA 02331; *American Civil War Research Database*” and found a fee-based site. I will continue to search for the file. In the meantime, I just noticed that Andrew’s Confederate Soldiers Compiled Service Records are available online. Ancestry provides a hint, but notes that I can only access it at Fold3 (another fee-based site). I don’t have an active membership with them, but I do have a **NC State Library card**. I think it is time to grab my card and access Fold 3 via the Library’s link!

The moral of the story: Watch Aimee Cross’ [video](#), get all the details you can, anywhere you can find them, and always check the Source Tab! - CD

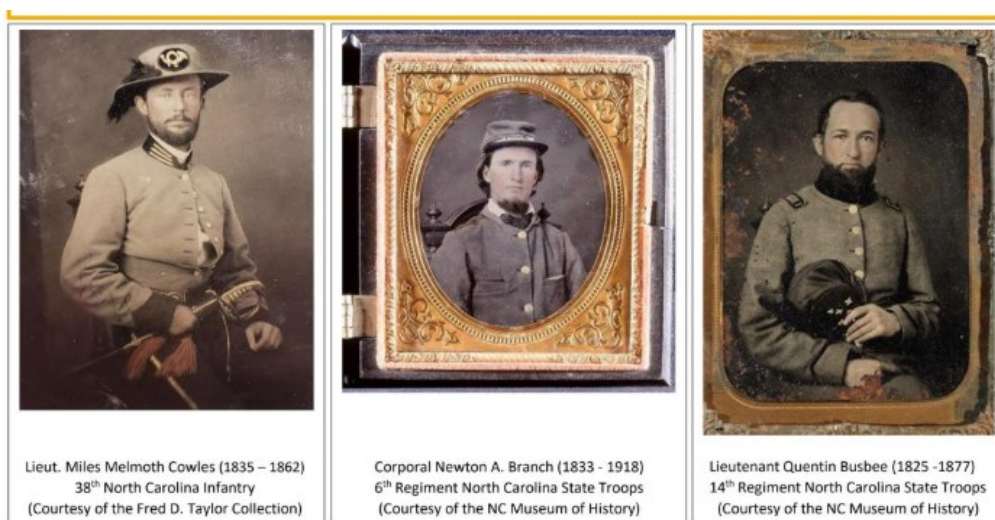
Reading Room: Biographical Sketches From C.H. Robertson

It always makes my day when I hear that Christopher Hunt Robertson has written another biographical profile of Wake County interest. - CD

We last heard from Chris in the [December 2023 newsletter](#) when he shared his tips about capturing kin and ancestors lives in his unmistakable and approachable style. Chris's latest focus is the entrepreneurial duo of Esley Hunt and Joshua P. Andrews. The pair were both award winning photographers based in Raleigh who also gained fame as some of the best Civil War photographers in the South. Those interested in early photography, antebellum Raleigh, the Civil War years, or Reconstruction will find much to explore through Hunt and Andrews' work. Their story is detailed in Chris's latest ebook, available at this link: "[Esley Hunt and Joshua P. Andrews in Raleigh, North Carolina: Among the South's Best Civil War Portraitists](#)"

The two photographers parted ways after the war. Mr. Hunt chose a peaceful life in the mountains with his family, while Joshua P. Andrews embraced the politics of the tumultuous Reconstruction era in Raleigh becoming Secretary Pro Tem of North Carolina's 1868 Constitutional Convention. Andrews was a strong ally to the formerly disenfranchised Black population. He and others sponsored a successful provision that allowed African American men to run for public office. This is just one event detailing his political life in Raleigh from 1867-1870. After Reconstruction he moved to New York City to pursue his lifelong talent as a painter of portraits, landscapes and still-life.

Chris has written about many of kinfolk in North Carolina and Virginia. His other books can be read from this [Google link](#).



Esley Hunt and Joshua P. Andrews
In Raleigh, North Carolina – Among the South's Best Civil War Portraitists
Christopher Hunt Robertson, M.Ed.

AI Help for Your Family History Writing: Explore These Prompts

AI (Artificial Intelligence)? Are you an AI enthusiast or a skeptic? I know that many are adamantly opposed to AI in any iteration. I understand their objections and share some of them, but that is a discussion for another time. - CD

I don't use AI for "Write me an article *on xyz*" requests. That is what is known as generative AI. Give it free rein, and it will tell you a story—a very made up one if you don't fact-check what AI has produced for you.

For the present, I am firmly in the camp of using AI in non-generative ways. This is especially true now that my dear friend and favorite proofreading expert Ann Myhre, has decided to retire after seven years of proofreading my newsletters to you. (Many thanks to Ann.) Now, it falls to me to self-edit more diligently

and to rely on my husband to fill in for Ann's keen eye. In order to spare him and you readers as much as I can, I do turn to AI for some very non-generative tasks. By that, I mean that I write my articles and then give my words to AI with a prompt describing the clean up job I need. This works well with most usual proofreading tasks like spelling, grammar, punctuation, and in my case, applying a "critique for clarity" filter. You're welcome!

The infographic below caught my eye on the [Genealogy and AI group at Facebook](#). It was originally published at Reddit and can be viewed in its entirety [there](#).

