



# ALBEMARLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Serving Currituck and Dare Counties

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Albemarle Genealogical Society, 142 Waterlily Road, Coinjock, NC 27923

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President: Jeanne Murray, 122 Waterlily Rd., Coinjock, NC 27923, [jeannemurray@gmail.com](mailto:jeannemurray@gmail.com)

Vice President: Naomi Rhodes, 400 Mustian St., Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948, [nrhodes@earlibrary.org](mailto:nrhodes@earlibrary.org)

Secretary: Newell Cannon, 200 Beech Tree Dr., Shiloh, NC 27974

Treasurer: Lois Johnson Meekins, 142 Waterlily Road, Coinjock, NC 27923,

[ljmeekins@embarqmail.com](mailto:ljmeekins@embarqmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Dorothy Hocutt, P.O. Box 57, Coinjock, NC 27923, [1309waterlily@mchsi.com](mailto:1309waterlily@mchsi.com)

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## NEXT MEETING & PROGRAM

The next will be held Wednesday evening July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, at the Currituck County Public Library in Barco. All Albemarle Genealogical Society meetings are free and open to anyone interested in the topic presented or genealogy in general.

Topic: Resources available at the National Archives

Our guest presenter for the summer quarter is Robert Matchette. Mr. Matchette graduated with honors from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia with a B.A. in history and attended graduate school at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. His major areas of study during college were Colonial and early U.S. History.

Now retired and living in Southern Shores, he recently worked in various capacities at the National Archives in Washington, DC. At the National Archives, after six months declassifying US Army records from World War II, he transferred to the Old Military Branch (later, the Navy and Old Army Branch), where he did a variety of reference and projects primarily dealing with 19th Century Army records. He served as lead compiler and supervising editor of the Guide to the Records of the National Archives (published in 1995). The Guide received the 1997 C.F.W. Coker Award from the Society of American Archivists for best finding aid.

Beginning in 1994, Mr. Matchette supervised a three-year move of records into the newly-opened National Archives facility at College Park, Maryland. During the interior renovation of the National Archives Building, he directed the temporary and permanent relocation of additional records to College Park and the shifting of records within the National Archives Building. Mr. Matchette's final assignment was as records protection officer, monitoring renovation work taking place within occupied stack areas to assure compliance with safety regulations.

## North Carolina Genealogical Society Loose Estate Paper Index Update – May 15, 2014

Four new counties have been added to the Index - Chowan, Currituck, Dare, and McDowell.

**New Treasures at the Library**  
**Minutes of the Providence Baptist Church 1816-1928**

by Jeanne Meekins Murray  
Currituck County Public Library, Barco

Thanks to the generosity of Harvey Roberts and the trustees at Providence Baptist Church, we were able to hold in our hands a nearly 200-year old record book from the church. They have been copied and will be scanned and indexed in the near future. The index will appear on the AGS website soon.

Beginning in April 1826, the records detail the formation of the church by members of the Baptist Church at "Cowenjock." Listed are Francis Ackis, Caleb Ballance, Lydia Ballance, W. D. Barnard, Isaac Baxter, Malichi Corbell, Elizabeth Cowell, William Doxey, Lovie Dozier, Sarah Etheridge, Samuel Ferebee, Sr., Samuel Ferebee, Thomas C. Ferebee, James G. Hall, Samuel Tatum, Benona Trueblood, and Arthur West.

Interestingly, minutes from 1816-1817 are included after the 1826 minutes. The earliest record in the collection is a subscription list dated 9 October 1816. Subscribers agree to donate money to build a meeting house in the Indian Ridge neighborhood. The building is to be "erected between a place called the Trap and Willoughby Doziers." Donations vary from the whopping sum of \$30.00 from Josiah Etheridge to the relatively small sum of \$1.00 from several people. Jacob Perkins gives both \$20.00 and the land "upon which the house stands," valued in a different hand "for fifty dollars." The only woman on the list is the widow Mary Lamb, pledging \$6.00. My guess is that the church building was begun but not finished because in 1826, the group listed above made a pledge of \$1.50 to the association and appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions for the repairs and completion of the church building.

In about June 1856, there is a list of 112 members who have signed the covenant, agreeing to the rules of the church. In a later hand, there are a few notations of one name change, an apparent marriage (Mary Jane Mercer Fisher), a few deaths, and one or two who were later dismissed.

