



The Orator

Volume, XXIX Issue, 1 Winter/Spring 2012

"Universal Education"

Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site

264 Governor Aycock Road
Fremont, NC 27830

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Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday and
Monday

Site Staff

Leigh Strickland
Site Manager

Sarah Pittman
Historic Interpreter

Larry Barnes
Site Assistant

Rebecca Price
Part-Time Staff

The Orator Editor
Sarah Pittman



Exploring Roots

On Saturday, January 28, Aycock Birthplace held a Genealogy Workshop for Beginners. Chris Meekins, Correspondence Archives and Records Professional, began the session by discussing basic genealogy. People interested in genealogy need to start with what they know about their family history and work backwards. They should ask four questions: (1) who are their folks; (2) where did they live; (3) when did they live there; and (4) what do they want to know about them. Mr. Meekins also said genealogists need to look for proof (i.e. official records stating the connection between generations) when doing research. These records can be found online, at local libraries, local government offices, the state archives and the national archives.

Kay Tillotson, NC State Library, then discussed resources that the State Library had to help genealogists. Among these are over 6,500 indexes and abstracts; 6,803 family histories and state and local genealogical society journals. Ms. Tillotson said that many of these resources have been digitized and can be accessed from the State Library's website.

Debbi Blake, Public Services Branch Supervisor at the North Carolina State Archives, told attendees about the archives and the resources it could provide to genealogists. It is the 3rd oldest and the largest state archives in the country. It has over 100 million documents and has records dating back to 1663. The North Carolina State Archives is unique from most other states' archives in that it allows researchers access to original documents and that it accepts private records into its collections. The archives collections consist of county records, state records, federal records and private records. Researchers are allowed to take digital cameras to photograph records so long as they turn off the flash.

The presenters concluded the workshop by taking questions from the participants.

A Time to Celebrate!

On September 17, 2011, Aycock Birthplace recognized its amazing group of volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. This year's theme was an end of the season luau. The dinner was catered by Kountry Kitchen of Wilson. Following the meal, Site Manager, Leigh Strickland announced the winner of the Blue Ribbon Volunteer Award. This year's recipient was Fremont native Bridget Barnes. Bridget is a senior at CB Aycock High School and has been an active site volunteer for the past ten years. Following the announcement of the Blue Ribbon Volunteer, each volunteer was given a certificate of appreciation and a thank you gift. The site is so fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers!



2011 Blue Ribbon
Volunteer Award winner
Bridget Barnes



Check us out on
Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups.php?ref=sb#/group.php?gid=87229084063>

Scenes from Christmas Candlelight Tours



Manager's Report

Wow! Another year has come and gone! If you are like me, you find it's hard to believe it is 2012 already! During the 2011

holiday season I found myself reflecting on the events of the past year. What a great year it was!

The Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace Advisory Committee received \$700 from the Rotary Foundation's District Simplified Grant (DSG) program to help fund living history programs at Aycock Birthplace. The DSG supports service activities and humanitarian endeavors in which Rotary Districts wish to be involved. This grant program is funded by district designated funds, which are funds that come from Rotarians' contributions to the Rotary Foundation's Annual Programs Fund. We applied for this grant through the Fremont Rotary Club which also has granted us an additional \$500. Thank you Rotary Foundation and Fremont Rotary Club for your support!

Congratulations to the late Charles B. Ellis and his widow, Betty Ellis. They were awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. This is one of the highest honors the governor can give to a North Carolina citizen. This award was created in the mid 1960s and is given to residents in recognition of a proven record of service or some other special achievement. The recipients receive a certificate and the privilege of proposing, at any time, the North Carolina Toast. The late Mr. Ellis served on the committee for many years until his death. Mrs. Ellis is currently serving on the committee.

We have also been working on a couple of exciting projects! One of which is learning about Aycock Birthplace's history by interviewing former staff members. Two former staff members have already been interviewed and I am working with others to schedule an interview time. I have enjoyed learning about past site programs and how the site has grown since opening in 1959.

