

The Averagesboro Advocate

Averagesboro Civil War Battlefield Newsletter October, 2009

UPCOMING 2009 EVENTS

1. Thursday
November 5

**Annual Bob Bryan/
Averagesboro Battlefield
Golf Tournament**

2. December 4-6
**FULL-SIZED
HUNLEY REPLICA**

3. December 4-6
**"A CIVIL WAR
CHRISTMAS" &
Living History"**

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WW I Encampment Picks Up Steam at Averagesboro Battlefield



**Dr. Jay Gillispie Instructs
Spectators on Facts of the US
Involvement in WW I.**

The **Third Annual World War I Encampment** held at the Averagesboro Battlefield Museum on Saturday, September 26, picked up steam and had the highest spectator participation of any of the three. Many of the younger generation, who might have very little knowledge of the US involvement in World War I, came out to gain more awareness and discuss with the WW I scholars present and to **"touch and feel"** some of the artifacts the historians brought with them. Just as fine wine gets better with age, so has the WWI special event held at the Averagesboro Battlefield Museum. Young persons from area schools including the colleges & universities were in attendance.

The Averagesboro Battlefield Commission remains committed to making all visitors to the Averagesboro Battlefield aware of the Civil War Battle of Averagesboro and its history. The Commission also has a goal of informing the public about history in general as it pertains to North Carolina and in particular the military history. This Annual World War I Encampment is another attempt by the Commission to further keep the public who will visit the Averagesboro Battlefield informed regarding history. As it has been said by many over the years, a country that does learn from and pay attention to the history of its people is doomed to repeat some of the same mistakes as those people of the past.

*Pictured at right are a few of the visitors who came to the **WW I Encampment** throughout the day. Though the weather was a bit on the drizzly side, the history-interested traffic of people was steady all day. C. C. Livingston, Director of Operations for the Averagesboro Battlefield Museum, reported that "this was our best World War I Encampment yet."*



TOWN OF AVERASBORO POSTMASTERS FULFILLED A VITAL FUNCTION IN DAYS WHEN AVERASBORO WAS A TOWN

With a little research, the editor was able to find some information about the Post Office and who the postmasters were in the Town of Averasboro. The information is posted below.

Harnett County was a part of Cumberland County until 1855. Historical research has determined that the following persons were postmasters for the **Averasboro, NC**, post office:

Averysborough, Averysboro, Averasboro

Charles Stewart Canaway 10-1-1794
Discontinued 8-11-1798
Gerald Banks 2-22-1799
Robert Draughan 4-1-1812
Jonathan Smith 4-1-1813
David Mitchel 4-15-1813
Robert H. Draughan 8-13-1814
James P. Wilson 10-1-1815
William Smith 12-4-1818
Gerard Johnson 12-21-1833
James Colville 12-8-1834
Neill S. Stewart 4-13-1842
Archibald S. McNeill 11-2-1846

Name changed to **McNeill's Ferry** 11-10-1852

Avery Store

(Formerly in Cumberland County)

Name changed to **Averysborough**, 1858

Neill Stewart, 4-4-1855

Neill S. Stewart, 4-4-1858
Thomas Colville, 11-23-1866
Robert Norris, 4-9-1867
Neill S. Stewart, 11-10-1874
Ellen W. Stewart, 12-16-1878
Neill S. Stewart, 11-28-1883
Neill S. Stewart, 7-14-1884
Edward L. Parker, 6-25-1889
Fistus A. Parker, 8-10-1893
Maggie D. Parker, 1-21-1899
Harrison V. Moulton, 8-28-1901

Name changed to **Averasboro**, 1884

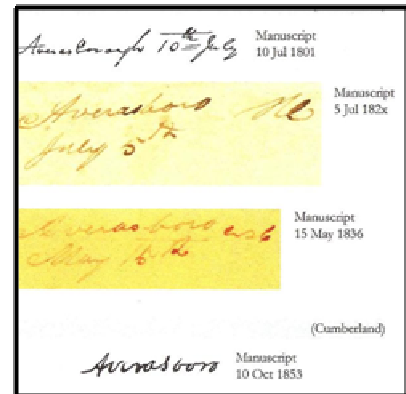
Discontinued, papers to **Dunn**, 12-2-1903



Picture above from the U. S. Postal Museum (The way the mail used to be delivered)



Mail slots in Averasboro Post Office were probably similar to above picture.



