

Civil War buff wants historical marker for Battle of Morrisville

Continued from page 1

"The committee feels that most of the major Civil War events have already been marked. Many recent applications have failed because they are not as important as sites already marked," Hill said.

The committee has recently turned down several skirmishes similar to the one fought in Morrisville, Hill said.

Of the 1,418 existing markers, more than 250 are Civil War related, far more than any other category. Most were erected during the Civil War Centennial in early 1960. There are 72 markers in Wake County.

To approve a marker, the committee must believe that the event had statewide importance. Dollar believes he can back up that claim.

His research has shown that the first note from Gen. Joe Johnston suggesting surrender was delivered to Union Gen. Judson Kilpatrick in Morrisville, and later forwarded to Sherman in Raleigh. Confederate Gen. Wade Hampton sent Capt.

Rawlins Lowndes with a white flag across the battle line in Morrisville to deliver the note to Kilpatrick's headquarters at midnight on April 13. Lowndes waited most of the night and returned with Sherman's agreement for an armistice, which was then forwarded to Johnston's headquarters.

"This note, received at Morrisville, would be the brightest ray of light for peace in four years and set the stage for the largest surrender of the Civil War 12 days later at Durham Station," Dollar said on his website.

Despite the fact that Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant days before at Appomattox, Virginia, the war was not over, Dollar said.

"Most history books say the war stopped at Appomattox," he said. "Nobody's heard of Bennett Place. This history has been overlooked for so long. That's one reason why Morrisville had no attention until now."

Dollar grew up in Parkwood subdivision in southern Durham. He went to college at UNC-Greensboro,

'After researching, I saw Morrisville as a good opportunity to increase awareness of the Civil War in this area.'

—Ernest Dollar,
Civil War buff

majoring in design and history, and took a year of a master's program in history at the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C.

On a visit home during those college years, his friend John Short took him to some of the sites in the Triangle area.

"He showed me the ropes," Dollar said. "I was fascinated to see stuff actually dug out of the ground."

Short has found an old gun barrel that was used as a corner rod to mark a property line, and several metal buttons from uniforms. One

rare find is a Texas naval button. He also has Confederate buttons from several different states.

So far, all Dollar has unearthed have been mime balls, cavalry type bullets.

"I haven't been that lucky yet," he laments.

But as he looked at the sites and the artifacts, the college student in him came to the fore. "This needs to be documented," he said to himself. He started research in 1992.

"I started looking for the battle at New Hope Creek, which was another

mysterious battle," Dollar said. "But I had to get the whole picture, so I backtracked. After researching, I saw Morrisville as a good opportunity to increase awareness of the Civil War in this area."

He shares his research on his web site.

On the morning of April 13, Union Gen. Judson Kilpatrick took Raleigh, Confederate Cavalry Gen. Joseph Wheeler and Confederate Gen. Wade Hampton had fled the city and Kilpatrick remained in Raleigh about 30 minutes before setting out in pursuit of Wheeler and Hampton. The first battle occurred at Ashbury Station in West Raleigh, about where Ole N.C. Barbecue is now located.

The confederates began retreating, ending up on a ridge overlooking Morrisville about 2 p.m. A train was preparing to take wounded soldiers and supplies to Hillsborough. Kilpatrick's men tried to stop the train, and it left without the two cars of supplies, which Kilpatrick confiscated. Kilpatrick also took the village of Morrisville.

Hampton's confederates dug in at the site of the rifle pits, near what is now Morrisville Town Hall. Late that night, the famous note was delivered at Morrisville. Wheeler's cavalry headed on west, battling with union soldiers on Petty Farm Road in the Carpenter Community. The last skirmish before surrender, and arguably the last battle in the entire war, was held at New Hope Creek outside Chapel Hill.

Dollar is also trying to organize a re-enactment, to coincide with the committee's meeting, and also the anniversary of the battle, April 13 and 14, 1865. Several re-enactors have expressed interest in participating, but he has not decided on a site.

"I'd like to have it someplace kind of visible, where people can come out, take a look, and be surprised. We'd like to hand out brochures about the battle and the historic marker."

If sheer determination counts for anything, we can expect to see that marker by late spring or early summer.

Morrisville Town Board starts DOT road project fund

Continued from page 1

would never get done. If you had to take everything you had to get that road through, I would say the money needs to be on it."

Once the town gets federal approval for the plans, rights of way will have to be obtained.

Commissioner Leavy Barbee asked why the town couldn't start getting those rights of way now, while the plan is sitting for six to nine months in the federal offices. Carolyn Grant, DOT board member for the Morrisville area has told Town Manager David Hodgkins that DOT would use small urban monies to build the connector, and that those funds are available now.

The board also has the option to assess property owners for the road

widening in front of their property, although that has never been done. Because of the expense involved in this road—a cost of potentially \$2 million—board members said they would strongly consider making assessments.

