



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

204 East Academy St. ♦ P.O. Box 771 ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27204

March 24, 2015

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met in the Meeting Room of the 1909 Historic Courthouse at 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC, and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Mac Whatley at 2:00 p.m. Members present were Mac Whatley, Chairman; Warren Dixon, Vice Chair; Nan Kemp; Lynne Qualls; Marsha Haithcock; Ross Holt; Bill Ivey; Robyn Hankins; and Bill Johnson.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Dixon, seconded by Qualls, the HLPC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 27, 2015.

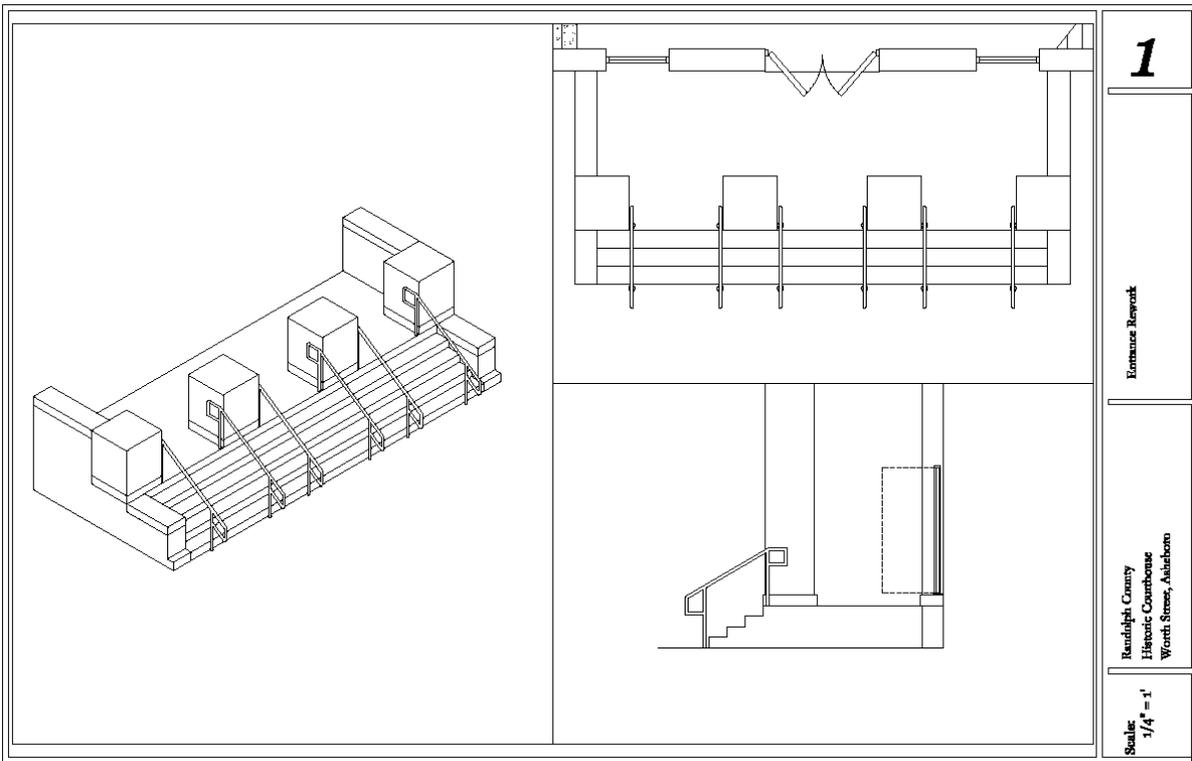
Request Approval for Certificate of Appropriateness –1909 Historic Courthouse

Chairman Whatley stated that a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required when any changes are to be made to a designated local historic landmark that could be of significance to the character of the landmark. The COA is also required pursuant to regulations contained within the Ordinance establishing the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission.

At 2:05 p.m., Chairman Whatley opened the duly advertised public hearing to consider the following Certificate of Appropriateness application:

County Manager Hal Johnson said that the County's Risk Assessment Manager had identified the front of the 1909 Historic Courthouse as a potential safety hazard. The County has changed the type of lighting used on the front porch, but in order to minimize additional risk, the County staff has a proposal for handrails. He stated that the County of Randolph, represented by Paxton Arthurs, Director of Public Works, is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to make those changes to the Randolph County Historic Courthouse, 145 Worth Street., Asheboro, N.C.; property tax ID 7751837176.

