

RANDOLPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY *news*



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randolphlibrary.org

Librarian Foley publishes McAlister letters

♣ Tracing a trajectory from youthful exuberance to Civil War hardship, letters between Asheboro's Alexander C. McAlister and his wife Adelaide are now available in a new book by library staff member Bradley Foley.

The missives are collected in *Letters Home: The Civil War Correspondence of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander C. McAlister, 46th North Carolina Regiment*, published this month.

"These letters detail arguably the most formative years in the lives of Alexander and Adelaide McAlister as they transitioned from an affluent life of carefree newly wedded bliss to days filled with shortages, poverty and death," Foley writes.

The letters focus on daily life rather than military matters, and show how the McAlisters dealt with the tragedies of war through their Christian faith. They also

provide a glimpse into the lives of the family's servants, who were slaves and employed free blacks.

The correspondence covers the years 1861-1864, while McAlister served with the Army of Northern Virginia. In addition to painstakingly transcribing the handwritten letters, Foley researched names and other references in them to provide context in over 500 footnotes.

McAlister, a Cumberland County native, settled in Asheboro in 1861 with Adelaide, daughter of John Milton Worth. The Asheboro Public Library sits on the former site of the McAlister home.

Foley, the library's Head of Technical Services, learned about the letters while researching his earlier book, *Collett Leventhorpe, The English Confederate: The Life of a Civil War General*. He's also the author of *The Civil War Ends: Greensboro 1865*, and editor of the *Guilford Genealogist*.

Letters Home is available from the library, and for purchase in the Randolph Room and from Amazon.com.



The Asheboro library TeenZone's Second Annual Pottery Slam will take place from noon-2 p.m. Saturday, February 15. Join local potters and get your hands dirty to create your very own pottery, which will be baked, and displayed in the TeenZone. Free; sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Bookshop closes in on reopening date

♣ The books are on the shelves, the storefront is being cleaned and polished, and the Friends of the Library Bookshop is almost ready to reopen.

As of this writing, no date has been set, but bookshop volunteers expect to reopen sometime around the first of February. They are awaiting installation of a freight elevator that will enable them to take advantage of storage on the building's second floor.

Tentative plans call for a special preview for Friends of the Library members on the Friday evening before a Saturday reopening.

The bookshop, located at 226 Sunset Ave., closed in July 2012 for renovation of the Sunset Theatre.

Need to know 'How To'? —see page 3

Archdale

336-431-3811
 Fax 336-431-4619
 10433 S. Main St.
 Mon-Thur 9-7;
 Fri 9-6; Sat 9-5

Asheboro

336-318-6800
 Fax 336-318-6823
 201 Worth St.
 Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
 Sat 9-5

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
 Mon, Thur-Sat 9-5
 Tues, Wed 9-9

John W. Clark

(Franklinville)
 336-824-4020
 111 Sumner Place
 Mon-Fri 2-6; Sun. 2-5

Liberty

336-622-4605
 Fax 336-622-4605
 239 S. Fayetteville St.
 Mon, Wed, Fri 9-5;
 Tues, Thur 9-7; Sat 9-1

Ramseur

336-824-2232
 Fax 336-824-2232
 1512 S. Main St.
 Mon-Fri 8:30-5

Randleman

336-498-3141
 Fax 336-498-1139
 122 Commerce Sq.
 Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-1

Seagrove

336-873-7521
 530 Seagrove Plank Rd.
 Mon-Thur 1-7; Fri 12-6;
 Sat 10-3

Extension Service

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

Dial-A-Story

336-318-6833

*from
the
director*

Ross A. Holt



The night they drove old Dixie to the library

♣ **When I was growing up in Asheboro in the 1970s, radio station WGWR always played in the mornings while I got ready for school.**

It seemed the local station had about three songs in heavy rotation: Tanya Tucker's "Delta Dawn," The Carpenters' "Top the World" and Joan Baez's version of "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down."

The latter, a haunting ballad about a man's reflections on the collapse of the Confederacy within the narrow scope of his own world, made a deep impression on me.

As a second- or third-grader, I knew about the Civil War, but this take on it was not the mythic Lee versus Grant or the big battle at Fort Fisher. The Danville reference seemed close to home; the brother killed in action ("just 18, proud and brave") echoed the nightly news from Vietnam; and all the bells ringing and people singing seemed in stark contrast to being hungry and barely alive, or the mud beneath your feet.

Later on I learned that Baez, of course, was covering the original song by The Band. And I discovered that Band drummer/vocalist Levon Helm, an Arkansan in a group otherwise populated by Canadians, said that he took songwriter Robbie Robertson to the public library to research the history of the period and nail down the details that give the song its striking authenticity.

Over Thanksgiving I watched *The Godfather Legacy*, a television documentary about the making of the famed movie

franchise. At one point, director Francis Ford Coppola noted that Mario Puzo's novel, although a work of fiction, synthesized real people and events.

So, Coppola said, he visited the public library and checked out four books about the history of the Mafia to help separate fact from fiction as he helmed the filming.

Some years ago, I attended a panel discussion at Winston-Salem's Bookmarks Book Festival featuring North Carolina's most celebrated writers, including Fred Chappell, Robert Morgan and John Ehle. During the Q&A, an audience member gushed to Ehle about the author's deep understanding of life in the Appalachian Mountains, and how a wealth of family stories must have informed his writing.

Ehle harrumphed and said, "I don't know about family stories. I just went to the library and read a couple of books."

Coppola's *Godfather* films are among the greatest movies ever made. Ehle's novels are seminal works about life in Appalachia.

"The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" is one of the most important songs by one of America's most influential musical groups, and it still sings to us today.

