



WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

News from the Wake County Genealogical Society

Vol. 7, Issue 4

Summer 2024

Upcoming Event Schedule

Jun 25

Colonial Records

Diane Richard

Jul 23

Gravestone Symbolism

Robin Simonton

Aug 27

An Adoptee Searches for Roots

Monika Fleming

Sep 24

Trace Land Ownership Over Time

David McCorkle

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

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Summer Update

New Board Members

Welcome to all of our new officers! We have recently completed the latest round of elections for the WCGS Board. Check the latest slate of officers and committee chairs on page 18 of this issue or at our website.

In This Issue

Past president Carla Stancil reflects on the progress and challenges faced by our society during her tenure. These were interesting times for sure.

We have a notable guest author for this issue. Ed Morris is the former Historic Sites administrator for the State Capitol and the recently retired executive director of the Wake Forest Historical Museum. Ed shares his vast knowledge of Major General Calvin Jones, M.D. of Wake Forest. When I say that Calvin Jones was an amazing local legend, that is an understatement. We are introduced to a doctor who was not just skilled in medicine, but also an innovative leader and a man of many talents.

Cynthia Gage made some very special discoveries about her ancestors using the resources at places of higher learning. Don't write this off as just yearbooks. There are other much more revealing sources available.

Cemetery Focus

This spring, I fielded so many questions about cemetery clean up and preservation. There is clearly a need for a reference guide. You will find this guide and list of resources. Many are Wake County specific. Others are useful for anyone who knows of a lonely stone or a whole cemetery that is in need of some "TLC" and careful treatment.

The Wake Cemetery Survey Image Project has matured into a collection of images with access for all. As I work with it, I can see the need for a better guide to help you on your first searches. That guide is included here full of quick tips, links and examples to get you started. [Contact me](#) if you feel something is missing.

Both the Cemetery Preservation Guide and the Tips for Wake Cemetery Image Search features are destined to become printable resources at our website. - CD

Carla's Corner: Looking Back

To my genealogy community – a HUGE thank you for giving me the beautiful opportunity to serve as WCGS President and immerse myself in this community for the past seven years. What an opportunity it has been, and I will always be enormously grateful.

My word for my entire tenure as President is RESILIENCE. We all know genealogists are strong and determined, but I challenge you to show me a more determined and dedicated group of genealogists than you'll find in the Wake County Genealogy Society! My stars – what we did TOGETHER over the years bring me so much pride!

Just a few bragging points on the Society that I love so dearly:

- WE increased our meetings from eight to eleven annually – I truly believe it has brought us closer and together we made the Society stronger.
- WE made 30+ years of Wake Treasures journal content available and free to all – a real boon to local researchers.
- WE created additional opportunities for fellowship and learning with our quarterly meet ups and Special Interest Groups when the world stopped spinning in the winter of 2020.
- WE hosted nationally recognized speakers on a multitude of topics, as well as large meetings in large halls such as when we partnered with Family Tree Maker for a community-wide educational event. Oh, and our “Summer of DNA” in 2019 informed the community on the ever-changing world of DNA. What fun that was!
- WE switched from a members only newsletter to one that is free to all 24/7 at our website. Our new Wake Genealogy Watch newsletter is packed with original content, methodology and Wake resources. We further expanded our outreach with a blog that would rival most in terms of

resources, news and tips.

- WE experienced losses of beloved members and an increase in new members – the ebb and flow of life we all know so well.
- WE took our show on the road! From the storms of library renovation at Olivia Raney Local History Library, we took our act to the Village Regional Library, and then to the wide world of virtual meetings. Not even COVID-19 could stop us!

There is no way we can look back at all we've done and not be particularly proud of the contributions via the Wake Cemetery Project. Cyndi Deal drove the most significant project in the history of WCGS from ragged sheets of paper with handwritten notes to the beauty you'll find [on our website today](#). This project was beautifully highlighted by our very own Lynne Deese in her 2024 NGS Focus video. (More news on this coming soon!)

I could go on all day about all we've accomplished, and all the dedicated hands it took to get us to where we are today. But I can't let this moment slip by without giving a thunderous applause to the [WCGS Board of Directors](#), both past and present. These folks have supported me, you, and the Society in ways we had no idea we would ever need. I have made lifelong friends among this group of highly dedicated volunteers and THAT is the greatest gift of all. Thank you, my friends.

WCGS is strong because of its members and friends of the Society. Without all of you, there would be no us. I hope your support will continue long into the future! I can't wait to see what is next for WCGS!

In Love and Gratitude,

Carla Stancil

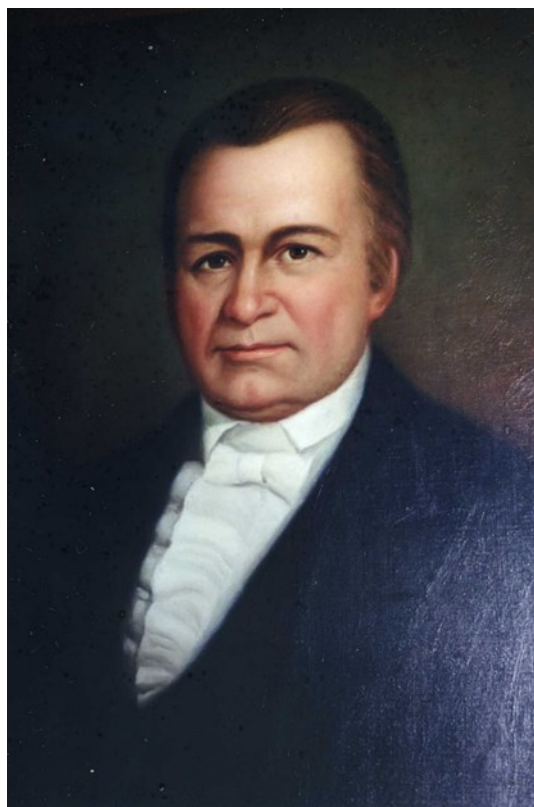
Past President, WCGS

Major General Calvin Jones, M.D.: An Early Wake County Renaissance Man

By Ed Morris

Dr. Calvin Jones was one of North Carolina's most prominent citizens, a leading intellectual who made significant contributions to medicine, public health, politics, publishing, military strategy, service to the Freemasons, and public education. Calvin Jones was born to Ebenezer Jones and Susannah Blackmore Jones on April 2, 1775, in the Berkshire Hills of Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The Jones family had been in Massachusetts since 1651. Calvin's father Ebenezer Jones was a leader in the American Revolution. Both parents worked tirelessly and endlessly for the education of their children.