Paxton Arthurs, Director of Public Works, after having been duly sworn by Clerk Amanda Varner, stated the front steps of the Historic Courthouse currently have handrails in only the very middle section of the stairway. He said they are proposing to replace the existing handrails with building code compliant handrails, as well as, provide additional handrails at each of the two outer sections of the steps leading to the front porch. They will be constructed of two-inch diameter steel pipe and will be painted to give them a bronze finish that will coordinate with other fixtures on the front of the building. The design is shown below.



At 2:15 p.m., hearing no other comments, Chairman Whatley closed the public hearing.

On motion of Dixon, seconded by Holt, the Board voted 9 to 0 to approve the requested Certificate of Appropriateness to the County of Randolph, NC, for the replacement and addition of handrails at the 1909 Randolph County Historic Courthouse, as per their request and the guidelines suggested by the State Preservation Specialist, as follows:

*Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission
Order Approving Certificate of Appropriateness
1909 Courthouse Rails*

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Commission conducted a public hearing on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 2:00 pm, to consider the following Certificate of Appropriateness application:

On Behalf of the County of Randolph, Paxton Arthurs, Director of Public Works, is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace existing handrails and add additional handrails on the steps leading to the front porch of the Randolph County Historic Courthouse, 145 Worth Street., Asheboro, N.C.; ID 7751837176, to address a potential safety hazard identified by risk assessment. The handrails will be code compliant, and constructed from 2" diameter steel pipes and painted to present a bronze finish.

And

Having heard sworn evidence presented, and having received into evidence such exhibits as presented by the applicant, and after affording all who wished to be heard the opportunity to testify, examine, and cross-examine witnesses and to make comments and arguments, now based on substantial, relevant, and credible evidence received, said Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1: The applicant applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness as required by regulations contained within the Ordinance establishing the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission that would enable the applicant to construct a new exit landing and stairway on the East side of the Historic County Courthouse, 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, N.C.

2: Testimony and exhibits were received that the construction was necessary to ensure safety and additional means of exit from the existing building and that the design and color would complement that of the existing historic structure.

3: Testimony was given that the construction is in compliance with zoning regulations of the City of Asheboro, and that adjoining property owners have been notified of the application and notice of public hearing.

4: No persons spoke in opposition to the request.

BASED ON THE GREATER WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE AND THE FOREGOING FINDINGS OF FACT, AND AS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE RANDOLPH COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION, THE COMMISSION MAKES THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS BASED ON DESIGN GUIDELINES OUTLINED IN THE ORDINANCE:

1: The proposed construction is designed in a manner that would support the architectural detail of the historic 1909 Courthouse and is necessary to ensure added safety to the structure.

2: The proposed construction will not reduce the value of the 1909 Historic Courthouse as an example of unique architectural style and community heritage.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS, the application for Certificate of Appropriateness is approved by a vote of 9 to 0 this 24th Day of March, 2015.

Approval of Resolution Designating Buffalo Ford on Deep River as a Cultural Heritage Site

Chairman Whatley asked Vice Chair Warren Dixon to provide a summary of the request.

Vice Chair Dixon stated that Buffalo Ford was a very early site where the east – west road from Salisbury to Cross Creek (Fayetteville) and Wilmington crossed the north – south road from Hillsborough to Camden, SC. It was one of central North Carolina’s most important transportation junctions. As to be expected of such a major river crossing, several sites related to

historic events are located within a mile of Buffalo Ford. The area was known as Cox's Settlement by the early 1760's and its vicinity includes the Thomas Cox and Harmon Cox mill sites, scenes of much activity during the Regulation and Revolutionary War. David Fanning's Tory headquarters, known as "the Fort of Deep River at Cox's Mill" was nearby. Fanning carried out several ambushes at the ford and fought with Patriot militia there while headquartered at Harmon Cox's Mill from 1781-82. Mr. Dixon said Buffalo Ford will forever be tied to the disastrous Battle of Camden, one of the worst defeats of the Revolutionary War. General de Kalb's forces also camped along Buffalo Ford and probably stretched for over two miles along the river, most likely causing much of a stir to the local inhabitants. In spite of the two nearby mills, the army had arrived at Buffalo Ford at a bad time. Colonel Otho William said that "the crop of corn was exhausted and new grain was too young." It was recorded that soldiers ate green ears of corn and boiled them with the meat of half-starved cattle found in the woods. When de Kalb received word of his replacement on July 16, he wrote his replacement General Horatio Gates from his Deep River camp and stated that he would "find the Army at or near Coxes' Mill." Records show they had camped on both the east and west side of the river.



