



# WFU prof to explore slavery during Revolution

♣ **What did slavery look like to combatants in the Revolutionary War — white, Black, American and European — as they traveled between regions?**

Join Wake Forest University History professor Dr. Jake Rudiman for “Is This the Land of Liberty? Soldiers and Slavery in the War of American Independence,” 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 30, at the Asheboro library.

The talk, supported by the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

Rudiman will discuss his research into the travel writing of soldiers during the war. The campaigns of the American Revolution carried troops far from their homes and exposed them to unfamiliar enslaved societies. What did these military outsiders see and what did they record?

The war profoundly disrupted the institution of slavery, spreading charged rhetoric about liberty, levying new demand with mobilization and opening opportunities for freedom-seekers. What did Black Americans encountering



*Dr. Jake Rudiman*

soldiers traveling with the armies see? What new relationships could they make?

How did these observations and relationships then shape the course of the war? What were the relationships between wartime experiences and new streams of pro- and anti-slavery arguments in the Revolutionary states?

The answers, Rudiman contends, connect the War of Independence with the generational transformation of the Revolution.

Rudiman, who received his PH.D. from Yale, is an associate professor of History at Wake Forest. His first book, *Becoming Men of Some Consequence: Youth and Military Service in the Revolutionary War*, explores the lives of young men in the Continental Army.

That project led to research into other aspects of the Revolutionary experience, including “Is This the Land of Liberty.” Across his research, Rudiman’s work as a historian of Revolutionary America explores how people built their lives, reshaped their communities and constructed meaning for themselves and for posterity.

# Learn how Cox family went from ‘myth-tery’ to history

♣ **After years of thinking they were descended from Native Americans, one Randolph County family found out the truth through recreational DNA testing.**

Join Lindsey Cox for “When Family History Turns Out to Be A Family Myth-tery,” 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 23, at the Asheboro library.

Cox will talk about how her family found that the truth was far different than stories that had been passed down for decades: the family in fact was descended from an enslaved man named Frank Lytle.

Lytle was one of six children of Thomas Lytle, a white man who owned a plantation along Caraway Creek, and an enslaved Black woman whose name is not known.

Thomas Lytle acted to emancipate his children. Frank was freed in 1795, but his brothers and sisters had to wait until the death of Thomas Lytle’s wife in 1815.

Even then, the children and grandchildren of the sisters remained enslaved. The families were broken up in 1829 in the largest single sale of enslaved persons in Randolph County history.

As the families of Thomas Lytle’s children grew through the generations, they followed different paths. Some remain in Randolph County, but most migrated north and west. Some came to identify as white, and some as Black. Now, Lytles can be found all over the country.

Cox will share how her family — direct descendants of Frank, uncovered a remarkable family history filled with stories of freedom and resilience.

## Archdale

336-431-3811  
Fax 336-431-4619  
10433 S. Main St.  
Mon-Thur 9-8;  
Fri 9-6; Sat 9-1

## Asheboro

336-318-6800  
Fax 336-318-6823  
201 Worth St.  
Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;  
Sat 9-1

## Randolph Room

336-318-6815  
Mon-Fri 9-12:30; 1:30-5:30  
Sat 9-12:30

## Franklinville

336-685-3100  
111 Sumner Place  
Mon-Thur 10-6; Sun 1-5

## Liberty

336-622-4605  
Fax 336-622-2665  
239 S. Fayetteville St.  
Mon, 9-7, Tues 11-7,  
Wed, 9-5, Thur 11-5  
Fri 9-5, Sat 9-3

## Ramseur

336-824-2232  
Fax 336-824-2232  
1512 S. Main St.  
Mon-Fri 9-6  
Sat 9-1

## Randleman

336-498-3141  
Fax 336-498-1139  
142 W. Academy St.  
Mon-Fri 9-6  
Sat 9-1

## Seagrove

336-873-7521  
530 Old Plank Rd.  
Tues-Fri 10-6; Sat 11-3

## Extension Service

336-318-6816 or 336-318-6817; Mon-Fri 9-5

from  
the  
director



**Ross A. Holt**

# Voting with their feet

♣ **As we continuously strive for improvement of library services, we have many ways to chart our progress.**

We collect ratings and comments in our annual Patron Satisfaction Surveys in April, and staff are in continuous communication with individuals and families who visit the library to learn about their needs.

