



# News from the North Carolina Collection High Point Public Library

Spring 2008

## Contacting Us

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**Location:**

3<sup>rd</sup> floor, High Point  
Public Library  
901 N. Main St.

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 2530  
High Point, NC 27261-  
2530

**Web Address:**

<http://www.highpointpubliclibrary.com/index.php?page=geneology>

## Operating Hours

Monday–Thursday

9 AM – 9 PM

Friday

9 AM – 12 PM

1 PM – 6 PM

Saturday

9 AM – 12 PM

1 PM – 6 PM

Sunday

1:30 PM – 5:30 PM

**Good News—the library  
will not close on  
Sundays this summer.**

## Closings

The Library will close:

Monday 5/26/2008, for  
Memorial Day;

Friday 7/4/2008 for  
Independence Day

## Changes at the Library



Library Director Kem Ellis prepares for new construction

Finally, the renovation and expansion project for our library is about to begin. Work has already started on a new parking lot, which was necessary since the parking area directly in front of the current building will be lost to the new construction. Work on the building itself is scheduled to start on April 7, 2008, and will begin at the side, staff entrance, facing Elm Street. This entrance will become the temporary public entrance during most of the building project. The total project is scheduled to be finished in October 2009.

So, how does this affect the North Carolina Collection? The answer is “physically, not too much at first; but we can expect to hear a lot of hammering, sawing, and other typical construction noises. As the different stages of construction occur, we will keep our customers informed as to what impact it will create for them and for the Collection itself.



## INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST FACE IN THE NCC!

Larry W. Cates joined our team in mid-October of 2007. He was born in Pinehurst and grew up in Carthage in Moore County, NC—the land of tobacco, golf, hot sandy soil and the long leaf pine. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he studied secondary education and history. He spent many years working in the retail and hospitality industries, including almost ten years in High Point, before obtaining his Masters degree in library and information studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He came to us with volunteer experience at the Randolph Room of the Randolph County Public Library (Asheboro, NC), the Mecklenburg County Law Library (Charlotte, NC) and the Library at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in Winston-Salem.

Larry's love affair with genealogy began in his freshman civics class when he was required to complete a family history project. When he came home from his first year of

college, he found that his father had moved to Asheboro, where many of his forebears had lived. Larry spent that summer getting acquainted with genealogical research under the guidance of Carolyn Neely Hager of the Randolph County Library. He later became heavily involved with the Randolph County Genealogical Society through his friendship with Francine Holt Swaim of Liberty and eventually became editor of the *Randolph County Genealogical Journal* (1997). He has continued in that capacity for almost a dozen years now. He has also served as editor of the *NCGS News*, as Piedmont Director of the North Carolina Genealogical Society, as Genealogist of the Clan MacRae Society of North America, and as editor of the *Guilford Genealogist*. He has also performed work as a contract genealogical researcher and occasionally writes articles for genealogical publications and gives lectures on genealogical topics to local societies.

If you haven't yet had the chance, please come by and say hello.



## Generous Donations

The North Carolina Collection was extremely honored to receive from Mary Lib Joyce, her collection of family and local history files. Mary Lib is one of High Point's most respected historians, and the compiler/editor of ***Clarks' Collection of Historical Remembrances: Collections and Recollections From Three Generations of Clark Historians,***

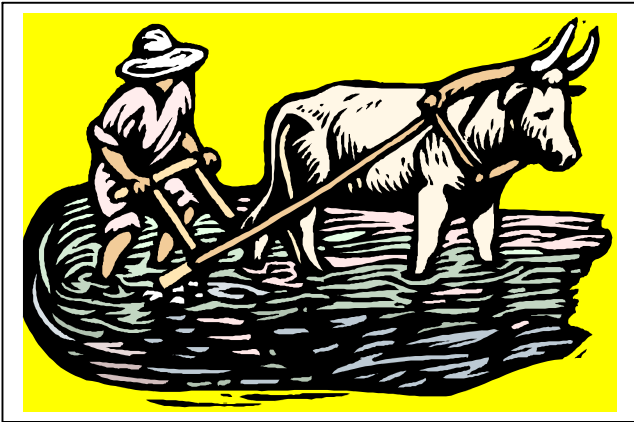
published in 1999. Her donation includes books, newspaper clippings, manuscripts and other such items. Altogether Mary Lib, over her lifetime, has collected 1-four drawer filing cabinet, 2-two drawer filing cabinets, plus a multitude of boxes of files that totaled over 34 linear feet of materials. Some of these materials were papers that had been collected by Stephen C. Clark, Mary Lib's father, former High Point Post Master, building contractor, local historian, and author of ***The Building and the Builders of A City, High Point, N.C.*** which was published by the High Point Chamber of Commerce in 1947. Mary Lib has been one of the North Carolina Collection's "guardian angels," those individuals who we call when we need information about a local person, place or event. I cannot begin to estimate the number of times that I've had to contact her for assistance over the past fourteen years that I've worked in the North Carolina Collection. But, I can tell you how many times she was able to answer my questions—every time!

