



# GREENVILLE CHAPTER

South Carolina Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16236

Greenville, SC 29606

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

NEWSLETTER: Volume XXIX, Number 6, June 2003

Editor: Betty Monahan

## June Meeting

5 June 2003, 7:00 P.M.

Auditorium, Hughes Library (New Main Library)

25 Heritage Green Place, Greenville

Dr. Charles L. Latimer

### "A Genealogical Review of the Presidents of the United States"

Dr. Charles L. Latimer will be our featured speaker at our June meeting. Dr. Latimer became a member of GGS this year and we look forward to hearing his presentation on "A Genealogical Review of the Presidents Of the United States." To answer questions he will bring both his laptop and a copy of Burke's "Presidential Families." At latest count, Dr. Latimer has nineteen presidents in his data base and claims kinship with fifteen, but not descended from any. At the present time, he has 78,383 persons in his family data base extending back more that 1,500 years.

Dr. Latimer is a retired psychologist and school administrator. Born along the Reedy River near Donaldson, he left Greenville in 1935, entered the Navy in 1943 and served on active duty until 1947 and continued as a Reserve Officer until retirement in 1984. He earned two masters degrees at Harvard University and his doctorate at Columbia University and has additional credits at about twenty other institutions in the United States and abroad.

Members will certainly be privileged to hear this presentation so mark your calendars for this informative meeting. Come and invite a friend to come along with you.

*Welcome to new members Wanda Randle, Calvin B. Hiatt, and Mary Jane Erwin.*

**Do you have a query you would like published in the newsletter? E-mail it to the editor at [bamona@aol.com](mailto:bamona@aol.com). You can also post your queries on the Chapter website at [www.greenvillegenealogy.org](http://www.greenvillegenealogy.org), or maybe you can help somebody else with their query.**

## FAMILY TREE CHART

In planning our Fall Genealogical Meeting, we would like to have a large visual family tree (10' x 10') for our focal point. We are asking all Greenville Chapter members (attending or not) and guests (attending) to submit to us your main surnames - limit it to no more than four (4). Plans are to place these names on the tree. This will be a point of interest during our break times and for those attending. It may provide contacts for names you may be researching. If you would like to be contacted by anyone viewing this chart, please include your e-mail address. You can send this information to my home address or e-mail address below. It isn't necessary to re-send this information if you have previously submitted it. It is possible that the names will be printed in the Journal at a later time. Newsletter publication will also continue.

Bob Frieler, Chairman Fall Workshop 2003 Committee,  
9716 Windsor Lake Blvd., Columbia, SC 29223; 803-699-0400; frieler@mindspring.com

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### **New items at the South Carolina Room:**

#### Microfilm:

South Carolina Death Certificates, 1915-1951 (indexed)

#### Books:

Genealogical Sketch of the Family of Lieutenant Thomas Leverett of the Lunenburg County, Virginia militia ...

Locating your Revolutionary War Ancestor ...

Descendants of Roe, Elizabeth and Prue Berru Benson  
Dictionary of American Family Names

## Minutes of 1 May 2003 meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Knorr.

Shirley Beacham introduced the speaker for the meeting, Mr. Scott Withrow. Mr. Withrow discussed the origins and family histories of the Melungeon and Redbone groups and culture which includes many surnames common to our area. Mr. Withrow's program was very well prepared and informative and was enthusiastically received by the meeting.

Terry Knorr discussed current announcements and plans as follows:

Listings of email addresses and surnames for members in the Newsletter if so requested by individual members.

Planning for the Fall 2003 Workshop. Requests for members to submit articles for publication in the Carolina Herald and Chapter Newsletter.

Member Charles Latimer advised the meeting concerning current local family reunions and surnames databases.

The meeting was then adjourned for socializing and refreshments hosted by Lenore Putnam and Ruth Stewart.

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### Computer programs at the South Carolina Room:

Ancestry, Family Search, Cyndi's List, US GenWeb, and many other genealogy programs are available for patron searching in the South Carolina Room.

## Social Security Death Index

The Social Security Death Index is a great tool for genealogists. An awareness of its limitations can help a researcher to focus on what the index can provide. The SSDI works best for finding information about individuals who died in the mid-1960s or later. This index is available at no charge on a number of Web sites. Keep in mind that not all deaths were recorded in the earlier years. While SS was created by the Social Security Act of 1935, the SSA did not start computerizing their records until the mid-1960s. You may occasionally find an earlier death listed in the database because someone filed a claim in the mid-60s or later, seeking benefits from the earlier death of a Social Security recipient. However, the majority of deaths prior to the mid-1960s were never recorded in the computerized database.