Mr. Dixon gave many instances where troops had been noted to be at or near Buffalo Ford. He said that Buffalo Ford gradually lost its importance as transportation routes changed. When Asheboro was established as the county seat in 1792, official "post roads" and "stage roads" that had formerly followed the ancient Indian trails were realigned to feed traffic to the center of government. Local residents received their mail at the Buffalo Ford post office from 1850 to January 1904 when it was discontinued and sent to Ramseur.

In 1812, residents petitioned "to keep the Buffalo Ford in repair, that part of one side had nearly become impassable." In 1835, the County contracted with Tidence Lane "to build a bridge on Deep River at Buffalo Ford." In January, 1838, a committee examined the bridge and reported that "the bridge was neither put in the place laid out and not according to plan" and that

furthermore Lane had failed to complete it by the time agreed. Nevertheless, the County agreed to pay Lane \$675. In August 1854, a contract was awarded to Thomas Allred to build a bridge at Buffalo Ford for \$2,673. The bridge was finished in 1855. Mr. Dixon said both early bridges would have been covered bridges, to protect the wooden structure from rot.

Mr. Dixon said that in the 1880's, Buffalo Ford became the site of Randolph County's first iron and steel bridge. Today's traffic crosses Deep River on a bridge built in 1956 to the south of the original ford.

(Additional details about other events surrounding Buffalo Ford are included in the narrative available on the website.)

Steve Allen, property owner on the west side of Deep River where the ford is believed to have been located, spoke in favor of the designation and gave an open invitation to the HLPC to visit the property. He said it has been cut and is accessible.

On a motion of Holt, seconded by Ivey, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Recognition for the Buffalo Ford on Deep River, as follows:

***WHEREAS**, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission desires to recognize those Cultural Heritage Sites that provide a tangible link to the past with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history and thus shaped our present; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Buffalo Ford on the Deep River was one of central North Carolina's most important prehistoric and colonial transportation junctions; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Buffalo Ford on the Deep River was the rendezvous and the campsite for the Continental Army under Baron de Kalb during the summer of 1780 in the American Revolution; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Buffalo Ford on the Deep River was the location at which General Horatio Gates assumed command of the Continental Army prior to the battle of Camden, and where Colonel Francis Marion and his militia joined with the army; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Buffalo Ford on the Deep River remained a key rendezvous point and camp for militia of both sides for the remainder of the Revolution, including the stronghold of the notorious Tory, David Fanning; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Buffalo Ford on the Deep River was the location of the county's first iron and steel bridge in the 1880s.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site is given to*

BUFFALO FORD ON THE DEEP RIVER

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution is approved by the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in its minutes, with appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, notation made in the county's GIS database and a suitable copy of the Resolution presented to the recipient.*

Approval of Resolution Designating Cultural Heritage Object: 1838 Belfry Bell

Chairman Whatley said that the HLPC has not utilized the cultural heritage object category, but it feels that there are objects that are worthy of designation.

He said that on January 27, 2015, the HLPC had a dedication ceremony and presented the history for the 1838 Belfry Bell at that time. The bell had just been moved back into the 1909 Courthouse. It had been preserved and moved from one courthouse to another through the years. It is one of the oldest artifacts of county government; therefore, the HLPC feels it deserves designation.



The HLPC desires the narrative to be included in the minutes, as follows:

*From Notes on the History of Randolph County
randolphhistory.wordpress.com*

From the earliest days, the Randolph County Court House had a bell to announce the beginning of its sessions of court. Preserved and moved from building to building as county government expanded, it is one of the oldest artifacts of county government. In August 1838, Jonathan Worth, Hugh McCain, and John Balfour Troy were ordered by the county justices to buy and hang a bell in the courthouse. Re-installed in a belfry when the 1838 courthouse was remodeled in 1876, it was moved into the attic belfry of the 1909 building on Worth Street, where it remained for 90 years. In 2002 it was removed, restored, and installed in a glass case on the second floor of the 2003 courthouse, no longer able to ring, but more visible than ever before. Enhanced security measures limited access to the courthouse in 2009, and only those citizens paying fines at the Clerk's Office on the second floor could see the bell. In December 2015, upon the recommendation of the Landmarks Commission, the county ordered the bell moved back to the lobby of the 1909 courthouse, where it can be viewed without restriction. That move was accomplished on January 22, 2015.

The Randolph County Courthouse Bell is marked "G.H. Holbrook/ Medford, Mass". That refers to George Handel Holbrook whose family ran a bell foundry in that town from 1822 to 1880. There are evidently more than 120 Holbrook bells known to still exist, cast from 1816 to 1879.

One of the earliest professional bell founders in Massachusetts was Aaron Hobart of Abington, who was casting bells as early as 1770. Hobart learned from a man named Gillimore, a deserter from the British Navy, who had learned about bell casting in England.