Though these are diverse works of art, they have in common — and owe some of their richness to — their creators' access to public libraries.

Interested in learning more about Levon Helm? Check out filmmaker and Randolph County native Jacob Hatley's documentary Ain't It In It for My Health, available at the library, <http://tinyurl.com/rcplhelm>

RANDOLPH COUNTY

PUBLIC LIBRARY

news

The **Randolph County Public Library NEWS** is published monthly by the Asheboro Randolph County Public Library and the Friends of the Library. To subscribe, join the Friends by returning the membership application on page 4.

Ross A. Holt, Director • **Mary Alice Rich**, President, Friends of the Library •
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HOW TO...

From craft businesses to photo collections, from e-stuff to the Affordable Care Act, learn 'how-to' at the library

♣ February is filled with classes, workshops and one-on-one help at the Asheboro library for all sorts of activities.

All are free and the public is invited. No sign-up or registration is required.

How to Start A Craft Business

North Carolina Arts Incubator Director Jon Spoon will discuss the opportunities and challenges that face artists who want to start a small business, at 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 11.

He also will talk about how the Arts Incubator helps those interested in starting a craft or arts-based business.

Affordable Care Act Enrollment Help

Need help enrolling in health insurance under the Affordable Care Act? Trained Insurance Navigators from Randolph Family Healthcare at Merce will be available for one-on-one walk-in assistance at the library as follows:

- Tuesday, February 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Monday, February 27, 4-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Thursday, March 20, 4-8 p.m.

For more info call 318-6824.

How to Manage Your Personal Photo Collection Like a Professional

These days it's more important than ever to develop a process for managing your all your digital photos.

Professional photographer Duane Hall will show you how to develop a process that will help you organize and store your photos effectively at 6 p.m. Thursday, February 20.

E-Stuff-On-The-Go

Learn how to download free ebooks, audiobooks and magazines from the library's collection to your tablet, e-reader or other device at 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 12.

Walk-in for first-come, first-served assistance, or call 318-6824 for an appointment.

Assistance for Jobseekers

Specialists from the Randolph County Career Center will be on hand to help individuals complete job applications and create resumes from 9 a.m. to noon on the second Wednesday of each month, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *The Pilgrimage of Harold Frye* by Rachel Joyce, 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 25.

Luna Book Club: *The Astronaut Wives Club: A True Story* by Lily Koppel, 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 25.

Max and Imaginary Friends Children's Book Club: *Just Who Was Abraham Lincoln?* 3 p.m. Wednesday, February 19 (Asheboro)

Men in Black Book Club: *TBD*, Noon Thursday, January 16.

Archdale Book Break: *Breakfast with Buddha* by Ronald Merullo, 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 18.

Liberty Book Club: Fourth Tuesday, Liberty library. Call 622-4605 for details.

Sweets & Treats

Share a special time with your special little someone in the Liberty library's **Valentine's Tea** for children and parents, 11 a.m.-noon Saturday, February 1. Call 622-4605 to sign up.

The Asheboro Children's Room will host a **Valentine's Day card-making event** at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, February 13.

Randleman's **"How Sweet it Is"** will feature stories, games and a demonstration of how cotton candy is made, at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, February 20. For kids age 5-10; call 498-3141 to sign up.

New series of computer classes to begin

♣ A new series of Easy PC Computer classes will begin Monday, January 27.

Classes will run for seven Mondays, through March 10. The sessions begin at 10 a.m. and go for an hour and a half to allow for hands-on practice.

Classes include Computer Basics I and II, Email Basics, Internet Basics I and II Word Basics I and II. Students will progress

from logging on and using a mouse, through setting up an email account, navigating the Web, Internet safety and word processing with Microsoft Word.


Additional series will begin on Monday, February 17 at 4 p.m.; Thursday, April 3 at 10 a.m.; and Thursday April 24 at 4 p.m. Classes are free. Call the Reference Desk at 336-318-6803 to register.

Randleman elder law seminars continue

Attorney Bob Mason's popular elder law seminars continue at the Randleman Public Library with a session on Wednesday, January 29, covering long-term care and one on

Wednesday, February 5, covering veterans benefits.

The seminars are free and the public is invited.



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"/> Jr. Friend.....	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor.....	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Family.....	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime.....	\$500

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

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Find **LIBANYWHERE** in your app store; install it and choose Randolph County Public Library. It's free!

Android, iPhone, iOS



memorials & donations

In Memory of: Len Harrison
 By: Susan Coltrane

In Memory of: Feaster Herrick Newton
 By: Charlie and Et HacsKaylo

In Memory of: Hal Hammer Walker, Jr.
 By: Asheboro Woman's Club
 Norman Grey
 Happy Bookers Book Club
 Butch, Brenda and Buck Hardee
 Don and Belinda Helms
 Lee and Mark Leggett
 Jerry and Marian Tillman
 Robert P. Williams
 Robert G. and Mary B. Wright

In Honor of: Cynthia Pierce
 By: Susan Coltrane

In Honor of: Cornelia Rankin
 By: Dot and Bob Walker

In Honor of: Alice Ann Lovin
 By: Tony & Krista Lowe

In Honor of: Ann Thomas
 By: Mary & Claire Ogburn

To the Friends of the Library

In Memory of: Drew HacsKaylo
 By: Dwight and Maggie Hooker

In Honor of: Betty Bunker
 By: Mary & Claire Ogburn

In Honor of: Jim Culberson
 By: Mary & Claire Ogburn

Read for circus tix at Randleman, Liberty

Earn a ticket to the Ringling Bros. Circus simply by reading! Children age 2-12 can enroll in "Reading with Ringling Bros." at the libraries in Liberty (622-4605) and Randleman (498-3141). Visit or contact the libraries for more information.