

CLARENDON COURIER

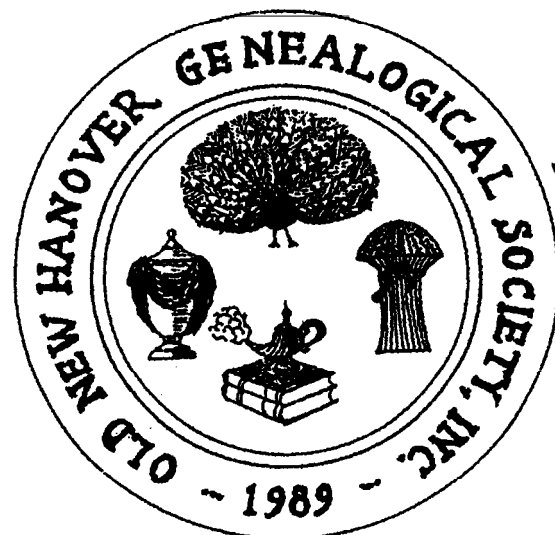


*Journal of the
Old New Hanover Genealogical Society*

Volume 15, Number 3

Summer 2003

OLD NEW HANOVER GENEALOGY SOCIETY
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Objectives: To collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and information with reference to genealogical and related historical, biographical and heraldic data; to encourage and promote interest in genealogical research, to adhere to principles of accuracy and thoroughness in research; to champion ethical standards and to discourage and oppose incompetent and **disrespectful** practices of researchers; to foster careful publications; to encourage and provide scholarly training for all in interested in these endeavors.

Membership: The membership of the Society is open to all individuals and organizations interested in genealogy upon payment of dues, renewable each January. Dues are: Individual and Institutional: \$20.00, Family: \$25.00; Life: \$225.00. For the **Individual/Institutional** and Family dues, there is a \$5.00 discount if paid before January 1st. Mail dues to ONHGS Secretary at the above address. Members are encouraged to submit surnames of the families that they are researching to be in the Society's ancestor roster. Members also receive a 10% discount on all publications and **free** queries in the *Clarendon Courier*.

Clarendon Courier: Members receive this journal quarterly in the winter, spring, summer, and fall. The deadline for submission of material for publication is December 10, March 10, June 10 and September 10th. Back issues can be purchased either separately or combined year issues.

Meetings: Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month, September through May. Unless otherwise notified, meetings are held at the New Hanover County Public Library, 201 Chestnut Street, **Wilmington, NC**. The computer interest group meets at 6:00 P.M. prior to the monthly meetings.

Book Department: The Society has for sale over 95 genealogical abstracts covering Southeastern North Carolina. Your membership allows you a 10% discount on all books. Complete book list available on request.

Queries: Queries are published **free** for members. They should be typed or legibly printed on separate sheets of paper, each with the sender's name and address. Each query should state geographical connections to southeastern North Carolina or adjacent areas, and such dates as to place them in **context**. **They** are subject to editing. So that the editor can understand them, please do not abbreviate. Mail queries to the above address.

THE CLARENDON COURIER
JOURNAL OF THE OLD NEW HANOVER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Volume 15. No. 3 Summer, 2003

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Cover illustration: New and improved North Carolina Room, New Hanover County Public Library.

SOCIETY NOTES

The **first meeting** of the year will be on **Tuesday, September 9, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.** in the North Carolina Room on the second floor of the main New Hanover Public Library. The program will feature a tour of the newly renovated facility, conducted by local history librarians, **Beverly Tetterton** and **Joseph Sheppard**. The **McKinsey Computer Interest Group** will begin their meeting at **6:00 p.m.**

Timothy Rackley of **Kernersville, NC** will speak on "Finding a Needle in a Haystack" - a discussion of landless families - at the regular meeting on **October 14, 2003**. A former member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Genealogical Society, Tim has transcribed and published numerous North Carolina county records. His particular interest is in Nash County. Plan to hear this knowledgeable and illuminating speaker.

Other dates for meetings are: **November 18, 2003; January 13, 2004; February 11, 2004; March 11, 2004 and April 8, 2004**. The date of the May picnic or fellowship will be announced later.

The editors appreciate the contributions to this issue of the *Courier* by **Helen Sammons, Carole Weiss and Jim Edwards**.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We will be starting a new year in September with our first meeting on the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM. The Computer Interest Group starts at 6:00 PM. Anyone interested in leading the group or making suggestions for subjects to discuss, please let me know.

Our programs have been quite good the past two years, especially the "Genealogy 101" during the 2001-2002 year. This year we hope to have a good line up of programs to pique your interest. If anyone has any ideas for programs in the future please let Pete Davis know. He is our new VP for 2003-2005 and has the responsibility of arranging for programs. Beverly Tetterton has been a great help in this endeavor in the past.

Speaking of officers, the slate for this next two years is as follows:

President - Jim Edwards
Vice-president - Pete Davis
Secretary - Carolyn Corbett
Treasurer - Kay Berg
Member-At-Large - Joseph **Shepard**
Past President- Carole Weiss

If you have any questions or suggestions for improving our meetings, etc., please see one of the above.

I hope during the summer everyone made a big leap forward in finding more about your ancestors. The internet is getting better everyday in providing places where information can be found. You can even find sites with searchable data bases that are of great help. I belong to Ancestry.com, at a price, but it is most helpful. The LDS Family Search site is great too. The IGI is updated quite regularly. Just acknowledge the source and double check your data.

