

# Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

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



August 26, 2009

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met in the County Commissioners Meeting Room of the County Office Building at 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC, and the meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present were Hal Johnson, Fran Andrews, Bill Johnson, Warren Dixon, Mac Whatley, Bill Ivey, and Lynne Qualls. Robby Davis was absent. Robyn Hankins entered later where so noted in the minutes.

Chairman Johnson welcomed the Andrew Balfour chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Also present were students and instructors of RCC who are working on a logo and advertising campaign for the HLPC.

## **Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2009**

*On a motion of Andrews, seconded by Dixon, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 22, 2009, as presented.*

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Ms. Hankins entered the meeting at this time.

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## **Presentation - Randolph County Budget Book Cover**

Chairman Johnson presented the cover of the Randolph County FY 2009-2010 budget book, stating that the HLPC should be very excited that Randolph County Administration wanted to showcase what the Commission had accomplished in its first year. He read a portion of the inside of the cover, stating that these words also emphasize not only reasons for consideration of a local landmark such as Andrew Balfour Cemetery, but also the purpose the Historic Preservation Commission. The wording follows:

*We are all part of a community and events that were here before us, and will be here long after, and we have a long-term interest in protecting and recognizing the history, character, and heritage of Randolph County. We are all only the temporary custodians of our community and land, so we should work to recognize and preserve our Randolph County historical landmarks.*

## **Public Hearing - Landmark Designation**

At 2:03 p.m., the Commission adjourned to a duly advertised public hearing to consider a historic landmark designation request. Chairman Johnson opened the public hearing and closed it before taking action.

For the guests present, Chairman Johnson gave a brief history of the Commission since its creation by ordinance of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners and the requirements for designation.

## Col. Andrew Balfour Cemetery

Chairman Johnson asked Mac Whatley to narrate during the Power Point presentation.

Mr. Whatley stated, “this site is a historic site not just a historic cemetery, and the designation is about what happened there and not because it’s a cemetery.”

Mr. Whatley said that the dramatic story of the assassination of Colonel Andrew Balfour on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1782, on the steps of his own home, is by far the best known and best documented episode of Randolph County’s Revolutionary War history. He was murdered in front of his sister and daughter who were living with him at the time. His wife arrived after his death. Balfour’s grave site is the only remaining physical evidence of his residence in the county, but his memory lives on in numerous ways.

Balfour married Jane McCormick in 1769 and fathered a daughter Isabel (nicknamed “Tibby”), in 1771. He immigrated to America from Grenock, Scotland in May of 1772, leaving his wife and child to follow later, and arrived in Boston on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, 1772. While working in Enfield, Connecticut, he received news that his wife had died in Scotland of fever on June 17, 1773. His sister, Margaret Balfour, sailed with Balfour’s daughter, Tibby, to Charleston, South Carolina, where their brother, John Balfour, resided. Meanwhile, Balfour met Elizabeth Dayton of New Port, Rhode Island and married her there on May 1, 1774, before embarking for Charleston to reunite with Margaret and Tibby.

Balfour moved south in 1777, leaving his wife with her relatives in New England while he investigated family land in North Carolina and visited his brother in Charleston. Balfour’s father had purchased land in South Carolina for his son, John, and before 1773, he evidently purchased a thousand acres in North Carolina from Lord Granville, and offered it to his son Andrew for homesteading. Balfour, basing himself in Salisbury, NC, had the property surveyed in May, 1779, and found it to contain 1,900 acres on the “waters” of Betty McGee’s Creek, a tributary of Little River and the Pee Dee River basin. Balfour moved to the property with a number of slaves and began operating a “plantation.” As a prominent landowner, Balfour became highly regarded in a short time, and was elected Second Major of the local militia in 1779. In 1780, he was elected one of the county’s first state representatives to the General Assembly and a short time later was appointed Colonel of the Militia. It is interesting that Andrew Balfour became a Whig, as his brother, John; living in both Charleston, SC and Cheraw, SC remained a Tory loyalist.