In fact, Calvin Jones began the study of medicine while still in his boyhood. At barely the age of seventeen, Jones received his license to practice medicine from the United Medical Society in 1792. By the time he moved to Smithfield, North Carolina in 1795 he was an established practicing physician. When he was but twenty-one, he had published a nationally recognized article on the treatment of scarlet fever. At the age of twenty-five, in a groundbreaking series of newspaper editorials, Jones began urging the people of North Carolina to understand the vital importance of the strange, yet lifesaving, smallpox vaccine that had just been developed in England. So far as is known, Dr. Jones was the first physician in North Carolina to discard the old treatment of smallpox and to substitute the new process of inoculation now known as



Dr. Calvin Jones of Wake Forest. Portrait photo by Ken Bennett, Wake Forest University

vaccination. So up to date was Dr. Jones that he was extensively practicing this treatment before the experiments of its discoverer, Dr. Edward Jenner, were completed in England. Dr. Jones and Jenner corresponded regularly. The following excerpt from one of Calvin Jones' editorials appeared in 1801 in the *Raleigh Register*:

The evils of the Smallpox always extend further than the immediate victims of its ravages. It is extremely distressing to the poor of commercial towns, by the sudden interruption it occasions to the course of doing

Major General Calvin Jones, M.D. - cont'd

business. The general introduction of the Cow-Pox [The Jenner vaccine used cowpox to provide patients with smallpox immunity], by its not being contagious, will at once put a stop to this source of evils. This, with those other peculiarities in its favour which we have enumerated, clearly evince the propriety of substituting this mild disease for one that is often violent and unmanageable, that destroys beauty, and puts life in jeopardy; and I trust, that in an age which has witnessed so many important improvements in the various departments of Science, no undue prejudices will interpose their influence to prevent its introduction.

In 1800 Dr. Jones attempted to open a vaccination hospital in Smithfield, but it was met with skepticism and public mistrust, so the effort was not successful. However, soon thereafter the Moravian settlement of Salem contacted Jones and contracted with him to make a series of visits to this western North Carolina trading crossroads and inoculate the entire population. After several such visits, the Moravians declared that the dreaded smallpox had been eradicated from their population which was constantly exposed due to travelers and traders associated with westward expansion.

In 1799 Dr. Jones had leveraged his regional

fame to establish the North Carolina Medical Society in Raleigh. Like the smallpox vaccine, this effort also was aimed at protecting public health, according to the *Raleigh Register*, as it would allow the community “to distinguish the true physician from the ignorant pretender” and hopefully prevent “the fatal and criminal practices of quacks.”

Calvin Jones exhibited exceptional leadership beyond medicine in the fields of politics, publishing, military strategy, and education. At the age of 24 he was elected to the House of Commons to represent Johnston County. Soon after moving from Smithfield to Raleigh in 1803, Jones was elected mayor of the capital city and served three terms in that office. By 1807 he was representing Wake County in the House of Commons. He also had begun editing and publishing, in association with Thomas Henderson, an early city newspaper, the *Raleigh Star*. The files of the *Star* show a wide array of articles authored by Jones and covering topics such as science, art, history, politics, current events, and local news. Among the newspaper’s employees was future post-Civil War governor William Woods Holden.

Jones was deeply involved in the ongoing conflicts with Britain. While serving as mayor of Raleigh, Jones achieved the rank of Captain in the North Carolina Militia. On July 4, 1804, commanding a troop of cavalry, he offered service to the President of the United States in defense of the nation’s independence. War with Britain was

Major General Calvin Jones, M.D. - *cont'd*

averted; however, Jones continued to train his troops. His military talents were recognized when on June 7, 1808, he was named Adjutant-General upon the resignation of Edward Pasteur from that position. He held the position of Adjutant-General of North Carolina until he accepted a commission as Major General during the War of 1812 in command of the Seventh North Carolina Division of Militia on January 23, 1813. In July 1813 Virginia called upon General Jones to assist in the defense of Portsmouth and Norfolk; however, before Jones could muster his troops, danger called closer to home.

On Saturday, July 18th news reached Raleigh that one week prior the British had landed a reconnaissance force at Ocracoke Inlet and that New Bern and Beaufort were in immediate danger. Arms, powder and lead were sent to Raleigh from the United States Arsenal at Wilmington while Governor Benjamin Hawkins and Major General Jones called upon all the inland towns to send supplies in defense of the North Carolina coast. Within a few hours the women of Raleigh readied their sons and husbands for war and made 100 knapsacks.

