



Greenville

Chapter

South Carolina Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16236

Greenville, SC 29606

www.greenville.scgen.org

NEWSLETTER: Volume XXXIV, Number 2, February 2008

Editor: Susan P. Finlay

February Meeting

February 7, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church - 704 Edwards Road

**“The Role of the Quilt in the Underground Railroad
System before the Civil War”**

By

Sarah Looney

Please join us for the February meeting where our speaker, Sarah Looney, of Fountain Inn, SC, will present a program on the Underground Railroad. Her topic will be "The Role of the Quilt in the Underground Railroad System before the Civil War."

Ms. Looney is a retired schoolteacher, having taught first grade at Fountain Inn Elementary School. She is the mother of two daughters, both of whom are teachers. Ms. Looney has presented the program on the "Underground Railroad" quilt for several years since she made her "Underground Railroad" quilt."

Refreshments will be presented by Wanda Randle and Dot Hawkins.

By Patsy Swygert, Program Chairwoman

Greenville Chapter, SCGS Offices and Board Members

President:	Dr. Carlisle Rogers	Member at Large:	Bob Frieler
Vice President:	Patricia Swygert	Immediate Past Co-Presidents:	Jane W. Chandler Susan P. Finlay
Recording Secretary:	Susan P. Finlay	Corresponding Secretary:	Jean Mundy
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State Representative:	Pat Frieler	Parliamentarian:	Herb Clark

From The President's Desk

By Dr. Carlisle Rogers

Getting Started! People deal with “getting started” in all phases of life from toddlers learning to walk to seniors learning to retire. I am “getting started” as President of The Greenville Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society and I have a lot to learn. I’m sure you noticed that my attempt to get our Jan. 3 Chapter meeting started was a little off key. The fact is that the members and visitors had the agenda for the meeting and I started the meeting using the agenda for the 5:30 board meeting. Things were a little confused. I will do better next month.

Getting Started” or “How to get started?” is a common question coming from people who want to find out more about their family history. Search engines such as Google will direct you to several sites that will guide you and help you get started. “Genealogy Online for Dummies” offers several ways to get started. Many of the suggestions include joining a genealogical society.

The mission of the Greenville Chapter is to raise the standards of genealogical research through educational programs and workshops, publications of genealogical data, promotion of the collection and preservation of records, and the stimulation of a general interest in the genealogy and family history. In other words it is our mission to help people “Get Started” in their quest to learn more about genealogy and to produce high quality genealogical data. We have members with a broad range of experience and all are willing to share their experience with people who are just getting started. New members, even those just starting to search for their ancestors, are welcome.

CASE'S CORNER

By Suzanne Case

USING THE CENSUS (cont.): The 1900 Census

We're now up to the **1900** census: a census, that like the 1890 census, queried the respondents on a number of questions that asked for specifics which prove very valuable to the family researcher. Fortunately, however, the **1900** census was **not** destroyed by fire or water, so it's readily available for our use.

Like the 1880 census, every state in the **1900** census is Soundexed. Individual boarders, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, etc. living with the head of household usually had their own separate Soundex card with the note "Enumerated with" followed by a space for the head of household's name. It also asked "Relationship to Above," with the "above named person" being the head of household. However, **unlike** the 1880 census, all families were Soundexed, not just families who had children of a certain age.

Even though we can now frequently find the census information we need through online resources such as Ancestry.com, AncestryLibrary or HeritageQuest, it's always useful to know how to use the Soundex. There can be errors in the transcription process for indexes and it's good to know how to check yet another type of index. Many genealogical collections of any size will have a resource that can give the Soundex code for the surname you're researching. (There is also a formula for determining the Soundex Code for a name and we'll cover that next month).

Once you have the Soundex code for the name you're researching, you're ready to search the Soundex microfilm. For instance, if the family name you're researching has the Soundex code R253, and they were in South Carolina in 1900, you would go to the 1900 South Carolina Soundex films where you will find the films listed together alphabetically by code. All the films with the codes beginning with 'a' will come first, followed by codes beginning with 'b,' then 'c,' etc. If searching for R253, you will be looking for the Soundex films beginning with 'r.' Next, search by number. The 'r' codes will be in numerical order with codes numbered from '000' to '999.' Code R253 will come between R252 and R254. Once you find the R253 codes on the microfilm, all families with that particular code will be listed alphabetically by the head of household's **first** name. More than one surname can have the same Soundex code, so ignore the last names and focus on first names. Once you find the family or individual you're searching for, check for the name of the county where the family is living, as well as the enumeration district number, the sheet number and the line number. From there, pull the census microfilm

for the state and county you need and scan through until you get to the correct enumeration district. (The enumeration districts should be in numerical order). Once you get to the correct enumeration district, the sheets within each district will be in numerical order. When you get to the correct page, scan down to the correct line to find your family.