Another site I have found that is not genealogy related but has been a good source for computer operation and maintenance. That is the "Kim Komando" site. She is on the radio on Saturdays on WAAV 680 AM and has the web site. Just search for Kim Komando and you can find it. She also issues newsletters almost daily.

Happy hunting.

Jim Edwards
President
Old New **Hanover** Genealogical Society

Old New Hanover Genealogical Society
Profit and Loss Statement
7/1/02 through 6/30/03

INCOME

Book Orders	1925.80	
Overpayment	<u>53.74</u>	
TOTAL Book Orders		1979.54
Gift Received		2000.00
Interest Income		304.88
Membership Dues		2720.00
Other Income (Courier sales)		79.00
Picnic Income		268.00
Research		2500
TOTAL INCOME		<u>7376.42</u>

EXPENSES

Book Expense	1041.15	
Overpayment	<u>52.16</u>	
TOTAL Book Expenses		1093.31
Courier		
Mailing	841.43	
Printing	<u>1647.22</u>	
TOTAL Courier		2488.64
Donations		478.55
Internet Service		140.00
Office Expense		80.26
Picnic		314.57
Post Office		
Address Correction	8.48	
Box Rent	126.00	
Stamps	<u>14.80</u>	
TOTAL Post Office		300.00
Programs		35.00
Subscriptions		2.14
State Sales Tax		
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>5110.92</u>
OVERALL TOTAL		<u>2265.50</u>

Kay Berg, Treasurer

New Hanover County Deed Index

[The New Hanover County Deed Index is on microfilm in the North Carolina Room of the local library. This series, abstracted by Ann Hewlett **Hutteman**, covers the years **1725** until **1860**. If you desire a copy of a particular deed, you may request a copy, which is also on microfilm **from** the local history room. Be sure you cite the grantor, **grantee(s)** and book and page numbers.]

Grantor	Grantee	Type of Instrument	Book/Page	Date
Ashe, Samuel P	James Moore	Deed	P 265	1815
Ashe, Samuel P.	Jesse Rooks	Deed	P 268	1815
Ashe, Samuel P.	Samuel Ashe, Atty	P of A	S 631	----
Ashe, Samuel P.	James F. MacRee	D for T	S 631	1827
Ashe, Samuel P.	Samuel Ashe	Deed	W 79	----
Ashe, W. S.	Parker Quince	Deed	AA 440	1844
Ashe, W. S.	Gilbert Potter	Deed	CC 416	1846
Ashe, W. S.	David D. King	Deed	KK 453	1853
Ashe, W. S.	Woodman Sidbury	Deed	QQ 127	1859
Ashe, William S., atty	State of NC	Bond	W 467	1837
Ashe, William S.	State of NC	Bond	Y 215	1840
Ashe, William S.	State of NC	Bond	Y 215	1840
Ashe, William S.	State of NC	Bond	Y 319	1841
Ashe, William S.	State of NC	Bond	Y 320	1841
Ashe, W. S.	State of NC	Bond	Y 383	1841
Ashe, William S.JJ	State of NC	Bond		384 1841
Ashe, William S.	Daniel I. Morgan	Deed	Z 343	1842
Ashe, William S.	Woodman S. Sidbury	Dfor T	FF 546	1849
Ashe, William S.	Albert G. Hall	Deed	II 35	1851
Ashe, Mary P.	Thomas H. Ashe TR	Din Tr	X 105	1838
Ashe, P.P.	Thomas F. Davis	Deed	S 119	1823
Ashe, Thomas by Shf	Ezekial Lane	Shf Deed	U 525	1833
Ashe Zanga TR	Emma Gamson	Deed	15 (sic) 291	1835
Ashe, T. H.	Cornelia A. Thompson	QCD	QQ 61	1859
Ashe, Est. of Rebecca by Shf	Samuel Ashe	Shf Deed	L1 2 1 7 9 4	
Atkin, John	Edmond Atkin , atty	Pof A	AB 123	1737
Atkins, Edmond	Richard Eagles, atty	P of A	AB 181	1738
Atkins, Anne	John Burgwin	Deed	E 103	1764
Atkinson, Amos	Batt Batson	Deed	LL 501	1854
Atkinson, Amos	James W. Sidbury	Deed	NN 501	1856
Atkinson, Amos	Timothy J. Bludworth	Deed	PP 355	1858
Atkinson, Daniel	Luke McClamy	Deed	H 143	1784
Atkinson, Daniel	Luke McClamy	Deed	H 144	1784
Atkinson, Daniel	Amos Parker	Deed	O 122	1811
Atkinson, Daniel	Richard Everett	Deed	R 445	1822

