



The Averagesboro Advocate

A Civil War Newsletter of the
Averagesboro Battlefield Commission

April, 2015

2015 Events

June 6

**ANNUAL YARD SALE
& BBQ PORK
SHOULDER SALE**

October 14

GOLF TOURNAMENT

October 17

**22 NC CIVIL WAR
LIVING HISTORY**

November 14 & 15

WORLD WAR II LIVE

DESPITE BAD WEATHER, 150th ANNIVERSARY EVENT PROVES SUCCESSFUL



Members from 26th NC



Ladies from Wilmington UDC

Bad weather did not deter the crowd from coming to the Averagesboro Battlefield Museum for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Averagesboro. Some programming had to be curtailed, but to those who attended they were soundly rewarded. No admission was charged as a gift to the community for the fantastic support they have given to the Averagesboro Battlefield Commission over the last 20 years. The event offered a riding tour of the battlefield, going all the way to Old Bluff Church, where Union General Sherman visited briefly, prior to the battle commencing. Don Price of Lafayette Ford in Fayetteville generously provided the van for the visitors to make the tour.

The entourage included women, fashionably dressed in period dress, from the port city of Wilmington, NC. Speakers for the occasion included authors Mark Smith & Jay Gillispie, Mac Williams, President of ABCI, and Sharon Stevens, Executive Director of the Dunn Area Tourism Authority.

Many visitors enjoyed touring the Museum and making purchases of exclusive items from the battlefield gift shop. When all was said and done, those who braved the rainy, chilly weather left happy that they had come and with a memory that would last another 150 years.

On the Inside

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Our Gold Star award for April, 2015, goes to Civil War re-enactor, David Stanley. David lives in Eastover, NC, but his second home has become the Averasboro Battlefield. David voluntarily brings his team of re-enactors to Averasboro every chance he gets. Bad weather forced his horse –drawn artillery unit from participating in the recent sesquicentennial event at Averasboro, but David, apologetically, though none was needed, said, “We just can’t do it because of the weather, but we will make it up later on.” Stanley’s horse-drawn artillery unit is one of the few available re-enactor units of its type on the eastern coast of the U. S. In addition, to his frequent re-enactor visits to Averasboro, David has placed artifacts (saddles) on exhibit in the Museum. David Stanley, thanks for being a friend to the Averasboro Battlefield Commission and we salute you as our April, 2015, Gold Star Recipient.



WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR

Both Confederate and Union armies denied women the right to enlist in combat roles. However, that didn't stop some women from posing as men and joining the battle. Estimates of the numbers of women soldiers known to serve is just under 400, with estimates of women in the ranks of the Confederate Army at as many as 250. It is difficult to know if a larger number of women disguised themselves as men and enlisted in the service, because women soldiers were only revealed by accident or casualty. A few examples of women soldiers include **Mary Owens**, **Loreta Velazquez** and **Frances Clayton**. **Mary Owens** from Pennsylvania served for 18 months as **John Evans** and was discovered to be a woman when she was wounded in the arm. **Loreta Velazquez** served the Confederacy as **Lt. Harry Buford**, a self-financed soldier not officially attached to any regiment. Her memoirs revealed her service as a woman soldier.

WHY IS CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY MAY 10th IN NORTH CAROLINA?

In North Carolina those who died fighting for the Confederate States during the war are remembered on May 10. Why May 10? That is the date in 1863 that Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson died. Deeply loved and respected by his troops and all Southerners, Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson died on May 10, 1863, near Fredericksburg, Va., from pneumonia contracted while recovering from battlefield wounds. Because Jackson was so universally respected and his death had a profound impact on the state, the day of his death was chosen as Confederate Memorial Day in the Old North State. Many North Carolinians also remember the capture of Confederate president Jefferson Davis in May of 1865. North Carolinians have been building impressive monuments as a permanent way of remembering and commemorating the people and events of the Civil War since 1868. The first Civil War monument erected in North Carolina was in the Cross Creek Cemetery in Fayetteville. A group of local women raised funds and dedicated the monument on Dec. 30, 1868. Stonewall Jackson’s second wife, Anna, had a connection to Fayetteville, NC, as her father, prior to her birth, was minister at the First Presbyterian Church there. The best known artifact exhibit, of many, at the Averasboro Battlefield Museum is one containing the personal effects and uniform of Colonel Thomas J. Purdie, the commander of the 18th North Carolina Confederate Unit at Chancellorsville, who gave the command to fire upon General Jackson as he rode with his entourage back towards his camp at the Battle of Chancellorsville. Sadly, Colonel Purdie was killed himself the next day at the Battle of Chancellorsville.