The other project which has just been completed is the development of a power point program about the site. This will be used by staff when speaking to schools, civic groups and other organizations. If there is a group that you would like for us to share information about Governor Aycock and the site with, please let us know. We would be happy to do so.

Leigh V. Stinchland



April 4th will mark the 100th anniversary of Governor Aycock's death. He collapsed and died of a heart attack while delivering a speech on education in Birmingham, Alabama on April 4, 1912. That same year Dr. Plato Tracy Durham of Trinity College (now Duke University) wrote the poem, "North Carolina to Charles Brantley Aycock".

*Come rest within my mother-arms, my son;
The night has come, the day's long work is done:
So nobly done that I shall stand to keep
An endless vigil o'er thy mortal sleep.*

*For thou didst know in my need, my bitter dole;
Didst catch the vision of my greater soul,
And all the love of thy brave spirit give
To make that shining prophet-vision live.*

*For me thy soul was a banner flung;
A morning bugle was thy golden tongue,
Whose ringing challenge to the reign of Night
Led on my Dawn's embattled hosts of light.*

*So long as my own sovereign name is known,
As shines my star upon the flag star-sown,
Thy name shall live a deathless memory,
An heir to mine own immortality.*

*When marble monument and brazen bust
Shall crumble back again to formless dust
Thy name, deep-graved in love's unfailing art,
Shall still be written on my own children's heart.*

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February

*February 18th—10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Basket Weaving Workshop
Early registration and a \$10 pre-paid fee is required.
Space is limited!*

March

*March 17th—1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
“Let’s Go Fly A Kite!”
Visitors are welcome to come out and fly their kites.
No registration necessary.*

*March 21st—9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Living History Wednesday
Spinning, Natural Dyeing and 19th century toys*

*March 29th—9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Daffodil Open House
Area program for Wayne County first graders.*

April

*April 4th—9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Living History Wednesday
Butter, Lye Soap Making and Candle Making*

*April 18th—9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Living History Wednesday
Butter Making, Open Hearth Cooking and
Corn Shelling & Grinding*

*April 23rd, 24th, 26th, & 27th—9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Farm Heritage Days
Area program for Wayne County fourth graders.*

May

*May 2nd—9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Living History Wednesday
School Marm, Quill Pen & Ink Writing and Townball*

June, July and August

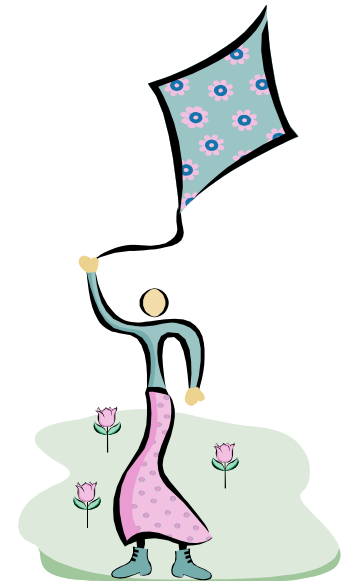


*June 9th
July 14th
August 11th*



*Our 2nd Saturdays series is back! Updates and event
info coming soon! Call 919-242-5581 or check out our
website for more information.*

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/aycock/aycock.htm>



**Governor Charles B Aycock Birthplace
Advisory Committee Members**

President: Betty J. Gainey

Vice President: Ann S. Tolar

Danny Davis

Phyllis Edmundson

Betty Ellis

Hugh T. Howard

Dorothy Owens

Randy Sauls

Judy Trott



**Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes**

October 7, 2011

Attending the October 7th meeting were Committee Members: Betty Ellis, Ann Tolar, Phyllis Edmundson and Hugh Howard, Site Manager Leigh Strickland and Committee Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Pittman. Guests: Barbara Matthews and Rachel Whitmire of BB&T.

Committee Vice-President Ann Tolar called the meeting to order. The minutes of the March 6, 2011 committee meeting were reviewed. Phyllis Edmundson made a motion to approve the minutes, Betty Ellis seconded and the minutes were approved.