A British fleet of approximately 150 vessels consisting of sixty 74-gun Man of War, six frigates, two schooners, seventy barges, and other smaller ships were anchored off the North Carolina coast threatening an invasion of North Carolina's port towns. General Jones achieved victory by moving

his troops to Ocracoke and Portsmouth in a show of force formidable enough to dissuade the British from surging inland. General Jones largely fooled the British by setting up false cannons and instructing his troops to build hundreds of campfires. It also is speculated that a copy of *The Raleigh Star* boasting of Jones's calling troops from as far west as Salisbury to service was intentionally leaked into the hands of British spies. While Jones commanded a force of only 1,500 poorly equipped troops, it is believed that it was this strategic decision by General Jones that kept North Carolina from becoming a battleground state in the War of 1812. The British fleet sailed away within a few days never to return for the remainder of the War.

Calvin Jones was also an ardent supporter of the principles of Freemasonry, joining Raleigh's first lodge soon after its establishment in 1800 and holding the successive positions of Worshipful Master, Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Warden, and Grand Master of the Lodge of North Carolina, succeeding the Honorable John Louis Taylor, who would go on to become the first Chief Justice of the newly-created North Carolina Supreme Court.

In 1819 Calvin Jones married Temperance Bodie Williams Jones, widow of Dr. Thomas Jones (no relation) of Franklin County. Temperance was born into a wealthy and well-connected family at Cherry Hill near Warrenton. Dr. Jones and Temperance

Major General Calvin Jones, M.D. - *cont'd*

moved from Raleigh to northern Wake County in 1821 along with 43 enslaved men, women and children that came as part of his marriage to Temperance.

During this time, in addition to farming, his primary interest was the surgical treatment of eye ailments. Patients visited with a wide range of disorders, and Jones treated everything from cancer of the eye to blindness to cataracts. Ophthalmology was a new medical specialty, and he developed a considerable regional reputation as an eye surgeon with a focus on the practical application of surgical techniques to improve vision. In 1821 Dr. Jones took an extended trip to France where he studied ailments of the eye with French and Italian surgeons. Upon his return he continued to develop and improve surgical means to remove cataracts. In December 1823 he finally perfected his surgery and performed what was likely the first successful cataract surgery in the United States, restoring sight to a previously blind man. It is important to note that there was no such thing as anesthesia in 1823. His advances, appearing in medical writings of the era, influenced the development of 19th century eye treatments and surgeries of the eye. Jones also briefly trained medical students in his Wake Forest home on his surgical techniques.

In the area of education Jones was also a leader. While serving in the General Assembly representing Wake County, Calvin Jones authored and

introduced legislation to create public schools in North Carolina. His legislation failed to gain support and died. However, several years later his exact bill was resurrected and passed and for the first time called for the creation of public schools in our state. He served thirty years (1802-1832) as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina, to which he donated his collection of material for a botanical garden and artifacts for a museum of natural history. He was a trustee of the Raleigh Academy and, upon his move to northern Wake County, became involved in the creation of the Wake Forest Academy in 1823, the Wake Forest School (for boys) in 1831, and the Wake Forest Female School, also in 1831.

From the time he moved to Wake Forest in 1821, Dr. Jones had been purchasing property in Tennessee. By 1832 he had acquired approximately 3,000 acres and decided that the family should move there. His Wake Forest plantation was sold at a discount to the North Carolina Baptist Convention in 1832 for the purpose of starting a college to educate young men for the Baptist ministry. This sale paved the way for the founding of the Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute in 1834, soon thereafter to become Wake Forest College, now Wake Forest University. In the spring of 1832 Calvin, Temperance, and their four surviving children, Thomas, Paul Tudor, Montezuma, and Octavia Rowena moved to Bolivar, Tennessee. Calvin built a fine home there named "Pontane." He continued acquiring land while turning his interest

Major General Calvin Jones, M.D. - cont'd

to farming and the wooding business (supplying steamboats with firewood) along the Mississippi River. By the time of his death, he owned more than 30,000 acres in middle and western Tennessee. He gave up the practice of medicine; however, Dr. Jones continued to train physicians from several surrounding states in the art of cataract surgery. Major General/Doctor Calvin Jones died on September 20, 1846, and is buried in the Polk Family cemetery. His wife Temperance was a cousin of Lucy Williams Polk, wife of President James K. Polk. His original tombstone, which recounts many of his life's accomplishments, is located in Wake Forest, NC beside his Wake Forest home on the grounds of the Wake Forest Historical Museum. In

2016 Calvin Jones was inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame, and in 2012 the NC 98 bypass around the town of Wake Forest was named for Dr. Jones.

Ed Morris lives in Raleigh. He retired from the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites in 2005 as administrator of the North Carolina State Capitol and retired in 2023 from Wake Forest University as the executive director of the Wake Forest Historical Museum of which the Dr. Calvin Jones House is a part.



The Dr. Calvin Jones house at [the Wake Forest Historical Museum](#)

Add to Your Ancestor's Stories with Higher Education Records

By Cynthia Gage

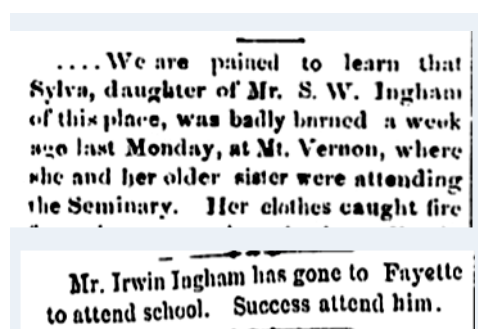
My father's memory box had two items which sparked my interest in finding higher education records: the first was my grandfather's 1914 Yearbook from Leander Clark College and the second was my grandmother's 1920 nursing pin from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing. My quest started simply. Could I find what my grandfather (a traveling salesman) was studying in college? And could I find a yearbook for my grandmother's years at nursing school to have early photos of her? Then this list of questions grew longer as I identified more distant relatives who sought higher education. To get answers I found several different record types on-line and off-line, these included yearbooks, annual announcements, annual catalogs, newspapers, and alumni newsletters. Through this article I hope to share some of the resources I have discovered which may help others whose ancestors also attended higher education courses, whether these were high schools, colleges, or specialty schools such as business or nursing.