Grantor	Grantee	Type of Instrument	Book/Page	Date
Atkinson, Daniel	Richard Sanders	Deed	S 762	----
Atkinson, Daniel	Elizabeth Bell	Deed	GG 547	1850
Atkinson, Daniel, Sr.	Daniel Atkinson, Jr.	Deed	M 299	1804
Atkinson, Daniel, Sr.	Daniel Atkinson, Jr	Deed	L2 788	----
Atkinson, E.	Edward Rheu	Deed	AA 442	1844
Atkinson, E.	Stephen Sneed	Deed	FF 589	1849
Atkinson, E.	John A. Sanders	Deed	GG 128	1849
Atkinson, E.	William R. Harper	Deed	HH 432	1850
Atkinson, E.	Simon Rogerson	Deed	II 260	1851
Atkinson, John	Stokely Sidbury	Deed	M 295	1803
Atkinson, John	David Barker	Deed	O 543	1813
Atkinson, John	George W. Davis	Deed	T 374	1829
Atkinson, Samuel	Woodman Atkinson	Deed	LL 328	1824
Atkinson, Samuel	Robert Batts	Deed	MM 38	1854
Atkinson, Samuel, Est. of by comrs	Lemuel A. Howard	D of L	LDA 247	1859
Atkinson, Stokeley by come	Stokeley Atkinson	Deed	QQ 417	1860
Atkinson, Stokeley	Robert C. Batts	Deed	QQ 803	1860
Atkinson, Elisha	Peter Badson	Deed	G 258	1778
Atkinson, Judith	Stokeley Sidbury	Deed	N 291	,1808
Atkinson, Mary	George Coston	Deed	S 515	1826
Atkinson, Amos, Henry	Woodman Atkinson	Deed	LL 307	1854
Auston, John	Sarah Grove, atty	P of A	C 73	1745
Auston Andrews Co. by agt	Timothy Savage, Sr.	Release	R 335	1821
Averett, Averetta	Jeremiah Costien	QCD	U 381	1832
Averitt, Benjamin N.	Nicholas N. Nixon	Deed	S 528	1826
Averitt, Benjamin N.	Jeremiah Nichols	Deed	S 812	----
Averitt, Benjamin by Shf	Charles B. Moms	Shf D	T 8	----
Averitt, Benjamin by Shf	Henrietta S. Loften	Shf D	AA 470	1844
Averitt, B.N.	Nicholas N. Nixon	Mtg	S 652	1827
Averitt, Elizabeth, Nathaniel	Stoakley Bishop	QCD	C 321	1752
Averitt, Elizabeth, Nathaniel	Stoakley Bishop	QCD	D 310	----
Averitt, G. W. T.	Isaac Hines	Deed	PP 719	1859
Averitt, G. W. T.	Major T. Croom	Deed	QQ 196	1859
Averitt, Reuben	James Stephens	QCD	Q 170	1818
Averitt, William	William Woodcock	Deed	MM 260	1855
Axson , Elizabeth, Thomas	Josiah Grainger	Deed	C 145	1747
Axson , James	Alexander Ross	Deed	D 437	1760
Aydelott, Benjamin	Jonathan Watson	Deed	L1 374	1797
Aydelott, Benjamin	Edward Robinson	Deed	L1 374	1797

Grantor	Grantee	Type of Instrument	Book/Page	Date
Ayers, E. F.	George Davis, atty	P of A	MM 454	1855
Ayers, Ellis F. by atty	John Dawson	Deed	MM 458	1855
Ayer, Henry W.	Murdock McKay	Deed	T 85	1828
Ayers & Tunis	George Davis, atty	P of A	MM 454	1855
Airs (sic) John	John Barnhill	Deed	P 401	1817
Aishs, Marmaduke	Henry Perroneau	BforT	D 8	----
Alsop, John	Daniel Dunbebbin, atty	Pof A	D 161	1755
Ambrose, William	Francis Brice	Deed	AB 475	1741
Aniel, John W.	Samuel N. Cannon	Asgmt	V 86	1834
Amatis, Nicholas	M. Amatis	Will	C 170	1748
Arlow, James	John Arlow	Will	D 318	1758
Asson, Mayurette, William T. by cme	Henry R. Savage	Deed	T 422	1830
Autaway, W. E.	Frederick Rhew	Deed	OO 420	1857
B				
Baber, Mary E.	Edward W. George	Deed	KK 435	1853
Baber, James M.	David Thally	MTG	GG 48	1849
Baber, Joseph H.	Frederick Bicaise	Deed	CC 390	----
Bagg, H. A.	William J. Price	Deed	PP 754	1849
Bailey, David	John Herring	Deed	H 498	1787
Bailey & Panton	John F. Burgwin , atty	P of A	P 13	1813
Bain, Donald	John Hall	Deed	H 436	1787
Bain, Donald	John Hall	Deed	H 596	----
Bain, Donald	Thomas McLaine	Deed	T 157	1790
Bain, Francis E.	John Hall	Release	H 597	1787
Baird, James, Jr.	William Morison, atty	P of A	D 403	1759
Baker, Abram	Richard Quince, Jr.	B for T M	189 1803	
Baker, Abram	Daniel B. Baker	Deed	Y 78	1840
Baker, Daniel B.	John A. Taylor	QCD	BB 81	1845
Baker, Daniel B.	Thomas W. Brown	QCD	BB 161	1845
Baker, Daniel B.	William Kellogg	QCD	CC 70	1845
Baker, Daniel B.	David Murphy	Deed	CC 124	1845
Baker, Daniel B.	Elvin Artis	QCD	CC 125	1845
Baker, Daniel B.	Henry Nutt	Deed	EE 356	1847
Baker, Daniel B.	Ann E. Russell	QCD	HH 99	1850
Baker, Daniel B.	Charles D Ellis	QCD	HH 388	1850
Baker, Daniel B.	Louisa Brown	Deed	HH 443	1850
Baker, D. B.	John Dawson	Deed	HH 532	1851
Baker, Daniel B.	Henry R. Terrin	Deed	KK 439	1853
Baker, Daniel B.	Malinda Blake	Deed	MM 183	1855
Baker, Daniel B.	John A. Baker	Deed	MM 535	1855

