

Genealogical class plans spring excursion Course is open to everyone

The Wallace State Community College Advanced Genealogical Research Class will leave for Washington, D.C. on March 21, for a spring excursion.

Traveling in the WSCC bus, their first historic site stop will be at Kings Mountain National Park, South Carolina. It was at Kings Mountain that American mountaineers, just when it seemed that the patriotic cause in the South was lost, swarmed up the mountain to annihilate a British force, that was the turning point of the American Revolution.

Williamsburg, Colonial capitol of Virginia, will be the next stop. The class will visit shops where costumed craftsmen, blacksmiths, wigmakers, and all, employ 18th century methods in their work. A side trip to Jamestown and Yorktown is planned. At Jamestown, they will visit the first recognizable settlement by white people in Virginia. Many class members are direct descendants of Revolutionary Soldiers who were actually at Yorktown.

In Richmond, Virginia, students who wish to research at the Virginia State Library and Archives will have a few hours for this purpose, while others tour the city. They will see the James River and Kanawha Canal, two locks that have been preserved since George Washington's time to carry river traffic down the falls. A visit to St. John's Church, site of Patrick Henry's impassioned plea "Give me Liberty or give me death," will follow as well as a view of the capitol building (designed by Thomas Jefferson), and other historic sites in the downtown vicinity.

In Washington, D.C. the class will research and study at the National Archives, Library of Congress and the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution Library.

Daily class tours are planned to visit the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, Custis-Lee Mansion, The U.S. Senate, The House of Representatives, Capitol Building, White House, Smithsonian Institution, Alexandria, Mount Vernon, and others as time permits.

Leaving Washington, D.C. on March 28, the group will travel to Winchester, Virginia, located strategically at the head of the Virginia Shenandoah Valley, a prize during the War Between the States changing hands over 70 times. George Washington began his career here as a surveyor in 1748. The Shenandoah was the gateway to the South for many of our southern ancestors and their descendants.

From Winchester they will follow a route southward through the mountains to Charlottesville. At Charlottesville they will have lunch at and tour the Michie Tavern, one time home of Patrick Henry. They will visit Monticello, Ash Lawn, home of James Monroe, the University of Virginia campus, and other historic sites as time permits.

The class will return to Cullman, late Sunday, March 29, 1981. The cost of the course: enrollment \$30.00, tours paid \$55.00, quad room charges \$120.00. Anyone interested in the trip may call the instructor, Ann Gregath, or Wallace State Community College. This course is not limited to genealogists and is open to everyone who wishes to enroll. Enroll before February 8, 1981.

The class will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Cullman County Public Library on February 5, 1981. A slide presentation of the trip will be presented at this time.



Ann Gregath, Bill Simpson