

# The Averagesboro Advocate

Averagesboro Battlefield Commission, Inc. April, 2008 Volume 4, Issue 3

**Averagesboro Civil War  
Battlefield Newsletter**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

•Saturday, June 7, 2008

Annual Yard Sale

•Wednesday, September 24,  
2008, Third Annual

•Rain Date September 30

Bob Bryan/Averagesboro  
Battlefield Golf Tournament

## FIBER FESTIVAL DRAWS ≈1500 TO EVENT



Carolyn Beasley of Heelside Farms  
Explains Fiber Processes & Products

Pictured left is **Carolyn Beasley** at her exhibit for Heelside Farms during the Averagesboro Fiber Arts Festival on April 19, 2008. Thanks to **Carolyn & Ricky Beasley** and their boys for making the 2nd Annual Averagesboro Fiber Arts Festival a success. Many new friends, not familiar with the Averagesboro Battlefield are drawn to it by our hosting the fiber festival. One first-time visitor, 87 years young, was heard to say excitedly, **“I have never seen an alpaca animal, until today.”**

Pictured right is one of **Donald Thomas’** three border collies he brought with him to the annual Averagesboro Fiber Arts Festival. **Thomas**, a very patriotic, retired former Cumberland County chemistry teacher, had given the command for the dog to “herd” the sheep around the U. S. Flag. As you can see, the border collie heeds **Thomas’** every command. The spectators found the dogs herding sheep to be one of the most enjoyable events.



Border Collie Rallying Sheep around  
the U. S. Flag Pole

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**Nathan Pope** and **The Master’s Touch** singing group, pictured left above, from right here in Harnett County also was featured at the Averagesboro Fiber Arts Festival. The two young ladies singing with Nathan are his daughters. **Nathan** works with **Weeks’ Farms** and rides by the Museum just about every day while he is working tending the nearby crops.



Four Heart Harmony pictured above, from  
nearby Sanford, was one of the featured  
Southern Gospel Groups at the Fiber Festival.



Pictured to the left is the group known as the “Lyle Bien Staff Ride” which recently visited the Aversasboro Battlefield. The group was hosted by our own **Jack Wells**, pictured with the group in front on one knee. **Jack**, in leading their tour, explained the Battle of Aversasboro, including the history of the battle and the various strategies used by the generals who were the main commanders in the battle.

The group of 19 pictured above on April 23, 2008, included **General Ken Bowra**. The **Battle of Aversasboro** held on March 15 & 16, 1865, probably had as many generals at the battle as any battle up until that time, when it was held. A number of the generals are not frequently mentioned as they were not prominent players in the battle strategy. It was very nice to have another general visit on the battlefield grounds 143 years after the **Battle of Aversasboro**. A visitor in the group was heard to say, “I love visiting these small, private museums. This is the way a museum ought to be run for the public.”



**APRIL GOLD STAR AWARDS,  
KENNY EARL EASON, NINA AND  
MICKEY HOLLINGSWORTH**

Pictured right, slightly relaxing, are **Kenny Earl Eason, Mickey and Nina Hollingsworth**, all real workhorses on many Aversasboro projects, but especially in preparing for and cleaning up after the Aversasboro Fiber Arts Festival.



It has been said in an old African proverb, “It takes a whole village to raise a child.” Most of our readers who have had children would readily agree with this old saying having received the benefits of many persons helping to raise their own children. So, too, it is with operating and maintaining a historic battlefield with an all-volunteer army for a labor force. It does take many, many persons to keep the doors open to the **Aversasboro Battlefield Museum** and to maintain the many facets of the operation which are under the control of the **Aversasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc.** Some volunteers go above and beyond the call of duty. Three such April volunteers are **Kenny Earl Eason, Nina and Mickey Hollingsworth**. They demonstrated their labors again during the recent **Aversasboro Fiber Arts Festival**. These three spent many hours setting up and taking down the necessary physical apparatus needed for the Fiber Festival to become a success. For their well-demonstrated love and labor in “preserving the past for the future” at the Aversasboro Battlefield, the **Aversasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc.** is proud to salute **Kenny Earl Eason, Nina Hollingsworth, and Mickey Hollingsworth** as our **Gold Star Awards for April, 2008**.



