



WAKE GENEALOGY WATCH

News from the Wake County Genealogical Society

Vol. 9, Issue 2

Winter 2026

Upcoming Event Schedule

Jan 27

**Getting Started in
Genealogical Research**

Renate Sanders

Feb 24

NC Archives Digital Services

Anna Peitzman

Mar 24

North Carolina Bastardy Bonds

A. Danielle Pritchett

April 28

Research Immediate Family

Diane L. Richard

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

Inside

Fall Events Recap - Fall 2025	1
NCGS Fall Conference Recap	3
Heermans Mansion History - Scranton, Pa.	4
Ancestry Library Edition Access	7
Bettinger Genetic Genealogy Video Series	7
Genetic Genealogy News	8
Wakecogen Surname Search	9
Identify Your Revolutionary Ancestors	11
Events	14
Wake Gen Watch Index	15

WCGS Out and About - Fall Recap 2025

We had so many events planned this fall that we were catching ourselves coming and going. Did you attend any of them? I hope you enjoyed yourself and learned a thing or two! - CD

NC Archives & State Library Family History Fair ~ October 4, 2025

President Barbara McGeachy staffed the WCGS table at the NC Archives Family History Fair and represented us well.

Barbara reports:

"I had a great time this morning at the NC Archives & State Library Family History Fair in downtown Raleigh. We had a good turnout, and lots of people signed up for our email list. The talks were recorded and are already available on YouTube on

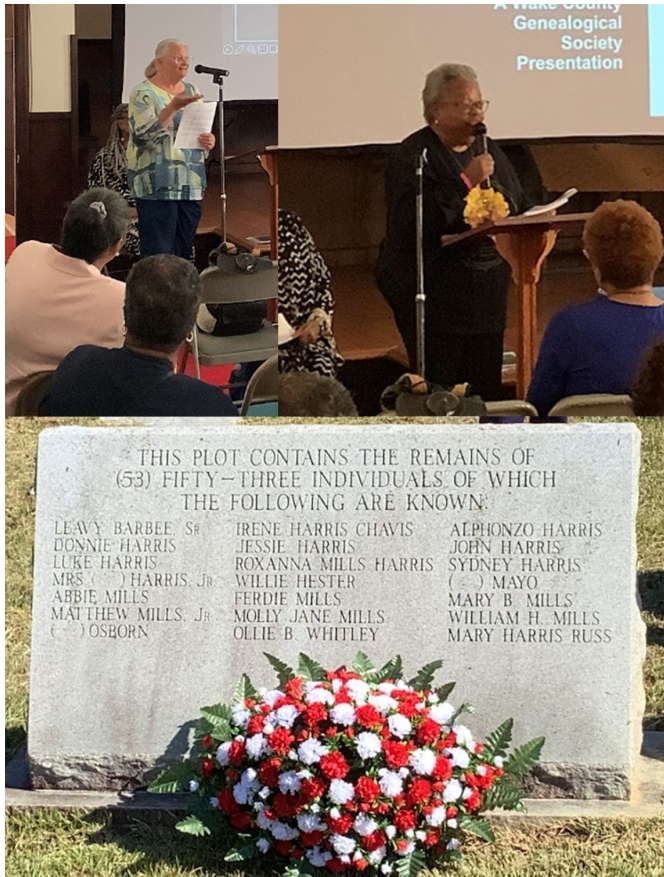
the "statelibrarync" channel as **2025 Family History Fair: African American Genealogy and History** at this [link](#). Content starts at 23 minutes.



Celebrating Shiloh Community c.1830 ~ October 18, 2025

Much has already been written about our day of celebration of the Shiloh community. It was a wonderful day to celebrate - the weather was lovely, and the crowd was engaged. The event was jointly organized by Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Wake County Historical Society, Town of Morrisville, and Wake County Genealogical Society. Multiple topics were presented by WCGS members Sandra Russ Cropps, Cyndi Deal and Lynne Deese. Photos on the next page give a glimpse of our day. View all photos at the [Shiloh blog post](#).

WCGS Fall 2025 Event Recap - Cont'd



Shiloh Celebration in October

Photos—Taniyah Justice

WCGS Holiday Meet-up: Dinner at Relish ~ December 4, 2025

What a good time! We met at Relish Craft Kitchen for the WCGS Holiday Meet-up. We had a great crowd and lots of fun catching up with everyone.

Relish was a perfect venue for a group of almost 30. We had a nearly private spot in the elevated room right off the entrance. While not totally enclosed, it was roomy and comfortable and the elevation helped neutralize the ambient noise from outside our dining area. We had a top notch waitress who handled our orders without a blink or a miss! She is obviously a trained professional. The food came out quickly and was fabulous all around. Relish has my vote for future meal centered gatherings!

