



Laffitte in Lincolnton?

Mother/daughter author duo trace NC history of notorious pirate

♣ Did the colorful New Orleans pirate Jean Laffitte fake his death in battle and live out his life in Lincolnton, North Carolina?

Mother/daughter author duo Beth Yarborough and Dr. Ashley Oliphant will present their evidence as they discuss their book *Jean Laffitte Revealed: Unraveling One of America's Longest-Running Mysteries* at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 17, at the Asheboro library.

The talk is free and the public is invited.



Jean Laffitte

Laffitte and his brother Pierre, smugglers and pirates, roamed the Gulf of Mexico in the early 1800s. During the War of 1812, Laffitte famously accepted a pardon in return for supporting U.S. Gen. Andrew Jackson against the British in the battle of New Orleans.

Laffitte was believed to have died of wounds in 1823 following a battle with Spanish ships off Honduras. But rumor said that he survived, and owing to his connection with a Lincolnton family, resided there under the name



Beth Yarborough and Dr. Ashley Oliphant

Lorenzo Ferrer until his death in 1875.

In their book, published in 2015 by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press, Oliphant and Yarborough trace Laffitte through his rise to power as a privateer, his involvement in the war, his flight to Texas, and his eventual disappearance in the waters of the Caribbean.

With stunning revelations, the book picks up a trail to Lincolnton that no one knew existed.

The authors will take the audience on their journey to discover Laffitte's fate, and talk about how researchers use genealogical methods to solve mysteries.

Oliphant is a retired English professor whose academic work focused on Ernest Hemingway. A Lincoln County resident, she is author of six books, including *Shark Tooth Hunting on the North Carolina Coast*.

Yarborough is an author, artist and photographer whose depictions of historic homes across the South are featured on her website, Southern Voices, and in an extensive collection of published calendars and fine art prints. Her licensed artwork has reached millions of consumers worldwide through major retailers such as Walmart, Target, Lowes, Home Depot and Hobby Lobby.

Navigators collect NCACC award

The Community Navigators pick up their North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Civic Excellence in Innovation Award at the NCACC annual conference on August 24 in Raleigh. The award, sponsored by Civic Federal Credit Union, is one of ten presented annually to programs around the state that demonstrate innovative solutions and cost/resources savings for counties. Pictured: Randolph County Board of Commissioners Chairman Darrell Frye, Library Director Ross Holt, Navigator Dana Nance, Navigator Angi Polito, Commissioner Hope Haywood, Randolph County Strategic Programs Coordinator Leia Gearhart and Commissioner David Allen.



Archdale

336-431-3811
Fax 336-431-4619
10433 S. Main St.
Mon-Thur 9-8;
Fri 9-6; Sat 9-1

Asheboro

336-318-6800
Fax 336-318-6823
201 Worth St.
Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
Mon-Fri 9-12:30; 1:30-5:30
Sat 9-12:30

Franklinville

336-685-3100
111 Sumner Place
Mon-Thur 10-6; Sun 1-5

Liberty

336-622-4605
Fax 336-622-2665
239 S. Fayetteville St.
Mon-Tues 9-7
Wed-Fri 9-5
Sat 9-3

Ramseur

336-824-2232
Fax 336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-6
Sat 9-1

Randleman

336-498-3141
Fax 336-498-1139
142 W. Academy St.
Mon-Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Seagrove

336-873-7521
530 Old Plank Rd.
Tues-Fri 10-6; Sat 11-3

Extension Service

336-318-6816 or 336-318-6817; Mon-Fri 9-5

*from
the
director*

Ross A. Holt



Lytles in black and white

♣ **A unique family reunion this month is shedding light on an important part of Randolph County history.**

On Saturday, September 16, over 100 members of the Lytle family from around the county are gathering at Marlboro Friends Church.

The Lytle cousins attending the reunion are both black and white. They are the descendants of Thomas Lytle, a Scotch-Irish immigrant who settled in Randolph County, and a black woman, name unknown, he enslaved.