Hand cancellation examples from the Averasboro Post Office (Manuscript)



GOLD STAR AWARD FOR OCTOBER

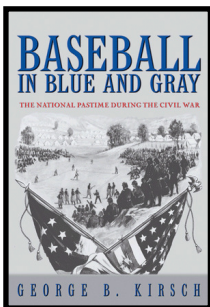
Our Gold Star Award for the Month of October goes to Curtis Parker. Curtis is the owner of Parker Tech Group and voluntarily maintains the ABCI web site, www.averasboro.com, for the Averasboro Battlefield Commission. Many persons visiting the Averasboro Battlefield Museum mention that they have been on our web page and have become familiar with what the Averasboro Battlefield Commission is trying to do in preservation and telling all those who will listen about the Battle of Averasboro. Curtis is also a member of the Averasboro Advisory Council and is active as a Museum Volunteer. Curtis Parker, thanks for all you to do to further the causes and mission of the Averasboro Battlefield Commission. We Salute You as our Gold Star Recipient for the Month of October, 2009.



**BOB BRYAN/AVERASBORO
(GET YOUR FOURSOME READY!)
BATTLEFIELD GOLF TOURNAMENT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009**



WHAT IT WAS, WAS BASEBALL!



Many persons give credit to **Abner Doubleday** for inventing the rules for the modern game of baseball. **But did he?** According to researcher and author **Michael Aubrect**, baseball was played by both Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War. **Private Alpheris B. Parker** of the **10th Massachusetts** wrote, "The parade ground has been a busy place for the past week or so, ball-playing having become a mania in camp. Officer and men forget for a time, the differences in rank and indulge in the invigorating sport with a schoolboy's ardor." Another **Private** writing home from **Virginia** wrote, "It is astonishing how indifferent a person can become to danger. The report of musketry is heard but a very little distance from us—yet over there on the other side of the road most of our company, playing bat ball and perhaps in less than half an hour, they may be called to play a Ball game of a more serious nature."

Union Major General Abner Doubleday, Class of 1942, West Point, (along with **A. P. Stewart, D.H. Hill, Earl Van Dorn, and James Longstreet**) aimed the first Union guns in response to the Confederate bombardment at Charleston, SC, that initiated the war. **Doubleday** apparently never claimed to have drawn up the first diamond and the rules for baseball, but such was communicated by an elderly Civil War veteran, **Abner Graves**, who served under **Doubleday**. The **City of Cooperstown, NY**, officially dedicated **Doubleday Field** to General Doubleday in 1920, as the official birthplace of organized baseball. Today, all baseball fans, know **Cooperstown, NY**, as the **Home of the Baseball Hall of Fame**.

Author **George B. Kirsch** has written a book about the **Baseball In Blue and Gray**. (pictured above)

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“Preserving the past for the future”

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.AVERASBORO.COM



STAMP

DID YOU KNOW...

1. That two grants have been filed in hopes of securing additional funding to complete the Transportation Museum for the William T. Smith House Project?
2. That the Bob Bryan/Averasboro Battlefield Golf Tournament is on GO for Thursday, November 5?
3. That Wiley Pope, Billy Ray Godwin, and Joey Tart are feverishly working to have an outstanding Bob Bryan/Averasboro Battlefield Golf Tournament?
4. That Dr. Jay Gillispie and friends had an outstanding World War I Encampment, on Saturday, September 26? (The best attended yet according to C. C. Livingston.)
5. That C. C. Livingston reports that many persons helped as volunteers with the World War I Encampment? (ABCI sincerely thanks each and every one. Without your involvement such events could not happen.)
6. That W. S. Jackson and Carolyn Beasley and others will depict a Civil War Christmas and Living History at the Averasboro Battlefield Museum on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 4-December 6?
7. That a special thanks goes to those who supported the Eagle Scout Project to enhance the parking lot at the Averasboro Battlefield Museum? Corey Bax, the potential Eagle Scout who is carrying out the project, will begin work Saturday, October 3.
8. That local school groups are beginning to make reservations to visit the Hunley Replica in December?
9. That thanks to the Grant from Southriver EMC, the cabin at the Chicora Cemetery has been shored up and is better prepared to meet the demands of weather.
10. That the Kiosk at the Chicora Cemetery is nearing completion and will soon be operational?