Once processed, (and this effort will take a bit of time, so we ask you to be patient with us), these files will double our existing "Family and Local History Vertical File" collection. It is hard for me to believe that when I first came to work in the North Carolina Collection in January 1994, we had approximately two, half-filled file drawers of local, state, and genealogical methodology materials. The North Carolina Collection, owes a big thank you to Joe Exum Brown, former High Point Enterprise editor, Library Board of Trustees' President, author/compiler of 7 books:

***Maryfield U.S.A. A Success Story; The Story of the Korean War Researched and Written for the High Point Historical Museum; Racial Integration in High Point Researched and Written for the High Point Historical Museum; Individuals from High Point, Thomasville, Jamestown, Archdale, Trinity and Other Communities in the High Point Area of North Carolina Who Were in Uniform in World War II; High Point (and Nearby) Furniture Companies; An Alphabetical Listing of Hosiery and Textile Companies and Their Major Suppliers in High Point Since the City's Inception; and Jottings,*** and long-time volunteer and supporter of the North Carolina Collection. Joe took on the Herculean task of "wading through" reel after reel of back issues of the ***High Point Enterprise*** in order to build, as he calls it our "newspaper morgue." We were delighted that Joe agreed to take on this project, because he is one of the best-qualified people to do so. Who could have been better than a person who lived and wrote many of the articles that he compiled for us? Over the years, others have donated materials for our files as well, but by far, Mary Lib and Joe's contributions make up the bulk of the collection. So it is an honor to announce that because of these two individuals' generous donations of materials, time, and support to the North Carolina Collection, our vertical files will now be called the ***Mary Lib Joyce & Joe Exum Brown Family & Local History Files.***

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### **PO' FOLKS, RICH LIVES: Catching Up With the Have- nots in Our Family Tree**

Most of us descend from families of modest means. They grew and processed most of their own food, made their own clothing, and repaired and patched tools, garments and shoes to avoid the cost of purchasing new ones. They made their possessions stretch as far as they could and depended on each other to get through the hard times. Even though they weren't "well off," they owned something that we can trace through readily available records like deeds, wills, estates, and tax lists.

Ultimately, however, the average farmer faced a very uncertain future. A bad harvest, an ill-judged investment, the early death or prolonged illness of a father, or a bout with alcoholism could send a perfectly respectable farm family careening into the depths of poverty. There was little in the way of a social safety network. Many families of color suffered financially, due, in part, to restrictive laws, community prejudices and, for many, a history of

slavery. Once mired in poverty, it was very difficult to pull free again.

Most of us will meet with poor families at some point in our research. Because of the difficulties involved, it is often tempting to cast them aside and move on; but it is not necessary to abandon these lineages. There are always options for getting around the challenges. You can map out a wise research strategy if you understand the circumstances of their lives and focus attention on records in which they are likely to appear.

First of all, keep in mind some of the typical characteristics of poor folks in nineteenth century America. They often:

- Were landless or only briefly owned land; sometimes they leased it.
- Were illiterate or barely literate.
- Resided in the households or on the lands of more prominent individuals for whom they worked.
- Owned few possessions to pass to descendants. Probate records are, therefore, limited.
- Moved around a great deal as leases expired or debts mounted in one location.
- Bound children out at early ages to learn trades.
- Appear inconsistently in the census records; information, when provided, could be incomplete or incorrect due to mistrust of officials.
- Were deeply in debt and found it difficult or impossible to unload that debt.
- Had no surviving cemetery monuments, since gravestones were expensive.

In addition, it would not be unusual to find numerous cases of illegitimacy, cross-racial ties or prosecution for criminal activities.