Higher Education Clues

How would you know if one of your ancestors attended a higher-education school? Perhaps, like me, you have a memento or document which points to schools for higher education. You can also check the 1940 census. The education columns of this census tally the highest grade of education completed by each person. Statistics from this census show that 33% of the population over 20 had completed at least 1 year of high school. Half of the 33% completed all four years. (High school did not become mandatory in the US until 1918.) An additional 10.3% of the population had attended at least one year of post high-school education (women being 49% of those attendees). If you find a clue, follow up. They did not have to graduate to leave a

record trail.

Another way you might discover evidence of higher education is through newspaper articles. You may find a list of the graduates in the local paper as I have for many of my ancestors who graduated high school, including my dad in 1944 in the big city of Dallas, Texas. Or there may be other articles which give you hints for ancestors from earlier time periods, such as these from the Toledo Chronicle: the first from 1862 and the second from 1877. I was able to follow-up both and find records of their school attendance.



Yearbooks

Yearbooks are the obvious exciting find, as they can have photos of your ancestor and tell something of their interests, such as sports activities, clubs, student government and participation in student publications. Where I can, I like to review the yearbooks for all the years of my ancestor's attendance, however I have found that some yearbooks only have labeled photos for the seniors. Earlier class years may have unlabeled class photographs or none at all. During WWII, the only individual yearbook photos from my father's high school were of the senior class. I found my father listed, though hard to find, in one of the many group ROTC photos. During his time in high school, paper supplies were stressed because of the war leading to fewer newspaper pages and apparently fewer yearbook pages.

Add to Your Ancestor's Stories - cont'd

Yearbooks can be found on Internet Archive, Hathitrust, The Ancestor Hunt, and of course on Ancestry. Be aware that Ancestry only returns photo results. I have two suggestions regarding this. First, after gathering Ancestry's hits, redo the Ancestry yearbook search with these three criteria: the ancestor's last name, the place where the school was, and the year of publication. There were several photos of my grandfather which did not have his first name or else used his nickname "Dutch". Ancestry missed these photos when I searched using his given name "Harold Ingham." Second, when you find an appropriate yearbook, browse through it to find other mentions of your ancestor. I have found many amusing items about my grandfather which Ancestry did not, such as this sports-themed poem.

Here's to Mowbray, who broke his cheek bone,
And Ingham, who sprained his knee,
Who were kept by fate out of the game
And prevented from winning a "C".

Annual Announcements and Catalogs

These publications were used to publicize the schools - explaining the admission requirements, the degree programs, the coursework, cost of attendance, etc. And excitingly for the periods from the mid-1800's into the 1900's these publications listed students' names! The annual announcements for St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing listed my grandmother Gertrude Kahler's graduation in 1920, her job as a private duty nurse from 1920 to 1925, and her job as "Mrs. Harold Jay Ingham" from 1926 until 1931 when it stopped publishing lists of graduates.

The annual catalogs for Leander Clark College show the progression of my grandfather from Freshman

year to Senior. The 1916 catalog listed his graduation in 1915 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. They also listed his area of study as shown here. Some of these catalogs listed the alumni including the 1913-14 catalog where I found a listing for his uncle (my great-great Uncle) who graduated in 1890 with a law degree and, at the time of publication, was living in Bridgeport, Washington.

COMMERCIAL BOOKKEEPING	
Kenneth Lyle Herman.....	Sheridan
Harold Jay Ingham.....	Toledo
John Kepler.....	Toledo

It was through college catalogs that I was able to find Sylvia and Erwin (the "students" mentioned in the newspaper articles above) and pinpoint their attendance at Cornell College and Upper Iowa State College, respectively, though neither graduated. Interestingly they were both listed as students of the Preparatory Department. As mentioned earlier, high school was not mandatory prior to 1918. Consequently, many students were unprepared to begin college, hence the Preparatory Department. This Department could also be a Normal School – places where individuals could learn the higher-level coursework needed to become a teacher. And in some cases, these Departments were used for the sole purpose of providing high school equivalency, though attendance was not free as it would be in a public school. For these last examples, students went no farther in their education; nonetheless, their names are mentioned giving us time and place and some insights into their lives.

Once you find your ancestor in one of these annual publications, take some time to look over the rest of the publication. What was required to be accepted into the school? What was the coursework for their field? How much did it cost? Were there other campus requirements?

Add to Your Ancestor's Stories - *cont'd*

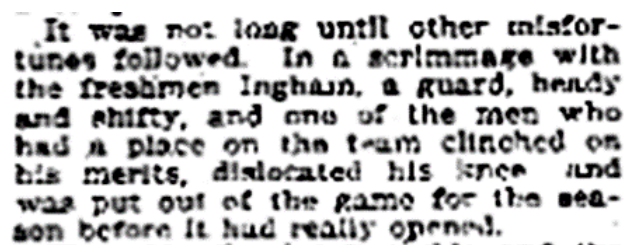
To apply for nursing school in January 1917, my grandmother Gertrude Kahler had to write a concise letter describing her educational background and “the manner in which her life had been spent.” She also had to provide a character letter from the rector of her church and a letter from her dentist that her teeth were in good condition. The three-year program was tuition-free, possibly because many of the graduates were being recruited by the Red Cross to serve in WW1. Because of the prolonged trench warfare in France, the nursing program adapted in 1918, and French became a new required course. At Leander Clark in the early 1910’s, my grandfather was required to attend chapel services every school day at 10:00 a.m. and to regularly attend one of the five churches in town, the denomination of his choosing. Then in his final year of his Bachelor degree, he was required to write and submit no less than three thousand words on a pre-approved thesis topic.