About the same time Balfour was fighting for the Whigs, David Fanning arrived in the county from South Carolina and assembled a guerrilla army of pro-British Tories.

The cemetery, located at or near the site of Balfour’s home and marking the site of his murder, is historically valuable in illustrating and explaining the vicious guerrilla warfare that centered on Randolph County in the aftermath of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Andrew Balfour was not the only Whig killed in the “Tory War,” but he became its best known victim. David Fanning was the partisan leader of the royalist Tory forces based in the southeastern section of the county. His greatest exploit was a surprise attack on the state government meeting in Hillsborough, where he captured Governor Thomas Burke and a number of members of the General Assembly, and marched them to Wilmington as prisoners of war. But the majority of Fanning’s work during 1782-1783 lay in terrorizing the friends and families of local patriot leaders, burning their barns and homes, intimidating

local government, and engaging in several pitched battles with Whig cavalry and militia forces.

Mr. Whatley concluded stating that Fanning's assassination of Andrew Balfour was most likely part of his plan to deprive the local Whig forces of any competent leadership.

Representatives of the DAR spoke in favor of this recommendation of designation, stating they were very proud of the site. They asked about the location of the designation sign and Chairman Johnson informed them that it would be located along Doull Mountain Road at the entrance to the site. Everyone discussed a desire for a small parking area at the site.

Everyone was in agreement that the City of Asheboro has done a great job with the upkeep of the cemetery and property.

Mr. Bill Johnson questioned the protection of the designation from future development around the airport and Chairman Johnson replied that by state statute, every cemetery is protected, but designating the location as a historic landmark would be additional protection.

*On a motion of Andrews, seconded by Whatley, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the resolution of support for the Randolph County Commissioner's designation of the historic Col. Andrew Balfour Cemetery as a historic landmark, as follows:*

***Resolution Recommending Local Historic Landmark Designation  
1782 Colonel Andrew Balfour Cemetery***

***WHEREAS***, Chapter 160A, Article 19, Part 3C of the North Carolina General Statutes provides for the designation of local historic landmarks; and

***WHEREAS***, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners has appointed the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission, having the authority to exercise, all powers and duties given it by the Randolph County Historic Preservation Ordinance; and

***WHEREAS***, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission has taken into consideration all information contained in the Historic Landmark Designation Application for the for the 1782 Colonel Andrew Balfour Cemetery, requested and filed by the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission on April 4, 2009; and

***WHEREAS***, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, has reviewed the Local Landmark Application and noted that the report provides the Historic Landmark Commission and the elected officials with adequate information to determine whether the 1782 Colonel Andrew Balfour Cemetery has the required special significance and integrity required for local landmark designation; and

***WHEREAS***, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission conducted the required public hearing, having published legal notices with mailings to adjoining property owners; and

***WHEREAS***, the 1782 Colonel Andrew Balfour Cemetery marks the site of the assassination of Colonel Andrew Balfour by the royalist Tory forces, and is historically significant in explaining the vicious guerrilla warfare that centered around Randolph County in the aftermath of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Colonel Balfour's murder in 1782 was planned to deprive the local Randolph County Patriot/Whig forces of competent leadership during the Revolutionary War; and

*WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission finds that the 1782 Colonel Andrew Balfour Cemetery, meets the following specific criteria outlined in the adopting Ordinance establishing the Commission: (1) Critical Part of the County's heritage by having value as an example of the cultural, historic, and social heritage of Randolph County; (2) The location of the 1782 Colonel Andrew Balfour Cemetery represents a unique and distinctive site representing an established and familiar visual presence in Randolph County; and*

*WHEREAS, the property is more specifically described as follows:*

*The site is located on a 26 acre tract owned by the City of Asheboro; 2421 DouL Mountain Road, PIN# 7639205494, Cedar Grove Township; Asheboro, North Carolina; and consists of five graves of the Balfour family members enclosed by a stone wall of 37 feet width and 44 feet frontage approximately 235 feet off of DouL Mountain Road. The gravestones are in their original layout with no additional burials since 1825. Two memorial plaques have been placed in the cemetery.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009, that the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission approves the application for local landmark designation, and recommends to the Randolph County Board of Commissioners that the 1782 Colonel Andrew Cemetery be designated as a Local Historic Landmark.*

