



NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 874, SHALLOTTE, N.C. 28459

VOL. XXXIII No. 1

FEBRUARY 1993

"WAMPUS CATS" THE EASTERN RED WOLF

John Lawson in his travels through the Carolinas in 1700-1701 described the wolf as the "dog of the woods" but being smaller than the European wolf and not as fierce. He further stated that they were not "manslayers." These wolves hunted deer at night in great droves as well as the best pack of hounds. Lawson noted that when these wolves didn't catch any prey, they would go to a swamp and fill their belly full of mud. If afterwards they did catch anything they would disgorge the mud.

Indians domesticated the wolves to use to hunt. Apparently young wolf pups were found and "made tame with starving and beating." Lawson said that these dogs were never fat and noted that the Indians were the "worse dogmasters in the world."

Early travelers were terrified when they heard the cry of the wolves at night. They referred to these and panthers collectively as "wampus cats." Lawson himself was awakened on several occasions by the "dismall'st and most hideous noise." His Indian guide informed him that it was customary to hear "such music" as there were "endless numbers of Panthers, wolves, and beasts of prey" in the swamps of the Carolina lowcountry.

In 1683, Hilton while exploring the Lower Cape Fear River in what is now Brunswick County complained about the howling of the wolves in the woods. He observed where they had caught a deer and "torn it to pieces."

Indians used the wolf fur to make "muffs." The skin was dressed and used as a parchment for drum heads. Tanned, the hide was used to make shoes. However, the early colonists viewed the wolf as a threat to both themselves and to their livestock.

Soon both state and county governments began to place a bounty on the wolf to encourage their killing. This is evident from the Brunswick County Court Minutes of December 1789 where Samuel Cox and Abraham Danford were rewarded twenty shillings each for presenting wolf scalps.

It is not known when the wolf totally disappeared from our area. It is known that their numbers decreased consistently during the Colonial Period and very few, if any, remained in South-eastern North Carolina in the nineteenth century. It is somewhat ironic that the Wildlife Resources Commission has recently reintroduced the Eastern RED WOLF on Bulls Island, SC near where John Lawson began his long trek and Alligator RIVER Wildlife Sanctuary, NC near where Lawson was killed by Indians.

Brunswick County Historical Society

FEBRUARY, 1993

1991 - 1993 OFFICERS

President - Gwen Causey
Vice-President -
Secretary-Treasurer - David Bennett
Directors - Lucille Blake
 Johnsie Holden
Newsletter Editor - Frank Galloway

The Brunswick County Historical Society will meet on February 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leland Town Hall in Leland, NC.

Dues of \$10.00 are payable for 1993-94. Please send a check to David Bennett, Treasurer, P. O. Box 874, Shallotte, N. C. 28459

March 13, 1993 - Wilmington

The Old New Hanover County Genealogical Society and the NCGS will co-sponsor an advanced workshop which will take place Saturday, March 13th at the New Hanover County Public Library, Wilmington. Speakers Helen Leary, Jane Smith Hill and Nelson Weller have planned an in depth lesson which will include audience participation and handouts. The cost will probably be around \$30.00. A brochure will be sent to members.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES COMPUTERIZES CIVIL WAR RECORDS

The National Archives announced a unique joint effort to computerize information on Union and Confederate soldiers of the Civil War. Dr. Trudy Peterson said the project would make information from 5.5 million microfilm records at the National Archives more readily available.

The project would join the National Archives, the National Park Service, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the Genealogical Society of Utah in a cooperative effort to create a database of the names, regiments and ranks of Union and Confederate soldiers. The system will provide information on the 7,000 regiments and units and on many of the 10,500 battles and skirmishes. Researchers to the National Archives and its 12 Regional Archives, as well as visitors to all Civil War historic sites operated by the National Park Service, would have access to the system.

BBS - BLAIR'S BOOK SERVICE

A new computer bulletin board system is offering free help to genealogists and historians searching for hard-to-find books. The service is offered nationwide, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is located in McLean, Virginia and can be reached by modem on 703-883-2510. Authors, publishers and societies wishing to offer their books through the BBS, or obtain additional information may write to BBS, 1661 Strine Dr., McLean, VA 22101.

SUMMER PROGRAM OFFERED YEARLY

The National Institute on Genealogical Research offers an outstanding program of lecturers and instruction each summer. An added plus is that this five day course is held at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. Participants are housed in a downtown hotel within walking distance of the National Archives Building.

Among other items, the July 1992 session featured lectures on federal census records; passenger arrival records; cartographic records; papers of the Continental Congress; records of the Revolutionary War and bounty lands; general military records; federal land records; war claims; treasury records; records for Black and Indian research; and diplomatic records. Additionally, introductory visits were arranged to the Local History & Genealogy Room at the Library of Congress; the DAR Library; the NARA Library; and the Microfilm Reading Room at the National Archives.

