Attendees:
- Jason Bordeaux, Layton Dowless, Sam & Jo Ann Pait, Gail Parrish, Lewis Smith, Margie Bridger, Jan Avant

Treasurer Report:
- $2,599.28 on hand as of October 10, 2009.

Minutes:
- Internet service for the Mother County room has been removed.
- Jason Bordeaux gave a presentation prepared by Gene Allen on the Ashford family.

2009 Presentations:
- February 14th - Researching Bladen & Robeson County history - presented by Nash Odom.
- April 4th - King families of Bladen and Columbus - presented by Jason Bordeaux
- June 13th - Underground Railroad Quilts - presented by Linda Rivenbark
- August 8th - Business meeting
- October 10th - Ashford family - presented by Gene Allen
- December 12th - Business meeting and 2010 elections - Layton Dowless

2010 Presentations:
- All months open – PLEASE VOLUNTEER.

2009 Officers:
- President - Layton Dowless
- Vice-President - Jason Bordeaux
- Secretary - Linda Smith
- Treasurer - Margie Bridger

Next Meeting:
- December 12th, 2009 at 12:30 pm at the Bladenboro Historical Building.
- Please remember to bring a refreshment to our next meeting.
We need more participation!!! Please invite a friend to come with you to the next meeting. Please tell more people about our group. We have over 30 members, but there is very little local participation. If you know of someone who might want to give a presentation, please let us know.
Street Ashford by Russell Eugene Allen

Street Ashford appeared in Bladen County, North Carolina between 1784 and 1788. He is not listed in the 1784 tax list for Bladen County, but is listed in 1788 with 550 acres of land, 1 Free Poll and 2 BlackPolls. He married into the Bryan family. His wife Ann was the daughter of Edward Bryan and granddaughter of Thomas Bryan. He is listed as an heir by marriage of David Bryan, the brother of Ann.

Street Ashford seems to have been a comfortable farmer but hardly wealthy. He acquired several hundred acres of land in and around Elizabethtown and owned 6 or 7 slaves at any given time. According to the Federal Census of 1790, he is listed as head of a household that included 3 free white males 16 years and up, 2 free white males under 16 years of age, 1 free white female and 6 slaves. The males listed in the 1790 census were probably not his children unless they died very young. The U.S. Censuses of 1800 and 1810 enumerate just one male and, at most, 3 females. Since one of the females was his wife, Anna, the other two must have been his daughters Elizabeth Ann and Lenora. Anna, Ann and Lenora are named in his will which was made January 3, 1816. He also named his sons-in-law, John McGill, husband of Elizabeth Ann and George King, husband of Lenora. Street was active in civic affairs. He is named as captain of a census district in the U.S. Census of 1800. He was elected to represent Bladen County in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1800. He only lived in Bladen County around 30 years, but he left enough questions about him and his family to lead family researchers on a merry chase lasting many years!

The search for the roots of Street Ashford goes back for me almost 30 years. I discovered a book in the North Carolina Archives written by Charlie Rabb Ashford in 1956. The book pertained to James and George Ashford, Jr. of Fairfield County, South Carolina. The book seemed irrelevant to my search at first. The more I studied it, the more I could see that there might be a connection to Street Ashford. It now appears that the Ashford family described by Mr. Ashford in 1956 is the family to which Street Ashford belongs.

This Ashford family has its early beginning in Maryland and northern Virginia with Michael Ashford. Both he and his wife Ann filed wills in 1734 in Prince William County, Virginia. He left both real estate and personal property to his children, including John, his oldest son. A portion of the land that was inherited by John was later sold by him to George Washington in 1761 and became part of Mount Vernon Plantation. John married Elizabeth Stonestreet, daughter of Thomas Stonestreet and Christian Coghill Stonestreet (a widow before marrying Thomas) and granddaughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Butler Stonestreet. The Stonestreet family was an old Maryland family and well established. The original family had come to the New World as servants and worked their way up.

After John Ashford died intestate in 1765, his land descended to his son Butler Stonestreet Ashford. The source of Butler Stonestreet Ashford’s unusual name was his maternal line. He and his wife Susannah sold the land that he had inherited on November 20, 1775 to John Bates. At that time, Butler Stonestreet Ashford somewhat disappeared. Actually, he did not vanish. He apparently moved to the Guilford County area of North Carolina fairly soon after selling his land in Fairfax County, Virginia. He recorded a land entry in Caswell County, North Carolina on 1 March 1779. By 21 February 1786, he was deceased. On that date, the court in Guilford County ordered that Thomas Ashford, son of
Butler Stonestreet Ashford, be bound to Stuart Diamond, a shoemaker, as an apprentice until he reached the age of majority. The document also stated that Thomas was 16 years of age and that Butler Stonestreet Ashford was deceased. Another proven child of Butler Stonestreet Ashford who lived in the same area of North Carolina was Ann who married Edward Taylor. They actually named one of their sons Butler Stonestreet Taylor. They lived in Montgomery County, N. C. where, on 18 March 1838, Ann, then 77 years old, and her brother-in-law William Taylor submitted a pension application for the Revolutionary War service of William and her deceased husband Edward. The application states that the Taylors and Ashfords lived in Fairfax County, Virginia and moved to Guilford County where they were neighbors.