FIRST BASEBALL GAME/BOYS OF SUMMER?

Boys of Summer is an increasingly obscure reference to the Brooklyn Dodgers. The term was coined by a book about the team entitled "The Boys of Summer by Roger Kahn. Don Henley, an avid Dodgers fan, uses this reference in his single "Boys of Summer." Often used now to refer to baseball players in general. "I can tell you my love for you will be strong after the Boys of Summer have gone." (Don Henley professing his love will last after the Dodgers have left Brooklyn for Los Angeles.) (by Joe Luk, March 15, 2007). However, the painting at left was painted by a Prussian painter and lithographer, Otto Boettichr, a member of a New York Union regiment who was captured by Confederates and placed in a Confederate prison at Salisbury, NC. His illustration of a baseball game is the first known image of the game of baseball. Now that the game of baseball is upon us once again, were these Union soldiers the first Boys of Summer?



IN MEMORIAM



Janet McNeil Kelly Bryan of Charlotte, formerly of Dunn, NC, died on March 5, 2015, at the age of 91. She was the wife of Robert Cavanaugh Bryan, also of Charlotte, who is the President Emeritus of the Averasboro Battlefield Commission. She and her husband moved to Charlotte in 2008 to be near their children. Janet was a frequent visitor to the Averasboro Battlefield when living in Dunn and will be missed by all who knew her.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Edith Bracey Mann, age 89, of Dunn died Sunday Evening, March 29, 2015 at Liberty Commons Nursing & Rehab in Benson. Mrs. Mann was born June 21, 1925 in Dunn. She was the widow of Gerald Mann, who was formerly a "tour guide extraordinaire" at the Averasboro Battlefield Museum. Edith, too, was a frequent visitor to the Averasboro Battlefield Museum and just as is her late husband Gerald, will be missed tremendously by the Averasboro Battlefield Commission Family.

Averasboro Battlefield Commission

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STAMP

“Preserving the past for the future”

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Emma O’Neal Thompson, 90, of Dunn, died Thursday evening, February 12, 2015, at her home. She was born August 28, 1924 in Harnett County, daughter of the late Marion B. and Bessie Hartley Smith. Mrs. Emma was also preceded in death by her husband Harry L. Thompson.

While her health permitted, Mrs. Emma was a faithful volunteer and tour guide at the Averasboro Battlefield Museum. Her friends at the Museum and the Averasboro Battlefield Commission will miss her friendly smile and caring ways as she told many visitors about the Battle of Averasboro.

She is survived by her sons, Gary Neal Thompson and wife Betty of Dunn and Ralph Wayne Thompson and wife Linda of Haltom City, Texas; grandchildren, Ashleigh Jackson and husband Connor, Whitney Bailey and husband Woody; great grandchildren, Logan Jackson, Aspyn Bailey and Liam Ayden Jackson.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. **That Arthur West is a Master Chef at barbecuing pork? Arthur will lead a team of cooks on June 6 towards a new fundraiser for Averasboro, Barbecued Pork Shoulders.**
2. **That the Civil War Preservation Trust Travel Group visited the Averasboro Museum and Battlefield recently? All who came enjoyed their visit.**
3. **That a “drone” took pictures of the Museum and Battlefield from “above” while the CWPT tour group was at Averasboro? Check out the webpage at www.averasboro.com to see the pictures and video.**
4. **That Jake Plotz, museum volunteer and master of technology, was a building contractor in his prior life?**
5. **That the Museum and Garage will soon be enhanced by painting a matching color to the outside restroom building?**
6. **That the process of keeping the Averasboro Museum operational is a never-ending job? C. C. Livingston, Director of Operations, is a master at pulling things together and always has a few band aids and rubber bands to keep the Museum in a “holding pattern.”**
7. **That new members recently were added to the ABCI Board? Welcome Kim Nazarchyk, Chad Massengill, and Susan LaFevers?**
8. **That we will be saying “Good bye for now” to ABCI Board Member Jay Gillispie, who has taken a new job in Virginia and will be leaving us soon?**