Now, for those very helpful new questions that have been added in the **1900** census:

1. Month and year of birth.
2. Number of years of present marriage.
3. Mother of how many children.
4. Number of these children living.
5. Year of immigration to the U.S.
6. Number of years in the U.S.
7. Naturalization. Abbreviations used in this category included: **Al**=Alien, **Pa**=Declaration of Intent papers filed, **Na**=Naturalized.
8. Can speak English.
9. Owned or rented home.
10. Owned [home] free or mortgaged.
11. Farm or house.
12. Current name of birthplace. This led to individuals being shown as born in W.Va., N. Dakota, S. Dakota, etc. before they were officially states.

Further useful facts regarding the **1900** census include:

1. In the 1900-1920 censuses, enumerators were instructed that Indians very often did not know their correct ages, but guesstimated them according to significant tribal events. This left the census taker trying to determine the dates of those events and adding accordingly. Census counts for Indian tribes were very often placed at the end of the county where they were living, but they were also sometimes placed at the end of the state count. Check both places.
2. Military servicemen were counted with their families. For instance, if a serviceman was stationed in the Philippines and his family back home was living in South Carolina, he would be counted with the family in South Carolina.
3. For the first time, all Americans who were serving abroad or living abroad as civilian government employees were enumerated.
4. The census began June 1st and was to be completed in one month.

As we can see, the addition of specific birth, marriage and immigration information can yield valuable clues, give us further leads to additional resource material, and perhaps, solve (or open up) some mysteries as well.

I'll be back next month to talk about the 1910 census and see what types of information we can glean from that. Until then, Happy Hunting!!

News and Announcements

Chapter Publications

Please share your family histories, anecdotes, queries, or stories you have written on family history for publication in the chapter newsletter and Journal.

Send to:

Newsletter – Susan Finlay - Susan17177@aol.com

Journal – Doris Bramlett– Bramco@aol.com

Future Meetings

March 6, 2008 – “Irish Antiques”

April 3, 2008 - Avery Dennison - “Research Material Organization Tips” with free samples.

May 1, 2008 - the Annual Covered Dish Dinner with Durham Hunt of the South Carolina Room giving an update on the Upcountry Museum.

SCGS Annual Meeting

The 2007 annual meeting of the SCGS was held in Edgefield, SC, November 3, 2007, hosted by the Old Edgefield Chapter, SCGS.

Bob Frieler, current Member at Large and a past president of the Greenville Chapter, was elected Second Vice President of the SCGS during the election for State officers which was held at the annual meeting.

It was announced that the 2008 Summer Workshop would be held in Columbia July 11 and 12 at the SC Archives History Center.

State President Dr. Constance McNeil announced that no awards were presented in the 2007 Publications Contest because so few entries were received. She encouraged all chapters to submit their publications and articles for the contest in 2008.

Membership Dues

The by-laws of the South Carolina Genealogical Society state that chapter dues are due by December 31 of each year. Newsletters for February are being mailed out with a green dot on the mailing label for those who have not paid for 2008, as a friendly reminder to our members.

Chapter Website

Paul Kankula, SC Cemetery GPS Mapping Co-Coordinator, has volunteered to rework and update our chapter website. Paul is also the coordinator for the Anderson- Pickens- Oconee GenWeb project and can be reached at ggenweb@bellsouth.net.

January 2008 Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Greenville Chapter S.C. Genealogical Society was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Dr. Carlisle Rogers. He welcomed the members and guests.

Reports of Officers and Board Members Present:

President Carlisle Rogers had no report.

Vice President Patsy Swygert had no report.

Recording Secretary Susan Finlay had no report.

Past President Susan Finlay had no report.

State Representative Pat Frieler was absent.

Recording Secretary Jean Mundy was absent.

Treasurer Dot Hawkins gave no report.

Parliamentarian Herb Clark had no report.

Membership Chair Wanda Randle reported that Herb Clark had agreed to take over as Membership Chairman.

Old Business:

No family reunions were reported.

President Carlisle Rogers passed around the refreshment list, as there are still slots for 2008 to be filled.

New Business:

President Carlisle Rogers announced that Herb Clark would be mailing out chapter publications from now on. He thanked Charles and Marion Whiting for the wonderful job they have done for several years of mailing out the chapter publications.

Henrietta Sweeney introduced the speaker for the evening, Mickey Beckham.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

The next scheduled Board meeting will be Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 5:30 PM.

The next scheduled Chapter meeting will be Thursday, February 7, 2008, at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Finlay,
Recording Secretary

Please note: The approval of minutes of the November chapter meeting was inadvertently skipped at the January meeting and will be presented for approval at the February meeting. The treasurer's report for November and December will also be presented for approval at this meeting.