I have found annual announcements and annual catalogs on Internet Archive and Hathitrust. I have also found them in school archive collections, some of which have been digitized and are available online. Another annual document is the “annual report.” These are financial and school operation themed. I have never found students’ or graduates’ names in annual reports. However, for the nursing hospital, I have seen the names of many local women who have made endowments or charitable contributions of supplies or money, even as little as \$5.00. This gave me the thought that if my ancestor lived in a small town which had a college, I might check those reports for their names.

Newspapers/Newsletters

There are three categories of papers to look for which may mention your ancestor: (1) the local

paper which may have graduation lists, or sports reports, or other snippets of your ancestor’s education as I found above; (2) the school’s newspaper; and (3) alumni newsletters. For local newspapers, it was the cities mentioned in the snippets above that allowed me to find the schools Sylvia and Erwin were attending. City newspapers also cover sports events of the local schools. I have found several sports stories from my grandfather’s college where his exploits have been reported such as this 1914 excerpt from the Cedar Rapids Gazette.



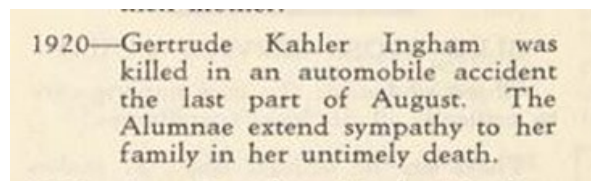
It was not long until other misfortunes followed. In a scrimmage with the freshmen Ingham, a guard, heady and shifty, and one of the men who had a place on the team clinched on his merits, dislocated his knee and was put out of the game for the season before it had really opened.

School newspapers are another potential source. Finding existing copies of these is much more difficult than city papers and may require knowing the paper’s title to do a thorough search. Yearbooks or the annual catalogs or announcements may provide the title. I have found a few school papers on Internet Archive, just by searching the college’s name. [The Ancestor Hunt](#) has many, state-sorted links to free college and high school papers. School newspapers may also be held at an archive or museum in a collection of the school’s materials. Another repository for high school papers may be Ex-Student Associations. I recently visited my high school’s association and found an article mentioning me!

Alumni newsletters are a third option for finding information about your ancestor. My grandmother was mentioned several times in her school’s alumni newsletter: her marriage, the birth of my father, her address at various times, and her death, as shown

Add to Your Ancestor's Stories - *cont'd*

here. Initially I found these newsletters by visiting the Rush University Archives, the hospital which absorbed St. Luke's Hospital School. Since then, the newsletters have been digitized and are available online at the Rush University website.



1920—Gertrude Kahler Ingham was killed in an automobile accident the last part of August. The Alumnae extend sympathy to her family in her untimely death.

Some Final Tips

While the colleges that Sylvia and Erwin attended are still in existence, both schools that my grandparents attended are no longer around. If this happens for one of your ancestors, search the school's name in Wikipedia or do a Google search (including the city, as needed). These usually give the name of the University which absorbed the defunct school. Through Wikipedia I found that Leander Clark was absorbed by Coe College, and Google lead me to Rush University's holdings for St. Luke's.

When you identify an existing school, go to its website and search for "archives." Once on the right page, search for finding aids or better yet, any items which have been digitized for the years and school of your interest. At Coe College their archive holdings are in the main library. On the website there was a 13-page finding aid for Leander Clark holdings, which indicated they had a complete set of yearbooks around my grandfather's attendance. On a research trip to Iowa, I stopped by the College library to review and take photos from these yearbooks. From these books I learned he was class president in his sophomore year and business manager for the schools' newspaper for two years. In 1914, his junior year, he was the head of the

yearbook committee, which may explain why his name is embossed on the leather cover of the 1914 yearbook in the memento box.

I did the same research to locate St. Luke's Nursing School at Rush University. I had found the 1919 yearbook on Internet Archive but there was only a group photo of the 1920 graduating class. Unfortunately, Rush did not have the 1920 yearbook. However, the 12-page finding aid indicated they had the 1920 composite class photo and when I emailed the archivist, she emailed back the composite in which I found Gertrude's photo.

Later I visited the archives in Chicago and copied lots of information from the catalogs and alumni newsletters. Since my visit most of this material (except the composite photos!) has been digitized and is available on the Rush University website.



Before I visited either of these archives, I contacted the archivist (or librarian) beforehand. It is important to check beforehand whether an appointment is needed, what times they are open, and whether they need a list of the items from the Finding Aid that you want to review. Sometimes the boxes need to be pulled from a separate facility.

I hope you found something here that inspires you to do a little digging for these higher education records. I find the information and context fascinating! Good Luck!

Cemetery Cleanup and Preservation - Wake County Resources

All communities face the challenge of maintaining their older cemeteries. Many Wake County residents share this passion for preserving these sacred spaces. This guide, brought to you by the Wake County Genealogical Society, offers resources and steps to connect with others who want to make a difference. - CD

First things first

Understand the Law: North Carolina has specific regulations regarding cemetery maintenance. Familiarize yourself with these guidelines by visiting the [NC Office of State Archaeology website](#).

Ownership Matters: Identify the cemetery's owner by checking [county tax records](#). This helps you determine who to contact for access and potential collaboration.

Highlight the Significance: Research the cemetery's history and architectural features. Uncover its importance to the community through historical or architectural surveys. Search for these documents online by Googling the phrases "[Cemetery Name] Wake County Historic Survey" or "[Cemetery Name] Wake County Architectural Survey".

Build Your Team

Funding: Crowdfunding platforms like GoFundMe

can raise funds for supplies. Create an Amazon Wishlist for specific items volunteers can donate.

Collaboration: Utilize online tools like Zoom and Facebook groups to connect with volunteers and supporters across the state.