Individuals desiring a week of excellent instruction and familiarization with the federal records available at the National Archives would be well-advised to consider this program. The lectures afford participants the opportunity to meet and speak with many lecturers of eminence. Another highly desirable feature of the program is that time is allotted for individual research and consultation with archivists.

Information concerning the 1993 program may be obtained by contacting National Institute on Genealogical Research, PO Box 14274, Washington, D.C. 20044-4274.

- John H. Oden III, First Vice-President

NATIONAL ARCHIVES PREPARES TO MOVE RECORDS

The National Archives building at College Park, MD, informally known as ARCHIVES II, will open for research in 1994. Preparations are underway to move more than one million cubic feet of records from facilities in Suitland, MD, and Alexandria, VA, and the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. The move plan will involve transferring all the records now stored in the Alexandria facility to the College Park site, many records now at the National Archives Building and Suitland facility to College Park, and some records at Suitland to the National Archives Building. Archives II will augment, not replace, the National Archives in Washington. Both buildings will operate as archival facilities with different emphases. The National Archives Building will continue to serve as the principle location for public programs and genealogical research. Unavoidably, this complex move of records and 600 staff members will cause some inconveniences during the moving period of December 1993 - December 1995. For further PRESS information, call the Public Affairs Office of the Archives at 202-501-5525.

- Press Release

SALUTE TO A LOCAL SOCIETY

Alexander County Genealogical Society

This issue's salute goes to the Alexander County Genealogical Society. This organization of approximately 180 members meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Alexander County Library in Taylorsville, N.C. Current officers include Butch Sharpe, President; Lahoma Warren, Vice-President; Duane Lowe, Recording Secretary; Evelina Miller, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer; and Linda R. Correll, Publications Editor. The Society's mailing address is P.O. Box 241, Hiddenite, N.C. 28636. Individual membership is \$8.00 and payable at the first of each year.

Alexander County was formed in 1847 from Iredell, Caldwell, and Wilkes Counties. Alexander is a relatively young county, yet this organization is undeterred in publishing a fine quarterly entitled *Kinfolk and Connections*, Alexander Co., N.C. Among the features of the August 1992 issue were an inventory and sale list of J.C. Stephenson; a history of the Taylorsville post office; some Caldwell County court minute abstracts; some Caldwell County marriage licenses; some newspaper abstracts; an account of the murder of Caroline Thompson in 1881; queries and many other items.

The Alexander County Genealogical Society is to be commended on the fine work it is doing in publication. An additional focus of the organization is a continuing cemetery survey. With a disproportionate number of out of state members, it is evident that many of the "locals" are contributing long hours. This group epitomizes the concept of a local genealogical society by which all researchers become the beneficiaries of their efforts.

John H. Oden III
- First Vice-President

ROBESON COUNTY REGISTER

Inadvertently omitted from the *North Carolina Directory*, the *Robeson County Register* is a genealogical and historical quarterly published and edited by Dr. Morris F. Britt, Doctors Building, Suite 901, 1012 S. Kings Dr., Charlotte, NC 28283. Published since 1986 and not affiliated with any society, this magazine's purpose is to present previously unpublished Robeson County source materials of a historical and genealogical nature, to encourage the exchange of information among persons working on the same families, and to present articles of educational value on specific historical and genealogical topics. The annual subscription rate is \$25.00. Back issues are available at \$25.00 per volume. Please make a note of this publication in your Directory.

PROFILE

Randolph J. Cary

Randolph Jefferson Cary, currently serving as Director-at-Large for the NCGS, has lived in Wilmington the past eighteen years. He was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia the youngest of seven children. His formative years were spent there and then at the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA.

In the late 30's the war clouds were gathering in Europe and Randy was given the opportunity to compete in 1940 for an appointment to West Point. He entered in July 1941, the last class to convene before America entered the war. His class, compressed from a four to three year program, was graduated on D-Day 1944. He served in Europe in a combat infantry unit in the Battle of the Bulge, the Colmar Pocket and later in the Battle for the Ruhr Valley.

Following WWII, Randy served in various staff and command assignments until his retirement from the Army in 1964. For three years he was a Trust Officer with Wachovia Bank and then entered the life insurance field with Massachusetts Mutual and has been associated with that company continuously, except for a short interval in the 70's.