By 1779, Lytle owned a 600-acre plantation on Caraway Creek that over time enslaved at least 48 people. Among them were four of Lytle's own sons and two of his daughters.

Lytle died in 1794. In his will, he emancipated his children and sought to divide his land equally among them.

A son, Frank, was freed in 1795. The others — Esther, Joe, Sam, Jack and Pink — gained their freedom in 1816 following the death of Lytle's wife Catherine.

By law, however, the children of Esther and Pink who were born before their mothers' emancipation remained enslaved.

The Lytle estate was managed by executors until a lawsuit was filed by a grandson of Lytle's brother Henry. As a result of the suit, on November 2, 1829, 38 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Esther and Pink were sold.

It was the largest single sale of enslaved people in Randolph County history.

As the families of Thomas Lytle's

children grew through the generations, they followed different paths. Some remained in Randolph County, but most migrated to more hospitable parts of the country, such as Indiana or New York.

Some came to identify as white, others as black. Now, Lytles can be found all over the country.

Descendant Rik Vigeland of Oregon has researched the family for over 40 years, and made the initial connection to the enslaved children of Thomas Lytle. Tom Brown of Seattle has transcribed hundreds of pages of court records documenting the 1829 sale.

Descendants of Thomas Lytle's brother Henry also will attend the reunion. "White Lytles whose ancestors were instrumental in selling their Black cousins, and White Lytles whose ancestors obscured or denied their Black roots are now acknowledging their Black cousins as family," Brown says.

"African American Lytles are finding complex stories of previously forgotten roots in slavery and pre-Civil War emancipation."

In recognition of support provided in their research by the Randolph Room and genealogy specialist Kendra Lyons, and inspired by the Randolph County NAACP's Juneteenth display at the Historic Courthouse, the family has donated to the library a 6' tall by 3' wide banner showing the names of the 48 people known to have been enslaved by the Thomas Lytle.

The banner is available for checkout to individuals and groups promoting local history and genealogy.

Dig up fossils with educator from NC Natural Science museum

♣ Uncover the secrets of Dueling Dinosaurs T. Rex and Triceratops!

Using real fossils, replica specimens and an interactive fossil dig, return to the past as an educator from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science presents "Fossils and Prehistoric Life" at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October

12, at the Asheboro library.

During the activities, learn all about the museum's Dueling Dinosaurs exhibit coming up in 2024.

The programs, best for ages 8 and up, are free and the public is invited, but space is limited. Call 336-318-6804 to sign up, or visit the Children's Room. Please indicate which time you wish to attend.

Asheboro features children's author ...and more activities around the county

♣ Hear local children's author Averie Ridge Castaneda read her book *The Compulsion Cloud* in a special storytime at 6 p.m. Thursday, October 5, at the Asheboro library.

Castaneda is a child/adolescent therapist. Her book, geared for ages 5-9, addresses overcoming Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and recovering from a "bully cloud" that causes anxiety.

Ask Castaneda questions and join in a mindfulness activity that supports mental health and wellness.

Ramseur reading challenge

The Ramseur library is launching an Adult Reading Challenge during the month of October. For each book you read, pick up a bookmark and fill it out with the title, three short lines on why you liked the book, and your name and contact information. Return the bookmark to the library; three winners whose bookmarks are drawn will receive a \$25 Carli C's IGA grocery store gift card courtesy of Carli C's.

Tutor.com in the TeenZone

Join Dave, the Teen Librarian, as he provides an overview of Tutor.com, the library's new live, one-to-one, free online

tutoring service, 4 p.m. Monday, October 23, at the Asheboro library.

Halloween!

Wear your costumes for a **Spooky Halloween Bash** at the Asheboro library, 4 p.m. Friday, October 27. The event will feature a trick-or-treat parade around the library, and a Halloween scavenger hunt in which you can solve riddles and play games to win terrific treats. Fun for the family!