"It will improve their property," Moore said. "In the long run, he will be reduced to a three-bedroom house from 316 gallons per day to 250 gallons per day, a significant reduction. A study of 56 homes on Fairwoods Drive came back higher than the town had hoped, and another study is planned."

Meanwhile, Morrisville is negotiating with Durham for wastewater treatment at Durham's plant on N.C. 55. Under a proposed agreement, Morrisville would partner with

447,000 gallons a day with the peak usage of 634,000 gallons a day occurring in March. The town has contracted to receive up to 2 million gallons of treatment per day from Cary.

Assistant to the town manager Mike Koisoivo is working on a study to prove to the state that actual numbers are lower. Cary recently reduced its estimate for a three-bedroom house from 316 gallons per day to 250 gallons per day, a significant reduction. A study of 56 homes on Fairwoods Drive came back higher than the town had hoped, and another study is planned.

Meanwhile, Morrisville is negotiating with Durham for wastewater treatment at Durham's plant on N.C. 55. Under a proposed agreement, Morrisville would partner with

Durham to upgrade the plant.

The water situation is somewhat better than the wastewater situation, after a recent agreement with Cary for additional water. But Hodgkins suggested that residents should still limit sprinkler use.

In the future, the town may consider doing away with irrigation meters, which allow the user to only pay for water use, instead of water and sewer use; and requiring rain sensors on all sprinkler systems.

The board also discussed stormwater runoff, annexation procedures, standard operating procedures for the police department, an incentive program for volunteer firefighters, an updated capital improvements program and the use of the community center.

The town engineer will make recommendations on how to handle stormwater runoff in response to complaints from several homeowners about runoff from development above them.

The board also discussed requiring developers to annex their property before their plans are approved, instead of before the building permit is granted.

The board agreed that the police department should limit chases for minor offenses like shoplifting because of potential damage to the police cars.

Hodgkins will approach the chamber of commerce about providing some incentives for volunteer firefighters, such as reduced movie rates and restaurant meals.

Commissioner Bill Case, who was a volunteer firefighter in Florida, said a similar incentive program there worked well in attracting and retaining volunteers.

Hodgkins said he will work on an updated Capital Improvements Plan, to include water and sewer, streets and public buildings, and identify the needs, the time frame and rough cost estimates. The current Capital Improvements Program was developed in 1990, and most of the projects are already completed.

Increased hours at the community center in the early morning may increase use of the exercise equipment. Commissioner Jan Faulkner was concerned that the community center is not always available to residents.

More business coming

Continued from page 1

Penske Truck Leasing, which does maintenance on trucks for other fleets, will be located on 6.9 acres in Lot 10 of Airpark subdivision. The 15,155 square foot building will be used as a garage and to wash the trucks. No more than about 30 or 40 trucks would be at the site at one time, but the company will maintain about 175 trucks in the area, Watts Davis, district manager, said.

Commissioners expressed concerns about having trucking in this

area of town. Davis said that the greatest amount of "ins and outs" would be after 5 p.m. and on weekends.

The plan was approved unanimously with the condition that no irrigation meters be granted.

The office building at Concourse Lakeside II will be located on 6.7 acres on the west side of Slater Road, north of Sorrell's Grove Church Road. The 78,416-square-foot building will be a mirror image of the existing building in Phase I of the project.

Chamber grows to third largest in Wake County

The Morrisville Chamber of Commerce membership has grown from 100 to about 600 this year to become the third largest chamber in Wake County.

The chamber has four goals for 1999, Chairman Jim Huggins said at the kickoff meeting for 1999, reporting on the results of the day-long retreat held in November.

The goals are economic development, membership development, activities enhancement and facility improvement.

The chamber also hopes to improve relations with the town—it has already made strides in that direction, this year creating a shared website and marketing brochure for the town. Don Dixon, a member of the chamber board, will be responsible this year for creating an economic development marketing plan.

Until now Chamber Executive Director Ray Lech has single-handedly managed the chamber's phenomenal growth, but this year a committee headed by Cleve Folger and Kenie Wrenn will help with membership development.

The activities committee, led by Gerry Fiks, will try to get more participation at Issues and Eggs breakfasts, Business After Hours activities, the annual barbecue and golf outings, and perhaps come up with

more activities.

Mark Bolebruch is leading the committee to find a new, more professional building with meeting facilities that members can use.

Dave Lindner and Lou Walters are helping him. The chamber is considering a site near the Morrisville Town Hall, but is still negotiating a contract with the landowner.

The committees, which were set up at a daylong retreat held Nov. 14, at the Courtyard by Marriott, will help enhance the chamber members' ability to do business in Morrisville, Huggins said.

"This will require increased participation from all chamber members," he noted. "The more you participate, the more you will get out of it." He hopes to "make Morrisville a better place to do business for all of us," he said.