The records follow the movement of families as they are transferred to and from churches at Shady Grove, Sawyers Creek, Shiloh Church, Berea, Rehobeth, Northwest, Raymoth Gilead, and Coinjock, giving us an idea of where those people lived. In another interesting note, on July 9, 1905, the members at Providence gave money toward the building of a "house of worship at Manteo Dare County NC." Occasionally, people are granted a letter to join congregations in Elizabeth City, Norfolk, and other places, giving us information about the movement of families during the period.

As typical in church minutes, there are a number of records of disciplinary actions. On May 10, 1857, for example, "Sister Angelica Fulford was charged with having violated the rules of the Church, as well as Christian morality, by dancing." After being visited by a committee of church members (all male, by the way), she was expelled. Apparently dancing was quite a common offense; poor Mary Jane Fisher was disciplined for the same charge in February 1858. Dancing seems to have been the most widespread offense, with "immoral conduct," profanity, and drunkenness occasionally causing an expulsion. In what must have been an explosive meeting, on August 14, 1875, Brother J. B. Grandy showed up to face charges of profanity and "unchristian like conduct," but was unrepentant. The attempt to expel him was first voted down, then reconsidered, and finally held the day, and he was "excluded from the fellowship of the church."

On occasion, there are notes of interest to genealogists. For example, there is a note that “Bro Edmund Simmons died Feby 16<sup>th</sup> 1875 about 8 oclock P M.” Also when Mrs. Margaret D. Baxter died, on Sept. 23, 1901, the records note that “the Church and Sunday School at Providence in the death of Sister Baxter has lost one of its best supporters.” A similar note is in the minutes upon the death on the morning of April 17, 1911 of J. W. Stevens, aged 65. Toward the end of the record book, there is a long list of improvements made to the church from 1905 through the date of the record, June 3, 1928. In that list, there is a note that in 1927 Mr. W. D. Ferebee put shingles on the church, noting that “he is the great grandson of the Samuel Ferebee, Sr. who helped to organize Providence Church in 1825.” The record book ends with a long list in memory of “our loved ones, members of Providence Church who have passed into ‘The Great Beyond.’” Included in the list is the death date and the age at the time of death; the earliest is the death of Miss Mary Moore, aged 32 years, who died on Nov. 27, 1886. The last is Mrs. Huldah Shaw, aged 78, who died on July 24, 1927.

An index to the record book may be found on the AGS website.

## **Family Stories**

### **Simpson Family**

by Marvin L. Simpson

(transcribed and edited by Jeanne Meekins Murray)

My great, great, great grandfather, George V. Caffee, bought a tract of land from Sarah Everston on 1 Sept. 1788: 100 acres for 20 pounds about one mile north of a place called Duck, NC, this land running from the sea to Currituck Sound.

On October 25, 1792, he bought 40 acres from Nathan Hall for \$150.00 joining his other 100 acres. A short time later, a storm cut an inlet through his land. It has been called Caffee’s Inlet ever since.

On June 20, 1794, he sold Willis Gallop 25 acres of his beach land for 5 pounds.

George W. Caffee came to the mainland in Currituck County to a place known as Grandy, NC and bought a farm from Thomas Barnard and his wife Elizabeth on October 2, 1795. He paid 1000 Spanish milled dollars for 134 acres.

On December 23, 1796, George W. Caffee sold the rest of his beach land to Willis Gallop for \$150.00, no acres given.

On July 18, 1797, George W. Caffee bought a colored boy named Jack from Thomas Barnard for 275 Spanish milled dollars for the boy aged about 12 years.

On October 2, 1797, George Caffee bought a colored man named Joush about 45 years old for 310 Spanish milled dollars from Thomas Sanderson.

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The census of 1790 listed George W. Caffee, his wife, and two sons under 16 years old. His will of Sept. 4, 1798 was probated on March 7, 1799. It listed his wife, Esther, a son William, and a daughter Wealthy. William was born 1785 and Wealthy was born shortly after the 1790 census.

There is no record of any transactions involving Spanish milled coins until after the storm that cut Caffee's Inlet. What I believe is that there was a shipwreck in that storm close to his land and he and Richard Brent, the only other person on record as using Spanish milled coins for a purchase, got the strong box off the ship before anyone else got to the ship. The collector's coin book says that Spanish pieces of eight and Spanish milled dollars are the same kind of money.