It was truly great to see everyone. I didn't hear a lull in the conversation all evening until the food arrived.

Here is some of the holiday cheer we managed to capture at the gathering. There are many more photos of our fun event at this [blog post](#).

We hope you will
join us for the next
WCGS Meet-up.
~Coming Soon.



Left to right: Sandra Webb, Carol Stahl, Barbara McGeachy, Cini Gage, Harriet Jenkins, Mary Ann Loss. Photo - Steve Deal

NCGS Fall 2025 Conference: News and Practical Tips

By **Barbara McGeachy, President**

Here are some highlights that I learned while attending the two-day genealogy conference at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh on October 24th & 25th.

NCGS is giving away back issues of their journal. If you'd like any issues, email info@ncgenealogy.org or President@ncgenealogy.org. Members have access to all of the journals online, but some people like a printed copy of a special issue.

Be sure you are receiving the NCGS "eNews" emails. They are free to everyone – membership is not required. This email is chock full of useful info – upcoming events, new publications and webinars, etc. Sign up at the bottom right of the [NCGS web page](#).



Mark Lowe speaks at NCGS Oct 25

Photo - NCGS

Tip when viewing lectures being recorded: Make a note of the timestamp when you missed something. This way, you can quickly find that point in the recording.

Conference attendees may have noticed that WCGS did not have a table in the "Genealogy Resource Room" this year. I was informed that this room was

by invitation only. We were allowed to place brochures on the "Society Table," which we did. We shared our 4"x8" cards and a one-page list of our publications.

I was very disappointed not to have a WCGS table, as it has been a hub of conversations about genealogy in Wake County. In past years, we've had a membership giveaway and a sign-up sheet for our free email. Volunteers recruited new members and potential speakers for our webinars, and we displayed copies of our publications and a list of upcoming events. Hopefully next year, we'll be able to have a WCGS table again.



Society Table at NCGS Fall 2025

Photo - Barbara McGeachy

Save the dates! In 2026, NCGS plans two conferences:

March 27th & 28th, they'll hold a two-day virtual conference.

September 18th & 19th, they'll hold a two-day in-person conference in the McKimmon Center in Raleigh with some lectures available virtually.

Check their website for details.

<https://www.ncgenealogy.org/>

I'd love to hear your ideas for making WCGS even better! Email me at President@wakecogen.org

A House History in Scranton PA: the Heermans Mansion

By Gayle Williams, WCGS member

The Lackawanna (PA) Historical Society (LHS) began hosting recorded Zoom meetings at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued them monthly. On Friday, August 29, 2025, my son Jim and I gave the presentation “*Henry Heermans: A Hidden History*.” Jim handled the architectural elements of the house, while I discussed the builder/owner's genealogy.

[Lackawanna Past Times: Henry Heermans and the Heermans Mansion](#)

According to family lore, our house is the second oldest in Scranton, Pennsylvania. When my great-grandfather moved the house back 17 feet from the road in 1925, a local newspaper article noted that the house had been built in 1824.

The next proof came in 1995 when my son, Jim, worked at Steamtown National Historic Park for the summer. One of the exhibits was a hand-drawn map of Scranton that depicted the city prior to 1840. Jim



Heermans Williams Mansion
photo - Gayle Williams

noticed that a small prophetic piece of the map showed our house (see slide 5)! Another house built in 1840 always claimed that title, but it wasn't on the map. In 2006, the Lackawanna Historical Society acknowledged that Heermans house was the second-oldest house in Scranton, according to that map.

In April 2020, I started writing about Henry Heermans and his family, who owned the house for about 95 years until my family purchased it in 1922. By February 2024, the research about Henry was almost finished (one daughter still needs to be documented). I wrote 17 articles, a timeline, an abbreviated family tree, and an annotated will. The articles were between 3 and 6 pages long, including footnotes. The NC State University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Family Writing Group helped critique every article. Draft copies of those articles are available at LHS.

The research for those articles came from many sources. The primary sources I examined were deeds and mortgages, Henry's grandfather's will and his will, orphan court and estate records, private laws and trial cases, and local and regional maps. Secondary sources I researched included local history, genealogical, and biographical books, nineteenth-century newspapers, and periodicals.

In addition, I interviewed a local author who had written a novel about Henry's grandson, A. H. Winton. Unfortunately, her source material was lost in a fire, so her book became a historical novel rather than nonfiction as initially planned.

Of course, many different online sources were used, such as Ancestry.com, Find-A-Grave.com, FamilySearch.org, Fold3.com, etc. Visits to at least four different county historical societies proved fruitful. One visit even connected me to a distant relative of Henry Heermans.