Grantor	Grantee	Type of Instrument	Book/Page	Date
Baker, Daniel B.	John Dawson, Surety	MTG	NN 128	1855
Baker, Daniel B.	Thomas H. Howey	Deed	OO 249	1857
Baker, Daniel B.	George R. French	Deed	OO 413	1857
Baker, Daniel B.	Richard M. Grant	Deed	OO 562	1857
Baker, Daniel B.	James Stokley	Deed	PP 328	1858
Baker, Daniel B.	Claus Stemmerman	Deed	PP 753	1859
Baker, Daniel B.	James Piver	Deed	QQ 265	1860
Baker, Daniel B.	George W. Williams	Deed	QQ 697	1860
Baker, Daniel, John A. by gdn & next frd.	Samuel R. Potter	Deed	KK 533	1853
Baker, Daniel, John A. by gdn & next frd.	Samuel R. Potter	QCD	NN 524	1858
Baker, George W.	William Marshall	Deed	S 797	1828
Baker, George	John Bordeaux	Deed	S 807	----
Baker, Henry	Jonathan A. Barry	Asgmt	X 6	1837
Baker, Henry	John Howard, Jr.	Deed	DD 292	1846
Baker, Henry, by asgnee	John Howard, Jr.	QCD	DD 293	1846
Baker, Henry, Mary	James H. Dickson	Deed	OO 121	1856
Baker, Henry, Mary	James H. Dickson	Deed	OO 145	1858
Baker, James	William Marshall	Deed	S 806	----
Baker, James, Mary	John Bordeaux	Deed	S 814	----
Baker, John	William Stone	Deed	H 168	1784
Baker, John A.	Samuel Frink	Deed	PP 141	1858
Baker, John A.	Henry Webb	Deed	PP 472	1858

(To be continued)

MORE SOCIETY NOTES

DUES NEWS: Dues paid before January 1st will be **\$15.00** for an **individual membership**; after January 1st, the dues will be **\$20.00**. **Family memberships** will be **\$20.00** before January 1st and **\$25.00** after that date. This is to encourage our members to pay **before** the first of the year when all memberships expire.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS: The Secretary, Carolyn Corbett, asks that members please keep their address information current. Each time a *Clarendon Courier* is returned, it costs the Society \$2.63 in returned postage plus the initial cost of the mailing.

Don't forget to check out the Society's **Web Site** at www.onhgs.org!

**CHURCH OF ST. PAUL'S BAPTISMS AND BURIALS
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

Transcribed by James Edwards

Some early History:

St. Paul's Episcopal Parish was formed at the request of The Rt. Reverend Thomas **Atkinson**, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, to accommodate the needs for worship of the black population, as well as the white population. Located on the corner of Fourth and Orange Streets, the building was purchased from the Protestant Methodist Church with the understanding that pews would be free, evening services would be offered, and the gallery would be designated for the black communicants.

May 5, 1848. Meeting of committee to form St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

June 9, 1858. First Vestry Meeting.

July 1862. Suspension of services due to yellow fever epidemic and Civil War.

1865. Establishment of school for African Americans, maintained by the Freedman's Bureau as provided by the General Convention.

Continued-Fourth in series from Book 1.

Baptisms

1868

October 17th Octavia Ann: daughter of Jas. H. **Carraway** & Kate his wife who was
Born June 9th 1868
Sponsor-J. H. **Carraway**
Geo. Patterson

1869

January 3rd Sunday 2nd after Christmas. Isabella daughter of Joseph & **Lucilla Hall**
Born July 3rd 1866
Sponsors John **Nixon** & Isabella **Hall**
Daniel Morrelle

Jan. 3

Sunday 2nd after Christmas. Rebecca Jane daughter of Alfred & Mary
Howe
Born Sep 2 1861
Sponsors The Parents
Daniel Morrelle

- May 12" Robert: son of Spottswood **Allen &** Matilda his wife.
Born Feby 1869
Sponsor **Harriet Mallett**
Geo. Patterson
- Reported to Diocesan convention of 1869
- June 6 James son of Enoch **&** Sarah **Hill**.
Born Aug 15 1843
Sponsor Geo. **Jordan**
by Rev Geo. **Patterson**
- June 6 Margaret Ann daughter of James **&** Lizzy **Ratley**.
Born Feb.13 1869
Sponsors Keziah **Howard &** Henry **Sampson**
By Rt. Rev. Thos **Atkinson** DD
- June 6 James **Isam** son of James **&** Lizzy **Ratley**.
Born Dec.22 1867.
Sponsors Sampson, Washington **Howe &** Neamiah **Williams**
By Rt. Rev. Thos **Atkinson**
- June 13 3rd Sunday after Trinity- James Alexander son of John **Norwood**
and Margaret His wife.
Born Jan 2 1869
Sponsors the parents By Rev. Daniel **Morrelle**
- July 11 Sunday 7" after Trinity- Oliver Dockery son of Solomon
W. **Nash** and Catherine his wife.
Born May 16 1869
Sponsors Wm. J. **Kellogg**, James **Gally &** Cornelia **Gally**
By Rev. George **Patterson**
- July 21 Caroline daughter of Jacob **Stevens &** Sarah his wife.
Born Ap 25 1868
Sponsor **Mr** Jno E. **Lippett** at home of its parents.
By Rev Geo **Patterson**
- Aug 1 John son of Charles **Mallett &** Jane his wife.
Born March 1 1868
Sponsors William **Mallett &** Marie **Mallette**
By Rev George **Patterson** at St. Paul's