In 1792, Revolutionary patriot, silversmith, and coppersmith Paul Revere volunteered to cast a bell for a Boston church. Knowing a lot about metal, but little about bell casting, he turned to Hobart for advice. Hobart sent both his son and Mr. Gillimore to Boston to help Revere, who subsequently became a professional bell founder. He obtained a large quantity of Revolutionary War cannons from the government and, in a "swords to plowshares" fashion turned the cannons into church bells (brass cannons and bells are made from a similar mixture of copper and tin). He remained active in the business until his death in 1818.

Paul Revere was the master bell founder who trained George Holbrook, father of the creator of the Randolph County bell. Major George Holbrook was born in Wrentham, Massachusetts on April 28, 1767, and The Grove Dictionary of Music states unequivocally that Holbrook was apprenticed to Revere. The History of Medway Mass, states that Holbrook was apprenticed to Revere "to learn the machinist and clock-maker's trades" and that they "entertained a warm friendship until his death."

George Holbrook did not cast his first bell until well after he was established in other trades in Brookfield, and he listed his occupation as "clock -maker" for several years there before changing it to "bell-founder." The earliest indication of his entry into the bell business is from an advertisement of 1803; the first Holbrook bell now known was cast in 1804. The advertisement mentioned above, dated September 19, 1803, states: "George Holbrook respectfully informs the public that he carries on the business of bell-founding upon a plan recently discovered and known to very few people in this country or in Europe. A bell made upon this plan, and rightly hung, weighing 800 pounds, will give a sound as heavy, clear, agreeable to the ear, and shall be heard as far as one of 1000 pounds made in the usual way." Hearing that a bell was wanted for the church in East Medway, he volunteered his services and cast a successful bell there in 1816 in a primitive shanty. The casting is described in The History of Medway: "Through the assistance of many friends the shanty was built out of refuse lumber, and the melting furnace was built out of the condemned bricks of a neighbor's brick kiln. The bell was cast in the presence of almost the whole population of the vicinity, in fact, so great was the number of people, and so eager were all to see such an unusual sight, that the sides of the building were taken down and the space for the workman roped around, in order that the people might see, and the bell makers might have room to work."

Frederick Shelley notes that "In December 1821 and January, 1823 the Holbrooks acquired land on both sides of the turnpike, (now Main Street) running through East Medway. They built a factory, blacksmith shop, and furnace on the southwest corner of what is now Main and Spring Streets."

George Holbrook married in 1797 and his son George Handel Holbrook was born on July 21, 1798, named after George Frederich Handel the composer. According to Shelley, he learned the clock-making and founding trade from his father. He ran the business until 1871, having cast over 11,000 bells, including several hundred church bells. The firm continued to cast bells until 1880.

Both older and younger Holbrooks were talented musicians. George played and made bass violins; G.H. played the violin and pipe organ, and he became very active

in the Handel and Hayden Society, a Boston-area institution. The Holbrook tradition in bell-casting improved upon the Revere tradition by casting a more musical bell.

The History of Medway editorializes: Major George Holbrook, who established the foundry, was a man who had great ingenuity, and who could work his way out of any mechanical predicament, and could successfully plan and lay out the work for others, though he possessed no great faculty of doing the work himself. It is to his son, Colonel George H. Holbrook, who became an eminent musician that is due the credit of improving the tone of the bells and changing them from noisy machines to musical instruments.

It appears that the Holbrook firm was the first American founder to cast a tuned carillon of bells. Bells sound separate tones from different parts of the individual bell, and tuning a bell so these tones form a perfect chord is one of the most exacting tasks of bell making. One Holbrook catalogue said, " ... the different tones, which, sounding in unison, form one grand tone, each one of which shall be in perfect tune and harmoniously blended together, like several instruments in the hands of masters, sounding a chord at once—it is this quality which makes the bell pure and musical."

Four generations of the "Holbrook Dynasty" carried on the family business of casting bells until 1880, and manufactured pipe organs into the twentieth century. There are at least 110 Holbrook bells known to survive according to one list, <http://www.chepachetfreewill.org/otherholbrookbells.htm> (which does not include the Randolph County bell).