I will try some of these more detailed prompts in the future. I wanted to share them so you could experiment with them, too. These prompts are non-generative. If you use them, they help polish your words. They offer alternatives that you are under no obligation to take, but they might just save you time and even spark new ideas.

There are a few other prompts at the Reddit link, but they are generative, which doesn't appeal to me. I know what I want to say, and I'm too much of a control freak to let AI speak for me. Visit the above link to see all ideas on the infographic.

How To ↘

USE AI TO IMPROVE YOUR WRITING

- 1. REPHRASE SENTENCES**
Description: Use AI to rephrase sentences for clarity or variety.
Prompt Template: "Rephrase the following sentence in 5 different ways, maintaining its original meaning: [insert your sentence]"
- 2. PROOFREAD**
Description: Use AI to proofread your text.
Prompt Template: "Proofread my text for spelling & grammar and list all the changes in bullet points below: [insert your text]"
- 3. CRITIQUE**
Description: Use AI to provide constructive feedback on your writing.
Prompt Template: "Review the following text and provide constructive criticism, focusing on structure, clarity, and effectiveness: [insert your text]"
- 4. ALTERNATIVE WORDS**
Description: Use AI to suggest alternative words to enhance vocabulary.
Prompt Template: "Provide 5 alternative words or phrases for [insert word/phrase] that would fit in this context: [insert sentence or paragraph]"
- 5. DISTILL INFORMATION**
Description: Use AI to summarize and extract key information from text.
Prompt Template: "Summarize the main ideas and key points of the following text in no more than 3-5 bullet points: [insert your text]"
- 6. WRITE IN BULLETS**
Description: Write in bullet points and let AI turn it into refined text.
Prompt Template: "Transform these bullet points into a well-structured, coherent paragraph: [Enter bullet points]"
- 7. CHANGE TONE AND STYLE**
Description: Use AI to adapt your writing to a different tone or style.
Prompt Template: "Rewrite the following text to make it sound more [formal/casual/persuasive/etc.]: [insert your text]"

Spring 2025 Events Calendar

WCGS Meetups: Location varies. It's always more fun to meet in person. Members will receive an email for details of future in-person Meetups. Come bond with your fellow local Genies!

Mar 25

WCGS Meeting: Gravestone Symbolism. Speaker: Robin Simonton. 6:30pm. **Online Virtual Meeting.** [Details](#)

Mar 28 - 29

NC Genealogical Society: Spring Virtual Conference. [Details](#)

Apr 11-12

Prelude to Revolution: Halifax Resolves Days: Part of Halifax's America250 Celebration. [Details](#)

Apr 22

WCGS Meeting: Going Postal. Speaker: Cynthia Gage. 6:30pm. **Online Virtual Meeting.** [Details](#)

May 23-26

NGS Family History Conference: Tales and Trails, Louisville, Ky. [Details](#)

May 27

WCGS Meeting: U.S. Census: Non-population Schedules. Speaker: Barbara McGeachy. 6:30pm. **Online Virtual Meeting.** [Details](#)

Jun 24

WCGS Meeting: Squeezing All the Facts Out of Your DNA Matches. Speaker: Kate Penny Howard. 6:30pm. **Online Virtual Meeting.** [Details](#)

Fee based online learning:

GenWebinars - Live, in-depth, and interactive genealogy webinars. This is an ongoing series provided by David McCorkle and Diane Richard. [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 -from **Thomas MacEntee.** [Blog Newsletter](#)

Legacy Webinar series - Free to attend with registration and for viewing on demand for 7 days afterward. [Schedule and Registration](#) *Members see Wakecogen Member page for first time discount.

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

DNA help from Diahan Southard - a combination of free and fee based content. [Your DNA Guide](#) [YDG Blog](#)

Visit WCGS Website - [Homepage](#) | [WCGS Events](#) | [Join WCGS](#) | [Journal](#) | [Wake Cemetery Survey Images](#) | [Society Surnames](#) | [Digital Resources](#) | [History Resources](#) | [More Links and Resources](#) | [Research Guides](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [Blog](#) | [Contact](#)

Passionate about Genealogy and Family History?

Thank you for reading, meeting and contributing to our efforts. [Join, renew, donate](#) or [volunteer](#) to keep uncovering the past together.



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: 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 5, 2025.**



Contact Us

WCGS Board of Directors

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Webmaster: [Lynne Deese](#)

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Please send all other emails to
info@wakecogen.org

Postal mail:
Wake County Genealogy Society
P. O. Box 17713
Raleigh, NC 27619-7713

One Last Thing

Thank you for reading this far! I hope you have found a bit of insight or a useful tool for your time invested.

I wanted to mention several **Wake Cemetery Survey tutorials** designed to make your search easier. You will find them at the Survey page. "[Tips for Successful Searches](#)" covers the township map, the surname finder tool, the new index, the category search, and more. "[Filter by Categories in the Wake Cemetery Survey](#)" gives a deeper explanation of using the Category search. If you know of a cemetery needing cleanup, the "[Cleanup and Preservation](#)" file will be helpful.

Enjoy the coming season. Come hang with us to learn, volunteer, create, whatever! We love to trade discoveries and stories!

Your humble editor -

[Cyndi Deal](#)

Deadline for submissions for the Summer 2025 issue is April 21, 2025.

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

Submissions: newsletter@wakecogen.org

~GenQuotes