- Aug.1 Eliza Jane daughter of Nellie **Green**
Born Sep 27 1864
- Aug.1 Sally daughter of Nellie **Green**
Born March 4 1868
Sponsors for both, John **Norwood** & Lucy **Clark**
By Rev George **Patterson** at St. Paul's
- Aug.8 John Evander son of Robert H. **Brown** & Minerva Elizabeth his wife.
Born Aug.15 1866
Sponsors Jno H. **Brown** & Louisa **Green**
- Aug.8 Louisa daughter of David & Bertha **Nixon**.
Born Sep 29 1867
Sponsors Mingo Corbin **Hill**, John **Norwood** & Lucy **Clark**
By Rt. Rev. Alfred A. **Watson** at St. Paul's
- Aug.29 Mary **Ann Waddell** daughter of John H. & Jennie **Howe**.
Born May 7 1869
Sponsors Mary **Howe**, Elizabeth **Ratley** & Chas H **Howe**
By Rev. AA **Watson**
- Sep.15 Clinic: Laura daughter of Thomas & Ann Maria **Connor**
Born Oct 1968
Rev. AA **Watson**
- Oct.10 Frederick **Tabernier** son of Sargent & Sally **Carpenter**.
Born Feb.15 1869
Sponsors: John **Norwood**, John **Nixon** and Albina **Davis** at St. Paul's
By Rev. **Geo. Patterson**
- Oct.10 Rebecca Gamson daughter of John & Elsie **Becket**
Born Nov 23 1868
Sponsors: Albina **Davis**, John **Norwood** & John **Nixon**
At St. Paul's by Rev. **Geo. Patterson**
- Nov 14 Annie daughter of Jefferson & Hannah **Johnson**.
Born Oct 1864
Sponsors: John **Nixon** & Albina **Davis**
At St. Paul's by Rev **Geo. Patterson**

Nov 28 Clinic- Nora Ann daughter of Jas H. **Carraway** & Kate his wife.
Born July 30 1869
At house of its parents by Rev. Geo. **Patterson**

Nov.28 Clinic- Margaret Halsey daughter of George **Hooper** & Kate his wife.
Born March 15 1868
At the house its parents by Rev Geo **Patterson**

Dec.3 Clinic- Thomas son of Rowan M. **Davis** & Charlotte his wife.
Born Oct 11 1868
At the house of its parents by Rev. Geo **Patterson**

1870 Baptisms

Jan.9 th 1" Sunday after Epiph-

Jane Daughter of Charles & Jane **Melett** his wife
Born Jan 9th 1870
Sponsors Laurana **Melett**, Peter **Davy**
At house of Parents by Rev. Charles O. **Brady**

Jan.10th James S. **Arnold**: son of George & Betty **Arnold** his wife
Born October 12th 1868 Sponsors
George W. **Arnold** & Fannie E. D. **Waddle**
at house of Parents-child being sick
by Rev. Charles O. **Brady**

Jan 12th John son of J. H. **Carraway** and Kate his wife
Born Jan 1" 1865 Spon. J. G. **Norwood**, Kate **Carraway**
Rev. Charles O. **Brady**

Jan.19th Samuel **Reed** Adult, Born 1836
Witness John **Norwood** at St. Pauls Church
By Rev. Charles O. **Brady**

Jan.23rd 3 rd Sunday after Epiph.
Catherine **Carraway**, Adult
Born 1852
Witness Lucy **Clarke**
By Rev. C. O. **Brady**

(To be continued)

NEWSPAPER RESEARCH

by Carole Weiss

[After Carole Weiss gave a program on Newspaper Research at our November 2003 meeting, many people asked her for her notes. She has kindly provided the same to the *Courier*.]

Admit it. Researchers avoid newspaper research. We use the newspapers as a last resort or not at all. Yes, they may be difficult to read and they have no indices. However, newspapers may be your only possibility of securing information for certain time periods. Besides, you may benefit from checking them out even if you don't need an ancestor's marriage or death date.

The most obvious information black hole that newspaper research can fill is the twenty year period between the 1880 and the 1900 censuses. If an ancestor "disappeared" during this time, find the nearest newspaper published during those years. It is very **helpful** if a gravestone has the death date and that date is correct, of course.

The first time I searched for an obituary, it was for a second great grandfather who was married with children by the time of the 1850 Census and was not mentioned in any wills or deeds receiving anything from any relative. Thank goodness Absalom was considerate enough to live to the age of 79 and die June 22, 1893. I thought this would be easy—1893—lots of newspapers should be in existence by then! Not so. Newspapers were scarce even that close to the twentieth century, and some were published daily, others weekly. However, in Brunswick County, the *Southport Leader* had just begun to be published. Since our local history room did not have microfilms for this paper, I went to Raleigh, where indeed I did find **Absalom's** obit in the July 6, 1893 paper. **Take notice of the time difference between the event and when it appeared in the local paper.** To my surprise, the article was much longer than I had expected. I was so excited thinking I had hit the jackpot. Alas, it was not the custom in those days to mention the deceased's parents. What a **bummer!** Worse yet, instead of answering my question about his parentage, it produced more questions. Much to my initial dismay, it stated that he had been born in Northwest Brunswick County. Now that's not what Granddaddy had told me. Sometime after the initial disappointment and shock subsided, this incident became an epiphany for me, turning me into a firm believer in newspaper research. Yes, it did dispute Granddaddy's information, but it did give me clues and direction. Best of all, it gave me a more complete picture of this elusive grandparent.

Thereafter, I went to the library with a list of birth, death and marriage dates to search. In the *Fayetteville Observer* for August 1893, I found that my aunt was correct in telling me that my paternal great grandfather was killed in the building of Rockfish Bridge. The newspaper gave a **full** account of the accident and its victims, which made a **wonderful** addition to my family history. Recently, in the *Morning Star* of January 9, 1898, I found an account of a great grandfather's accidental death in Pender County, which had the most information yet found on this ancestor.