On a motion of Ivey, seconded by Hankins, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Recognition for the 1838 Belfry Bell, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission desires to recognize those Cultural Heritage Objects that provide a tangible link to the past, with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history and thus shaped our present; and

WHEREAS, in August 1838, Jonathan Worth, Hugh McCain and John Balfour Troy were ordered by the Randolph County Justices to buy and hang a bell in the belfry of the 1838 County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, 1838 Belfry Bell was cast in Medford, Mass., by G.H. Holbrook, a bell founder whose father was trained in the craft by Paul Revere; and

WHEREAS, 1838 Belfry Bell hung first in the 1838 County Courthouse and later in the 1909 County Courthouse, and now is on display in the 1909 Historic Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the 1838 Belfry Bell is the earliest surviving artifact from Asheboro's past and is of great historical value.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Object is given to the

COURTHOUSE 1838 BELFRY BELL

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is approved by the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in its minutes, with appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy of the Resolution presented to the recipient.

Approval of Resolution Designating Cultural Heritage Object: Weights and Measures

Chairman Whatley said Ross Holt had updated the narrative of the official Weights and Measures of Randolph County and gave a brief summary of the details as to why they should be recognized.

Chairman Whatley said that all of the Weights and Measures that the County has were found in different junk yards.

There was a discussion about obtaining the display case from the Library that originally displayed the Weights and Measures and having it put in the foyer downstairs of the Historic Courthouse. That particular case had a mirror that showcased all sides of the objects.



The HLPC desires the narrative to be included in the minutes, as follows:

At the September 12, 1793 meeting of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Session, the Justices of the County ordered that Alexander Gray be requested to furnish the county with a legal standard of Weights, Measures, and Stamps, and that he be allowed 25 percent of profit on all money by him expended in procuring the same and that a tax on every poll and every odd acres of land be laid and collected by the Sheriff for payment. It was further ordered that Gray be appointed to keep the Standard at his store in Johnstonville.

The Standard was ordered from London, England, from the firm of MARY DE GRAVE, Scale Makers for His Majesty and Exporters of Scales and Steelyards. The original invoice is dated June 13, 1804, and gives a detailed description of the Standard: all the cup measures were of copper with handles. All cups and weights were engraved "Randolph County, N.C." and stamped at the Guild Hall in the City of London. A yard stick was made of the best yellow metal, engraved properly and divided on one side $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ yard, and the other side, inches. The set was to be delivered in a strong wainscot box with partitions to hold all the weights and measures, strong iron handles and a good lock and key, and sealed at the Exchequers. The total cost was \$197.87. After their use for several years as the standard weights and measures for the county, they were no longer needed for this purpose because inspection laws were passed. Merchants had used the standards for checking their weights and measures to be certain that they were giving a fair measure. It is also interesting to note that the standard pound and standard yard were destroyed when the House of Parliament burned in London on October 16, 1834. These standards had been used to certify the ones that were sold to Randolph County. The weights and measures likely were used until 1927, when responsibility for setting the standards shifted to the state. It is not known when

the county discarded the weights and measures, but they were found on a junk heap in or near Franklinville about 1954. J. L. Newton purchased them from the person who found them. In 1949, Clerk of Court Tom Presnell found the original invoice for the purchases and started a search for the missing pieces. After the publication of the information concerning the weights and measures with a picture of the original invoice in *The Courier-Tribune* on July 20, 1955, Mr. Newton identified his purchases. He offered the items for display by the Historical Society. In 1967 a group of individuals and corporations through the leadership of Mr. J. W. Plummer contributed to the Randolph Public Library funds for the purchase of the weights and measures from Mr. Newton. Donors included Acme-McCrary Corporation; B. B. Walker Shoe Company; John F. Redding; Reitzel Smith; Walker, Anderson, Bell and Ogburn; J. W. Plummer; and Henry M. Armfield. Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Reese donated a case for displaying the weights and measures in the Randolph Room of the Library. After 163 years of service, discard, and rediscovery, the weights and measures had returned to county ownership. The set included the following pieces: 7 brass weights (various sizes); 1 brass yardstick; 1 gallon dry measure (Winchester, copper); 3 liquid measures (gallon, quart, pint - copper). All of the pieces were now on hand except the gallon and quart liquid measures. There is included one extra weight, origin unknown. The wainscot box is no longer with the collection.

In 2000, three additional measures were discovered: a gallon wine measure, a half bushel dry measure, and a bushel dry measure. Rose Samet Kline of Columbia, S.C., and Toby Samet James of Richmond, Va., donated the three items to the Randolph County Historical Society in memory of their parents, Alex and Hazel Samet. The Samet family recovered the measures from a junkyard on North Fayetteville Street in Asheboro operated by Alex Samet.

According to an estate service engaged by the Randolph County Public Library in 2010, the $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel measure was made by George Price, a coppersmith in Danville, Va., between 1830 and 1850. A $\frac{1}{4}$ bushel measure likely was made in Birmingham, England; a "C" date glyph on the rim points to a series that began in 1791 and the service estimates that the measure was made in 1793.

