

2015 Stanly County Heritage Workshop “On The Move”

Several local groups are collaborating to present a free Heritage Workshop on Saturday, March 7 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the First Baptist Church, 202 North Second Street in Albemarle. Lunch will be provided by Dwight Eudy for a \$5.00 donation. Reservations are required. To register call the Stanly County Public Library at (704) 986-3755 or go to <http://historicstanly.org> and click on the “2015 Heritage Workshop” tab at the top of the page. Please register by Monday, March 2.

Sponsoring groups will be the Stanly County Genealogical Society, Yadkin River Patriots Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Colson Mill Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, Albemarle Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy, Stanly County Historical Society, Stanly County Museum, Friends of the Stanly County Library, and the Stanly County Public Library. During the day brief presentations will be made by each of the sponsoring groups to provide attendees information regarding participation or membership in these organizations.

Topics to be covered during the workshop will include:

Basic Genealogy

The presenter for this workshop session will be Wanda Gantt. She has been helping people trace their roots for years. Gantt is a trained DAR volunteer genealogist. She has established over forty new families in DAR from Stanly County and the adjoining counties. In addition, she has worked to establish forty new child of an established soldier or patriot of the American Revolutionary War. In 2013 she was selected as the outstanding DAR volunteer genealogist of the Southeast and is one of only eight in the US.

Both new genealogist and those who have spent years doing research will benefit from the hints provided during the Basic Genealogy workshop session. Gantt will start with Basic Genealogy - explaining the differences between primary and secondary sources. She will move quickly to more advanced topics with hints along the way to help make the researcher’s experience more successful. The importance of migration patterns will be discussed showing how several families probably traveled to a new location together and then brothers would marry sisters from adjoining farms. Gantt will emphasize how important it is to interview family members. Interviews are an excellent source of information, but documenting what you learn is a necessary part of the process. Ideas for ways to do this will be explained.

Crossing the Rivers – The Fords and Ferries on the Yadkin/Pee Dee and Rocky Rivers

From the earliest times until the first quarter of the 20th century the watercourses in and around present day Stanly County served as an impediment to travel and transport. Throughout that time the rivers were being crossed, sometimes at great peril, first by fords and later by ferries. The industrious folks who used and managed these crossings did much to facilitate the growth, development and commerce of the western piedmont and made significant contributions to the settling and development of Stanly County.

This presentation will cover the activities of these river crossings over the last 300 or so years; from the Native Americans carrying on trade between the mountains and the coast, to the early European travelers and settlers looking for land and opportunity, to the farmers, tradesmen, lawyers, politicians, and developers who worked and planned to bring us to the place we are today. People today see the rivers for their beautiful scenery and recreation, but for most of the time that will be talked about they were a barrier

and an obstacle to be overcome. Topics to be discussed will include the locations of the crossings, some of the folks who were closely involved with them, and how they developed over time.

The presenter for this session will be Ken Ringler. Ringler is a history buff and amateur historian who has made Stanly County his home since 2002. His work career was spent in manufacturing working in the field of quality and continuous improvement. He currently serves as the President of the Board of the Stanly County Historical Society.

Museum Website and On-Line Help

Julie Hawks, manager of the Stanly County Museum, will introduce the museum's redesigned website. The primary focuses of this presentation will be to show audience members how to 1) locate information on the Stanly County museum website, 2) access museum resources from the museum's online collection database, and 3) access external research collections through the website links.

Hawks is in her first year as manager of the museum. She started out working in mathematical publishing and then worked for software companies in Massachusetts. She and her husband have lived in NC since 2010. Hawks has a master's degree in library science and information technology and one in religious studies, and is currently working toward her master's in public history at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Hawks currently works at the Stanly County Public Library Monday and Tuesday. She is at the Museum Wednesday through Friday and on the first Saturday of each month.

Geology, Genealogy and Volcanoes

Steve Teeter, retired West Stanly High School teacher, has had a lifelong interest in geology. During this workshop session Teeter will present the story of the Ireneus Polycarp Efird Chimney Fossil. The story will include the chain of events that led to the discovery of the fossil and Teeter's fascination with his own family history. Attendees will learn how the genealogical work of Judge Oscar Efird provided the link to the discovery of the "first unequivocal metazoan fossil to be documented from North America" but which actually formed far away from Ancestral North America. This discovery helped to rewrite the geologic history of Eastern North America and served as the topic for Teeter's Master's thesis at UNCC in 1983.

Teeter will also discuss the rocks of Stanly County, their unique features and how ancient volcanoes provided a substrate that helped both Native Americans and later European colonists obtain food and building materials for their different cultures. This talk will be of special interest to both earth science teachers and students.

Who Were the Hessians?

During this presentation Aaron Kepley will trace the story of German mercenaries who came to this country during the American Revolution, why they were sent to fight, and just how much they suffered in the service. He will tell how and why some of the Germans who deserted during the Revolutionary War settled in Stanly County and the surrounding area. Of special interest will be his emphasis on the story of John Reed – think Reed Gold Mine!

Kepley is from the Rockwell/Gold Hill area and attends Grace Lower Stone Reformed Church where he is the church historian. Kepley graduated from Pfeiffer University in 2010 with a degree in history. He did two internships at the Stanly County Museum under former museum director Jonathan Underwood.

Kepley is currently the assistant manager of Reed Gold Mine and enjoys discovering local history from piedmont North Carolina.

Shape Notes and Singing Schools

Dana Chaney is a resident of Stanly County. She and her family are very active in their church. They enjoy getting together at various churches to participate in Singing Schools. Singing Schools have been described as a social event with religious aspects. Shape Note singing was very popular some years ago, and the practice is becoming popular again. Chaney will present information and lead a demonstration of Singing with Shape Notes. She will also tell about Singing Schools in this area. In addition to Mrs. Chaney's presentation her son, Jonah Chaney, will play the violin.