

Averasboro Advocate

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

Averasboro
Civil War Battlefield
Newsletter

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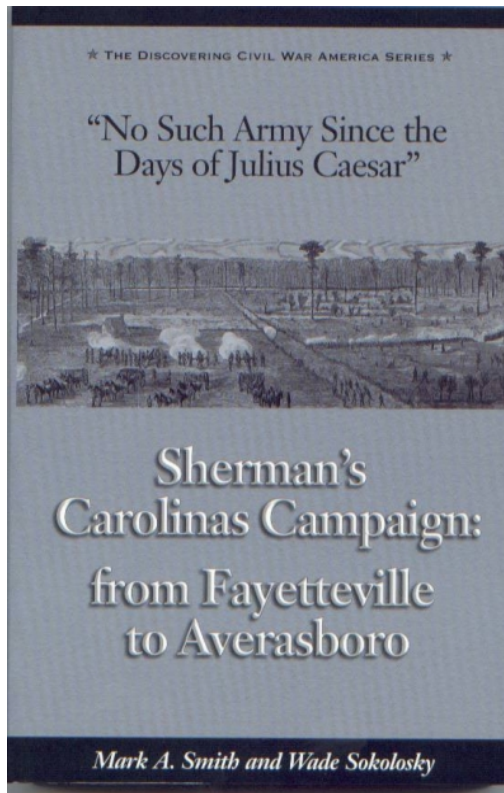
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Special

Announcements

- ◆ **Ghost Walk Tours and Living History Event** will occur on **October 28, 2006**
- ◆ **Averasboro Golf Tournament** at **Pine Hills South** on **October 18, 2006**. Call **Bob Bryan** at **897-7455** to play or help.
- ◆ **Averasboro Battlefield Commission** needs more members to sustain its activities. Annual donations of \$25 qualifies one to become a member. Higher level contributions are encouraged and much appreciated.

NEW BOOK PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON AVERASBORO



(Front cover of the Mark A. Smith and Wade Sokolosky book which depicts strategic details of Sherman's Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro)

All Civil War scholars should take note that the great new book by authors **Mark A. Smith** and **Wade Sokolosky** is in print and on sale at the Averasboro Museum Store. They do a fantastic job of chronicling the action and strategies of the battle. According to **Mark Bradley**, noted Civil War historian, who writes the foreword, the authors "have produced a definitive treatment of the Battle of Averasboro." Bradley adds, "It is well worth the wait." The Commission's own **Walt Smith** is acknowledged for his sharing of knowledge about the battle for the book and also for introducing the authors to each other.

Mark is a longtime Battlefield Commission Board member and **Wade** is an Advisory Council member.

The book is on sale for \$19.95 if purchased at the store or for \$25 which includes shipping and handling if shipped from the store. Credit card orders may be made by calling during store hours at (910) 891-5019.

Beloved Museum Volunteer Extraordinaire Passes

Gerald Mann, the patriarch of museum volunteers at Averasboro, recently claimed his heavenly reward. His family designated memorial gifts for Gerald to be used for expansion of the museum store. Contributions have exceeded two thousand dollars and are still coming.

Gerald gave as much energy as his health would allow to the museum in his latter years. What a wonderful legacy he left to all who wish to aspire to be like Gerald, to preserve and tell of the past to future generations. What an amazing gift his life was to the Averasboro Battlefield

Commission and, even in death he continues to give. His memory and his legacy will be cherished for years to come by all those who were fortunate enough to know him.

C. C. Livingston reports that museum store expansion will soon begin.

William Turner Smith House Open-House April 2 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Alexander Smith came to the Averasboro area prior to the Revolution from Smithfield, N.C. to buy the ferry that crossed the Cape Fear where Little River flows into the Cape Fear. The Smith family operated a ferry that crossed the Neuse River in Smithfield. **Alexander** married **Elizabeth Whitfield** and they had one son named **John**. After Alexander's death his widow, **Elizabeth**, married **Farquhard Campbell** (as his second wife). He was a wealthy landowner. **Alexander** and **Elizabeth's** son **John** married **Farquhard's** daughter **Isabella** (his step sister). **Farquhard's** first wife was **Isabella McAllister**, sister to **Col. Alexander McAllister** of Revolutionary War fame who is buried at **Old Bluff Presbyterian Church**. In 1792, **John and Isabella** built the plantation house known as **OAK GROVE**.