Find Enthusiastic Helpers

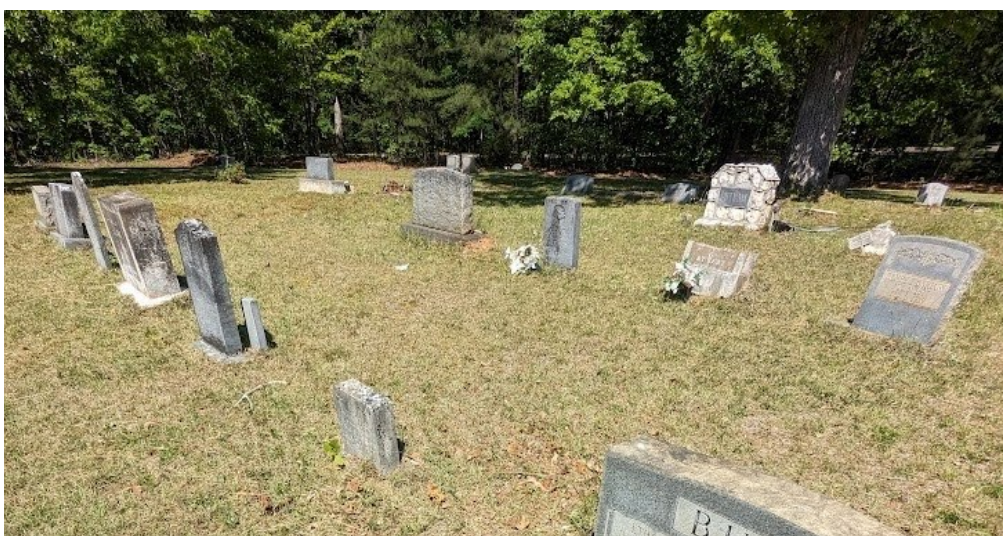
Reach Out to Descendants: Locate families with ancestors buried in the cemetery. Online resources like Find a Grave, Ancestry.com, and FamilySearch can be helpful. Additionally, check yearbooks from local libraries or high schools. Consider contacting local service organizations, lineage societies, and veteran's groups.

Spread the Word: Raise awareness and recruit volunteers by posting on relevant Facebook groups, local news organizations and local event hubs. Don't overlook Eagle Scouts and High School Seniors. Both groups need service project credits and they come with the bonus of strong backs and knees!

Expert Help in Wake County

If you need help restoring damaged or toppled headstones, here are some resources:

Parker's Monuments in Knightdale offers gravestone restoration services. Contact them for estimates via phone (919-217-0350) or email



The cemetery of the [former Six Forks Baptist Church](#) at 9130 Baileywick Road in North Raleigh, is badly in need of preservation. Note the tipped and broken stones. What doesn't show are the sinking graves. The Korean Baptist Church that bought the property mows and keeps the grounds tidy and does a good job within their means.

Clearly, more is needed to preserve and protect this resting place and testament to those that made Wake county a desirable place to live.

You will find a lot of old Wake County surnames in the [Find a Grave entry](#).

Cemetery Cleanup and Preservation - cont'd

(parkermonuments@gmail.com).

[Verville Preservation](#) does restoration for Historic Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh. Visit their Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/VervilleInteriors>

Guidance for Proper Restoration Techniques

Several online resources offer valuable information on proper restoration techniques:

- The [Cemetery Conservators United Standards website](#)
- The [Gravestone Studies Association website](#)
- The [Maine Old Cemetery Association](#) - They have a helpful procedure checklist on this page.

Form a Preservation Group

There are two successful groups in our area. Contact them and volunteer with them out to gain skills and ideas for your own efforts.

The [Friends of Oberlin Village](#) has a long standing successful cemetery clean up program which meets regularly throughout the year.

[Harnett County Cemetery Preservation](#) is a new start up group who has made great strides in their first year of existence. They invite newcomers to learn best practices while helping in a neighboring county. They occasionally work on cemeteries that overlap the Wake border. Follow their [Facebook](#)

[group](#) to get updates on preservation events and see their progress real time.

Additional Resources

Engaging Descendants and Volunteers: Read the [African American Cemetery Preservation Leaflet](#) for insights on generating community involvement
Free Virtual Program on cemetery preservation basics hosted by the [NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources](#).

Follow the [Cemetery Restoration & Repair group](#) on Facebook to see preservation happening in real time. There are many helpful and knowledgeable people here. Take this glimpse of real life effort and combine it with the best practice guidance from the three resources provided here.

We hope this comprehensive guide empowers you to take action and preserve a valuable piece of your community's history. With guidance and a team, you can actively preserve an important piece of Wake County's history. Together, we can ensure these ancestral resting places are maintained for their peace and our future.

Contributing: Cyndi Deal, Carol Kimball Stahl, Robin Simonton, Sharon Gower



Wake Cemetery and Gravesite Information Online

[Wake County Cemetery Survey c.1978](#) at WCGS website

[WPA NC Cemetery Records](#)

[Cemetery Census](#)

[USGenWeb Wake Cemeteries](#)

[Find a Grave](#)

[NC Digital Family Records Collection](#) - search "Wake"

Wake Cemetery Survey Image Collection: Tips for Successful Searches

[The Wake County Cemetery Survey c. 1978](#) is a digitized collection of cemetery survey forms gathered from the 1970's through the early 2000's. This collection is hosted at our website. Since going live on the WCGS Website, the Wake Cemetery Survey c.1978 Image Collection has provided a lot of discoveries for folks. We want your search and discovery to be successful too. Here are a few tips to help you navigate the image files.