A pleasant surprise came a month before the presentation, when Jim saw two photos from 1863-5 online at the National Gallery of Art. These photos provided five illustrations for the presentation (slides

A House History in Scranton PA - Cont'd

6, 16, 17, 25, and 26). Another surprise was verifying Henry's mother's maiden name through a deposition written for her brother in Fold3.

What wasn't a surprise was how well Jim's part of the presentation was received. He's worked for 25 years in the construction industry in North Carolina, and his expertise was on display.

My two favorite insights were how big 300 acres are, especially when overlaid on the current city of Scranton. The other one was that Henry's son sold 500 acres of downtown Scranton for \$4,750 a year before George Scranton bought it for \$8,000. Since

most histories of Scranton begin with George's purchase in 1840, Henry's son's name, Alva Heermans, has been lost to history.

I used NotebookLM, a Google AI product, to create bullet points for the presentation in Google Slides (they'd also work in PowerPoint, etc.). For this article, I used NotebookLM to produce a bibliography.

Despite the time commitment in producing the findings on this family and their - and now my - home, it has proven to be a worthwhile endeavor and a labor of love.



*Thomas H Johnson, Providence, Del. & Hudson Canal, Co. C. 1863-65, National Gallery of Art, Alfred H. Moses and Fern M. Schad Fund, Accession number 2016.152.13.
(<https://www.nga.gov/artworks/207968-providence-del-hudson-canal-co>)*