After George Caffee's death, his wife Esther and his son William or his daughter Wealthy ever bought anything with Spanish milled dollars.

George Caffee left the north half of the farm to his daughter who later married Silas Riggs. The south side was left to William who left it to his son James. James had a son named George and a daughter named Wealthy. Wealthy got the south side of 33 acres and she married William H. Simpson. They had 5 children. My father, George V. Simpson was the youngest. After he was married in 1896, he and his wife Alice lived in the house with Grandma Wealthy who died in 1899. Grandpa died in 1903. My father bought the farm and I was raised on it.

### **Capt. William Sawyer** (b. ca. 1791, d. 1847)

by Mary Frances Sawyer Webster

(transcribed and edited by Jeanne Meekins Murray)

Based on data found in the Camden Deed Book P, page 278, in which Priscilla Sawyer prepared a monetary note (Jan. 22, 1811), we can be sure that William Sawyer was the son of Priscilla and John. This note also establishes John's death date as about 1808 since he does not appear in the 1810 census and Priscilla is taking care of financial business for her household in 1811. The note was registered on July 29, 1817 and was witnessed by John Wilkins. He was John Halstead Wilkins, son of John Halstead Wilkins and brother of Letitia Wilkins, wife of Capt. William Sawyer.

The data also documents Lemuel N, brother of Capt. William, as the son of Priscilla and John also. Their sister, Elizabeth Lyn "Betsey" Sawyer Halstead is documented in an old Halstead-Babbage Bible as the daughter of Priscilla and John Sawyer.

The Halstead lineage, in this country, goes from Henry, Simon, Simon, John, Frances (who married a Wilkins), probably Malachi, to John Halstead Wilkins, father of Letitia Wilkins Sawyer, my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandmother. The source of this information is a book in the Chesapeake Library, material in the Chesapeake Courthouse, the LDS library in Elizabeth City, and Bible records.

**A Common Confederate Soldier's Diary  
Company "B"  
61st Virginia Infantry Regiment**

“A Common Confederate Soldier’s Diary for the Period 1861-1865” by author Faye Marsha Benjamin. The diary was written by an ordinary common confederate soldier, using the talking style of that era, to explain to those that were not there what it actually was like. The events and dates are correct but some of the narrative is the author’s creative style in providing a better insight into what was happening during this period. This diary dates from Jan 1862 till April 1865.

**Continued from April 2014 newsletter**

Sept 1862 61<sup>st</sup> Va Co B marched from Warrenton to Bristoe Station to collect supplies. Gathered \$200,000 worth of abandoned property. Skirmished with Yankee cavalry under Gen David Birney.

Oct 1, 1862 Cpl W. Britton Co D captured near Warrenton.

Oct 1862 61<sup>st</sup> Va set up winter quarters Catlett’s Station. Spirits high after victories on Peninsula and Manassas. I’m afraid the war will be over before I get into it.

Oct 2, 1862 Pvt M.Brinkley Co K fined \$1.75 for loss of canteen and haversack.

Oct 4, 1862 4Cpl J.Curling Co G reduced ranks for disobedience of orders.

Oct 7, 1862 Pvt Basnett Co B sentenced to mark time for 3 hours a day for 1 week for singing on picket duty.

Oct 9, 1862 2Cpl L Godwin Co I reduced ranks for drunkenness. Rumor is the Yanks have another new commander named Burnside.

Oct 11, 1862 1Cpl W.Dresser Co I reduced ranks for drunkenness.

Oct 12, 1862 3Cpl Toppin Co I and 1Sgt Sherwood Co I reduced ranks for drunkenness. Boys in Co I got hold of some Rot Gut whiskey.

Oct 14, 1862 Lt Col Niemeyer wounded left ankle during skirmish at Bristoe Station. Pvt Curling Co B has become company’s barber.

Oct 15, 1862 Enjoyed music by Pvt W.Williams Co B good banjo player and Pvt C.Wicker Co B good on harmonica and fiddle.

Oct 31, 1862 Pvt Kinsey and Pvt Owens Co B deserted. Pvt J.Eason won company’s shooting contest.

Nov 3, 1862 Pvt A.Cooper Co A discharged - fractured skull from fall at Culpeper.