The best approach to finding your poor relatives is to focus on the records of their communities rather than just on the individuals, themselves. The census and tax listings (which involve poll taxes—taxes on individuals--not just land or livestock) can help you pinpoint their neighborhood. When you find your poor ancestor listed by name, pay close attention to others appearing nearby in the record, note them down and proceed from there. Surnames are crucial, so make sure to study everyone bearing your ancestor's surname in a given community. If there are wealthier families of the same name there, study them as well, and record your findings so that you can distinguish them from potential members of your family. Since the poor owned little or no real property, it follows that they must have lived on the lands of neighbors. Therefore, you must look into the deeds, estates and even personal papers of wealthier folks in the same area in order to find traces of them as tenants, debtors or servants. Deeds sometimes described a particular tract as "the land on which Mr. Smith now lives" (suggesting Mr. Smith could have been a tenant of the grantor) or used poor neighbors as witnesses. But tenants and witnesses are not indexed in the grantor/grantee indexes. Good published abstracts can help you here, but if they don't exist, you must look up the deeds and land grants of the neighbors one by one. The estate records of neighbors can tell you

whether your family owed money to them or purchased items at the estate sale. The real estate division may show that they lived on part of the property of the deceased person. If you are lucky, letters and journals of neighbors may mention them in passing. Church records of the area may record some of their births, deaths or marriages. Newspapers may mention sensational crimes committed by the poor and frequently contain notices of runaway apprentices. Be prepared to look into neighboring counties when your ancestors disappear from a particular location. You may well pick up the trail again. Remember, the lack of land could leave people of limited means restless and rootless.

There are certain types of public records that are very useful for tracing the poor. Unfortunately, these sources are often unindexed and sometimes difficult to access, but they offer many benefits if studied carefully and purposefully. They include:

■ **The account ledgers of local merchants, professionals and craftsmen.**

Debts were often listed in estate records as book accounts or notes and these are categorized as good (sperate) or bad (desperate). Accounts may also have been kept among private papers housed in libraries and archives and some remain in private hands.

■ **Bound inventories, sales and accounts of estates**

were recorded in ledgers kept by the county clerks. They included transcribed sales lists and lists of debts from various estates in the

county between particular years. Here you can survey a lot of names including debtors and creditors of estates and those purchasing items from estate sales by scanning pages rather than pulling loose estate papers set by set. Even the poorest people usually had financial transactions with neighbors or purchased needed items second hand from estate sales.

■ **Illegitimacy records or bastardy bonds** were designed to protect the county from paying for the upkeep of “fatherless” children. Women were encouraged to identify the father of a child and he then bonded to provide five years of support. Many out-of-wedlock children, however, were not noticed by the court. Not all loose papers have survived, so check the minutes of the County Court as well as the criminal action papers.

■ **Apprenticeship records.** Children of poor families were often bound to a master to learn a trade either at the family’s request or at the court’s order. Apprentice records survive as loose papers and sometimes give ages, the child’s status (“son” or “daughter of,” orphan or illegitimate), the trade and the master to whom bound. There are also notations in the court minutes that may offer more information. Like the bastardy bonds, not all the loose records survive, so the minutes contain the most complete record.

■ **Wardens of the Poor Records**—Beginning in 1777, each North Carolina county was required to provide assistance to

people who had no other means of supporting themselves. Most erected poor houses to shelter some of the poor while farming others out to members of the community in exchange for modest payments. The Wardens were elected to oversee this system and many of their minutes survive. These include the names of the poor committed to their care, to whom they were farmed, and dates of death.

■ **Insolvent Debtors Records.** Usually kept in the miscellaneous records series at the North Carolina State Archives under each individual county, these documents gave indebted individuals an opportunity to be released from prison if they would declare their property and take an oath that they were unable to pay their debts (from 1773).

■ **Minutes of the County Court (Pleas and Quarter Sessions)** often contain the names of the poor as mothers of illegitimate children, as apprentices, as prosecutors or defendants in legal cases, as insolvents (people unable to pay and thus, excused from, taxes), as members of road crews (to which all male inhabitants past childhood were liable), etc. The road crew lists can be followed from year to year and help define neighborhoods.

■ **Tax lists**—Male inhabitants above a certain age were often obliged to pay a modest poll tax (a tax on the individual rather than property), land or no land. Persons of color, female as well as male, could also be liable.