At **John's** death, in addition to the ferry, he owned approximately eight thousand acres of land, numerous slaves, a gristmill, blacksmith shop and saw mill (located at what is now **Rhodes Pond**). **John and Isabella** had four sons, **Farquhard Campbell, John Campbell, William Turner**, and **James Campbell** (a medical doctor in Fayetteville). **John Campbell** inherited **OAK GROVE**; **Lebanon** was built around **1825** for **Farquhard** and this house around **1835** for son **William Turner**.

William married **Mary Campbell**, the daughter of **James Campbell**. **William Turner** and **Mary** had four daughters and two sons. The sons were **Walter Jones** and **James Lawrence**. Both sons served in the Civil War. **Farquhard** had eight sons who served and **James Campbell** three. **James Campbell's** son **Robert** was killed in action. Others were wounded and captured. **William Turner**, an **1832** graduate of **UNC**, died in **1854**. At the time of the **Battle of Averasboro**, **William's** house was occupied by his widow and at least three of her four daughters. The house was used as a Union hospital. The piano was used as an operating table. Son **Walter Jones** inherited the **William Smith** house. He sold it to **Jerome Lynch** who operated a sawmill on the property. In the 1940's, the **Lynch** family sold the property to the **West** family.

The **Averasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc.** purchased the house and three acres of land from **Martha and Betsy West**, daughters of **Ross West**, in January of 2005. The acreage extends to Highway 82. It was purchased with funds obtained from the **Transportation Enhancement Act** (federal funds administered by the **State Department of Transportation**). Recipients of these funds must raise a match of 20%. Each time a bill is paid with DOT funds, **20%** must be by local funds. The first phase of the three phase funding is **\$529,464 TOTAL - \$423,571 Federal - \$105,893 Local**.

The house will be developed as a transportation museum. Primary emphasis will be on road (including Indian trails) and river transportation. Since the house served during the battle as a Union hospital one room will depict battlefield medical services available at that time. Materials and artifacts are now being collected for display. **The Open House on April 2** will "kick off" our drive to raise matching funds for the second and third phases of another Transportation Enhancement funding. This is to restore the house to its **19th century** outward appearance.

New Sign Acknowledges Sustaining Members

A new addition was recently placed at the Averasboro Battlefield Museum. This addition, created and contributed by **Carl and Sandra Underwood**, is in the form of a Sustaining Member sign. In addition to the **Underwoods**, the Averasboro Battlefield Commission gratefully appreciates these renewable sustaining members. To be included on the board, an individual, organization, or business must contribute on an annual basis at least \$500 for the Averasboro Battlefield Museum operations and related activities. The donors who have been placed on the sign thus far are: **Captain Max J. Sanchez of Lutz, Florida**, **Dunn businesses, W. & L. Consultants, Plainview Signs & Graphics, First Federal Bank, RBC Centura Bank, Oscar N. Harris C. P. A., Dunn-Benson Ford, Snipes Insurance Service, Inc., New Century Bank, and Wachovia Bank of Fayetteville**. Ongoing corporate, organizational, and individual sponsorships are encouraged.



Generous Donors Contribute Materials for New Picnic Shelter



During the summer, a fabulous group of volunteers gave freely of their time and skills to complete two projects which have greatly enhanced the battlefield once alive with Union and Rebel soldiers. These projects are in the form of a new picnic shelter addition and a bridge necessary to traverse the drainage ditch running beside and behind the museum. The picnic shelter was a project begun by **William Creel**, who installed the concrete floor, as an **Eagle Scout** project. The picnic shelter materials were generously supplied by several donors. The donors were: **Benson Building Supply of Dunn, Butler's Electric Supply of Fayetteville, Inc., Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc., of Fayetteville, Highland Lumber Company, Inc. of Fayetteville, Home Building Center, Inc., of Dunn, Hubbard Pipe and Supply Company, Inc of Fayetteville, Lowes of Erwin, Lowes of**

Fayetteville, Starr Electrical Company, Inc. of Fayetteville and Union Corrugating Company. Inc. of Fayetteville.