Nov 1862 Gen Lee ordered 61<sup>st</sup> Va to Fredericksburg to prevent Gen Burnside from fording Rappahannock River. Regiment crossed Rapidan River at Raccoon Ford followed Plank Rd. We marched 25 miles a day.

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Nov 18, 1862 We arrived Fredericksburg and were told to hold the place to the last gun and last man. We lighted many campfires to fool the enemy. Used stovepipes and broken wagon wheels to make cannons to fool the Yanks.

Nov 18, 1862 Yankees at Stafford Court House and Hartwood.

Nov 29, 1862 Pvt D.McPherson Co B died pneumonia.

Nov 30, 1862 Pvt D.Whitehurst Co C killed by falling tree while on wood cutting detail.

Dec 3, 1862 Pvt J.Doxey Co B granted 30 day furlough. Returned to duty.

Dec 6, 1862 4" snow fell today. Bitter cold. Some fellers in other regiments froze to death.

Dec 10, 1862 Pvt Foreman Co H discharged. Col Groner wrote, he has managed to shirk duty ever since he was in the company and while the regiment was at Brady Station in Nov he continued by some means to get to a hospital.

Dec 11, 1862 Pvt Grimstead Co B died pneumonia. Yankees trying to put pontoon bridges across river. When fog ain't thick we rain fire down on them. We can see the flags of 7<sup>th</sup> Mic, 19<sup>th</sup> Mass, 28<sup>th</sup> Mass, 12<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> NY, 100<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Penn, 1<sup>st</sup> Minn. Yanks suppose to have 100,000 men, we have about 78,000. We have the high ground.

61<sup>st</sup> Va became part of Gen William Mahone's Brigade of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 41<sup>st</sup> of Virginia. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 41<sup>st</sup> Virginia regiments are made up of men from Petersburg and the Tidewater organized Oct 1861. They are combat veterans of Peninsula campaign, Malvern Hill, Second Manassas, Crampton's Gap, and Antietam. They call us the baby regiment, cherries, and virgins. We want to fit in and don't want to show the white feather when the fightin starts.

BGen Malone is a little feller about 5 feet and 100 pounds, black hair and a long beard. He went to VMI (Virginia's West Point). His troops call him Little Billy. The other regiments tell us he is strict and a fighter. He was wounded at Second Manassas.

MGen Richard Anderson is our division commander and is a West Point man from South Carolina. Men call him Fightin Dick.

LtGen Longstreet is our corps commander.

I think these here generals know somthin about soldiering.

Dec 12-14, 1862 Mahone's Brigade and 61<sup>st</sup> Va set up defensive position across Rappahannock River from Falmouth. We were left wing of Confederate army on Snowden Hill. Perry's Brigade on our right and Wright's Brigade on our left.

Nearly every house in town bears scars of shell, round shot, or bullets. One house has been hit 132 times by cannonballs. Our troops strip the Yankee dead to get wool uniforms. We didn't run.

Co B suffered 5 casualties cause of artillery fire: Pvt B.Cotton – wounded, Pvt J.Doxey – wounded, Pvt T.Nichols – wounded, Pvt J. Harrison – wounded, Pvt J.Mills – MWIA  
41<sup>st</sup> Va 2 killed, 16<sup>th</sup> Va 0 killed, 61<sup>st</sup> Va 1 killed, 6<sup>th</sup> Va 0 killed, 12<sup>th</sup> Va 0 killed

## e-resources for Genealogists

### **Digital Library on American Slavery** <http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>

The genealogical information provided by the Digital Library on Slavery is based on information found in court documents and legislative petitions pertaining to civil cases filed by slave owners, slaves, and free people of color in the fifteen states of the slaveholding South between the end of the American Revolution and the end of the Civil War. It contains detailed information on about 150,000 individuals, including slaves, free people of color, and whites.

### **North Carolina Digital Heritage Center**

[www.digitalnc.org](http://www.digitalnc.org)

This statewide digitization program provides online access to materials housed in the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It includes college yearbooks, city directories, and community newspapers throughout North Carolina.

### **North Carolina Family Records Online** <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/digital/ncfamilyrecords/>

**North Carolina Family Records Online** is comprised of North Carolina family history materials from the holdings of the State Archives of North Carolina and State Library of North Carolina. The searchable online collection currently contains nearly 1,500 bible records, indexed marriage and death announcements from North Carolina newspapers, photographs of headstones in Raleigh cemeteries, and some donated genealogical research. Browse by location to view records from across the U.S. or browse by family name. Or select Search to perform an advanced search of a family name.