Sarah Pittman presented the treasurer's report. She distributed copies of the financial report for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. After some discussion, Leigh Strickland distributed the balance sheet for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The committee stayed well within its budget for the year.

Ms. Strickland then presented the committee with the proposed 2011-2012 budget. She recommended a decrease in the overall budget from \$24,000 to \$23,000. Ms. Ellis made a motion to accept the proposed 2011-2012 budget and Ms. Tolar seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After discussing the finances, the committee discussed old business from the previous March 6th meeting. Ms. Strickland gave the committee a report on site visitation and promotion. She informed the committee of the different types of publicity the site had received since March 2011.

The committee was given an update on the picnic shelter dedication sign. The sign was almost completed and should be ready by the end of October.

Barbara Matthews and Rachel Whitmire of BB&T gave a presentation on updating the site's sales area by accepting credit cards. After some discussion from the members, the committee voted to purchase a credit card terminal from BB&T to use in the sales area.

Ms. Strickland reminded the committee of upcoming election of board officers. The committee named members Danny Davis and Randy Sauls as the nominating committee. The committee will nominate and vote on officers at the next committee meeting in March 2012.

The next item for discussion was board memberships. The committee discussed the current board vacancies and mentioned several names of potential new members.

Ms. Strickland then passed out a list of upcoming events at Aycock Birthplace.

Meeting was adjourned.

—Sarah Pittman

Need a place to host a wedding or special event? Aycock Birthplace is a great location! For more information please contact Event Coordinator, Sarah Pittman at 919-242-5581 or e-mail: sarah.pittman@ncdcr.gov.



Credit or Debit?

The gift shop now accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover on purchases. Come see the latest merchandise!



**Aycock Birthplace Advisory Committee Financial Report
October 1, 2011-January 31, 2012**

10/01/2011		01/31/2012	
<u>BB&T</u>		<u>BB&T</u>	
Checking	525.01	Checking	3,831.39
<u>SECU</u>		<u>SECU</u>	
Savings Account	25.19	Savings Account	25.27
Money Market Account	18,951.05	Money Market Account	18,078.65
CD Account 1	10,000.00	CD Account 1	10,000.00
CD Account 2	10,000.00	CD Account 2	10,000.00
<u>Other</u>		<u>Other</u>	
Petty Cash	0.16	Petty Cash	0.16
Beginning Balance	\$39,501.41	Ending Balance	\$41,935.47

Revenues as of 01/31/2012	
Cash Over	0.01
CD Account Interest	66.71
Donations	81.17
Drink Machine	23.50
Event Rental Deposit	0.00
Fundraising	1,545.00
Money Market Account Interest	60.89
Sales Tax Refund	161.89
Savings Account Interest	0.08
Site Sales	2.00
Souvenir Sales	3,080.71
Special Tours	1,874.00
Revenue Total	\$6,895.96

Expenditures as of 01/31/2012	
Administrative	276.83
Cash Short	3.07
Furniture/Fixtures/Equipment	1,899.02
Interpretive Development	582.01
Marketing	0.00
Miscellaneous	152.56
Public Relations	60.00
Resale	1,012.89
Service Charge	195.00
Special Events	660.38
Staff Development	30.00
Temporary Salaries	0.00
Uncategorized Expenses	162.22
Expenditure Total	\$5,033.98

The Orator is published by the Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace Advisory Committee, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site. The newsletter is published bi-annually and is available free of charge. To receive this publication, please call (919) 242-5581 or e-mail: aycock@ncdcr.gov. The Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site is an agency within the Historic Sites Division of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, www.ncculture.com.





A Call for Volunteers

Interested in volunteering or know someone who is looking to become a volunteer? Aycock Birthplace is always looking for new volunteers to give tours, provide hands-on demonstrations, and assist in the gift shop. All Aycock Birthplace volunteers receive a 10% discount of items in the gift shop and receive special recognition at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. If interested in becoming a volunteer, please call Sarah Pittman at 919-242-5581.



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