The next Issues and Eggs breakfast will be held Feb. 18 at a new location, the Golden Corral restaurant on N.C. 54. John Douglas, supervisor with the Immigration and Naturalization Service will speak. Breakfast costs \$8.

On Feb. 8, Business After Hours will be held at the Ground Finale in Maynard Crossings, at the corner of Maynard and High House Roads in Cary from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

First, second, and third-place win-

ners in the Governor's Club Classic golf event held Nov. 2 were Danny's Barbecue, Rudino's Pizza and Grinders, and Beauty Lawn.

Individual winners included Smith Byham—closest to the pin on the third hole; Daniel Lang—closest to the pin on the fourth hole; John Powell—longest drive on the seventh hole; Jim Flink—longest drive on the 13th hole; Herman Hocutt—closest to the pin on the 14th hole; and Johnny Evans—longest drive on the 17th hole hole.

New members for the month of January are Allstate Insurance, Tom Fiquette; Gelm and Associates; John Burke Photography; Smith Helms Mulliss and Moore, attorneys.

New members for the month of December include Allstates Air Cargo, Inc.; Bell & Howell, Block & Associates Realty; Brentwood Homes, Inc.; Brinks Home Security Service; Capi's, Inc.; Carolina Mudcats; Checkwrite Payroll Systems, Inc.; Chik-Fil-A; Coppola Foods; Crescent State Bank; Edie Raepher; Farsight Design, Inc.; Grand Stand Grille & Tavern; Hall-Kimoon; Health Systems International; Herald-Sun; Horizon Homes, Inc.; IBM Consultation; Ideal Landscaping and Grading Co.;

InterLan Technologies; J.O.B. Strategies, Inc.; Jani-King of Raleigh-Durham; Jerry's Caterers; John H. Frischkorn, Jr., Inc.; The Lundy Group; Matrix Resources, Inc.; Net by Design; Precision Sprinkler Co., Inc.; Primrose School of Cary; Primrose School of West Cary; Residence Inn by Marriott; Riggs Harrod Builders; Ruth's Chris Steak House; Shor Szechuan Chinese Restaurant; Spectrum Medical Center; Stephens Catering; Sterling Green; Telephone Systems Plus; Threadscapes; Tony's Pizzeria; Tony Smith; Trans America Business Services; and Waterworks.

New members for the month of November include Aqua Cool Pure Bottled Water; Bunkey's Car Wash; Carolina Hurricanes; CrossTimbers; Dunn Physical Therapy; Edward D. Jones & Co.; Glory Road; Golden Corral; Headway Corporate Staffing Services; Health Systems International; Intec USA, LLC; J. M. Thompson Co.; N.C.D. Architects International; Nature Revisited; Pizzagalli Properties; Ramp Solutions; RPS, Inc.; Sirtage, Inc.; Spectrum Medical Center, Twenty First Designs, Inc.; United Arts Council of Raleigh; and Whitcom International Corporation.

We turn little kids into big readers.



8 out of 10 Sylvan students improve their reading level by one academic year in 5 months.

Two Locations:
CARY 467-8097
GARNER 779-2229

SYLVAN LEARNING CENTER
Success is learned.

www.educate.com

READING WRITING MATH SAT@ACT STUDY SKILLS

Super What?

Carolina Brewing Company
Superbowl Party Headquarters!

BEER BY THE CASE:
Nut Brown Ale, Pale Ale, or Lager
\$20.00

The Glass Onion
Gourmet Market
919-362-1967
Open Mon-Sat 7am-9pm

High House Crossing Shopping Center
(Corner of High House Road & N.C. Hwy. 55 - Cary/Apex)

Every Superbowl Purchase Enters You In A Drawing For Valentine's Dinner for Two!


A Happening Place To Be!

Super Death Wings by the Dozen:
Hot BBQ, Hot Garlic, Mild, Thai Chili

Super Bubba Buckets:
Beer, Nuts, Grits, Carolina Night Crawlers, and Chocolates.
\$30.00

Allstate
You're in good hands.

We're big on small business.



Ronald E. Byrd
Exclusive Agent
Se Habla Español
100 Hyannis Dr. • Suite B • Holly Springs
919-362-1429
919-362-5639 - fax

For business insurance - Being in good hands is the only place to be.

*1996 Allstate Insurance Company, Northbrook, Illinois. Subject to availability and qualifications. Other terms, conditions and exclusions may apply.

J & L ENTERPRISES

DECKS • SCREEN PORCHES
GARAGES • ADDITIONS • INSURED
HOME IMPROVEMENTS
No Job Too Big Or Small

FREE ESTIMATES
PHONE (919) 387-8591 PAGER (919) 871-8431

"Jesus Is Alive"

COME CELEBRATE WITH US
GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Worship Service	11:00 AM
Youth Forum	6:00 PM
Wed. Meal and Bible Study	6-8:00 PM
Children's Programs	7-8:00 PM

Good Hope Church Rd.
Carpenter Community
Morrisville, NC
467-8526