



Greenville

Chapter

South Carolina Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16236
Greenville, SC 29606

www.greenville.scgen.org

NEWSLETTER: Volume XXXVI, Number 3, March 2010

Editor: Susan P. Finlay

March Meeting

March 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church – 704 Edwards Road

Dr. Constance T. McNeill

“Hidden Sources on the Internet”

Dr. Constance Timmerman McNeill is a current resident of Abbeville, South Carolina. She is a graduate of Lander University, Greenwood, SC with a Bachelors of Arts Degree (BA) with a double major in Biology and Chemistry, a graduate of Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA with a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Science Education, and an Educational Specialists degree (EdS) in Science Education and also holds an Educational Doctorate (EdD) from the University of Georgia with a major in Science Education and Curriculum Development.

Dr. McNeill is the mother of four children, a grandmother of five and great grandmother of three. She has been involved in genealogical research for the past 50 or more years while researching her Timmerman ancestors who were members of the “Poor Palatines” from Switzerland and the Palatinate of Germany. Dr. McNeill is currently the President of the South Carolina Genealogical Society (SCGS), Immediate Past President of the Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society (OEDGS), Immediate Past Director of District 2 of the Confederation of Local Historical Societies of SC, Immediate Past President of the Ouzts Family Association of America, Vice President and Historian of the McNeill Family Association of Abbeville, SC and Treasurer of the Melrose Cemetery Association of Abbeville, SC.

Dr. McNeill is the author of *The Descendents of Andrew McNeill of Killyglen, County Antrim, Ireland* which was published in 2002 and then republished with additions in 2009; and is co-author of the *Ouzts Family in America*, published in 2008. She is currently working on the following Books: *Bible Records of the Old Edgefield District, South Carolina*, *The History of Melrose Cemetery and those Buried There*, *The Funeral Records of The Harris Funeral Home, Abbeville, South Carolina*, *Abstracts of The Marriage Licenses of Abbeville County, South Carolina*, and *The Descendents of Frederick Wilhelm Timmerman of Thurgen Switzerland and South Carolina*.

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President's Message

Well, let's hope the third time's the charm for our meeting this month. We have had some kind of weather lately but hopefully spring and its lovely weather are not far off. With the delays in our meetings this year many of us have not had a chance to pay our dues. So maybe we can get caught up this month.

We are fortunate this month to have our State President Connie McNeill visit us and update us on what's going on in the State organization as well as what is going on in other chapters. Her topic is always of interest to genealogists, especially those who have computers and can work at home. I am sure there are many websites that we are unaware of, and Connie will tell us about them and others that we may be familiar with but have not checked lately.

Henrietta was going to bring hot vegetable soup to our January and February meetings, but with the weather, she decided to wait until this time. Hopefully our luck holds and she gets to come!

As always, I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Patsy Swygert, President

Genealogical Archives

Furman University, in Greenville SC, houses the South Carolina Baptist Historical Collection containing records of over 500 individual Baptist churches. It also holds numerous published books as well as church histories, congregational records, associational minutes and biographical materials.

Furman.edu/specialcollections/.

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston, located at 119 Broad Street, Charleston SC, has sacramental records of Catholic parishes in South Carolina, with the stipulation that these records must be at least 100 years old. Information on initiating a search of these records can be found on their website.

Catholic-doc.org/archives/search/index.php.

Wofford College, in Spartanburg SC, archives the records of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. These records date from 1785 and include an index of the obituaries appearing in the *Advocate*, as well as the records for a number of Methodist churches in the state.

Wofford.edu/library/archives.

CASE'S CORNER

BRANCHING OUT INTO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Military Records, Part II

By Suzanne Case

As we learned last month, military records can be invaluable resources for information about our ancestors due to the large amount of paperwork associated with most wars. The American Revolution and the Civil War, as well as **World Wars I and II**, involved such a large proportion of the young male population of this country that many of us had ancestors who fought in these wars. This frequently makes records from these wars (as well as census records) among the first places we look for information. However, we may have also had ancestors who fought in one of the lesser-explored wars, even reaching all the way back to colonial times. This month, we'll investigate records that might be available for **colonial wars**, as well as the **War of 1812**, the **Indian Wars** fought between the American Revolution and the Civil War, and the **Mexican War**.