### Online cumulative index to the **North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster** <http://cwroster.ncdcr.gov/>

Provides a searchable online database of all men who served in the North Carolina Civil War units that are listed in the printed North Carolina Troops Roster. When complete, the printed roster will consist of 22 volumes and is available in most public libraries, but to date has no cumulative printed index. This online index will be updated as printed volumes are added to the set.

## GENEALOGY RESEARCH BOOKS AVAILABLE TO BORROW

As a member of the East Albemarle Regional Library (EARL) system, these books are available to borrow using your valid county library card. You may request that the book be sent to the library closest to you and you will be notified when it is available for you to check out. If you live outside of the four counties within the EARL library consortium, see whether your public library has the book or can get it for you. Look for these and other genealogy books available using the Online Catalog at [www.earlibrary.org](http://www.earlibrary.org) Please note that not all genealogy books can be checked out or sent to another library if they are designated reference. Ask library staff for assistance.

### **Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques by George G. Morgan and Drew Smith. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, c2014.**

A professional genealogist reveals how to get past brick walls in research and unearth hard-to-find ancestors. *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* uses up-to-date and highly organized methods and techniques to show you how to find the elusive details to round out your genealogy research. You'll get past the brick walls that have stumped you and see how to move beyond basic types of genealogy resources. The book covers a variety of software programs and specialized genealogy tools and shows you how to create an online genealogical research log to preserve data found and organize it in ways to help you understand what you've uncovered. Nearly every form of modern social networking is addressed as is using DNA records. This practical, in-depth guide provides the next level of detail for anyone who wants to expand beyond the beginner tactics and techniques.

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- Uses proven research methods to go deeper and uncover elusive details
- Helps you to understand the details you uncover and keep track of data
- Covers a variety of software programs and specialized genealogy tools
- Offers multiple scenarios and examples to drive home the research methods explained

### **Mastering Genealogical Proof by Thomas W. Jones Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2013**

Mastering Genealogical Proof guides readers in acquiring genealogical skills transcending chronological, ethnic, geopolitical, and religious boundaries. Mastering Genealogical Proof aims to help researchers, students, and new family historians reconstruct relationships and lives of people they cannot see. It presents content in digestible chunks. Each chapter concludes with problems providing practice for proficiently applying the chapter's concepts. Those problems, like examples throughout the book, use real records, real research, and real issues. Answers are at the back of the book along with a glossary of technical terms and an extensive resource list. Thomas W. Jones is an award-winning genealogical researcher, writer, editor, and educator.

### **Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors by W. Daniel Quillen. Cold Springs Harbor, NY: Cold Spring Press, c2013.**

Whether you're a beginner or have already delved into do-it-yourself genealogy, this information-packed new fifth edition will show you everything you need to know about tracing your ancestors! Quillen reveals the secrets the pros use in a logical, step-by-step approach in a way that's fun and easy to follow. If you apply the advice in Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors, you'll learn all the essential tools needed to begin your quest of discovery into your family background - and you'll learn something about yourself as well!

### **How To Do Everything Genealogy by George G. Morgan. New York: McGraw-Hill, c2012.**

Unearth your family's past by mining the global wealth of digital and print ancestry records. In How to Do Everything Genealogy, award-winning researcher and genealogy writer George G. Morgan shows how to start and continue your family history research using traditional records and techniques, as well as the full array of online databases, digitized records, social networks, and other tools. Learn how to organize and create your family tree; find documents about your family; research census documents, military service records, and land and property rolls; plan a successful genealogy research trip; evaluate sources; and other vital skills to help you uncover and illuminate your family's story.

- Structure an effective research strategy
- Locate and access genealogy resources for U.S., Canadian, UK and Ireland, and Australian research
- See illustrations of scores of sample documents
- Get past brick walls and dead ends in your research
- Place your ancestors in geographical and historical context
- Access libraries, archives, and other repositories online
- Learn the most efficient Internet search techniques
- Research and verify ancestors using genetic genealogy (DNA)
- Use social networking sites and collaboration techniques
- Discover and use alternative research paths to locate difficult-to-find records
- Learn to integrate your research by reviewing a real case study