**Mac Williams, left, President of the Averasboro Battlefield Commission is pictured with Joe Sanford & his wife, Joyce, Joe's sister Gretna Van Fleet & her husband Dale, & Patty Ryan on the steps of the W.T. Smith House. Piano is pictured at right.**



### AVERASBORO BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION RECEIVES DONATION OF PIANO

One never knows where the power of a hunt for an ancestor's historical records will lead once the hunt has begun! Such a hunt was brought to fruition recently with a generous donation to the Averasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc. (ABCI) Joe Sanford from **Hillsdale, Michigan**, had for a number of years wondered about circumstances involving his great-grandfather, **William Henry Sanford**, who was an infantry soldier who fought in the Civil War for the Union army, and who was severely wounded in the Battle of Averasboro, losing a leg. Sanford had bits and pieces of information regarding his great-grandfather, some information from his father and grandfather, but never any real, identifiable information which could pinpoint the circumstances of his great-grandfather's injury at this battle called the Battle of Averasboro. As fate would have it, Sanford visited the Averasboro Battlefield Museum a couple of years ago, and lo and behold, he picked up a book entitled "Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro" and there on page **197**, he found a notation mentioning his great-grandfather. Joe at that point had a passion to help the all-volunteer group of the Averasboro Battlefield Commission with their mission of preserving history for future generations in a significant way.

### RICK ROTH MAKES GENEROUS DONATION

The **William T. Smith House** was used as a field hospital during the Battle of Averasboro for the Union army, and history states that General Sherman's troops used the square-shaped piano as an operating table to treat Union soldiers who had been injured in the battle. The ABCI recently purchased the William T. Smith house and is currently working to restore it to its condition at the time of the battle, including furnishings, and is making it into a Transportation Museum.

When Sanford returned to his home community, he remembered that his boss, **Rick Roth**, owned a piano similar to the one described in the book. HE thought he would take a chance and ask his boss what he planned to do with the piano. His boss said that he was selling the house, and when the house was sold he would have to determine where the piano goes. After Sanford explained to Roth the significance of a similar piano to treat the injured in the Battle of Averasboro, he asked Roth if he would consider donating the piano to a small group of volunteers in North Carolina who were trying to preserve history for future generations, particularly Civil War history of the Battle of Averasboro. Roth enthusiastically agreed to make the donation to the Averasboro Battlefield Commission.

Though the probable opening date of the Transportation Museum is at least two years in the future, Sanford wished to bring the piano down to the ABCI now

### SANFORD PLAYS THE DONATED PIANO IN NC

On Friday, April 4, Mr. Sanford completed his journey by bringing the piano from Michigan to North Carolina. The piano is of unique design, rectangular in shape, manufactured over 150 years ago by the manufacturer, Mathushek, since gone out of business. The unusual square shape and height obviously, convinced General Sherman's surgical team to use the piano as an operating table. The piano would be a very nice piece of furniture, even if it could not sound a note, but Sanford, who is an accomplished pianist, demonstrated the magnificence of it as a musical instrument by playing it, once the piano was located in its temporary home, Friday, April 4, 2008. The value of the piano can not be exactly placed (the value of such an antique is determined by the price a purchaser is willing to pay for it), but a similar one found advertised on *e-bay* was valued at \$6,500.

### ABCI PRESIDENT MAC WILLIAMS ASKS LOCAL HISTORY LOVERS TO DEMONSTRATE GENEROSITY

**Mac Williams**, president of the ABCI, said of the generous donation by Rick Roth and the in-kind donation of Joe Sanford in making the long trek from Michigan to North Carolina with it, "The power of this generous donation and the transportation of it by Joe Sanford are overwhelming. Their contributions are a fine example for our local friends and supporters of the Averasboro Battlefield. May our local friends seek ways to help us also. It is an expensive undertaking to do what we do. Remember, our volunteers love history and the preservation of it for future generations. Our motto is 'preserving the past for the future.'"

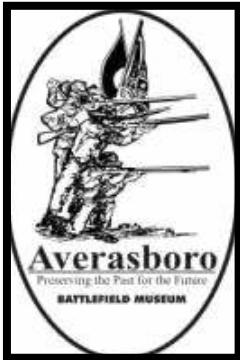
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*"Preserving the past for the future"*

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.AVERASBORO.COM](http://WWW.AVERASBORO.COM)

STAMP



### ***DID YOU KNOW...***

1. Gwen Edwards is writing a grant to try to get funds for an irrigation system at Chicora Cemetery?
2. Our annual yard sale is coming up Saturday, June 7, 2008?
3. That the Averasboro Battlefield Commission depends upon YOU for the yard sale items?
4. That we are still seeking new subscribers to Our State Magazine?
5. That the Bob Bryan/Averasboro Battlefield Golf tournament is September 24?
6. That a custom, specially designed Averasboro Battlefield knife is in the making?



**PHOTOS ABOVE FROM PAST YARD SALES**