

# RANDOLPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY *news*

  
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volume xxvi no. 6 • December 2018

[randolphlibrary.org](http://randolphlibrary.org)

## ***ASHEBORO CONFIDENTIAL!***

### ***Diary of Simeon Colton, 1850s educator and minister, tells all***

♣ Central North Carolina during the 1850s comes to life in the words of the Rev. Simeon Colton, D.D., a Yale-educated teacher and minister who settled in Asheboro in 1854.

Library Director Ross Holt has transcribed and annotated Colton's diary in his just-published book *A Man of Restless Enterprise: The Diary of Simeon Colton, 1851-1862*.

Holt will debut the book and talk about Colton's extraordinary life at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 8, at the Asheboro library. The talk is free and the public is invited.

That date is the 233rd birthday of Colton, a Connecticut native who served as superintendent of the Asheboro Male and Female Academies from 1854 until his retirement in 1862, and minister of Asheboro Presbyterian Church during the same period.

Colton's diary covers his years in Asheboro and in Cumberland County prior to arriving here. The diary is in the Southern Historical Collection at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A lifelong educator, Colton served as principal of a series of preparatory schools in Massachusetts and North Carolina. He relocated his family to Fayetteville in 1834 seeking a better climate for his wife's health.

Pious and outspoken, Colton was not shy about sharing his opinions of some of his colleagues and neighbors — and



*The Rev. Simeon Colton, D.D.*

naming names. "Some of the diary reads like 'Asheboro Confidential,'" Holt says.

But he says the diary's main value lies in its portrayal of life here in the years leading up to the Civil War. Colton writes about domestic affairs, his travels, and operating schools in communities facing demographic, economic and civic challenges.

Colton also shares insights into his work as a minister charged not only with a congregation in town, but also with emerging churches in rural areas, and reflects on his own questions of faith.

As the country slides towards civil war, Colton turns his incisive mind to national affairs — and the sin of slavery as the genesis of war.

Holt's book also takes a look at Colton's life prior to and after the period covered in his diary, especially the amazing reach of his students, colleagues, and friends — one of his former students was Charles Merriam, who established the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*; another was Loring Norcross, the uncle of poet Emily Dickinson.

The accomplishments of Colton's extraordinary children also come to light: one son penned the first travel guidebook to the western North Carolina mountains; another was a prominent architect in the heyday of Chicago building; and a daughter established a prestigious school for girls in Mississippi.

Proceeds from the sale of Holt's book go to the Randolph Room.

### ***'Do This Not That' in family history research***

*Whether you're just getting started researching your family history or are a seasoned researcher, everyone makes mistakes. Being aware of successful techniques will save time and frustration when climbing a family tree. To avoid pitfalls, join librarian and genealogist Ann Palmer for "Do This Not That," 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, January 10, at the Asheboro library. Palmer will share tips on research, documentation and organization, and provide examples of genealogy mistakes to avoid. The class is free and the public is invited.*

**Archdale**

336-431-3811  
 Fax 336-431-4619  
 10433 S. Main St.  
 Mon-Thur 9-8;  
 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-Tues 9-8  
 Wed-Fri 9-6; Sat 9-5

**John W. Clark**

(Franklinville)  
 336-685-3100  
 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 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  
 142 W. Academy St.  
 Mon, Thur, Fri 9-6; Tues-  
 Wed, 9-7; Sat 9-1

**Seagrove**

336-873-7521  
 530 Old 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

*from  
 the  
 director*

**Ross A. Holt**



# Every day we write the books

**As you can see from the hopefully-not-too-self-aggrandizing front page of this newsletter, I have written a book.**

Well, I did not so much write it as I channeled the words of Dr. Colton. The Randolph Room staff and the resources of the North Carolina Library community at large, along with numerous friends and colleagues, contributed significantly to its creation.

The experience puts me in mind of library staff members past and present who have joined the ranks of authors — and they are legion!

Long before Mac Whatley became county history librarian, he put together one of our important local history books: *The Architectural History of Randolph County, North Carolina*, published in 1985. He's also author of *Randolph County*, the pictorial book published in 2010 by Arcadia Press.