Before states were required to keep vital records, which in North Carolina was 1913, newspapers contained this valuable information. Censuses can give us a snapshot every ten years, if we're lucky enough to find the families in every census, but we have other black holes between every one of those census years. For instance, another second great grandfather was buried in **Oakdale** Cemetery July 11, 1876. I know this not because there is a tombstone for him, but because those **wonderful** people at **Oakdale** kept hand written cards, which even gave the name of the owner of the plot. According to their card file, he was first buried in one section and later moved to another owned by his wife. Neither of these grandparents has a headstone. Armed with a death date, I humed to the NC Room and began reading with the July 11, 1876, paper. At the top of the first page was "DIED...**CURTIS**__In this city on Monday, the 10th of July, W.H. Curtis, aged 63 years." It only gave his address and that he would be buried at **Oakdale**. Hoping for more, I checked the next day's issue and found: "Sudden Death.Yesterday morning we published a notice in our column of the death of Mr. W. H. Curtis.Since the announcement appeared we learn that his death was very sudden. It seems that he was sitting in his chair at home... about 6 o'clock, Monday evening, when he was suddenly stricken with a spasm of the heart and died almost instantly. Deceased was on the streets the day previous, but had been complaining several days, being subject to disease of the heart." Always the unexpected! Recently while looking over that Xeroxed page my eyes fell on the article immediately beneath this last one. "Thermometer Record." Wilmington had a high of 88 degrees the day before, which was the day of the burial. According to a July 12 article, "There is no gainsaying the fact that the weather has been intensely warm in Wilmington during the last two or three weeks, and especially for the past three or four days. Perspiration has oozed from every pore in startling immensity and faces have been swabbed: with linen kerchiefs until they were brought to resemble a well-used dish-clout. The remark has also been very general that it was "the hottest weather and the mostest of it" ever known here.... Yesterday the thermometer at the Signal Station in this city only reached 94 degrees, being three degrees lower than on Monday." It had been 97 degrees the day my grandfather died! His branch of the family tree was no longer bare, it was in bloom.

Learning from this second discovery that *it is wise to check several issues before and after the desired article is found*, I hoped to find a little more on his wife **Tabitha**, who died in 1903. However, not all searches are **fruitful**, there was nothing but the basics in her death notice that appeared only once.

More than once a newspaper article has helped establish a correct date when several sources have varying dates. Twentieth century writings gave Revolutionary Soldier James **Foy's** death as 11 November & December 1822. Dear James lies in an unmarked grave in his family cemetery, where there are several other unidentified family members. At the Archives we found his obit in the **Raleigh Register** of December 13, 1822. James died on his plantation November 11, 1822 and his wife, Elizabeth, had died just twelve days before.

Newspapers also help establish the correct facts, so more information can be obtained, when there is a clerical, abstracting or typographical error in a book. In the NC Room, from Mrs. **MacEachern's** Pender County Gravestone Records I retrieved a great grandmother's death date

of 24 June 1932. **Wonderful!** Papers were writing more lengthy obits then and I could get a death certificate. Immediately I pulled the *Star News* for June, 1932. After searching through all of June, July and August, I was stumped. Why wouldn't it be there? Either a trip to the courthouse in Burgaw for the death certificate or to the graveyard in the woods somewhere along HWY 421 near Hwy 53 was now a necessity. An easy choice. The date of death on her certificate was scribbled, but the 24" and the 1932 were correct. Okay, is that abbreviation June or January? At the bottom on the burial line was "1/25,... 1932" and below that was "Feb. 5, 1932." Aha! Back at the library, in the January paper was her obit.

Probably, the most important find for me occurred several years ago, while conferring with other researchers trying to establish a man's children. We had some information on him from several different sources i.e. Revolutionary Pension Record (in which he gave his birth as June 27, 1732), one researcher had a handwritten copy of a Bible record written by one of his great grandchildren and an article from *The State* magazine where a great great grandchild had been interviewed (his death was 1850 or 1854). No will, no deed, no gravestone had turned up for him or his wife. I really wanted to connect my known ancestor with this older man as there was good circumstantial evidence from their Pension Records, but nothing concrete. The 1840 Census of Bladen County, listed William Pridgen as a pensioner aged 112. Checking the entire Bladen County Census for males in the last age column, there were only two households with men in this age range--the Richard Cheshire household and the Elizabeth Johnson household. No Pridgen? Looking again at the Pensioner list, there was Richard Cheshire age 97. So, William was alive for the 1840 Census living in Elizabeth Johnson's household. The 1850 Census and the Mortality schedule produced no trace of this elderly veteran. Where did he go? So, I turned to the newspapers. A search through the entire years of 1854, 1852, and 1850 in Wilmington and Raleigh papers produced nothing. Luckily, providence intervened and Helen Sammons phoned me one day to tell me she had come across "that old man I was trying to find while abstracting Wilmington Newspapers! (Sharing our problem ancestors with other researchers can be fruitful too!) Helen's manuscript listed William's obit in an 1845 paper! Suspecting now, that there could have been a typographical error somewhere, I went back to that 1845 paper. In the Wilmington *Chronicle* of December 24, 1845, was the headline, "Extraordinary Longevity From the *Fayetteville Observer*." The article followed: "Died in Bladen County, N.C. on the 14" Oct. last, Mr. Wm. Pridgen, aged 123 years!! He entered his 124th year in June last. He volunteered to serve his country in the Continental Army of the Revolution and though then exempt by reason of his being over age, he served a full term in that war, and has received a Pension for many years past. He has lived to follow all his children to the grave, except one, an aged daughter. His grandchildren are aged people and he has left great grandchildren upwards of 40 years of age and great great grandchildren about 12 years of age. He retained his faculties till his death, except his sight, which he lost a few years ago. He was able to walk until a few days before his death, when attacked by fever, of which he died." From here I wanted to see the original source, but there are no copies of the *Fayetteville Observer* for that date to be found. However, from *The North Carolinian* (another Fayetteville Newspaper) 20 Dec 1845, p.3. "DIED..... In Bladen County, on the 14th October last, Mr. Wm. Pridgen, aged about 123. The deceased was a soldier in the Revolution, and served out the time for which he enlisted." Now it was clear. We must take

