



Greenville

Chapter

South Carolina Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16236
Greenville, SC 29606

www.greenville.scgen.org

NEWSLETTER: Volume XXXIV, Number 6, June 2008

Editor: Susan P. Finlay

June Meeting

June 5, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church – 704 Edwards Road

“DNA-101”

By

Bill Kivett

Bill Kivett grew up on a small farm in central North Carolina in a region rich in Colonial historic sites among descendants of American founding families. From there he went on to college at NC State where he was awarded a bachelors degree in electrical engineering in 1962. While in college at Raleigh he met a girl raised on another farm in eastern North Carolina who has for 48 years been his supporting wife and best friend. Together he and Nell have two married daughters, and a still bachelor adult son, and four young grandsons.

Following various engineering opportunities through the Space Age, Bill and his family lived in Raleigh, Oklahoma City, and Atlanta before moving to the Greenville region in 1970 where he managed machine control and power distribution design for two large industrial companies. Since taking an early retirement package in 1992 Bill has done some technical school teaching and consulting. It was through helping Nell research her ancestry as she applied for membership in UDC and DAR that the study of his own family history was begun. For much of the last two decades Bill has spent considerable time collecting and organizing records about his and Nell's extended family. It is from the unique perspective of a self taught amateur researcher that six years ago he began to share his blunders and successes with others in a series of genealogy classes at Greenville Senior Action and part of Furman University's FULIR Program.

Involved over the years with various North and South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Societies, including Sons of the American Revolution, this past editor of this newsletter is currently doing volunteer indexing of newspaper reported WW-II casualties for the SC Room of the Greenville Co. Library. He is delighted to share tools that might help others experience the satisfaction of discovering their own ancestors and recording their stories. Tonight he will discuss a powerful one only recently put to use.

Greenville Chapter, SCGS Offices and Board Members

President:	Patricia Swygert	Member at Large:	Bob Frieler
Vice President:		Immediate Past Co-Presidents :	Jane W. Chandler
Recording Secretary:	Susan P. Finlay		Susan P. Finlay
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		Parliamentarian:	Herb Clark

President's Message

We have had a very interesting year in our Chapter this year. I was surprised to be promoted to President so soon, but hope that Carlisle Rogers is doing well now.

Our members have had many interesting conversations with our speakers and other members. Some of our new members have been happy to make connections with people with whom they thought they didn't have anything in common. But the year is only half over.

We close out the first half of our year with our June meeting, then have a hiatus for the summer, then start again in September with our Annual Show and Tell presentations from our very own members. They have much to share and I hope everyone can bring something that they have been working on, inherited or just want to share with others.

I also hope that everyone will go to the Summer Workshop in Columbia in July, where they can meet others with the same interests and maybe some information that will break down some of our "walls." Our fall lineup of speakers is also going to be an interesting climax to our year.

We are still looking for a chapter Vice President. I am continuing as program chairman, as the programs are lined up for the rest of this year. If you would like to serve as Vice President, please contact me at pswygert@prodigy.net or see me at the June meeting.

I, for one, am looking forward to the rest of this year. I hope you are too!

Patsy Swygert

Please note: There are no May meeting minutes in the June newsletter due to the covered dish supper in May, and the absence of the Recording Secretary.

CASE'S CORNER

By Suzanne Case

USING THE CENSUS (cont.): The 1940 Census

Family researchers all over the United States are now eagerly anticipating the release of the **1940** population census on April 1, 2012. However, several questions regarding the census are, as yet, unanswered. The first question concerns the actual date of its release, since April 1, 2012 falls on a Sunday. This is leading to speculation that the census will actually be released on Monday, April 2nd. The second question is of whether or not the **1940** census will be released for sale on microfilm or in digital format only. And thirdly, since there is currently no index to the **1940** census, how quickly will services such as *Ancestry.com* and others manage to index it and have it readily searchable for research?

The main body of the **1940** census has a total of 34 questions with an additional 16 supplemental questions asked **only** of individuals who were listed on lines 14 and 29 of the population schedule sheet. (This was done to ensure randomness). Many of the questions from the 1930 census were carried over to the **1940** census. However, as in most previous censuses, there were changes, additions and/or deletions in the questions asked from census to census. Some of the changes in the main body of the census asked of everyone included:

- ?? Each respondent was asked for the highest grade completed (as an interesting corollary, the **1940** census did **not** ask if the individual could read and write).
- ?? Each respondent was asked the city/town, county and state (or foreign country) in which they were living on **April 1, 1935** and whether or not they were living on a farm. (Note: this a helpful way to track movement of your family **or** narrow immigration dates, if your family was not in the U.S. in 1930).
- ?? Many of the questions relating to employment were quite likely a reflection of a country that while coming out of the Great Depression of the 1930's, still had not completely recovered even as WWII loomed. Some of these employment questions included: **1.** Was each individual over 14 years of age at work or seeking work? **2.** If the individual was not seeking work: **a.** did they already have a job **b.** were they unable to work **c.** were they attending school **d.** were they doing housework **or e.** other? **3.** If employed, were they employed in: **a.** private work **b.** non-emergency government work or **c.** emergency government work for the week prior to the commencement of the census (April 1, 1940)? (Note: emergency government work included work with one of the alphabet agencies such as the CCC, WPA, etc. If your ancestor worked for one of those agencies, you can look for further information in National Archives records). **4.** If employed: **a.** how many hours were worked during the week of March 24-30, 1940 **b.** how many weeks were worked in 1939 **or c.** how many weeks were they unemployed in the previous year up to the week March 24-30, 1940?
- ?? For the first time, respondents were asked their salary for the previous year, as well as any income over \$50 outside their salary.

Some of the questions that were previously asked of **all** respondents became one of the 16 supplemental questions that were asked of respondents on lines 14 and 29 **only**. Some of those questions included the birthplace of the respondent's parents, the respondent's native tongue, and whether the respondent was a veteran (if so, of what war?).

New questions used in the supplement **only** included:

- ?? If the respondent is a veteran, in what branch of the service did he/she serve?
- ?? Is the respondent the wife, widow or under-18 child of a veteran?
- ?? Women **only** were asked if they had been married more than once and if so, their age at first marriage. (This is a change from earlier censuses when **both** men and women were asked this question).
- ?? Does the individual have a Social Security number?
- ?? Is Social Security or Railroad Retirement being deducted from the respondent's salary?

For more information on the **1940** census, check out: <http://www.1940census.net/>. This teaser look at the **1940** census concludes our tour of the population censuses. As they evolved over time, we can see how the information gathered in each one of them reflected some of the profound changes in our nation's history.

Next fall, we'll conclude our look at the censuses by examining the special censuses of 1850-1880. I hope you all have a **great** time successfully hunting those ancestors over the summer months and as the song says, "See you in September." 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

The next Greenville Chapter meeting will be September 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The program will be the annual Member Display Event. Please contact Patsy Swygert at pswygert@prodigy.net to reserve a table or for more information.

Summer Workshop

The SCGS Summer Workshop will be held July 11 and 12 at the South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History, Parklane Rd, Columbia SC.

Reunions

The JOHN WATSON I / SAMUEL WALKER REUNION will be held Saturday July 19, 2008 in Greenville SC. at – White Oak Baptist Church, 1805 Wade Hampton Blvd., McCarter Fellowship Hall, Greenville, SC

Contact - Jane Watson Chandler-
Email grammyjane@aol.com

The descendants of John and Sarah McCullough Scott will hold their annual reunion at Lickville Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 1, 2008. The event begins with a covered dish lunch at 12:30. The church is located approximately 19 miles south of Greenville, SC on Highway 25 (Augusta Road).

For more information, contact Mrs. Mary Jean Timmerman at maryjeant@charter.net or at 864-833-2381.

Local Events

The Greater Greenville Scottish Games and Highland Festival will be held June 6 & 7.

Friday night – The Great Scot! Parade at Main and North St.

The Great Scot! Ceilidh (Celtic bands) will take place at 7:15 at the Peace Center Amphitheater.

Saturday – Furman University - the Scottish Games.

Family Reunion

For the genealogist, a family reunion takes on added meaning. In addition to renewing ties with those who share blood ties, we often uncover snippets of information useful to our research. Summer and family reunions go hand in hand; here is a list of tips from Temple University for having a successful family reunion..

Having a family reunion takes time, commitment, and planning. To get started, form a committee of family members. It can be as small as 3-4 people. Include young people when possible. Decide how often the committee will meet and consider the following items: Date, Invitations, Location, Travel and Lodging, Facilities, Food, Mailing List, Program and Format, Finances, Local Transportation, Communications, Souvenirs.

Communication with family members helps to generate information and maintain interest over the months of planning for the reunion.

Family finances and expenses may dictate the search for the right facility, but often the family reunion is perceived as a time for a vacation and members want a nice place. Eating is an important event at the reunion., as people like to have plenty of good food.

Family members do look forward to having fun together. The range of possible activities is limitless. The more family members are involved in carrying out the activities, the more likely their participation over time. Talents in the family have an opportunity to shine. Use the abilities and interests of family members to determine such activities.

Family reunions do cost money, but with careful planning every family can afford to have one. Family reunions do cost money, but with careful planning every family can afford to have one. The cost of organizing includes expenses such as postage, duplication, stationary, and telephone. These costs may be passed on to the family members as part of their registration fee. At the reunion itself, mementos such as tote bags, t-shirts, hats, etc., can be sold above cost to help pay for the expenses.