Chairman Johnson stated that a public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance designating the Col. Andrew Balfour cemetery would be held by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

### **RCC Logo and Historical Marketing Plan**

On August 27, 2008, the HLPC approved asking RCC to be involved in the design of a logo that would represent the history and heritage of Randolph County and to offer suggestions for ways to educate the public. Chairman Johnson and Ms. Andrews have both visited with the students of the Advertising and Graphic Design program.

Two of the instructors and four students of the program were in attendance for this meeting. Student Jamie Kellis spoke on behalf of the class and instructor Cindy Thrall on behalf of the instructors of the program.

Ms. Kellis stated that the summer semester students had been working on the design of a logo. The fall semester students are beginning research and plan to go out into communities to survey citizens as to their knowledge of Randolph County's history and historical landmarks. There will be four teams taking to the streets in different cities to conduct the survey, and Ms. Kellis asked for some suggestions of what the Commission would like to see as questions on a brief survey.

Ms. Thrall requested assistance with a list of businesses that would agree to the students conducting the survey in front of their location, since they have been rejected by many others. Ms. Andrews offered some Trinity locations they could contact and Ms. Qualls offered some other locations, as well.

Ms. Thrall said from that they plan to use the survey results to ascertain how many people know what landmark preservation is or if they know about the HLPC and its purpose. They hope this information will give them a starting place for the marketing campaign.

Ms. Qualls suggested questions about being a native of the county, while Mr. Whatley offered, “How many Randolph County historical locations they can name?” Mr. Ivey wanted to know if the citizens would be in favor of a county-wide museum. Chairman Johnson wanted to know how an average person would define a historic landmark, or did they know what it takes to be designated as one.

Mr. Bill Johnson suggested they visit some municipality museums to check the guest register for names and contact information to possibly contact them as to why they visited the museum and the area as additional statistical information for their survey.

Ms. Thrall said they would like to request to appear before the HLPC in November and bring five logos to unveil. The students also have an assignment to put together advertising concepts to help educate residents and visitors and to promote history as a part of tourism. She stated that the instructors are encouraging the teams to go with a broad range of ideas to market this concept. The range would be from no cost to spending a large sum of money.

The instructors hope the students learn how to market small to large projects and market each project from doing just a little to a full marketing campaign. They study fourteen topics, have brainstorming sessions, do sketches, artistic design and create advertising materials. Ms. Thrall asked if the four groups could also come before the HLPC and present four proposals for marketing history in Randolph County at the November meeting. She stated that the students understand that the Commission doesn’t have to select any one of the logos or marketing proposals. She also thanked the HLPC for giving the students this opportunity of a real client experience versus a fictitious project.

Chairman Johnson stated that due to the regular meeting date in November being the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, the Commission would discuss the date and most likely set a special meeting date to hear their proposals and see the logos.

### **1909 Courthouse Historical Marker**

Chairman Johnson presented the artwork for the 1909 Randolph County Courthouse #7 historical marker. He stated the marker is of Mt. Airy granite to match, as close as possible, the original granite of the courthouse. It would be placed to the right of the entrance and should be complete and ready for delivery in four to five weeks. Chairman Johnson said the Randolph County Board of Commissioners is planning to set an open house and dedication of the courthouse and marker for a later date.

### **September Meeting**

The Commission discussed the location of the September meeting and agreed to let Chairman Johnson and Mr. Ivey work out the details. Chairman Johnson will send notice regarding the change of location.

### **Adjournment**

*On a motion of Dixon, seconded by Andrews, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:05 p.m.*

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Hal Johnson, Chairman

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Amanda Varner,  
Clerk to the HLPC