Randy's interest in genealogy comes naturally. His mother's family, of Dutch and French descent, were among the earliest settlers of Albany, NY and later the Mohawk Valley, having arrived in Albany between 1640 and 1650. She kept track of the family and upon her death left all her genealogical materials to Randy. He is in the process of computerizing this for his family. Recently he discovered a box of original deeds, mortgages, etc. dating to the early 19th century which, after reviewing, he plans to donate to a genealogical/historical organization.

Randy belongs to two hereditary societies; the NY Society of the Cincinnati by right of descent from Captain Dirck Hansen (his third great grandfather); and also the Society of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain, tracing his ancestry to the first (of 22) documented bastard children of Henry I.

In 1988-89 Randy was one of a group who formed the Old New Hanover Genealogical Society and he served as Vice President and was in charge of its publications effort until prostate cancer necessitated his premature resignation. Fortunately, he has enjoyed a full recovery.

Randy is a strong believer in the disciplines which are developed through the Home Study Course of the NGS and recommends it strongly to anyone having an interest in genealogy, whether you are a neophyte or one who has been involved with genealogy for years.

THE SAMFORD STORY

In mid-June about 200 rabid genealogists, primarily from the Southeast, gathered for a week of intensive and outstanding instruction at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama for the 28th Annual Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). All the instructors have "paid their dues" and were eminently qualified both as genealogists and as instructors. The list of lecturers is too long to list here but, believe me, it was like going to "genealogy Heaven" - it was like sitting at the foot of the Master.

Students were there because they wanted to learn and the instructors were there to share their expertise; I don't remember anyone being late for class! and there were no "smart" questions. Also, no exams. Most of us lived in the dormitories which are spartan but clean and cool, and meals with abundant choices are served in the student dining hall.

There were six courses offered (each was oversubscribed!):

Course I - Fundamentals of Genealogy & Historical Research

Course II - Intermediate Studies in Genealogy & Historical Research

Course III- The Southern Colonies and Early Southern States

Course IV - Advanced Methodology

Course V - Genealogy as a Profession: Business Practices and Career Options

Course VI - Irish and British Genealogical Research

The library at Samford is outstanding and the staff gave us 150% with their help and assistance. They could not do enough to help each student and they did it with a smile.

The cost was quite reasonable. Tuition was \$300 and Room and Board was \$150 Double or \$190 Single. My week at Samford was enlightening and delightful and I would encourage your attendance. Not only will you learn but you will make good friends and you will want to repeat the experience.

When the Course Announcement hits your mailbox in early 1993, sign up! You will not regret it.

Randolph J. Cary
-Director-at-Large

1993 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States

NGS will celebrate its 90th birthday in 1993, and the big party will be the Conference in the States in Baltimore.

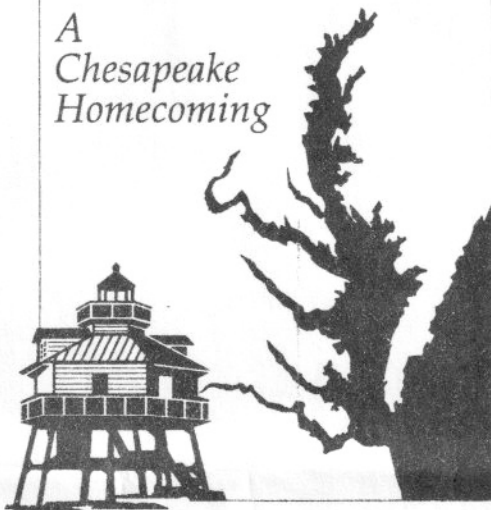
Baltimore, Maryland 2 - 5 June 1993

Pratt Free Library, Baltimore City Archives, and Baltimore City Courthouse; in nearby Annapolis, the Maryland State Archives and State Law Library; and a little farther away in Washington, D.C., the National Archives, Library of Congress, DAR Library, and NGS Library.

The program will focus on the history, records, repositories, and ethnic and religious groups of the Chesapeake region (Maryland, Virginia, and adjoining states), but there will be something for everyone—methodology, problem solving, land records, organization of materials, use of computers and related technologies, and much more.

NGS: 1903 - 1993

A
Chesapeake
Homecoming



Baltimore's diverse attractions include the Inner Harbor (with water taxis, cruises, the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, and the U.S. Frigate Constellation), Fort McHenry, a variety of museums and art galleries, H. L. Mencken's home and Edgar Allan Poe's grave, distinctive neighborhoods and ethnic restaurants, and, of course, seafood!

Research opportunities will abound—in Baltimore, the Maryland Historical Society, Peabody Library, Enoch

Join us in Baltimore
in 1993
for a real Chesapeake
Homecoming!

Please send me the conference program and registration brochure when it becomes available in January 1993.

Name

NGS Member

Address

Nonmember

City

State

Zip

Send membership information