William's own word for it that he was born in 1732. He died in 1845, making him 113 years old. Someone in the Fayetteville paper office made a typo and printed 123 instead of 113. And so this error was repeated over and over. I looked through later issues for a correction, but never found one. As far as his grandchildren remembering his death date---- 1845, 1854, it's easy to make a mistake in spoken or written words passed on many years after the fact. Remember the childhood game of "Gossip?" Besides, can you remember the exact year of your grandparents' deaths?

Newspapers of long ago, like newspapers now have typographical errors. Use their information like all pieces of information----as part of a complete picture. Use them to confirm or refute questionable facts. After all, the account was written a lot closer to the time of the event than other accounts that were told and retold or written about many years later.

Try to think of newspapers as fertilizer for your family tree. You can use them to help your tree bloom and maybe even bear fruit. Be patient and systematic, as with all of your research, and keep the following in mind:

- There may be a considerable amount of time between the event and when it appears in a newspaper;
- The date you have may not be the correct date, check for variations, just like the spelling variations with surnames;
- Check all possible newspapers. The evening edition may carry an article the morning edition didn't or may have more details-likewise for different papers in the same town or state;
- Check the fine print for an original source newspaper, then check the original source. ie. "from the *Fayetteville Observer*;" and,
- Check several issues before and beyond the issue in which the desired article appears for corrections or follow up articles.

Hopefully, you are now convinced that researching newspapers can be fruitful and fun. Where else could you find out that your maternal grandmother wore a Copenhagen blue suit and **carried** bride's roses when she married your granddaddy?

EPITAPH

For a man who had two wives:

**Here I lie between two
of the best women
in the world: my wives. But
I have requested my relatives
to tilt me a little toward Tillie.**

Contributed by Helen Sammons

NEW **HANOVER** COUNTY COURT MINUTES
Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions
May Term, **1816**

[This series of New Hanover County Court Minutes submitted by Helen **Sammons** is continued from the Winter, 2003, Courier. These may be viewed on microfilm in the North Carolina Room of the New Hanover County Public Library.]

A deed from D. M. Miller, Margaret Miller, James McIlhenny, Ann McIlhenny and Jane Telfair to Aaron **Lazarus** proved by Donald **McLeod**, subscribing witness thereto. Ordered that a commission issue to James S. Green, Hanson Kelly and Alexander Anderson, Esq. to take the private examination of Margaret Miller and **Ann** McIlhenny.
Court adjourned to 9 o'clock tomorrow

Court met according to adjournment

Present the **Worshipful**: Henry B. Howard, Samuel Black, James S. Green, John Hogg

Ordered that the usual allowance for extra service be made to the officers of this Court and to the bell ringer for the year **1815**

Administration on the estate of Alexander Hostler granted to James S. Green, giving bond in \$4000 with Wm H. Halsey and Charles Wright, securities

Ordered that the sheriff surrender the mulatto boy named Harry to Samuel Kingsbury, his master, with payment of all costs

Ordered that Hannah Collins aged about **15** years be bound to Anna Smith until she arrives at the age of **18** years, on giving bond with Wm W. Jones as security

John R. London qualified as administrator of John London, deceased.

Ordered that Joseph Jacobs be allowed his account, to wit: eight dollars for expenses of burying a deceased man, named unknown, at Mr. **Waddell's** plantation below the town of **Wilmington**.

A deed from David Anderson to Wm W. Jones proved by **Niel McLaurin**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Hannah Anderson to Wm **McCurdy** proved by T. D. **Radcliffe** subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Bartholomew Byrnes to Ezekiel Register proved by Joseph Register, subscribing witness thereto.

A deed from Benjamin **Brocket** to Moms Foy proved by Frederick Foy, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from James Blanks to Robert Murphy proved by William **McKay**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from A. D. Bordeaux and others to Moses Bordeaux proved by Wm J. **Larkins**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Richard Bradley to Wm B **Meares** acknowledged

A deed from **Marsden** Campbell to John **Larkins** acknowledged

A deed from **Marsden** Campbell to James **Orrell** acknowledged

A deed from G. **Holmes**, Sheriff, to Richard **Bradley** acknowledged

A deed from G. **Holmes**, Sheriff, to John F. **Burgwyn** acknowledged

A deed from Executor Thomas **Jennings** to Thomas **Hall** acknowledged

A deed from **O Kenan** to **Toomer & Lillington** acknowledged

A deed from Wm B **Meares** to George **Hooper** acknowledged

A deed from Executors of **Maxwell** to William **McCurdy** acknowledged

A deed from William **McCurdy** to Richard **Woolvin** acknowledged

A deed from John **Sparkman** to Lewis **Paget** acknowledged

A deed from John F. **Burgwyn** to Wm B. **Meares** acknowledged

A deed from Enoch **Simmons** to **Ann Austin** acknowledged

A deed from John **Wilkins** to **Winslow Wilkins** acknowledged

A deed from **Winslow S. Wilkins** to John **Wilkins** acknowledged

A deed from John F. **Burgwyn** to Benjamin **Smith** proved by Benjamin **Maitland**,
subscribing witness thereto