Head of Technical Services Brad Foley's *Letters Home: The Civil War Correspondence of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander C. McAlister, 46th North Carolina Regiment*, directly inspired my effort on behalf of Colton's diary. Brad is also author or co-author of a small library on the history of the region prior to and during the Civil War, including *Collette Leventhorpe, the English Confederate* and *The Civil War Ends: Greensboro, April 1865*; and four other history/genealogy compilations.

Two books of humorous essays — *Tar Heel Hilarities* and *Holiday Hilarities* — have flowed from the pen of Warren Dixon, long associated with the library as former

chairman of the Liberty Public Library Board of Trustees, a former member of the Randolph County Public Library Board of Trustees, and later our circulation department supervisor in Asheboro; now he's a staff member at the Liberty library.

On the fiction side of the literary world, Town Library Consultant Kevin Blackmon has penned a dark fantasy trilogy, *The Immortal Epic*, which includes *Immortal Journey*, *Immortal Conquest* and *Immortal Genesis*.

Archdale librarian Rebecca Fleming does some channeling of her own — in this case, Jane Austen. Rebecca's short stories appear in the anthology series *Holidays with Jane*.

Each book places modern-day adaptations of Austen's works in holiday settings. Titles include *Christmas Cheer*; *Spring Fever*; *Trick or Sweet*; *Summer of Love*; and *Will You Be Mine*.

Former staff member Jonathan Farlow, who's now in the Davidson County library system, is author of a trilogy of funny, clever novels set in the fictional small town of Ashewood Falls: *Holy War*, *Brouhaha* and *Stuck in the Middle*.

Another former staff member, Assistant Director George Taylor, now director of the Lake County Library System in Tavares, Florida, will apply his unique "theme parkaeology" avocation in the forthcoming *The Lost Theme Parks of North Carolina* for the History Press.

At the Randolph County Public Library, we don't just lend the books — we write them!



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 • **Dr. Frances Jones**, President, Friends of the Library •

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# Library issues Winter Reading Advisory!

**...and other exciting events for all ages around the county**

♣ **The Randleman Public Library has issued a Winter Reading Advisory for the period of January 10-March 30.**

Keep warm this winter with your favorite books; read, read, read for chances to win a Kindle Fire or a \$50 Walmart gift card.

Visit the library to register and for further information.

## **ALSO AT RANDLEMAN**

*\*requires sign-up; call 336-498-3141*

**Full STEAM Ahead,\* 3:30-4:30 Fridays** January 4 and 18. January 4 (ages 3rd to 8th grade) — build LEGO projects and bring them to life. January 18 (ages K-5th grade) — Coding with Botley the Robot.

**Connie's Crafting Corner,\* 3:30-4:30 p.m.** Tuesday, January 8, ages 16 and up. Clay Pot Snowman Chimes.

**Bedtime Math's Crazy 8's Clubs,\* 3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursdays, January 10-February 28,** grades K-2 and 3-5.

**Big & Little "Sew" Much Fun!,\* 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 15, ages 2nd-8th grade.** A fun sewing activity "tailored" to your age.

**Family Trees: Getting Started with Genealogy,\* 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 16, ages 16 and up.**

**Mystery Science,\* 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 22, ages K-5th grade and 6-8 grades.** "Why (not Who) Is Snow White?"

**How Deep is the Snow,\* 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 29, ages K-5th grade.** Indoor snow fight and winter games.

## **ASHEBORO**

**Music and Movement: 10 a.m. Mondays** January 7 and 28, ages 3-5.

**Kinder Prep: 10 a.m. Monday, January 14,** ages 3-5.

**Learn and Play: 4 p.m. Mondays January 7, 14 and 28, ages 0-5.**

**School Aged Wednesdays: 4 p.m. January 2** — "Crafternoon." January 9 — Movie: "Teen

Titans." January 16 — LEGO Challenge: Boat that Floats. January 23 — STEM Event: Smelly Slime. January 30 — Gaming Day

**Let's Speak Spanish! 4 p.m. Thursdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, ages 5 and up.** A new interactive program for children to learn and practice Spanish in a supportive environment.

**Dungeons and Dragons, 6 p.m. Thursday, January 24.** Ages 12 and up. All skill levels welcome.

**Junior Book Club, 4 p.m. Tuesday, January 29, ages 8 and up.** Talk about *The BFG* by Roald Dahl.

**Homeschool Meeting, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.** At Nichols Longleaf Pine Preserve. Contact the library at 336-318-6804 or [scolwell@randolphlibrary.org](mailto:scolwell@randolphlibrary.org) for details and directions.