The weights and measures are the oldest artifacts of Randolph County government. When the three additional items were donated in 2000, the *News & Record of Greensboro* quoted the director of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Standards Division, N. David Smith, as stating that Randolph County's set also was possibly the oldest known in the state. Smith also told *The Courier-Tribune* that the weights and measures have artistic as well as historical value: "They tend to be made of very thick and heavy metal as opposed to the modern, clean, efficient cold stainless steel. Quite a lot of craftsmanship went into them." The weights and measures can be viewed in the main hallway of the 1909 Historic Randolph County Courthouse.

On a motion of Ivey, seconded by Hankins, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Recognition for the official Randolph County Weights and Measures, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission desires to recognize those Cultural Heritage Objects that provide a tangible link to the past, with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history and thus shaped our present; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 1793, the Justices of the County ordered that Alexander Gray be requested to furnish the county with a legal standard of weights and

measures, and that Gray be appointed to keep the standard at his store in Johnstonville; and

***WHEREAS**, the weights and measures were ordered from London, England, from the firm of Mary de Grave, Scale Makers for His Majesty and Exporters of Scales and Steelyards, and shipped with an invoice date of June 13, 1804; and*

***WHEREAS**, the set included brass weights; a brass yardstick; and copper containers for dry and wet measures of gallons, quarts, pints, and bushels; and*

***WHEREAS**, the weights and measures are the oldest artifacts of Randolph County government; and*

***WHEREAS**, the weights and measures are on display at the 1909 Historic Courthouse.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Object is given to the*

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution is approved by the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in its minutes, with appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy of the Resolution presented to the recipient.*

Approval of Resolution Designating Cultural Heritage Object: Randolph Hornets Flag

Commission member Ross Holt stated the narrative of the Randolph Hornets Flag was a product of different writers but compiled for the records. Chairman Whatley gave a summary of why the Flag should be recognized, which was information from the narrative submitted for designation.

The HLPC desires the narrative to be included in the minutes, as follows:

The Battle Flag Comes Home

By Joseph R. Suggs

Written for The State, vol. 36, May 1, 1969

The battle flag of the Randolph Hornets – Company M, 22nd North Carolina Militia – has come home again to Randolph County, from whence it departed over one hundred years ago. In 1968, when the faded old flag was presented to the Randolph Historical Society by Dr. and Mrs. Marion B. Roberts, of Hillsborough, and was placed on permanent display in Asheboro, local historians gathered such information as was available about its origin and role in the War Between the States.

The flag is believed to have been made locally by the families of the men in the company that bore it. Originally the colors must have been red, white and blue. Many delicate stitches, the evidence of nimble handi-work, are plainly visible. The thirteen gold stars designating the original Confederate states are mounted on a background of blue. On one side, outlined in India, ink, are the letters "Randolph Hornets." The reverse side bears the appliqued motto "Onward to Victory."

It is known locally that the flag left Randolph County when the company was mustered into service in 1861. This company of Confederate soldiers was composed of men who lived principally in the eastern section of Randolph County, mainly the Liberty and Staley communities.

The Randolph Hornets were in the 22nd Regiment; and the company was commanded by John M. Odell, Captain, June 10, 1861; Laban Odell, Captain, April 20, 1862; W. B. Kivett, Captain, March 6, 1863, and Columbus F. Siler, Captain, May 1, 1863. A copy of the complete company roster is available from the Society.

The company fought in every battle except First Bull Run, and sustained its greatest losses at Chancellorsville, Va. After Jackson's death at this battle, Lee reorganized his army into three corps. At Gettysburg, the Randolph Hornets were a part of Iverson's brigade, Rhodes Division, Ewell's Corps. These men were ordered to make a large sweep and assault the Union line behind a stone wall. Heavy losses were again suffered.

A few Hornets were present at the final surrender at Appomattox, Va. But no one knows at what time in the company's eventful career the flag passed from its possession [HLPC editor's note: see "The Randolph Hornet's Battle Flag: A Question Finally Answered" by Barbara Newsome Grigg, following, for information on the capture of the flag by union forces]. When next we hear of it, nearly a century later, it was located in Connecticut.

It is believed that the flag was captured, but the story of its owners and travels after being taken from the Randolph Hornets is a mystery. Dr. and Mrs. Roberts learned of the flag in 1961 and after a long and determined effort were able to gain possession of it, so that it could be returned to North Carolina.