If your ancestors were in this country during the colonial period, consider the possibility that they may have participated in a military action of some sort. Admittedly, there are considerably fewer colonial military resources, but you still might be able to locate some really useful gems of information. Most colonial military actions consisted of local militia units that periodically "mustered" or gathered to train and march at appointed times and places. Other actions during the colonial period included skirmishes and small "wars" with various Native American tribes or wars in the individual colonies between, at various times, French, English, Spanish, German, Swedish, Dutch, etc. settlements which generally mirrored the countries warring each other in Europe. As the countries allied with each other or opposed each other in Europe, so their settlers often did the same in the New World, frequently pulling the Native Americans into the fray as well.

The largest and most encompassing of these colonial wars was the **French and Indian War**, which lasted from 1754-1763. In South Carolina, discord with the French involved the Cherokees, as the French incited the Cherokees against the English colonists – not a difficult task since the English had repeatedly broken their promises to the Cherokees. Early Cherokee records in the South Carolina State Archives may include names of colonists and settlers who were involved in the skirmishes and actions in South Carolina. State archives in other states may also have information on their respective colonists who participated in this and other early wars. A recommended book for information on colonial soldiers in the South is Murtie June Clark's *Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774*, available in the **South Carolina Room, Hughes Main Library, Greenville County Library System**, as well as in many other locations.

Although colonial military records can be somewhat sparse, do keep in mind that some of the early colonies and territories had more surviving records on colonial soldiers than others. Also, reading early county and state histories for the area you're researching, as well as checking early colonial newspapers can also turn up useful information if you can invest the time. In addition, early Native American records may also list one or more of your ancestors. And finally, keep in mind that many men in backcountry settlements in the early colonies and territories belonged to local militia units and there may records available on these units. Many of the above-mentioned types of records can be located in state and local archives, state and local historical societies and/or historical archives of many colleges and universities.

Records for the wars after the American Revolution, especially the **War of 1812**, are generally easier to locate and definitely worth checking if your ancestor might have been the right age to have participated. Records from these wars tend to be overlooked because proportionally fewer of our ancestors fought in them, but they can yield valuable information if applicable to your family. Service records or pension applications of these veterans or

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their widows can be ordered from the **National Archives**. Check out the archives website at: www.nara.gov. (If you're not sure if your ancestor fought in one of these wars, check an index to see if they're listed and if so, what unit they fought under). The **National Archives** website has an online catalog of available microfilms that you can order or you can check their printed index (which is available in the **S.C. Room** as well as at many other locations).

Transcriber, **Virgil White**, has compiled a number of military indexes to the wars we're discussing this month and many of his indexes are available in the **S.C. Room**, as well as at many other locations with historical collections. Some of his titles include: **1. Index to War of 1812 Pension Files** **2. Index to Old Wars Pension Files, 1815-1926** ("old wars" in this case means **War of 1812, Indian Wars, the Mexican War** and the first year of the **Civil War**). **3. Index to Volunteer Soldiers in Indian Wars and Disturbances, 1815-1858** **4. Index to U.S. Military Pension Applications of Remarried Widows for Service Between 1812 and 1911: War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Indian Wars, Later Wars and Regular Military Service** and **5. Index to Mexican War Pension Files**.

For useful texts listing participants in these wars from **South Carolina**, check: **1. Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812 in Organizations from the State of South Carolina** (also available on seven reels of microfilm) **2. Rosters of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd S.C. regiments** (also available on microfiche) **3. Abstract of Pensions of South Carolina Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Indian Wars** by Annie Walker Burns and **4. South Carolina in the Mexican War: a History of the Palmetto Regiment of Volunteers, 1846-1917** by Jack Allen Meyer. All of these resources are available in the **South Carolina Room** as well as other locations around the state with historical collections.