The labor for not only the picnic shelter, but also for the bridge, was supplied by a host of volunteers. The list included the following: **James Beasley, John Beasley, Ricky Beasley, Ron Bryant, Bill Dowd, Ken Eason, Dan Fountain, Leslie Hardison, Phil Harrison, Bruce Johnson, Jerry Lee, C. C. Livingston, Dwight Lovick, John Page, Jr., John Page, Sr., Mark Phillips, James Raynor, and Ed Wrench.**

The much needed addition of the Picnic Shelter will prove very beneficial when hosting groups on tours to the battlefield and the museum. It will be especially useful to groups of students, who generally bring bag lunches with them on tours to the museum and battlefield. The Averagesboro Battlefield Commission is indebted to and would like to thank all donors and laborers for their generosity of resources, time, and skills. Many persons will benefit from your generosity.

Averagesboro Bridge Builders Best Since Sherman's Army



Pictured at left is the bridge that was built using donated materials from several sources. Poles were contributed by **Progress Energy** and **Fulcher's Electric of Fayetteville**. Lumber was contributed by **Highland Lumber Company of Fayetteville**. One can readily see from the picture, that the task of building the bridge was not an insignificant one. Especially handling large poles and pieces of lumber have to be carefully and skillfully put into place in the engineering design of the bridge. Smith and Sokolosky in their new book on Sherman's March through Fayetteville and Averagesboro (see feature article on front page) shed light on the quality of the engineering corps that Sherman assembled in his army. As evidenced by their workmanship, no doubt the bridge builders at Averagesboro would compete very well with Sherman's finest. The completed bridge was used for the first time during the annual Ghost Walk Tours and Living History Event in October, 2005.

The **Ghost Walk Tours and Living History Event** in October was reported as the best one yet.

(Photo above was taken of the work in progress on the now completed bridge.

It shows the sturdiness of the bridge and the size of the materials the bridge builders "handled" to construct the bridge.)

“Preserving the Past for the Future”

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Colonel Thomas J. Purdie Uniform to Return to Averasboro



Colonel Thomas J. Purdie uniform is displayed in the case at the Fort Fisher Museum where over 500,000 visitors had an opportunity to see it in 2005. At the right looking at the display is the Averasboro Battlefield Commission President, Mac Williams.



North Carolina

A Civil War uniform, saber, canteen and valise that belonged to **Capt. Thomas Purdie**, who was stationed at Fort Fisher early in the war, was exhibited for the 140th anniversary observance at the Fort Fisher museum during 2005. The uniform and effects were on loan from the Averasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc. **Captain Thomas J. Purdie** was posted at Fort Fisher at the beginning of the war. **Captain (later Colonel) Purdie** later fought in **General Lee's** Army of Northern Virginia in many of the famous battles of the war. Colonel Purdie was killed in action during the battle of Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863. *Interesting comments were found on the internet by the editor of this newsletter regarding Colonel Purdie and the Averasboro Museum. The comments are shared in the next column.*

(Left photo, NC Civil War Era Flag)

“A relatively small museum and till recently almost unknown to folks from outside North Carolina has an interesting exhibit of **Col. Thomas James Purdie**. The museum was bequeathed several items from the family collection which include a uniform worn by **Purdie** when he was a junior officer. Rather than go about retelling more about the **Averasboro Museum**, following is a link on the uniform and from that one can link into additional information of the museum itself. If you can visit it, I believe most will find this as a fine asset to the Civil War scholar and anyone else who has an interest in the people and events of that time.”

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The uniform will be returned to the Averasboro Museum at the end of February.