Black History Month

Black History Month began as Negro History Week in 1926, started by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was concerned that history books largely ignored the contributions of black Americans to the history of our country. It became a month long celebration of black history in 1976, coinciding with the Bicentennial of the United States.

African American genealogy researchers face many of the same problems today in finding accurate records of their ancestors in the United States. Fortunately, there are many groups and websites devoted to the processes and problems of genealogical research for these Americans. There are few records for African Americans that exist prior to the Civil War except for a form of census called Slave Schedules, which often gave the first name and age of the slave. Plantation records have survived, in certain cases, and provide some information on a plantation's slaves. The book *Slaves in the Family* by Edward Ball points out several connections to descendants made due to these records.

A google search on the web using the search term "African American genealogy" brings www.AfriGeneas.com, www.accessgenealogy.com, www.cyndislist.com, and www.genealinks.com as sites with the most hits. All of these web sites, along with ancestry.com, familysearch.org, and others, have many articles on the special problems black researchers face. Afrigenaes.com is a site devoted to African American research as well as having a rootsweb type mailing list with query features. Also on this site are censuses, slave schedules, genealogy links by state, obituaries, the Slave Data Collection, and much more.

Cyndislist.com has pulled together a comprehensive list of links to sites of interest to African American researchers, including cemeteries, land records, censuses, tax records, libraries and archives, military service, slavery, and Societies and Groups. This list of Genealogical Societies for African American researchers includes groups from New York, Cleveland, Atlanta, and Birmingham, and all over the US. The Old Edgefield Chapter of the SCGS has a group devoted to African American Research, the Old Edgefield District African American Genealogical Society. This group's website is www.oedgs.org/aags.htm.

Record keeping was somewhat better after the Civil War, with African Americans for the first time being identified on the censuses. Death certificates are another valuable tool in research, as are funeral records. Our chapter is doing a project of identifying burials in several African American cemeteries in Greenville County, through SC death certificates, and many of these burials are not recorded with any type marker on the graves. This project will give an accurate survey of burials in these cemeteries and can be used by researchers, along with the physical survey of the cemetery.

It is not only the pre Civil War years where information is lacking on African Americans. As a local example, the Greenville News did not routinely publish obituaries on these citizens until, as a best guess, the late 1960's or early 1970's. This is no doubt true of much of the South. One of the most important projects a genealogical or historical society can have is to collect and publish records that do exist on the African American community in their area.

Susan P. Finlay

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. One. 1977, reprint 2007, 485 p., indexed.
Includes 105 cemeteries. \$40.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Two. 1979, reprint 2003, 489 p., indexed.
Includes 77 cemeteries. \$40.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Three. 1980, reprint 2007, 351 p., indexed.
Includes Springwood Cemetery and Nazareth Presbyterian Cemetery. \$40.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Four. 1982, 3rd reprint 2007, 313 p., indexed.
Includes 36 cemeteries. \$30.00 plus \$3.50 s. & h.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Five. 1983, reprint 2005, 346 p., indexed.
Includes Graceland Cemetery (West) and Beth Israel Cemetery. \$32.00 plus \$3.50 s. & h.

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. Seven. 2007, 404 p., indexed.
Includes 55 cemeteries. \$40.00 plus \$3.50 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".

Qty.	Title	Amount	S & H.
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol One	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Two	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Three	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Four	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Five	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Six	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Seven	_____	_____
_____	Mackey Mortuary Death Records	_____	_____
_____	Abstracts.. Newsp. Concerning Black People	_____	_____
_____	1790 Census Index and 1800 Census	_____	_____
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 _____

2008 Memberships Are Now Being Accepted

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please use this form to send your application (or your renewal) and check to the following address:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Permission to publish this information? (Circle all that apply):

Publish all of the above - Omit Address - Omit Phone No. - Omit E-mail Address

Signature: _____ Date: _____

New: ____ Renewal: ____ (check one) Membership Type (circle one)

Individual: ----- \$ 21.00

Family: (you and one other) You receive one ----- \$ 26.00
copy of the chapter publications and the State's
Carolina Herald for two members at the same address.

Associate: (must be a primary member of another ----- \$ 15.00
S. C. chapter to join as an associate)

That chapter pays the State's dues. An associate receives the local chapter publications, but not the
Carolina Herald. The Herald is sent to the primary member of the other chapter.

Primary S. C. chapter name _____ SCGS# _____

Surnames of families you are researching: _____

Permission to publish these Surnames? (Circle one): Yes No _____ (Initial)

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

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage PAID
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Return service requested

February Meeting

February 7, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church - 704 Edwards Road

**““The Role of the Quilt in the Underground Railroad
System before the Civil War””**

Bring a Friend!!