

PRESERVATION
BURLINGTON



Preserve. Educate. Involve.

Preservation Burlington Presents:

2.9.19 Genealogy Workshop, Presented by Michele Koebrich

Location: H-Co Properties, 703 East Davis Street, Burlington, NC 27215

1. Do you know who the first owner of your home was? If so you're way ahead and it's easiest to go to **Ancestry.com** and start your search for documents and information to fill out the family. You can get a trial subscription for free but if you don't want to continue be sure to cancel. I've found they are very prompt about cancelling when you have a subscription. If you cancel you can still see your trees and some of the documents and it is all saved if you want to join again. You can also export or share your tree and documents with someone else who has a subscription. The iPad app is available and merges with your laptop version but I find it isn't as detailed and can be cumbersome to operate.
2. Once you have created an account and signed in: Click on trees and create a tree starting with the family member that you have most information about. All you need is name, sex, location they lived in (Burlington, NC), they're deceased, and a general year range. You can use a period that you believe the house was built. Press search button and start to look at the results.
3. You will find all kinds of documents, look them over carefully so you can get all the little bits of information they hold. Example: census records show the whole street and may show other relatives close by, they can list the profession or trades of the occupants, if they took in boarders, the ages and race of all occupants, (during slavery slaves are not listed on the census but on the slave schedules and they are often listed in Wills). You can print the documents and you should save them to the person you found. There are lots of sources available and you should play with the choices on the left of the screen to get comfortable with what's there. Be careful to see if all the information in the record pertains to your search person. Many names are very common. Also be very careful when adopting information from another member tree. Some of it could be just plain wrong.
4. If you don't know who the original owner was you will have to use the sometimes cumbersome but usable Alamance County property records online. Start at

Alamance.ustaxdata.com and type in the current address of the house. When you're looking at census records or other old records that contain house numbers, remember they have changed over time. Click on the current owner name and start looking for the Book/Page column. This tells you where you can find the deed for each of the transfers of ownership listed. Click on the oldest one that opens. Notice the "Record" dropdown and see that there are Deeds, Deeds of Trust (mortgages), Plats, etc.

5. Read through the last deed and look for the Book and Page of the Deed that the Grantor (seller) acquired the property from. Enter the Book and Page into the white boxes and click on View Page and repeat until you have gone back to the Deed dated the approximately when the house was built.
6. Though you will often get stuck in the above system and can't go back far enough don't get discouraged. Now you can go to Alamance County Register of Deeds at alamancerod.org/welcome. Here you can find older stuff if you have a little patience. Take the time to print and read the instructions and play with the system. Click on "Full System"; choose year range from the dropdown. Type in surname of last owner you know as the Grantee (buyer). Click on Search. The next screen looks crazy, I know but keep following and you can find what you want!
7. Look down the list on the left for the Surname you want and click on it. Begin by clicking on the orange arrow to move the pages forward until you find the Grantee family name you want. Now look for the first name in the next column until you find an entry that looks possible. You can see the Book and Page in the right column. Enter it into the View Image above and click view. Read through the document and see if it sounds right. You may have to look at several.

Good luck and happy hunting!

Additional Free Sources to Explore:

Familysearch.org: This LDS site has the largest genealogy database in the world.

Archives.gov/research/immigration/passenger-arrival.html: Ellis Island and other ports of entry record: Immigration Records including passenger lists, country of origin, original names, ages, etc.