Straight kerf marks indicate pit saw



35' long, hand-hewn purlin plate



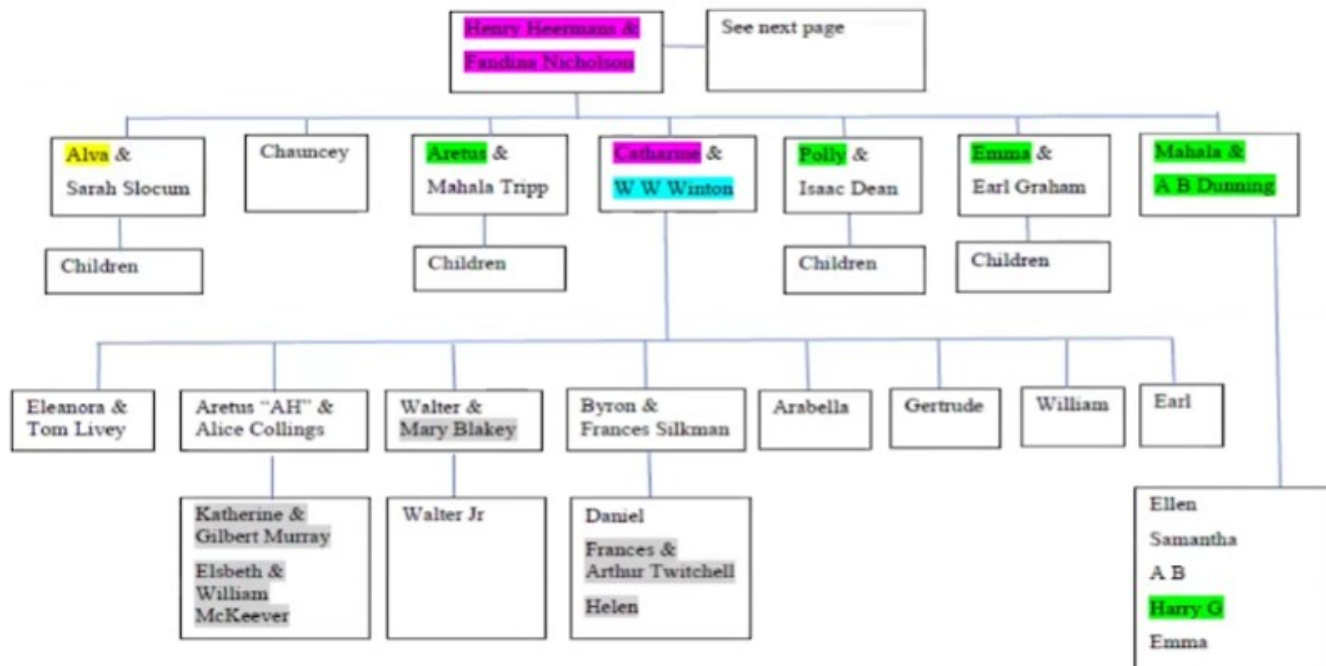
Photos - Jim Williams

Close-up of Houses on the Right

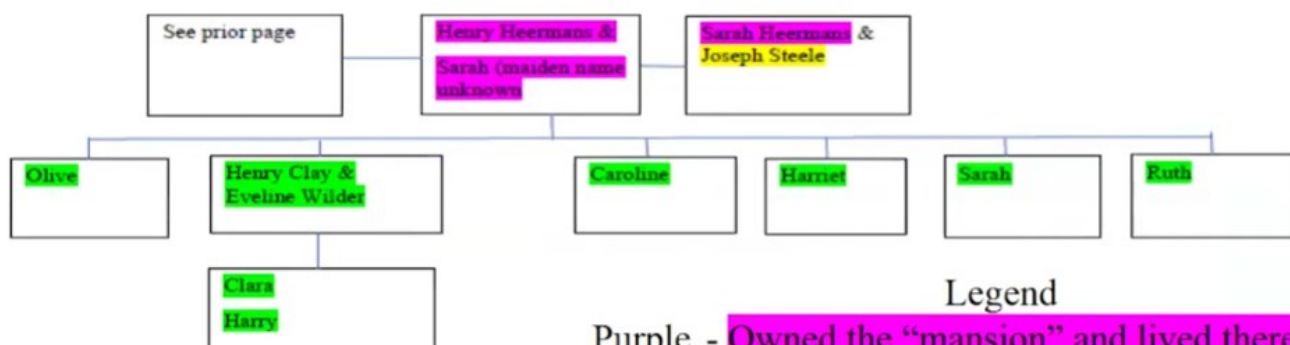


House and two out buildings near front of close up—Heermans Mansion, store adjacent, barn across the street.

Henry Heermans Family with First Wife



Henry Heerman Family with Second Wife



Legend

- Purple - Owned the "mansion" and lived there
- Blue - Owned the "mansion" but didn't live there
- Green - Lived in the "mansion"
- Yellow - Probably lived in the "mansion"
- Grey - Inherited the "mansion" but didn't live there

Ancestry Library Edition Now at WCPL Locations

A reader recently received the following message in an email from [Wake County Public Libraries](#). Access to Ancestry.com Library Edition is a great addition to your library services, and its availability at any of the 23 library locations is a huge bonus. If you are an occasional researcher or just don't want to invest in a personal subscription at the moment, this is an excellent way to keep your research options open! Call your local branch for details. - CD

Message from WCPL:

“As families gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, many of us may find ourselves sharing stories about our grandparents, great-aunts, great-uncles and generations that came before us. This season of gratitude is the perfect time to explore your own family history, and at Wake County Public Libraries, we can help make that journey possible.

With your Wake County Public Library card, you have free access to one of our many online databases known as Ancestry Library Edition. This is a genealogy resource of military, court, land, probate, vital and church records, directories, passenger lists and more. This resource is available on-site on

library PCs only. With your library card, you can uncover stories that bring your family's past to life and deepen your appreciation for the people and places that shaped you.

We are more than just 23 library locations filled with books; we are gateways to discovery, connection and heritage. This Thanksgiving, as you gather with friends and family, take a moment to celebrate both the stories you know and the ones waiting to be found. Visit your favorite Wake County Public Library and give this resource a try.

Ancestry Library Edition is one of our many databases. While this database is only available in the library, most others can be accessed from home with your library card. Check out the full list of databases and descriptions on our [Research Page](#).



From all of us at the library, Happy Thanksgiving! May your holiday be filled with warmth, love and the joy of discovering where your story began.”

Genetic Genealogy Basics - Updated Blaine Bettinger Web Series

Whether you are just getting started or need to brush up on your DNA skills, this is a great learning opportunity - CD

DNA educational materials were so much scarcer ten years ago. When my DNA study buddies and I were just starting to use and understand genetic genealogy, the topic was new enough that we really had to hunt for sources and opportunities. We often made our own classes with written content and the occasional YouTube video. We frequently “taught” ourselves, and each other, by each taking a chapter of

content and sharing with the group on a rotating basis.

Two early books that made the cut and taught us well were from genetic genealogy educator Blaine Bettinger. Those books - *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing* and *Genetic Genealogy*, the first ever genetic genealogy workbook, co-authored with Debbie Parker Wayne - were cutting-edge at the time. Much content from both books found its way into Blaine's *Foundations in DNA* series, offered at Legacy Webinars in 2016. The *Foundations* series

Genetic Genealogy Basics - Cont'd

was updated for 2025 to address the myriad of discoveries and changes in how we work with DNA and uncover unknown family relationships. Back then, we used many strategies that we had figure by hand as we explored our dna matches. Now those discoveries can be made with the click of a button or two!

Whether you are just getting started with genetic genealogy or looking for a refresher, this five-part series is for you.