A deed from **Ann Brown** to Richard **Saunders** proved by Hugh **Armstrong**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Bartholomew **Byrns** to George **Henesy** proved by Ezekiel **Register**, one of
the subscribing witnesses thereto

A deed from John **Colvin** to Allen **Shaw** proved by Coll **McAllister**, subscribing witness
thereto

A deed from Zachariah **Cogdell** to Ross **Cogdell** proved by J. C. **Devane**, one of the
subscribing witnesses thereto

A deed from Ross **Cogdell** to Zachariah **Cogdell** proved by J. C. **Devane**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Thomas **Devane** to Robert **Murphy** proved by Thomas **Devane**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Timothy **Evans** to James **Usher** proved by William **Usher**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Frederick **Foy** to John **McColl** proved by Hosea **Murray**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Frederick **Foy** to James **Foy** proved by Lewis A **Nixon**, subscribing witness
thereto

A deed from Robert **Gibbs** and Wm H. **Beatty** to Robert **Murphy** proved by William
McKay, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from William **Hogan** to Aaron **Lazarus** proved by Donald R. **McLeod**,
subscribing witness thereto

A deed from William H. **Halsey** to John **McColl**, Jesse **Wingate**, and Wiliam **McKay**
acknowledged in open court

A deed from Thomas **Hill** to Nathaniel **Hill** proved by Samuel C. **Mabson**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from James **Hall** to Robert **Murphy** proved by E. P. **Hall**, subscribing witness
thereto

A deed from Samuel R. **Jocelyn** to Thomas **Hill** and others proved by Thomas C. **Reston**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Samuel R. **Jocelyn** to John **Calhorda** proved by D. **Smith**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Wm W. **Jones** to James S. **Green** proved by Henry B. **Howard**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Jonathan **Johnson** to James **Malpass** proved by David **Jones**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from John W. **James** to Margaret **Brighton** proved by Wm B. **Meares**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Aaron **Lazarus** to John **Jones** and Jacob **Clinch** proved by A. L. **Gomez**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Thomas **Liddon**, Sr., to John **Liddon** proved by Moses **Manning**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Thomas **Liddon**, Sr. to Abraham **Liddon** proved by Moses **Manning**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Wm J. **Love** to Owen **Filyaw** proved by **R. Saunders**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Joseph **Lamb** to John **Crews**, Sr., proved by R. M. **Bordeaux**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from the executors of **Maxwell** to James **Telfair** proved by M. **McKay**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from same to same proved by same

A deed from William **Mabson** to Eliza A. **Hill** proved by Samuel C. **Mabson**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from James **Malpass** to John **Rooks** proved by Gabriel **Holmes**, Jr., subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Alexander D. **Moore** to John **McCull** proved by Gabriel **Holmes**, Jr., subscribing witness thereto

A deed from John **McGill** to David **Mitchell** proved by Wm L. **Robeson**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from James **Malpass** to Frederick **Croom** proved by David **Jones**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Moses **McIlhenny** to Thomas **Craig** proved by M. **McKay**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Moses **Manning** to heirs of Joshua **Wooten** proved by James **Simmons**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from William **McKay** to Cornelius **Murphy** proved by Jonah **Register**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from D. **McNiell** to A. S. **Allen** proved by A. **Anderson**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Mary **St George & John St George** to Wm C. **Mitchell** proved by Henry S. **Dunlap**, subscribing witness thereto

A deed **from** Wm C. Mitchell to Murdock **McKay** proved by Henry S. **Dunlap**,
subscribing witness thereto

A deed from William New to **Kinchen** Powers proved by **William** New, Jr., subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from John **Pigford** to Edward **Pigford** proved by Alexander Hall, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from William **Pigford** to James Newton proved by Edward **Pigford**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from John Gause, Sheriff of Brunswick County, to J. R. London, proved by John
D. Toomer, subscribing witness thereto

A deed **from** Mary St George to James Foy, Jr., proved by Lewis A. **Nixon**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Daniel Sellers to James Usher proved by William Usher, subscribing witness
thereto

A deed from James Smith to Jesse **Wingate** proved by William **Wingate** subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Benjamin Smith to Executors of J. K. Gabie proved by John F. Burgwyn,
subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Benjamin Smith to John F. Burgwyn proved by Benjamin Maitland,
subscribing witness thereto

A deed from John St George to John **McCall** proved by Hosea Murray, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Andrew Scott to John F. Burgwyn proved by James **Orme**, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from Benjamin Smith to John F. Burgwyn proved by Benjamin Maitland,
subscribing witness thereto

A deed from Benjamin Smith to Wm B **Meares** proved by John F. Burgwyn, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from John Swann, Sr. to Wm B. **Meares** proved by John D. Toomer, subscribing
witness thereto

A deed from John D. Toomer and Maria R., his wife, to Seth Hoard acknowledged by
John D. Toomer and together with the commission and release, the same duly executed.

A deed from William Wilkinson to R. Bradley proved by W. Anderson, subscribing
witness thereto and **all** ordered to be registered.

(To be continued)

ONE LAST WORD....

Epitaph of Englishman, Sr. John Strange:

"Here lies an honest lawyer,
And that is Strange."

-Contributed by Helen **Sammons**

ONHGS PUBLICATION AND PRICE LIST

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Contact person: Kay Berg, 511 Church Street, **Wilmington**, NC 28401, 910-763-1899,
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