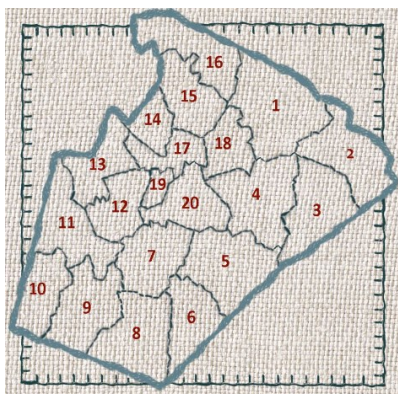
Find your people

Clues

The collection is arranged by townships. It helps to know the general location in Wake County where your ancestors were buried. Use census records, deeds, tax records, and cemetery resources like Find a Grave (see next page) to get clues. Look for a reference to a town or township.

Map

Once you have a handle on a location, you can consult the map on the WCS Image Project page on our website. [The Township Map](#) shows townships as they existed during the timeframe of the survey (1978 - 2009). Hyperlinks on the key take you right to the township of interest.



Surname Finder File

[This special list was](#) created to help search the smaller private cemeteries. The large portion of

these surveys were hand written and not possible to use OCR for searching. (Hope that changes as AI tools improve.) Surnames are listed in alphabetical order, with township location and cemetery name as secondary info. Check any that apply to your search.

ANNUNCIATA, Sister M.	Raleigh	Catholic Orphanage
ARNOLD	Wake Forest	Arnold
ASHLEY	Leesville	Lynn/Page
ATKINS	Cary	Atkins
	Swift Creek	Gulley
ATKINSON	Panther Branch	Hobby
	Swift Creek	Stephenson

Look inside each Township

Townships Descriptions

You will find townships descriptions at the Cemetery Project [main page](#) with details on each area including towns within their borders. It is important to know that some cities and towns lie across the borders of multiple townships. You will also find that areas disrupted by large construction projects such as reservoirs, highways and the airport are noted. Reading these descriptions will help you get your bearings. Here are two examples.

Buckhorn Township

Includes cemeteries displaced by the Jordan Lake Reservoir project and Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant. GPS and Link date is now live. See [New Index file for Buckhorn Township](#).

Swift Creek Township

Includes portions of Cary, Garner and the city of Raleigh. GPS and Links data are now live. See [New Index for Swift Creek Township](#).

Within each township, find File 01 and read that first. There are important tips that are township specific exceptions are noted. Take notice of the names mentioned in the misc

Numbered Reference Files

When you open a linked township, you will find a large group of linked files. The first group of files numbered one through four are reference files. Explore these. Here you will find information that was specific to each township. You may also find information on folks who's connection to the township is not clear in the Miscellaneous files. If

Wake Cemetery Survey Collection Search tips - cont'd

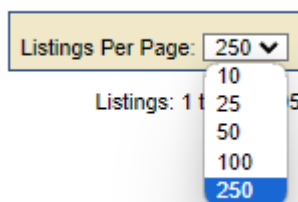
you recognize them, please let us know their connection so we may add it.

Always Check the New Index File

We discovered tons of extra information as we worked that was too important to lose, but that could not be attached to the original images or original index. In order to capture and preserve that information, the new index was created as a spreadsheet. This gives us unlimited room for adding all the important links and notes that we found and any new information discovered. You will find updated directions using road names rather than state road numbers, GPS locations for cemeteries, and links to bonus materials found during our research. The new index should really be one of the first places you look. You will always find the new index file in the 02 portion of the reference file list in every township. EX: [02 Neuse New Index](#) (click to view)

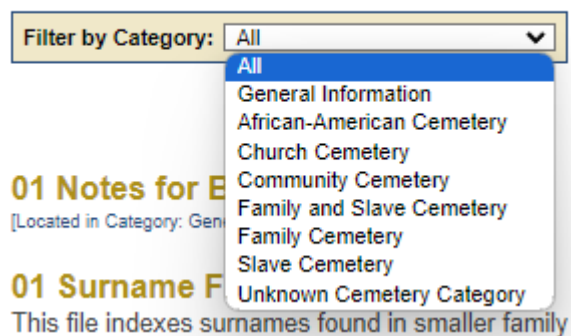
Expand the List

When you have your location and names, you will want to start exploring the cemetery files. It is important to note that the default is set at 50 listings per page. Ensure that you can see all the cemeteries by setting the view to 250 listings. There are a couple of townships that exceed 100 cemeteries so always go with the maximum option for your convenience. You will find the listing box at the top right of each page between the description and the list of linked files.



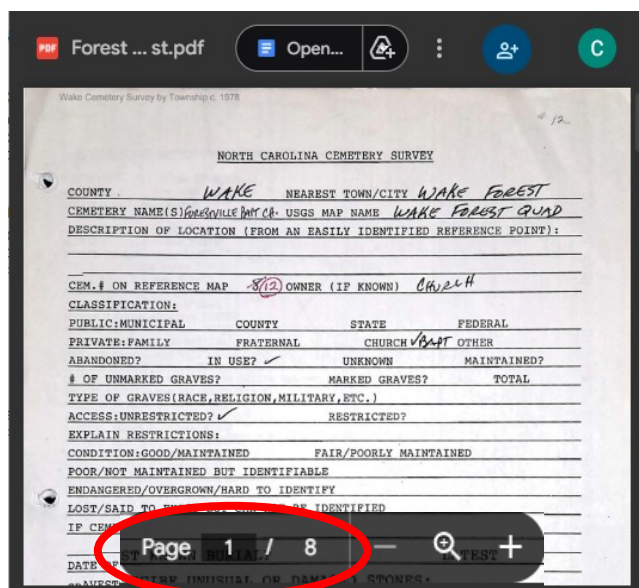
Categories

You can also search within a township by category if you are looking for a specific type of cemetery. The example below shows the eight special categories created for the project.