The minutes of the Randolph County Historical Society meeting at which the flag was dedicated, records this condensed account of Dr. Roberts' statement: "... while visiting with some Civil War buffs in Doyleston, Pennsylvania, I heard a member of the group from New Jersey mention that someone in Connecticut had a flag made for the Randolph Hornets, but he had no idea who it might be.

"I was determined to get this flag; therefore I got in touch with a friend in Nashville, Tennessee. He knew a buff in Pennsylvania who knew a gentleman in New Jersey who knew where the flag was. I still do not know who had the flag, nor how it got to Connecticut. I have an idea it was captured. As you can see, I obtained this flag from and through my friend in Nashville."

Although there were other Randolph Counties in the Confederacy, North Carolina's Randolph was the only one with a "Hornet" Company.

Dr. Roberts says he "argued with myself for over a year --- whether to keep the flag or return it to Randolph County." He decided to donate it to the Randolph County Historical Society with the provision that its care be perpetuated and that it be displayed in a suitable case. "I am sure we made the right decision," he said.

Following appropriate ceremonies, the flag was placed on permanent display in the Randolph Room of the Asheboro Public Library, along with the Society's other historic mementoes. A special display case, manufactured by the Oro Manufacturing Co. of Monroe, N.C., revolves so that both sides of the flag may be conveniently examined. Our Society, the oldest historical society on record in this state, invites all persons interested in local history to see this unique historical acquisition whenever they are in Asheboro.

*The Randolph Hornets' Battle Flag: A Question Finally Answered
By Barbara Newsome Grigg*

The mystery of when and where the Battle Flag of a Company of Confederate Soldiers from Randolph County, who called themselves 'The Randolph Hornets,' was lost, has finally been answered.

I, Barbara Newsom Grigg, found an old newspaper, the "Weekly Times" printed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, dated December 20, 1879, which tells the story of the loss of 'The Randolph Hornets' Battle Flag.

The article is very long, telling much about the blockading of the Potomac River, but the part about the flag is copied in its entirety.

At the end of the newspaper article is the paper written by Joseph R. SUGGS entitled "The Battle Flag Come Home," which tells the story of its origin and being returned to Randolph County.

*ANNALS OF THE WAR
CHAPTERS OF UNWRITTEN HISTORY BLOCKADING THE POTOMAC
A Project in Which the Confederates Were Not Wholly Successful*

*TALKING ACROSS THE RIVER
The Story of a Union Soldier Stationed on the Northern Bank
By Oliver C. COOPER of the First Massachusetts Infantry
HOOKER'S Division*

"About the 1st. November 1861, HOOKER'S Brigade comprising the First and Eleventh Massachusetts, the Second New Hampshire and the Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania... was ordered down the Potomac to help look after the rebel force which had "gathered at the river" and established formidable batteries with the view of cutting off Federal water communication with Washington...

"On Tuesday, March 9, (1862) the unusual movements about the rebel batteries attracted the attention of our people. During the forenoon one of the gunboats – the "Anacosta," I think – cautiously approached the upper battery, dropping shells into the works as she moved down. Getting within close range and finding no signs of occupation, a detachment of men landed from the gunboats, who scrambled up the steep embankment, and soon the multitudes of our soldiers who, from the opposite river banks had been anxiously watching these proceedings, saw the Stars and Stripes wave out to the breeze above the hostile guns, and then such a cheer went up as had never before rolled over the waters of the Potomac. At the same time a loud explosion occurred at the Shipping Point battery, clouds of smoke and earth ascending high in the air. It was now evident that the enemy was evacuating and that the blockade of the Potomac was at an end. All was excitement on our side. The long-roll was beat in every camp and the men eagerly responded to the order to "Fall in!" Three barges loaded with men from the Massachusetts First started for the Virginia shore and landed at the Shipping Point batteries simultaneously with portions of the crews of the gunboats, which had steamed down to the scene, throwing their shells as they proceeded, and soon the starry flag of the Union also floated here. Two or three of the guns of the battery were found bursted. All of the pieces had been heavily wadded, then crammed to the muzzle with sand and fires built under the carriages with the expectation that they would burn and the heat cause the gun to discharge and burst. But this failed except in few instances. The guns were mostly rifled 7 and 9-inch Dalhgrens, with one magnificent 120-pounder Blakeley gun, which had been brought from England but a few months before. This, with its fellows, was subsequently taken to the Washington Navy Yard, where they

were all pug [sic] in good condition and did much excellent service for the Union thereafter.