## **FRANKLINVILLE**

*\*Requires sign-up; call 336-685-3100.*

**Snowflake Slime,\* 4 p.m. Thursday, January 3, ages 6 and up.** Make cool, snowy slime.

**All About Owls,\* 4 p.m. Thursday, January 17, ages 6 and up.** Make a snowy owl pinecone craft and learn about the owls.

**Dress-up Stick Snowman,\* 4 p.m. Thursday, January 31, all ages.** Dress your popsicle stick snowman to stay fashionably frozen.

## **LIBERTY**

**Get Creative, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, January 17, teens and adults.** Are you suffering from winter aches and pains? Soothe them away by making an all-natural Heat Therapy Bag using rice and essential oils.

**Kids Can Create, 3:30 p.m. Thursdays. January 10, 24 and 31:** Simple machines and vehicles; LEGO Open Build. January 3: Explore the "A" (Art) in STEAM with a craft project. January 17: Watch! Print! Play! 3D printing.

## **WEEKLY STORYTIMES**

Baby, toddler, preschool and family storytimes are offered weekly countywide. Find schedules at [www.randolphlibrary.org/storytimes](http://www.randolphlibrary.org/storytimes).

## **Book discussions**

**Asheboro Reads: *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*, 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 29.** (Meet *We Are Charleston* authors Herb Frasier, Dr. Bernard Edward Powers Jr. and Marjory Wentworth at their Friends of the Library Sunset Signature Series appearance, 7 p.m. Saturday, January 26, 2019).

## **Junior Book Club**

**(Asheboro): *The BFG* by Roald Dahl.** 4 p.m. Tuesday, January 29 (Children ages 8 and up).

## **YAAS Book Club**

**(Asheboro): *Synopsis of the Disasters* by M.K. England.** 4 p.m. Thursday, January 31. (Teens).

**Book Break (Archdale): *The Forgotten Road* by Richard Paul Evans,** 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 15.

**Book Bites (Archdale) "Un-Book Club."** Guests are invited to talk about the most exciting or interesting book they've read since the last meeting. 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 8.


## **Speak Spanish**

A new initiative in the Asheboro library's Children's Room will enable kids age 5 and up to learn and practice Spanish in a supportive environment.

The sessions take place at 4 p.m. Thursdays beginning January 3. Call 336-318-6804 for details.

## **Teen Zone Talk**

Embark on a fantasy journey with a fearless crew of warriors, mages, elves and orcs in **Intro to Dungeons and Dragons**, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, January 24, ages 12 and up. All skill levels welcome. At 4 p.m. Thursday, January 31, It's time to yell "YAAS!" for YA books in the **YAAS Book Club**, featuring empowering literature for teens. Next up: *Synopsis of the Disasters* by M.K. England.



**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*

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<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 Library

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**THE FRIENDS  
OF THE LIBRARY**

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**SUNSET**

*Signature  
Series ♦ 2019*

**WE ARE  
CHARLESTON**

**7 pm Saturday  
January 26**

*Free!*  
**See Inside**

## memorials & donations

**In Memory of: Joe Bossong**  
By: Asheboro Public Library Foundation

**In Memory of: Phillip Douglas Kemp**  
By: Bruce and Linda Tinkler

**In Memory of: Margaret "Terry"  
Cranford Mishoe**  
By: Ann C. McGlohon and  
Carolyn B. Everhart

## Start year right with wellness events

♣ **Pick up some ideas for healthy living and get started with Tai Chi in two free wellness classes at the Asheboro library in January.**

Join Melissa Thompson, Diabetes Prevention Program coordinator for MERCE Family Healthcare for **Easy Lifestyle Changes** at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 5. Thompson will provide insight on how factors such as stress management, physical activity and nutrition play a major role in preventing chronic diseases

and conditions. She will share tips, ideas and recipes that will help make lifestyle changes easier.

In **Introduction to Tai Chi** at 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 7, instructor Steve Cain will take participants through simple techniques from this ancient Chinese discipline that can be integrated into daily life to improve balance and flexibility, and promote relaxation. Cain trained in Tai Chi at Randolph Community College and teaches at the Randolph County Senior Adults Center.