Teens in Asheboro can get tips from **Special FX Artist Jennifer McCollum** on designing scary Halloween make-up, at 4 p.m. Monday, October 16. Catch a **Halloween Movie** at 4 p.m. Monday, October 30. Wear your costume and watch a Halloween movie of your choice.

The Liberty library will be part of **Trunk or Treat**, 1 p.m. Saturday, October 28, at Freedom Park, 500 Hamilton Drive, hosted by Liberty Parks and Recreation. The library will offer free treats and books; other local agencies and organizations will participate.

Get started on Halloween early at Liberty's **Free Movie Night**, 6 p.m. Friday, October 13, for a screening of Disney's *Haunted Mansion*. Wear your costume and arrive between 5 and 6 p.m. for activities and games, including a costume exchange.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 26.

Archdale Book Break: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng, 2 p.m. Tuesday, October 17.

Franklinville: Snippets Book Club, 12:30 p.m. Monday, October 16.

Liberty Book Club: *Shadows of Pecan Hollow* by Caroline Frost, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 26.

BYO book groups

Talk about books that you've read recently.

Archdale: Book Bites, 2 p.m. Tuesday, October 10.

Liberty Readers Meet-Up, 1 p.m. Monday, October 30, Liberty Senior Center, 128 S. Fayetteville St.

Randleman Readers Recommend, 3:30 p.m. Friday, October 6.

Ramseur Page Turners, 2 p.m. Tuesday, October 3.

Seagrove: Un-Book Club, 6 p.m. Thursday, October 26.

Día de los Muertos

Liberty library's community altar for Dia de los Muertos returns this year. Between October 30 and November 4, bring an item to commemorate a loved one.


Book clubs for kids & teens

Asheboro TeenZone: Bring Your Own Book Club, 4 p.m. Monday, October 9. Talk about what you are reading. Snacks provided.

Liberty: Manga Meet-Up at the Library, 1 p.m. Saturday, October 21, Ages 11 and up.

Crafts, activities, treats and videos related to manga and comic books.

Randleman: Teen Talk Book Club, 3:30 p.m. Friday, October 20, 6th-8th graders. Bring a book you'd like to share with others.



YES! I'd like to become a Friend and support the wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends each year.

Mail to: Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 2806
Asheboro, NC 27204
Memberships are tax deductible

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Family.....	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor.....	\$250
		<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime.....	\$500

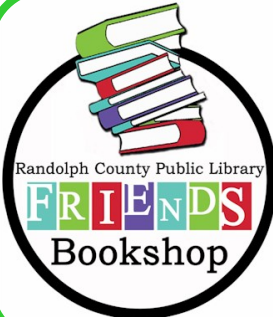
YES! I'd like to help: ____Programs ____ Hospitality ____ Book Sales ____ Membership

Randolph County Public Libraries

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Asheboro, NC 27203

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10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Tuesday,
Thursday,
Saturday**

**226 Sunset Ave.
Asheboro**

'HELPS' scam awareness class to return

♣ Learn how to protect yourself or elder family members against viruses, scams and frauds in a new round of "HELPS: Helping Elders Learn to Prevent Scams" classes in September.

The workshops, conducted jointly by the Randolph County Sheriff's Office and the library, will take place at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 27, at the Asheboro library.

Deputy Chris Martin and Digital Services Librarian Harris Mason will present the talk.

The classes are part of a program introduced by Sheriff Greg Seabolt to help seniors learn about scams, fraud and Internet safety. The majority of such reports filed with the Sheriff's Office have involved individuals 60 years old and older.

For more information, call the Sheriff's Office at 336-628-2443.

View solar eclipse at Liberty library

♣ Make a viewer to watch the upcoming solar eclipse at the Liberty library.

Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, October 14, make a safe eclipse viewer. Then, hang out to watch the eclipse, which peaks between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Supplies will be provided, but bring a shoebox or cereal box if you can.

For further information, call the library at 336-622-4605.