Also remember that not all Americans were covered under the Social Security Act in its earlier days. Railroad workers, teachers, and other municipal employees often were covered by other retirement systems; therefore, the Social Security Administration did not record their information. Next, in the earlier days of the computerized records, the only records tracked were for claims filed. If a person was not receiving benefits and no claim for death benefits was ever filed, there was no reason to enter that record into the computerized database. This would be true for many people who died before their retirement years; no claims were ever filed.

In the past decade or so, there have been numerous changes to these procedures. All known deaths of Americans are now recorded, regardless of the person's age, Social Security status, or death benefits paid. For instance, if you scan through the Social Security Death Index nowadays, you will occasionally see deaths of children listed. These children most likely were not receiving Social Security benefits, and no death benefits were ever paid. However, the Social Security Administration now automatically captures information about all deaths. You should also note that there are no plans to record such deaths from earlier decades.

Abstracted from Dick Eastmen Online with permission

**SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**2003 ANNUAL MEETING**  
Friday & Saturday, October 3 - 4, 2003  
Hughes Library  
25 Heritage Green Place  
Greenville, South Carolina

**Hosted by Greenville Chapter S.C.G.S.**

**Friday, October 3rd, 2003**

SC Room, Hughes Library is open for research and reading 9:00AM-9:00PM

Places of interest. (Maps are available in SC Room at Hughes Library)

- Springwood Cemetery (behind is a black cemetery: Richland Cemetery)
- Old Christ Church Episcopal Church & Cemetery
- Veterans' Memorial.
- Bob Jones University Art Gallery (open Tuesday – Sunday from 2-5PM; \$5.00 fee)
- American Legion War Museum. (tour from 2 – 4PM or self guided)
- Main Street Shops (including famous Mast General Store)
- Little Shops at Historic West End
- Baptist Archives at Furman University (research Monday – Friday from 8:30 to 4:30)

7:00 – 9:00                      Welcome Reception (Speakers & members) – Dr. Charles Lee's Home

**Saturday, October 4th, 2003**

9:00                              Registration – Coffee and Doughnuts  
9:30                              Welcome – Greenville Chapter President Terry Knorr  
                                    Presentation of Colors by SCVC 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment Color Guard , Pledge of  
                                    Allegiance, Invocation  
                                    Opening Remarks – S.C.G.S. President John Andrews  
10:25 – 11:15                 Speaker – Brian H. Nilsson – “Researching Female Ancestors”  
11:25 – 12:15                 Speaker – Cliff Johns – “Using the Internet to Research Your Family Genealogy”  
12:30 – 1:45                      Lunch (board meeting during lunch)  
1:45 – 2:45                      Speaker – Scott Witherow – “The Melungeons and Redbones”  
2:45 – 4:15                      Annual Meeting

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**Pre-registration – 2003 S.C.G.S., Inc. Annual Meeting**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SCGS Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-registration Fees\* SCGS Member - \$17.50 (includes lunch) Non-Member - \$22.50 (includes lunch)

\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend the Welcome Reception                      \_\_\_\_ I plan to eat lunch (We need a count)

\_\_\_\_ I plan to tour American Legion War Museum                      \_\_\_\_ I plan to go on War Museum Tour

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Remit to: Greenville Chapter SCGS; PO Box 16236: Greenville, SC 29606-6236

**\*Pre-registrations must be received by September 3, 2003. Make checks payable to Greenville Chapter, S.C.G.S. Annual Meeting. Registration at the door will be an additional \$5.00**

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

**Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Six.** 2000. 188 p., indexed. Includes Christ Church Episcopal and African-American cemeteries. \$25.00 plus \$2.75 s. & h.

**Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. One.** 1977. 500 p., indexed. Includes 105 cemeteries. \$38.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

**Mackey Mortuary Death Records, 1889-1921, Greenville County, S.C.** 2000. 502 p., alphabetical and date order. \$40.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

**Abstracts of Extant Greenville, S.C., Newspapers Concerning Black People Free and Slave, 1826-1865, Vol. II.** 2000. 58 p., indexed. \$10.00 plus \$2.75 s. & h.

**1790 Census Index and 1800 Census.** 1999. 48 p. \$12.50 plus \$3.25 s. & h.

All volumes soft cover, 8½" x 11".