■ **Loose criminal and civil action papers**—contain written testimony (often with details about family members), lists of witnesses, names of securities for various bonds, copies of promissory notes, complaints to the court, and details about crimes and civil matters that can be found nowhere else. This is a rich source of detail, but requires commitment and long hours of work.

■ **Vital statistics** make up for illiteracy, which may have rendered it impossible to keep a written family record. Marriage records are very helpful in North Carolina, since the names of bondsmen appear on marriage bonds (prior to 1868) and these are usually friends or family members of the bride or groom. After 1868, marriage licenses, where they survive, provide a great deal more information—eventually including the names and residences of the parents of the parties. The returned license includes the place where the marriage was solemnized and witness names—all great clues. Don't forget divorce records, as well. Insecure finances often contributed to rocky domestic situations and divorce petitions to the legislature or superior court are full of great details. Death certificates and registers (in Virginia, Kentucky, for example) can help where grave markers no longer survive or never existed in the first place.

If you make it a point to accumulate mentions of your family in all of these

records, gradually, a larger picture will emerge. You may conclude that people are related because they frequently appear together in the records, because they consistently appear with the same set of neighbors or because they move together from one place to another. If you can demonstrate that they do not belong to better-documented families of the same name in the area, your case is strengthened. You may not be able to nail down the exact relationship, but you will have the weight of the evidence on your side. In the meantime, you will have built a rich group of records describing the life of your ancestor, oftentimes in very personal detail. Don't give up hope. If you succeed in pinning down the lineage, you may find that the parents or grandparents of your poor ancestor were wealthier and far easier to trace.

*L. W. Cates*

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## 'ROUND ABOUT THE TRIAD A Calendar of Genealogical Events

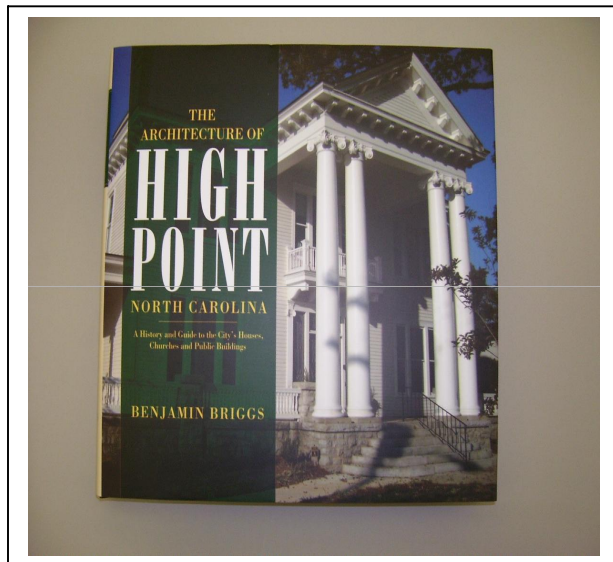
**10 May 2008**—The Durham Orange Genealogical Society, Inc. presents its annual Olde Orange County Family History Day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Century Hall, Carrboro Century Center in downtown Carrboro. Representatives from many local genealogical societies (included within the boundaries of Old Orange County) and other vendors will be on-hand to offer advice and display products.

**14 May 2008**—The Forsyth County Genealogical Society presents a program by Robert Tuttle on “Immigration by Ship in the Mid-1700’s.” Offered in the auditorium of the Forsyth County Public Library.

**17 May 2008**—The Guilford County Genealogical Society presents Bradley Foley and Adrian Whicker discussing their recent book, *The Civil War Ends: Greensboro, April 1865*. The meeting is held at 10 AM at the First Friends Meeting in Greensboro, 2100 W. Friendly Avenue.