William Ashford also lived in Montgomery County and was a neighbor of the Taylors. He is thought to be a son of Butler Stonestreet Ashford. He and his family later moved to Tennessee and points west. Butler Stonestreet Ashford, Thomas Ashford, Ann Ashford Taylor and William Ashford lived in a concentrated area of counties in the Piedmont area of North Carolina.

A concentration of Ashford males was found in Southeastern North Carolina in the decade preceding 1800 and decades after 1800. These three men are tied to each other geographically, and to each other, and to Butler Stonestreet Ashford through the use of unique family names.

John Stonestreet Ashford is found in the 1790 US Census living in Wilmington, NC. He was married to Ann Jewel and they had several children with interesting names. The family moved to Sampson County, NC between 1800 and 1810. They lived near Clinton. Their children were:

- Rebecca Ashford b: 10 June 1783
- William Ashford b: 22 Sept 1786
- Ann Ashford b: 20 November 1788
- Butler J. Ashford b: 3 January 1791
- Catherine Ashford b: 15 September 1793
- Susan Ashford b. 19 December 1797
- Street Ashford b. 11 January 1799
- Thomas Jefferson Ashford b: 7 February 1805

Butler Ashford is found in the records of New Hanover County, NC. and Onslow County, NC in the decades of 1790 and 1800. In November, 1794, he is listed as the husband of Comfort Player Stephens Ashford in a settlement of the estate of Comfort’s parents Richard and Mary Player. Butler is said to be “of Bladen County” and a cabinet maker. Comfort was married to a Stephens in May 1793. A little over a year later, she is married to Butler Ashford. They apparently had only one child, Susannah Ann Ashford. Susannah and Butler are listed as Player heirs in 20 June 1800. Apparently, Comfort had died before that date. A marriage bond is listed in Onslow County, NC between Butler Ashford and Sarah Barrow for 11 June 1799. Butler left a will in Onslow County dated 6 July 1806 and executed in October 1806. He described himself as being “of Wilmington” and left his property in Wilmington to Sarah and Susannah Ann.
Street Ashford is the final member of the southeastern North Carolina group of Ashfords. He shares the Street Ashford name with a son of John Stonestreet Ashford. He and John Stonestreet Ashford lived only one county apart. John lived near Clinton in Sampson County and Street near Elizabethtown in Bladen County. Did they have direct contact that is recorded? An entry in Bladen County NC, Land Warrants & Grants, Part I by Dr. A.B. Pruitt has an 1805 entry for a grant issued to Street Ashford. One of the chain carriers was John Ashford.

After studying this family for many years, I have come to the conclusion that a family that spent a season in Maryland and a season in Fairfax, Virginia, found North Carolina home. John Stonestreet Ashford seemed to name his children as pointers to family members in both the Piedmont and Southeastern parts of our state.
WILL OF STREET ASHFORD  
Bladen County, NC

In the Name of God, "Amen"

I, Street Ashford, being of sound and rational understanding do make and constitute this my last will and testament.

I desire that my wife Ann Ashford shall have her maintenance for and during her lifetime from the plantation in which I now reside together with the free use of the manor and house during her life. Also, wish my said wife to have the use of Jack, Bob, Sapha, and child as far as is necessary for her maintenance during life.

I bequeath to my grandson Ashford Byran McGill the plantation in which I now reside and every ___ of the land attached to it after my said wife’s death ____ a life estate to my daughter Ann.

I also bequeath to my daughter Ann and her husband John McGill full possession of my Negroes Jack, Bob, Sapha, and her child Caroline together with their increase after my said wife’s death.

I leave to the children of my daughter Lenora King and her husband George King three hundred acres of land more or less on White’s Creek, also my Negro fellow Abram and I also desire that after all my lawful debts are paid with whatever funds may remain on hand I wish a young woman purchased which shall in like manor be the equal property of the children of George and Lenora King the portion intended for the children of George and Lenora King to remain with my wife Ann Ashford during her lifetime unless she chooses to sooner give it up.

I also desire that as the plantation on which I live is too large for my wife’s force, that John McGill shall have full use of such part of the plantation and ____ as he may deem proper so as not to intrude on the provision made for her during her life for the better performance of this my last will and testament.

I appoint John McGill sole executor to my will and who is fully authorized to do every other thing which he may deem proper.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this third of January one thousand eight hundred and sixteen (3 January, 1816).

Witness:  
  Street x Ashford  
  Ann Baker  
  Ann Williamson