In addition to the **South Carolina Room**, other locations for information on these wars and their participants from South Carolina can be found at the **South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History** and the **South Caroliniana Library** at the **University of South Carolina**. The **South Caroliniana Library** also has records for other states as well. If you're researching in a state outside of South Carolina, check out the state archives of the state in which you're conducting research. All state archives have websites you can check and there is usually a place where you can contact them for further information. As mentioned previously, the **National Archives** is probably the best place to order service and pension records if your state does not have them. Again, check out their website at: www.nara.gov. The **Family History Library** in Salt Lake City also has rosters and records of veterans from various states. These records can be ordered if they are in microfilm or microfiche format. The web address is: www.familysearch.org. When going to their website, select "Library," then "Catalog" for a list of available microfilms and microfiche. These can be ordered through the **S.C. Room** or a local **Family History Center**, which in Greenville is located on Boiling Springs Road.

Finally, online resources can also be useful when searching for information on these wars. **Ancestry.com**, the massive collection of database records available through subscription, has a number of records from these wars, especially the **War of 1812**. (Note: **Ancestry** is available for free as **Ancestry LE** at your local library). Also, **Cyndislist** at www.cyndislist.com has links to a number of sites that have information and lists of participants in these wars. Finally, "googling" "**War of 1812 rosters**," "**Indian Wars rosters**," and "**Mexican War rosters**" yields a number of promising results. However, be aware that some of the information on some of these sites may not always be correct, especially on sites maintained by individuals, so use caution.

To reiterate, don't overlook records from these wars. Your ancestor may never have fought in them or applied for a pension, but, then again, they very may well have and if you forget about them, you may just be missing some valuable pieces of information. Leave no stone unturned!

Next month, we'll look at the abundant records produced by the Civil War. Until then, Happy Hunting!!

Chapter News

Query

Hello. I've been researching the family of Gen. Waddy Thompson, and am primarily interested in his second wife, her sister, and their father, John D. Jones of Wilmington, NC. I've visited Greenville once seeking information for a book I hope to publish.

I'm planning to be in Greenville again in early May to search for Thompson/Jones information, and wish to ask you a couple of questions before my visit.

First, do you know someone who has a research interest in this family? I'd be most grateful to learn of such a contact.

My second question concerns the records of Christ Church Episcopal. I communicated with Evelyn Neese, the church's registrar in 2003, and she sent me some useful information - dates the Jones family joined the church. But when I asked to view the records, hoping to glean more information about the departure of the family after the war, Ms. Neese said that she could not allow me that access. Her reply:

Mr. McGeachy,

I'm sorry to tell you that it is not possible for you to research the parish registers for information. The registers are extremely fragile, and it is even hard for me to search for any information. We do not have an historian on staff, and we cannot do research for genealogy.

I hope you will understand why we cannot have anyone coming in to research the records and that you will be able to find additional information from the public library.

*Evelyn Nease
Parish Registrar
June 1, 2004*

I see from the Christ Church website that the current registrar is Judy Bolt. The records of Christ Church Episcopal are a primary source that, I know from the records of other churches, would provide a very rich history of early Greenville. They really ought to be available to historians.

Is there some way to encourage Christ Church officials to publish these records? Could local historians and genealogists form a partnership with the church to transcribe these records, and make the transcriptions available to researchers, perhaps by publishing them? There's a project here that would add significantly to what can be learned about early Greenville. Is this a project that you, and others, could facilitate?

I hope I'll be able to meet you in May. Many thanks for any suggestions you may have about Thompson/Jones research.

Jack McGeachy
Raleigh, NC
<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~jam3/>

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. Email Susan17177@aol.com

The Journal editor position is open in our chapter. If you'd like to try your hand at editing the material that members send for publication, please contact Patsy Swygert at ptswygert@yahoo.com.

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".

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_____	Mackey Mortuary Death Records	_____	_____
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copy of the chapter publications and the State's
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That chapter pays the State's dues. An associate receives the local chapter publications, but not the
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March Meeting

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First Christian Church - 704 Edwards Road

Dr. Constance T. McNeill
"Hidden Sources on the Internet"
President, SCGS

Bring a Friend!!