Jarrell documents county’s troops

♦ In 1861, Randolph County men mustered into Company M of the 22nd North Carolina Regiment, and marched north.

Calling themselves the Randolph Hornets, they fought at places like Gettysburg and Petersburg. The handful remaining at the end of the war were surrendered with the rest of Robert E. Lee’s army at Appomattox.

Now, Coleridge researcher Wallace (Wally) Jarrell has published their story in The Randolph Hornets in the Civil War: A History and Roster of Company M, 22nd North Carolina Regiment. Jarrell will talk about his exhaustive work during a Friends of the Library program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 at the Asheboro Public Library.

The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

A re-enactor in the reconstituted Company M, Jarrell spent six years gathering facts for the book, and two years of serious research and writing. The result is a detailed (continued on page 3)

Cougar Jazz Band to perform here

♦ Championing the cause of jazz, the Southwestern Randolph Middle School Cougar Jazz Band will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, at the Asheboro library.

Formed last December by band director Bernie Hall, the 25-member ensemble will play jazz, Latin, Afro-Cuban and pop/rock tunes. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

Since its inception, the band has appeared at various school events, and in May will also entertain at the Carowinds Band Festival and Thomasville’s Eastside Jazzfest.

Friends to hold record sale

Miss the days of 78s and 45s? Prefer life at 33-1/3 rpm? The Friends of the Library will sell upwards of 3,000 vinyl records from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 15. The sale will take place inside the Asheboro Public Library and the public is invited. The albums and singles range in style from classical and opera to country, jazz, folk, rock and pop. Treasures are waiting to be discovered at 50 cents per record — come and see what you can find!
Friends get together in Liberty

The Liberty Public Library is one of the busiest in the Randolph County seven-library system, and like every public library, has its own character and uniqueness.

It is truly the center of the community. This is due partly to the location as the library is part of the Liberty Town Hall complex that houses city offices and a courtroom that was used for years for district court. The 1966 library building is connected to town hall via a hallway that can be secured after hours. This concept of housing several government agencies under one roof has worked well for many years.

Liberty is located in the extreme northeast corner of this very large county and obviously serves that segment of the county plus citizens of neighboring counties and neighborhoods. And serving the citizens is what the staff there does so well. The library has a history of staff being members of the community who tend to stay for many years. Their enthusiasm never seems to wane!

This enthusiasm is echoed by a community that uses and obviously enjoys their library. Recently, the library sponsored an event featuring the Eastern Randolph High School Jazz Ensemble. It was held in the old courtroom. Patrons filled the courtroom, the hallway to the courtroom, and the library. This same type of response is seen every year for the Summer Reading Program for children. Audiences of over 200 people are common. The 95 degree July heat does not deter them at all!

This great support and use of the library by its community has led to the idea: why not establish a Liberty Friends of the Library? A Liberty Friends group would not be in competition with the Randolph Friends; indeed, they could easily cooperate and enhance each other tremendously.

A Liberty Friends group could help organize and support even more of the programs and activities that the people of the area obviously enjoy so much. A movement is now underway to see if the interest for a Liberty Friends of the Library is great enough to establish an organization. The staff would like to pursue this idea and interest.

This will, of course, not be an overnight process. Months of groundwork will be required to determine if interest is great enough to establish an organization. For many cases such as this, just a few dedicated and motivated individuals make the difference.

But it is an idea whose time has come. It is a great idea, and we hope it grows to become the Friends of the Liberty Public Library.
Immersed!

Galbreath returns from Costa Rica

For three weeks in March, Naomi Galbreath spoke only Spanish.

Living with a family in Monteverde, Costa Rica, the Archdale library manager immersed herself in the language, but learned a lot about the culture as well.

Galbreath studied Spanish for about a year, but wanted to be able to “think in Spanish,” to speak without having to translate mentally first. So she found an immersion program and signed up.

“And I learned a lot of Spanish,” she says. Each day consisted of grammar study and conversation, then after lunch two hours of follow-up.

“Then I would take a walk to clear my head and move a little. Then homework, dinner, homework,” she says.

She also spent time exploring on her own, her “favorite sport in places unknown.” Those places unknown included the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve — a high altitude rain forest home to hundreds of animal species, thousands of plant species and tens of thousands of insect species.

Monteverde is an international and Costa Rican community established by Quakers in the 1940s. Locals are active in preserving the country’s environment; they run an experimental dairy farm and sponsor a noted music festival.

“I loved the environmental emphasis, the low-tech life-style they promote,” Galbreath says.

Now back home, she hopes to integrate Spanish into library activities. Prior to her trip, she started Club Bilingue, a Spanish conversation group.

“Lots of people want to improve their Spanish skills. And many Latinos are coming just to enjoy the conversation,” she says.

The interest may lead to Spanish storytimes, an Internet introduction class in Spanish and perhaps an English conversation group for Spanish-speaking moms who want to practice English skills.

Jarrell’s book documents troops

Jarrell’s book documents troops (continued from page 1) narrative of the company’s experiences from 1861 to 1865 and as much personal history of each soldier as Jarrell could dig up.

“I’ve been involved in genealogy since 1978, so I wanted to learn about the histories of the men, to look more at the men individually,” Jarrell says.

The book also includes a compilation of articles written by a veteran of the company in 1914 for the Randolph Tribune, a section about life on the Randolph County home front and a history of the Hornets’ flag, which was captured early on and returned to Randolph County in the 1960s.

A Montgomery county native, Jarrell has lived in Randolph County for over 30 years. He has written several articles for area newspapers, and co-authored a church history book in 1982.

He also has written a history of the Snow and Evans families of Surry and Randolph counties, and was a committee member and writer for two volumes of The Heritage of Randolph County.

Jarrell’s wife Sandy is a staff member at the Ramseur Public Library.

Clyde Edgerton’s first novel Raney will be the focus of this year’s community reading program, which begins on June 1.

Organized by the Friends of the Library, the Randolph Arts Guild and local book clubs, Randolph Reads is moving into its second year. The program will feature discussion groups, a play and more. Look for more details in next month’s newsletter.
Friends of the Randolph Public Library

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