Review a Survey Image File

Once you have found a cemetery you want to review, it is as easy as clicking the link. This will open a PDF file that may contain multiple pages. Open [Forestville Baptist Church](#) as an example. You will see the first page of the survey but you may not notice that it is one of eight pages. Always check the box at the bottom of the Google screen to determine how many pages you should view.



Wake Cemetery Survey Collection Search tips - cont'd

Other Local Cemetery Resources

Not all cemeteries that were located in Wake County through the ages are included in the image. Some were overlooked in the original survey or were “disappeared” long before this most recent survey was conducted. There are a few other useful places to search. Try these other online historical data collections of Wake County graves.

- [WPA NC Cemetery Records](#) - (online) burials prior to 1911 .
- [NC Digital Family Records Collection](#) - includes lots of death and burial information noted in the collection. Search “Wake.”
- [Cemetery Census](#) - Predates Find a Grave in the

effort to provide searchable cemetery records online.

- [USGenWeb Wake Cemeteries](#)
- [Find a Grave](#)

The Wake Cemetery Survey c.1978 Image Collection continues to evolve, grow and most importantly, help people with their research. There are a few things I would like to see added and there is definitely a “wish list”. As stated before, I can’t wait until AI progresses to a point that we can get OCR for all the handwritten files. I would like to see a preview of surnames in each cemetery added to the Township New Indexes. That would ease searching and would ramp up the pace of productive searches. All good things in time. - CD

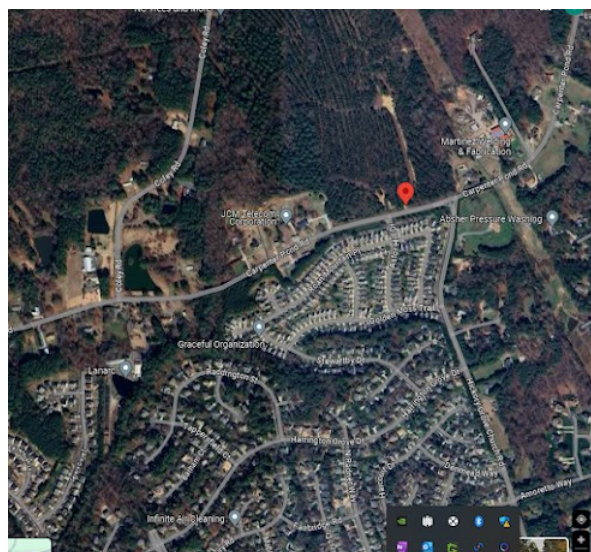
Imminent Grave Relocation: Carpenter Road area near Wake Durham line

I found this bit of news in searching for a reliable way to check for cemeteries in peril. If you are also interested in following this information, the site www.ncnotices.com allows searches for legal notices including grave relocation notices. You can search the state or by county. This is useful for me as I do not have a N&O subscription but still need access to this info.

It is a little after the publish date of this notice but still worth a try to locate connected family. The land that the 17 unknown persons are buried on was formerly in Oak Grove Twp, Wake County and is now located in Durham. If you have **Grady**, **Markham** or possibly **Emory** family in that area that want to have more information, **contact the email in the notice**. (Neither I, nor WCGS have any say in this matter.)

This is an alert to find family who may have

questions or should at least know where the graves were relocated. As you can see in the map image below, large scale development of this land is likely imminent. The contact information, original notice and linked Google map are available at this recent [WCGS blog post](#).



Summer 2024 Events Calendar

WCGS Meetups: Location varies. It's always more fun to meet in person. Follow our webpage and blog for details of future in person Meetups. Come bond with your fellow local Genies! **Planning in process for a Mid June meetup. Check back soon. [Details](#)

Juneteenth Celebrations - Various activities in various locations. [Full schedule and details](#)

Jun 25

WCGS Meeting: Digging for Gold in Colonial North Carolina Records. Speaker: Diane Richard. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Jul 23

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

Aug 27

WCGS Meeting: An Adoptee Searches for Roots. Speaker: Monika Fleming. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

Sep 24

WCGS Meeting: Land Ownership Over Time: Forwards, Backwards, and From the Middle. Speaker: David McCorkle. 6:30pm. Online Virtual Meeting. [Details](#)

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**. Details at WCGS member area,

Family History Fanatics (YouTube channel) - 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 just what you need. [Your DNA Guide](#) [YDG Blog](#)

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

Passionate about Genealogy and Family History?

Since 1982, WCGS has preserved local stories and empowered researchers with resources and educational opportunities like our monthly virtual meetings, newsletter, blog and special projects. [Join, renew, or donate](#) to keep uncovering the past together. Thank you for reading, meeting and following our efforts. We look forward to seeing you at future events.

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 **May 29, 2024**.



One Last Thing - Please Share

Calling all fellow Genealogists! Show us what you've got.

Let's mix things up a bit. Collaboration is always good for the hunt. We want reader input and hope you will share your voice. Don't feel limited to Wake County-specific content.

Share your finds, favorite research tricks, favorite genealogy instructors and their teachings, favorite ancestors, or best sleuthing skills. Questions are welcome too! You never know who might have the answer.

Short or long submissions are all welcome. There are no grades or quizzes. All comments are appreciated in the spirit of teamwork. Your work will be attributed to you.

If you have an idea or some input for sharing just send it via the link below. It can be for the next issue or the one after that. *"Try it. You'll like it."*

I would love to have the company. We are better together!

Your humble editor -

[Cyndi Deal](#)

Deadline for submissions for the Fall 2025 issue is Aug 10, 2024.

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

Submissions: newsletter@wakecogen.org

Contact WCGS

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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

~GenQuotes~

"The one thing we have in common with all other living things is that . . . our ancestors have managed to slip through a series of closing doors every time we needed them to."

-Bill Bryson, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*