This series equips genealogists of all levels with the tools to confidently apply DNA evidence in family history research. Both basic and advanced strategies with shared matches and ethnicity estimates are covered. Each video includes a downloadable syllabus.

Foundations in DNA webinar topics include:

- [Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy](#)
- [Understanding and Using Y-DNA and mtDNA](#)
- [Understanding Autosomal DNA](#)
- [Using Shared Matching](#)
- [Understanding Ethnicity Estimates](#)

These links take you to the description of each class.



WCGS members get **50% off a new (not existing)** Legacy Webinars subscription with the code at our webpage. Visit the [member benefits page](#) for detailed instructions. Member log-in is required to access this page. The Legacy Discount is the first topic listed there.

Non-members can get a **10% discount** by checking the discount code announced at each weekly presentation. This code is valid for seven days, so act soon after you get it. This code is displayed in the description of the most recent webinar. Just go the [webinar library page](#) and open the most recent webinar to see the “Discount Code” of the week.

A Legacy Webinars subscription provides access to all new and existing webinars - this series of five plus all 2,580 plus recorded webinars in the Legacy Library and all webinars scheduled for the next year. That is a lot of content for the list price of \$45 per year—an even better value with one of the discounts! This subscription is a really good value and one of the best genealogy education investments one can make.

Other Genetic Genealogy News

MyHeritage will begin providing whole genome sequencing results early in 2026. The test kits remain the same. Tests returned starting in January will include the new results. Read the My Heritage announcement [here](#). You can also read Roberta Estes' explanation of the process [here](#).

Ancestry has added an update to their DNA match Cluster Tool (part of the add-on Pro Tool subscription) released in July. The update allows user-created Custom Clusters based on a specific

match and a custom shared cM range from a minimum of 20 cM to maximum 1,300 cM, and include up to 500 matches. Read about standard Ancestry Clusters [here](#), and learn more about the new Custom Clusters [here](#).

While reading others' reviews and experiences with the Cluster tool, I found this blog post and video of an alternative method [EGGOS/Earliest Generation Group of Siblings](#) presented by Rick T. Wilson to be an intriguing and helpful alternative. This is a free alternative that works across DNA vendors, too!

Take Advantage of the Surname Search at Wakecogen.org

By Cynthia Gage

This article originally appeared in the Winter 2018 issue of Wake Genealogy Watch.

Members - take advantage of the Surname File in your WCGS profile.

Visitors - follow the link at the end of this post to find others researching your surnames. (This feature is not limited to Wake County ancestors or residents.)

Have you entered your surnames on the Wake County Genealogical Society website? This is a member benefit, and it's a great way for others to find your names and contact you, while preserving your privacy. It is easy to do! Here's how!

After logging in, select the **Profile** submenu under the **Members Area**. Then select the **Surname** tab. To enter a surname, click on the + (plus) button on the top right. Fill in the requested information and save. In addition to the basic details, the surname input screen includes fields for alternate spellings and additional comments, which will be visible to visitors.

WCGS Projects
WCGS Newsletter
WCGS Publications
Members Area
Profile
Wake Treasures
Member Only Files
Membership List
Society Files
More Benefits

Member Info	Contact Info	Alt. Contact Info	Custom Data	Surnames	Member Settings																																										
 <table><tr><th>Actions</th><th>Surname</th><th>County</th><th>State/Prov./Rgn.</th><th>Country</th><th>Begin Year</th><th>End Year</th></tr><tr><td> </td><td>Huber</td><td>St. Louis</td><td>MO</td><td>USA</td><td>1830</td><td>1910</td></tr><tr><td> </td><td>Ingham</td><td>Hampshire</td><td>MA</td><td>USA</td><td>1776</td><td>1840</td></tr><tr><td> </td><td>Ingham</td><td>Tama</td><td>IA</td><td>USA</td><td>1845</td><td>1930</td></tr><tr><td> </td><td>Kahler</td><td>Tama</td><td>Iowa</td><td>Usa</td><td>1840</td><td>1905</td></tr><tr><td> </td><td>Taylor</td><td>Tama</td><td>IA</td><td>USA</td><td>1830</td><td>1900</td></tr></table>						Actions	Surname	County	State/Prov./Rgn.	Country	Begin Year	End Year	 	Huber	St. Louis	MO	USA	1830	1910	 	Ingham	Hampshire	MA	USA	1776	1840	 	Ingham	Tama	IA	USA	1845	1930	 	Kahler	Tama	Iowa	Usa	1840	1905	 	Taylor	Tama	IA	USA	1830	1900
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 	Kahler	Tama	Iowa	Usa	1840	1905																																									
 	Taylor	Tama	IA	USA	1830	1900																																									

It is recommended that you only enter **one surname, one county, and one state per line** to make it easier for visitors to find your names. However, the only required information is the surname itself. The rest can be left blank if you choose. Once you have entered your surnames, you can always come back later and edit or add more information by clicking on the *pencil icon* beside the surname. (When you are logged in you can also edit - *pencil icon*, or delete - *trashcan icon* - as needed to update your list.)