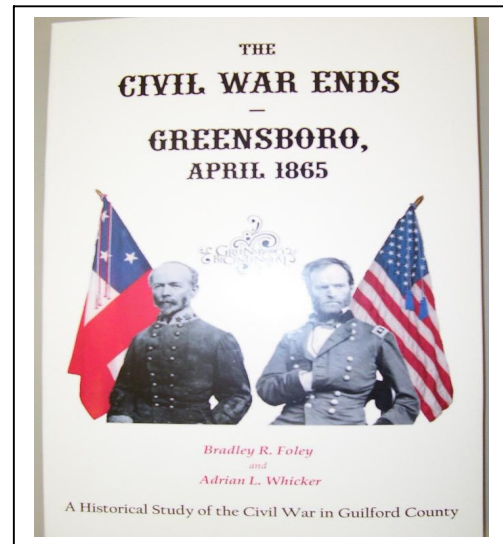
**21 Jun 2008**—The Randolph County Genealogical Society offers a program with Hal Pugh, at 10AM in the downstairs meeting room of the Asheboro Public Library, 201 Worth Street. He will discuss the archaeology of an early pottery production site located on his property.

**6 Jul 2008**—The Genealogical Society of Rockingham and Stokes Counties holds its quarterly meeting at 2:30 p.m. at the Danbury Public Library, 1104 Main Street in Danbury. Judy Cardwell and Phyllis Hoots will discuss “Sauratown Hills Plantation and the Hairston Family.”



### Now Available

For purchase in the NC Collection:  
***The Architecture of High Point North Carolina: A History and Guide to the City's Houses, Churches and Public Buildings*** by Benjamin Briggs. \$39.99, no sales tax required. Hardback with dust jacket. Cash or checks made payable to “City of High Point,” accepted. Proceeds of sales will go toward historic preservation efforts in the City.



### GCGS Books

In addition, the North Carolina Collection sells books for the Guilford County Genealogical Society, including this new book by Bradley R. Foley and Adrian L. Whicker: ***The Civil War Ends Greensboro April 1865***. Only checks are accepted and must be made out to the Guilford County Genealogical Society in the amount of \$20.28 (\$19.00 + \$1.28 tax).

## New Books in North Carolina Collection

### HIGH POINT



Norman, Kenneth L. Early History of the High Point Fire Department. 2007.

### NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGY:

----- Greenview Cemetery: A Survey Reidsville, North Carolina. 1998.

Almasy, Sandra Lee. Hertford County North Carolina Wills. 1830 - 1856, 1857 - 1868, 1868 - 1896, 1896 - 1921. 1989.

Brayton, John A. Order of First Families of North Carolina Registry of Ancestors Vol. I. 2005.

Brown, Louis A. The Salisbury Prison A Case Study of Confederate Military Prisons 1861 - 1865. 1992.

Cassetevens, Frances H. The 28<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry: A Civil War History and Roster. 2008.

Gregory, Ruth P. Ashe County N.C. 1800 Census 1815 Tax Lists. 1975.

Marler, Kathleen. Residents of Mecklenburg County North Carolina 1762 - 1790. 2005.

Munson, Barry. Beaufort News Beaufort, North Carolina Obituaries 1815 - 1825. 2005.

Munson, Barry. Beaufort News Beaufort, North Carolina Obituaries Volume 5 1942 - 1945. 2000.

Munson, Barry. Beaufort News Beaufort, North Carolina Obituaries Volume 6 1946 - 1948. 2000.

Munson, Barry. Citizens of Craven County North Carolina and Vicinity Volume 2 1814 - 1818. 2006.

Munson, Barry. Citizens of Rowan County, North Carolina, and Vicinity Volume 1 1820 - 1822. 2005.

Munson, Barry. Citizens of Rowan County, North Carolina, and Vicinity Volume 2 1823 - 1824. 2006.

Munson, Barry. Hyde County Messenger Fairfield North Carolina Obituaries 1926 - 1941. 1999.

Munson, Barry. Marriage and Death Notices from the Hillsborough Recorder Hillsborough Orange County North Carolina Volume 5: 1860 - 1865. 2005.

Munson, Barry. Obituaries from the Elizabeth City Independent Elizabeth City Pasquotank County North Carolina Volume 2: 1923 - 1927. 2005.

Munson, Barry. Obituaries: North Carolina Civil War Soldiers and Veterans Volumes 9 & 10. 2005.

Powell, David. Gates County Marriage Record Books (1851 - 1882). 2005.

Thompson, Doris Lancaster. Revolutionary War Gravesites of Soldiers, Patriots, and Ancestors Buried in North Carolina. 2007.

**NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY:**

Cain, Robert J., ed. The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume XI The Church of England in North Carolina: Documents, 1742 - 1763. 2007.

Fleer, Jack D. Governors Speak. 2007.