Number	Title	Amount	Shipping
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol. Six	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol. One	_____	_____
_____	Mackey Mortuary Death Records	_____	_____
_____	Abstracts ... Newspapers Concerning Black People	_____	_____
_____	1790 Census Index and 1800 Census	_____	_____
TOTAL		_____	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____	_____

Make checks payable to GREENVILLE CHAPTER, SCGS, and mail to P.O. BOX 16236, GREENVILLE, SC 29606-6236

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET/P.O. \_\_\_\_\_  
 BOX \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
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**TIPS FOR NEW GENEALOGISTS:**

Don't limit your research just to your direct line; in other words, don't ignore your great-grandparents' brothers and sisters, etc. One researcher had a death record that said her great-grandfather was born in "Lankinshire", England, and another for his daughter that said he was born in Dorchester, Ireland. From family lore the researcher thought England was correct but didn't know where. The ggf was in Hartford, CT, in 1880 but not in 1870. However, in 1870 there was a family there with the same name, from England, that could be his parents. Living next to them was a possible older son with a young child born in Hartford. The child's birth certificate was obtained and said his father was born in York, England. York is next to Lancashire. Birth records were searched in York and one was found for the great-grandfather, son of the people in Hartford. He was born in Doncaster, York. You will notice that Doncaster is only 2 letters different from Dorchester. Eventually his family was found in York census and traced back another generation to the county in Ireland on both the paternal and maternal lines. Returning to the family in Hartford in 1870; they were not there in 1880. Family lore said that there had been family in the Midwest, so census records in those states were searched and the family was found in Cincinnati. Eventually all but one of the great-grandfather's brothers and sisters were traced forward through their husbands and children and some grandchildren. What happened to the great-grandfather in 1870? When that census was searched for Cincinnati, there he was. He and his parents and siblings switched places by 1880 and probably never saw each other again.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

<p>Below are some openings that our Chapter needs filled, If you are interested in helping us, please contact Terry Knorr at tknorr@charter.net, by mail at P.O. Box 1626, Greenville, SC 29696, or at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Archivist:</b> shall be custodian of the permanent archives of the Chapter, keep a record of all activities, and receive and house all materials. This is a Board level position.</p> <p><b>Nominating Committee:</b> Three members to find willing nominees for positions that will become vacant November 2003.</p> <p><b>Program Committee:</b> Two members to assist in selecting and arranging programs.</p> <p><b>Public Relations Committee:</b> Two members to be responsible for promoting the aims and activities of the Chapter through the media.</p>	<p><b>Publication Committee:</b> Need chairperson to be responsible for all Chapter publications. Also need one or two people to work with the <i>Journal</i> publication and mailing.</p> <p><b>Acquisition Committee:</b> Shall be appointed by the President to inform the membership as to kinds of materials and records which comprise significant genealogical data; shall encourage membership to seek the acquisition of such materials; shall regularly publish in the newsletter information regarding new acquisitions; shall work closely with the Archivist; shall arrange for appropriate memorials for deceased members.</p> <p><b>Membership Committee:</b> Shall receive all applications for membership; shall actively engage in developing Chapter membership by seeking out potential members; shall keep a roster of members in good standing.</p>
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**An extra registration form to share with a friend.**

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Pre-registration – 2003 S.C.G.S., Inc. Annual Meeting  
 Oct. 3-4, 2003  
 Greenville, SC

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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**More information on our annual meeting:** (See full information enclosed) The new Hughes Library is located one block west of the old library, and is open 9-9 Fri., 9-6 Sat., and 2-6 Sun. Adjacent landmarks are the Art Museum, Little Theatre, and History Museum (not yet open). Greenville downtown, especially Main Street, is a lively place. The revitalized Main St. area has interesting shops, antique stores and restaurants. It is within walking distance, or there are several parking garages. Be sure to read the other places of interest on the announcement.

**Our sympathy is extended to past-president Evelyn Williams on the death of her father, Dr. George McSwain Smith.**

Return service requested

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Greenville Chapter  
SC Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 16236  
Greenville, SC 29606-6236

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**If you haven't renewed your membership for 2003 yet, it's past time! We've started purging rolls. Please stay with us for another year. We want and need you. We'd also like to have your e-mail address and the surnames you're researching along with your permission to include them in a future issue.**

**Do you have a genealogist friend or maybe a relative you've just discovered who might like to join us? Share this form with them! Mail to the Greenville Chapter, SCGS, P.O. Box 16236, Greenville, SC 29606-6236**

Renewal  New  Individual \$20  Family \$25

Associate \$15  Primary Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ SCGS # \_\_\_\_\_

Family: One copy of publication for two members at the same address. Associate: Member must be an individual or family member of another chapter that is affiliated with the South Carolina Genealogical Society. That chapter pays the member's state dues to the State Society.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET/P.O. BOX \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
May we include in newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_