Now that you have your names entered, here is what visitors will be able to see and do. From the **Surname Page** on the main website, visitors can search for the surname of their interest.

Surname Search at Wakecogen.org— cont'd

Search Surname:  

Also Search Alternate Spellings: 

Results Per Page: 

Actions	Surname ↑	County	State/Prov./Rgn.	Country	Begin Year	End Year
 	Ingham	Hampshire	MA	USA	1776	1840
 	Ingram		NC			

In this example, two results have been found. For the first listing, *Ingham*, the searched surname *Ingram* had been included in the alternate spelling area when the member entered the data. By clicking on the **eye** icon, the visitor will see all the details for the selection, including the alternate spellings and any other comments which the member entered onto the surname listing. If the visitor wishes to contact the member, they can click the **envelope** to send an email. Their message will go to the member's email address on file.

Surname Inquiry Emler

Cancel & Close

Send Email

To place an information request to the person researching this surname, fill in this form with your contact information and then submit. While we can assure that your request will be placed, we cannot guarantee that you will receive an answer.

From Sender Name: Required

From Sender Email: Required

Subject: Required

Validation: Check this box: ☐ and enter code : Required

Message: Required

B

I

U



To protect member privacy, the email pop-up does **not** show the member's address. However, the visitor is required to provide their email address in order to send a message. The member can review and then choose whether to respond to the message from their email server.

Since these messages will go directly to your personal email, be sure that WCGS has your current email address attached to your profile. If not, you may miss messages from other researchers interested in common family lines!

If you have any questions, feel free to ask at webmaster@wakecogen.org. Visit the [Surname page](#) at Wakecogen Website!

Identify Your Revolutionary Ancestors - Then Start Researching

I hope some of my ideas help you find your Patriots!
- CD

Two recent experiences have left me inspired to start researching my Patriot ancestors. The first was the recent Ken Burns series, [The American Revolution](#). The second was my experience researching a Free Black Revolutionary soldier for a recent historic presentation, which led me to many new resources and ideas on how to proceed.

Let's walk through the process I used to identify likely Patriots in my Ancestry tree using dates and hints, tagging and tracking them in a spreadsheet and finally, searching for records at WikiTree, FamilySearch, RevWarApps, and other sites.

I have been researching my tree for a long time, so it is built out sufficiently wide and deep to go looking for potential Patriots. I decided that the first step should be to look for "low-hanging fruit." If you have an Ancestry tree, the easiest way to proceed is to look for men in your tree born between 1700 and 1760, since many of these men would be the right age to serve. The men on either end of this time span will be a little old and a little young, but older men could be recognized as Patriots for supporting the war effort by providing money, goods or services. And we all know plenty of stories about young men who fudged their ages so as not to miss the excitement.

I have been using the [Ancestry Hints feature](#) to look for clues such as pension files, pay vouchers, and DAR or SAR applications. Military documents attached to the ancestors by other researchers can provide time and place clues that make great starting points. Remember, these are **first steps**, not conclusions. I devoted a couple of cold afternoons to reviewing both my own tree and my husband's lines. I found 79 potential Patriots, including two women who acted bravely enough to receive recognition if not true lineage society inclusion.

As I found these potential Patriots, I used the [Ancestry Tree Tag system](#) to mark their profiles for easy access. I created this custom tag— "**Rev War to be researched**" - to show that conclusions haven't yet been reached. I can change or remove it as my research progresses. Using the [Reports Tool](#) (offered through the Ancestry Pro-Tools subscription), I created a report including all profiles with the tag. I copied the information from the report into an Excel spreadsheet. The report had already had the columns for name, birth and death data. I added columns for notes, surname line, and grandparent line between the existing name and birth columns. The surname line and grandparent line columns are to help me know which part of the tree I need to look at to locate each potential Patriot. This table shows my working spreadsheet and the sources I have already found for one of my more well researched Patriots. (Starting

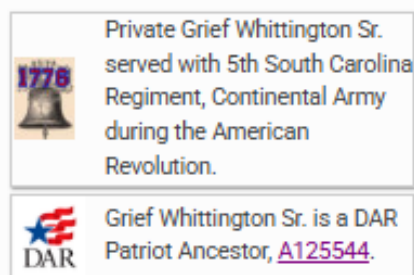
All males born between 1720 - 1760 with record hint that indicate service in the American Revolutionary War for Cleaver, Courtney, Deal and Culp lines. Research started from DNA Big Tree at Ancestry. **Two female patriots included.