Kenan, Thomas S. Sketch of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment. 1895.

Hill, Michael, ed. The Governors of North Carolina. 2007.

Ingmire, Frances T. Stokes County North Carolina Marriage Records 1783 - 1868 Volume II Females. 1984.

McDonald, Garreth M. 150 Years of Common Railroads in North Carolina. 2004.

McDowell, Larry J. Cemetery Records: Pleasant Union United Church of Christ. 1980

Munson, Barry. Far From Home: Letters From North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers Volume 2. 2006.

Powell, David. The 'Hertford Grays': A Collection pertaining to Company F, First Regiment North Carolina State Troops, C.S.A. 2005.

**MISCELLANEOUS GENEALOGY:**

----- . South Carolina Genealogical Society Surname Directory. 1999.

Calhoun, Russ, Sr. Lost Heritage: The People of Old Butler, Tennessee, and the Watauga Valley. 1998.

Smith, Clifford Neal. Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research. 1976.

Dobson, David. Later Scots-Irish Links 1725 - 1825. Parts 1 - 3. 2003 - 2006.

Dobson, David. Scottish-German Links, 1550-1850. 2007

Dobson, David. Scots-Irish Links 1575-1725 Part One and Part Two. 1997

Dobson, David. Scots-Irish Links 1575-1725 Part Six. 2007

Dobson, David. Directory of Scots in the Carolinas 1680 - 1830 Volume 2. 2004.

Dobson, David. Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of the Great Migration 1725 - 1775: The People of Argyll. 2005.

Dobson, David. Scots-Dutch Links In Europe and America, 1575-1825. 2004

Dobson, David. Scottish Soldiers in Colonial America, Part Three. 2004

Dobson, David. Scottish Transatlantic Merchants, 1611-1785. 2006

Dobson, David. Scottish Highlanders On The Eve of the Great Migration 1725-1775: The People of Highland Perthshire. 2006

Dobson, David. Scottish Highlanders On The Eve of the Great Migration 1725-1775: The People of Inverness-shire. 2007.

Dobson, David. American Data from the Records of the High Court of the Admiralty of Scotland, 1675-1800. 2000.

Hurn, Wanda. History of Elgin Crossroads & Nearby. 2003.

Johannes Schwalm Historical Association. Journal of Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, Inc. Volumes 2.1, 2.2 & 4, 3.1 & 2, 6.3, 7.1 – 4, 8, 9. 1981 – 2006.

Richards, Matthias Henry. The German Emigration from New York Province into Pennsylvania. 1999

O'Donnell-Rosales, John. Hispanic Confederates. 2006

Dollarhide, William. Getting Started in Genealogy Online. 2006

The Handybook for Genealogists: United States of America, Eleventh Edition. 2006

Brandt, Bruce and Edward Reimer Brandt. Where to look for Hard-To-Find German-Speaking Ancestors in Eastern Europe, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1993.

### **FAMILY HISTORIES:**

Currier, Philip Joseph. Currier Family Records of U.S.A. and Canada Volume VIII – Parts I & II, Volume IX. 2007.

Oertel, LaVonne S. The Stout Family My Line with Allied Families. 2006.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

Morgan, George G. The Official Guide to ancestry.com. 2007.

Merz, Johannes Helmut. Guide to help you find your Hessian Soldier.

### **GEORGIA GENEALOGY:**

Dobson, David. Scots in Georgia and the Deep South, 1735-1845. 2000.

### **VIRGINIA GENEALOGY:**

McCartney, Martha W. Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607 – 1635: A Biographical Dictionary. 2007.

Wayland, John W. A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia. 1969.

DAR., Col. Thomas Hughart Chapter—Augusta County, Virginia. First Marriage Record of Augusta County, Virginia 1785-1813. 1962

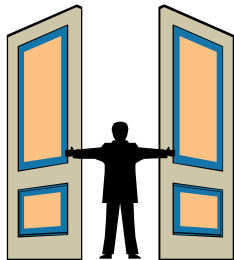
Slaughter, Philip, Rev. The History of Truro Parish in Virginia. 1995

McCary, Ben C. Indians in Seventeenth Century Virginia. 1957

United States. Works Project Administration. Division of Professional and Service Projects. The Historical Records Survey of Virginia. Index to Obituary Notices in the Religious Herald Richmond, Virginia, 1828-1938. 1996

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