OCCUPYING THE ENEMY'S CAMP

"Our troops penetrated to the rebel camps and saw abundant indication of very hasty departure. Plenty of fresh beef was found in the quarter, and but recently killed. A sutler's store, containing a large stock of goods, was discovered and the contents appropriated. On a desk in the store was found a letter, partly finished, directed to parties in Richmond. It seemed as if the late occupants had been seized with a sudden panic and had precipitately fled, glad even to get away with life. In the deserted camps were found abundance of cooking utensils, with other indications that the "Johnnies" had not by any means been in a starving condition. On the following day five hundred men crossed the river, and while some of them cautiously excavated the exploded magazines in quest of shot and shell, other companies went on a reconnoissance. The camps were again visited and many relics obtained, almost every man going away loaded. Among the captures was a fine litter of bloodhound pups, which were presented by the Captain to Colonel AUSTIN, of HOOKER'S staff. Many regimental papers, reports, etc., as well as private letters, addressed to officers and soldiers, were picked up in the camps. The writer of this has a letter addressed to "Lieutenant W. T. IRVINE, Brooks Station, VA.", from his wife, on the back of which is a memorandum of officers and men, doubtless selected for guard or other detail. Two handsome banners were obtained in one of the camps – one, of silk, having belonged to an Arkansas company and the other, of satin, bearing on one side the inscription, "The Randolph Hornet's," and on the other, "Onward to Victory." A building was found containing fifteen or twenty ready-made pine coffins, and the numerous graveyards, filled with fresh graves, which were met with, showed that sickness and death had been busy in the Confederate Camps during the winter. In fact this was also shown by the company and regimental reports found..."



Commission member Ivey said it is important to remember that the flag is a Company flag that was carried into battle. Mr. Holt said that although the flag is now kept covered and in a dark room due to light fading the silk fabric, it can be seen at the Asheboro Public Library upon request. Chairman Whatley said the flag was made by "women of Cedar Falls and Franklinsville" (probably the mill worker women) for Company M. Company M was headquartered at Middleton Academy, halfway between Cedar Falls and Franklinsville. The men for Company M were drawn from all over north east Randolph, including Ramseur, and trained at a blacksmith shop south of Liberty.

On a motion of Ivey, seconded by Hankins, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Recognition for the Randolph Hornets Flag, as follows:

***WHEREAS**, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission desires to recognize those Cultural Heritage Objects that provide a tangible link to the past, with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history and thus shaped our present; and*

***WHEREAS**, during the Civil War, soldiers from Randolph County constituting Company M, 22nd Regiment, North Carolina Troops, known as the Randolph Hornets, carried a battle flag believed to have been made locally by the families of men in the company, who primarily were from the Liberty and Staley areas; and*

***WHEREAS**, the 55-inch x 35-inch satin flag featuring 13 gold stars on a blue field, with red and white stripes, bore on one side the inscription, "Randolph Hornets," and on the other, "Onward to Victory," in India ink; and*

***WHEREAS**, the flag was captured by Union forces on March 9, 1862 near the Potomac River; and*

***WHEREAS**, the flag was discovered in Connecticut in 1961 and returned to Randolph County on October 10, 1968; and*

***WHEREAS**, the flag is available for viewing at the Randolph County Public Library.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Object is given to the*

RANDOLPH HORNETS FLAG

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution is approved by the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in its minutes, with appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy of the Resolution presented to the recipient.*

Discussion of Potential Local Cultural Heritage Designations

Chairman Whatley called for suggestions on future Cultural Heritage designations and the following were suggested: Waddell's Ferry, Hoover Hill House and Mill, Hoover Hill Gold Mine, Bells Mill, Old Union Methodist Church 1786, Amos Hinshaw Barn 1880

Discussion

Chairman Whatley said that the Tourism Development Authority is working on a rack card that would direct people to the HLPC website for a full list of landmark designations and details. The back of the card will list contacts for all the local museums.

Chairman Whatley said that the month of May is Historic Preservation Month and wishes that it could be recognized somehow and suggested a one-day event where all museums could be open at the same time.

Commission member Ivey encouraged others to contact their representative to vote to continue tax credits for historic designations.

Public Comment

Flora Memory, 134 N. Main Street, Randleman, said the HLPC was the only place she knew to come for assistance in getting information corrected that the Randleman Museum has. Upon

research on properties and her deed, her house was located on Broadway St. (prior to being named Main St.) in Union Mills Township. Not Union Manufacturing as the museum is listing the town to have been named prior to John Randleman. Chairman Whatley said he would look into it and make contact with someone there.

Adjournment

At 3:22 p.m., on motion of Dixon, seconded by Holt, the HLPC voted unanimously to adjourn.

Mac Whatley, Chairman

Amanda Varner, Clerk to the HLPC