Name	notes	Surname line	grandparent line	Birth	Death
Whittington, Grief o	WT has military info/ last pension 1849 link - https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Whittington-993 . DAR- A125544. Pension S7883. https://rewarapps.org/s7883.pdf#search=%22S7883%22 . P 51 on anc pension group https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1995/images/MUSA1775D_137201-00054?usePUB=true&phsrc=vVA21359&pid=66110	Courtney	M A sr Courtney 1892	1762 Surry, Sussex, Virginia, United States,	6 Sep 1848 Franklin, Amite, Mississippi, USA

Identify Your Revolutionary Ancestors - Cont'd

with someone who has lots to offer is an easy way to learn what is available when you land on an ancestor who left less of a trail.) This example is a fourth great-grandfather on my maternal line, **Grief Whittington** 1762–1848. The Ancestry hint provided was a link to the [Pension Roll Register of 1835](#).

I checked [WikiTree](#) next and found a profile for him there. It was well built and has special markers indicating that research existed for his military experience. If you have registered with Wikitree, you can see his profile here - [Whittington-993](#). Wikitree is free to use with registration. It is a collaborative site created by serious genealogy researchers who make a practice of encouraging their members to cite their sources.



Here are the Revolutionary War icons attached to Grief's WikiTree profile. Note that I now have his DAR ancestor number **A125544** which led me to his descendant applications in the DAR [database](#).

The manager of the Wikitree profile included a wealth of military information as shown at top right, including his regiments and tours, officers, battles, and last pension payment in 1849! This is very great help for a one click treasure hunt. There are nine linked sources included! One references payment ledgers. Others link to his officers' profiles at Carolana.com—another great place to look for Southern Campaign soldiers.

To look for more, I tried FamilySearch's new Full-Text Search using the terms "Grief, Whittington,

Military

Military Service: Veteran^[1]

Drafted: 1778/9 in Cheraws District, SC.^[2]

1st Tour: [Capt. Thomas Lloyd](#) and Col. Benjamin Hicks

2nd Tour: [Capt. Charles Dewitt](#) and Col. Hicks

4th Tour: 5th Regiment

Capt. William (George?) Conyers (possibly [Conyers-313](#))

5th (Last) Tour:

Capt. Clayborne Hinson, [Col. Maurice \(aka Morris\) Murphy](#), [General Francis Marion](#).

Battle At Eutaw Springs

Last Pension Payment: September 1849^[4]

Cheraw, Eutaw." I searched SC records for 1776-1785 and found a [Declaration of South Carolina Service of Grief Whittington, Born in Virginia](#). In addition to his testimony about his military experiences, there was a number next to his name. I recognized the format — **S7883** — as a pension file number.

Hoping that I was correct, I logged onto [RevWarApps.org](#) to see if I could find the listing there. I was rewarded with a transcript summary of the pension application and questions answered directly by Grief on March 4, 1831. You can view summary **S7883** [here](#). No full pension file yet, but this was a nice addition to the records for review!

Grief was mentioned by name (and pension number) in two other files at RevWarApps.org. I was able to look at those as well. The first was for Lewis I. Harper (**R4628**) where Grief vouched for Lewis' character, identity and service. Grief also witnessed for Richard Whittington (**W535**) to verify his identity and service when his pension papers were lost or destroyed. I found something really special attached to this file, a signature for Grief!

Identify Your Revolutionary Ancestors - Cont'd

I searched again with Full-Text Search at FamilySearch and found the full pension file for Grief. I used the following search parameters and found the whole fifteen page handwritten document. "Eutaw" was added because one of the summaries stated that he was at the Battle of Eutaw Springs in South Carolina.

Keywords: "Grief Whittington",
Pension, Military, Eutaw
Name: Grief Whittington
Year (Range): 1776 - 1783

I was rewarded with many more examples of Grief's signature and the full story of his war career. The full pension file can be viewed at this [link](#). It will require a FamilySearch log in, but create one. It is free. This file is top priority to review in detail.

The findings so far include:

- The final payment voucher from the original Ancestry hint.
- Federal and local pensioner lists mentioning Grief.
- His summary at RevWarApps.org and related witness statements.
- The full original pension file at FamilySearch.
- Officer and battle summaries at Carolana.com.
- Several family history book references.
- Multiple DAR descendant applications.