Sharing the family history has become a major activity at the family reunions. Be sure to interview the family elders and tape what they say. Also remember that family reunions offer a chance to collect history in the making. Videotape your activities and record information about living members for the sake of future generations.

After the reunion, evaluate how it went. Accentuate the positive and celebrate your successes. Encourage ongoing gatherings and reunions. You'll find that it gets easier to organize and even more fun as time goes on.

A Bit of History at the May 2008 Meeting

By Wanda Randle

During the May 2008 meeting of the Greenville Chapter of the SC Genealogical Society, which included a covered dish supper, the members were startled to see a talk, buckskin clad figure entering the meeting room. He stopped in the center of the room and introduced himself as Richard Pearis, whom many of us knew to be a trader who had set up a trading post in the area where the Reedy River Park is now. It was astonishing to find the man in our midst, as he came to the Greenville area when it was Cherokee land in about 1770, before the Revolutionary War. He seemed to scoff at the name of our town, "Greenville" and said that it would have been better to have named it "Pearisburg" or "Pearisville", something like that, since he was the first landowner in the area other than the Indians.

He candidly told us that although he was married to a white woman, and the father of three children, he took a Cherokee "side wife", which he seemed to think was acceptable. This man had an air about him...He and his "side wife" had a son whose name was George (and later would be called Cherokee George). Through him, Richard Pearis obtained more than 100,000 acres, the deed of that land was recognized by the Cherokee people and the British. He told us that the rebels, who called themselves Patriots, saw the influence that he had with the Cherokee and tried to convince him to fight with them, but he chose to side with the British, and of course the Indians followed his lead and fought on the side of the Tories as the British were called. In a surprise attack the rebels captured him and took Pearis to Charlestown where he was imprisoned for nearly a year. During this time, the rebels confiscated his lands.

"When they turned me loose," he said, "I didn't own an inch of soil beneath my foot." Not being welcome in South Carolina, and hearing of a group of loyalists who had fled to Florida, which was still controlled by the British, he walked for 700 miles, aided by his Indian friends, who supplied him with food and perhaps companionship. He became a captain of that loyalist army and was successful in carrying out military raids and battles, taking land and supplies as well as men.

Richard Pearis became reflective, and told us that he eventually became tired of fighting and left to be reunited with his family in Georgia. He did not find peace there for long and moved his family to the Bahamas, where he had a small grant of land, about 140 acres. He died in Nassau in 1794.

No sooner than we had recovered from meeting this brash, slightly uncouth man of another era, than there was a stir by the doorway, and a small but spry lady dressed a little outlandish for 2008, came to the center of the room. She bid us "Good day" and as she was elderly, someone offered her a chair. It was clear that she wanted to chat with us for awhile. I say "with us" but she seemed to prefer to reminisce about the past.

Her name had been Mary Putnam, she told us. In about 1870 she came to Greenville from Massachusetts with her parents and three sisters. Her father looked around for a mill to purchase, she said, and found that the Batesville Mill was for sale, so he bought it.

Mary was introduced to a nice young man, Henry Gridley. They fell in love and in due time were married. The couple were very happy when they were anticipating the birth of their first child, but the baby was stillborn. A short time later, Henry became ill and also died. Mary went to her father, she said, and asked him for to allow her to work in his mill. She said that she could keep his records for him. After a time, and although it was unheard of for a lady to be a bookkeeper, he gave in. Mary was very good at her job, she told us. She was very interested in every aspect of the mill and when her father died, she took over the running of the mill.

"People were scandalized," she said. "It was bad enough that she was a bookkeeping, but to order men around...well, it just wasn't done!" Mary did not let talk bother her, and soon people got used to this lady, who was the first woman to be president of a mill in South Carolina, which she ran for about 25 years.

"Something that I felt strongly about," she said, with the shake of her finger, " was that women should get to vote the same as men. If women have the common sense to prepare the minds of children to become adults, they should be able to vote for what they believe in."

Seeing that Greenville needed culture, she started the "Thursday Club" and several women gathered on Thursdays for discussion and study of topics of that time. Mrs. Gridley looked at us over her glasses and said, "If a person wasn't prepared, I had news articles, clippings in my satchel." Later, Nell Kivett said to another member that the Thursday Club still meets at the Women's Club. That the membership has dwindled greatly, but there is a day designated for it.

Mrs. Gridley also had an interest in the tuberculous hospital. In fact, she often was supplied with a driver from there, she told us. She still likes to be active at her great age. Note: Mrs. Gridley passed away in 1939.

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	_____	_____
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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
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June Meeting

June 5, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church – 704 Edwards Road

‘DNA-101’

Bring a Friend!!