The time has come to analyze these sources. The next steps for researching Grief Whittington include: review the full pension file; create a time line and a Fan Club document; summarize the existing data; conduct a deeper dive for original records at Fold3; research his officers and units using Carolana.com; find and review war experience testimony of the fellow soldiers (in the same place at the same time) using Revwarapps.org. This last technique was very useful in adding context to a previous research

project where the veteran was too elderly to communicate his own battle history.

I tested this work flow with several other potential Patriots and found records for every one so far. It's a solid strategy for anyone new to Revolutionary research. Good luck in your own quest. I hope you have as much luck bringing your ancestors to life as I have. Discovering how our ancestors fought to secure our freedom makes our democratic heritage all the more meaningful. It is truly a gift not to be taken for granted.

Try these resources for your own research:

[WikiTree](#) - Search [ancestor by name](#) | search the [American Revolution Category](#)

[Carolana.com](#) - Search [North Carolina Patriots](#) | Search [South Carolina Patriots](#).

[Revwarapps.org](#) - [intro page](#) | [search options](#)

[FamilySearch Full-Text Search](#) - Includes instructions and video.

DAR [GRS/Genealogical Research System](#) - (search by ancestor, member or descendant).

SAR [Patriot Search](#) | [Biography Search](#)

[Fold3](#) -Original military records. **Use your [State Library of NC](#) card at the for [free access online](#).

[Revolutionary Roots at American Ancestors](#)—download a free Revolutionary War research guide.

For additional resources, see Ann Myhre's article [The Search for Men of Age to Have Served in the Revolutionary War](#) published in the Fall 2019 issue of WGWS on page 6.

Winter 2026 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!

Jan 27, 2026

WCGS Meeting: Getting Started in Genealogical Research. Speaker: Renate Sanders. 6:30pm. **Online Virtual Meeting.** [Details](#)

Feb 24

WCGS Meeting: NC Archives Digital Services: Using the website, digital collections, and online catalog. Speaker: Anna Peitzman. 6:30pm. **Online Virtual Meeting.** [Details](#)

Mar 5-7

RootsTech 2026: Conference in-person or virtual. Virtual is Free with registration. Multiple Speakers. [Details](#)

Mar 24

WCGS Meeting: Who's your daddy? Exploring North Carolina Bastardy Bonds. Speaker: A. Danielle Pritchett. 6:30pm. **Online Virtual Meeting.** [Details](#)

Mar 27 - 28

NCGS Spring Conference: Virtual Conference via Zoom. Multiple Speakers. [Details](#)

April 28

WCGS Meeting: Researching Your Mom: Don't overlook researching your immediate family! Speaker: Diane Richard. 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?

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

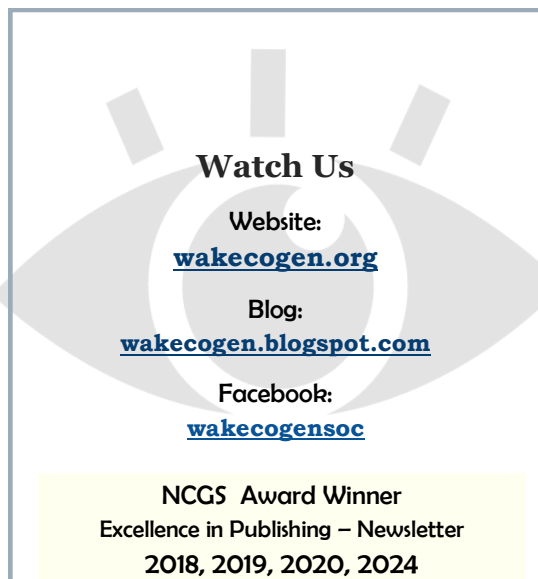
Heritage Society of Franklin County: [Details](#)

Triangle Jewish Genealogical Society: [Details](#)

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society: Triangle Region Chapter - [Facebook](#), [Website](#)



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 Jan. 4, 2026.



Contact Us

WCGS Board of Directors

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Please send all other emails to
info@wakecogen.org

Postal mail:
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P. O. Box 17713
Raleigh, NC 27619-7713

One Last Thing

I have a little New Years surprise for you! I needed to find a previously written article last week. After nearly 10 years of writing this newsletter, I could not find it to save me! My frustration led to the creation of this [Cumulative Index for WGW 2017-2026](#). It is arranged by issue and OCR searchable. I hope it helps you find an article you wanted to revisit but forgot.

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

I would love to hear if any of the tips or resources mentioned in the newsletter help you get further in your own research. Please don't hesitate to share your successes!

Your humble editor -

[Cyndi Deal](#)

Deadline for submissions for the Spring 2026 issue is March 3, 2026.

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