We also collect a bevy of statistics as each fiscal year ends on June 30, which allows us to take a snapshot of our performance, and also to look at short- and long-term trends.

While outputs such as these don't always demonstrate outcomes, outcomes can be inferred from outputs which indicate how people are "voting with their feet."

The big picture in our 2023-2024 snapshot is that while checkout of materials is holding steady, the interactivational aspects of library service and the library's role as a "third place" are booming.

Checkout of all materials, print and digital, remained about the same, down by less than one percent compared to last year.

Our ebook checkouts were stable, increasing about three percent, but e-audiobook checkouts were up 38 percent, and e-magazines jumped 78 percent.

All told, library users checked out 349,851 items — almost 1,200 each day.

It's in other numbers, however, that the value of the library to people in the community is amplified.

Library visits increased by 9 percent, to 343,729 — an average of 1,146 people walking through library doors each day open. This number represents 2.3 visits per capita — as if everyone in Randolph County visited a library more than twice, and well over the

2022-2023 statewide figure of 1.8 (for a direct comparison, our figure that year was 2.2 visits per capita).

Use of our desktop computers — declining over several years due to the prevalence of personal devices — actually rose about three percent, while WiFi use climbed by 13 percent.

Requests for reference-type information jumped 32 percent, and requests for technology assistance spiked by 93 percent.

Even bigger headlines are attendance at library programs and events, and the performance of our branches.

Overall, the audience for library events jumped by 36 percent. Attendance at children's events rose by 45 percent.

A goal of the library system for many years has been to reduce reliance on Asheboro and enable county residents to access all library services closer to home. This appears to be working, as five branches outpaced the library system as a whole in the number of visits, with Franklinville, Liberty, Ramseur and Randleman doing so by more than double the countywide increase.

This distinction is even more dramatic in event attendance numbers, with five branches outpacing the countywide increase of 36 percent: attendance at Randleman rose 52 percent; at Liberty 67 percent; at Franklinville 84 percent, at Archdale 130 percent and at Ramseur by a whopping 169 percent.

These numbers do not occur in a vacuum. They are the result of the efforts of an outstanding library staff who listen to their community and respond with effective library service ideas and innovations — and a public who loves their libraries.



# Get hooked on crochet in library classes ...and other activities around the county

♣ Get hooked on “Crochet for Beginners,” a three-class series from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, September 11 and 25, and October 9, at the Asheboro library with instructor Morgan Wigington.

Classes are free, but space is limited, so call 336-318-6803 for more information or to sign up. Participants can attend all or just some of the classes, which are geared to beginners and those with some experience.

Yarn and crochet hooks will be provided. A pattern will be distributed at the end of the first class so that participants can practice between classes. The classes are supported by the Friends of the Library.

## **STEAM... for adults!**

Usually, libraries create STEAM events for schoolkids. But the Archdale library is switching it up with “STEAM Night for Adults” at 4 p.m. Friday, September 20, an event designed to engage and entertain adults with a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics, and featuring hands-on programming to guide robots through complex tasks and challenges.

Professionals, enthusiasts and the simply curious are welcome.

## **3D pen designs**

Build, design and create in 3D as the Asheboro library TeenZone offers “3D Printing Pens,” 4 p.m. Monday, September 30. Use the library’s 3D pen technology to make what you can imagine.

## **Craft Cafés at Asheboro**

Using its inventory of art supplies, Asheboro Youth Services will launch “Craft Cafés” for kids and for teens/adults. The kids’ version will take place twice monthly at 3:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays beginning September 12 and 26.

The teen/adult version will take place at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday beginning September 18. A variety of crafts will be on the “menu” for hands-on fun.

## **Book clubs for kids, teens**

**Liberty: Manga Meet-Up at the Library,** 1 p.m. Saturday, September 21, Ages 11 and up. Crafts, activities, treats and videos related to manga and comic books.

**Randleman: Teen Talk Book Club,** 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 20, 6th-8th graders. Bring a book to share with others.

**Seagrove: Books and Banter,** 4:30 p.m. Thursdays. Talk about what you’re reading with other teens, and find new books.

## **Colorful goats at Liberty**

Paint a colorful design with a goat in it in “Colorful Goat Painting,” 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 17 or 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 20, at the Liberty library. Sign-up required; call 336-622-4605 to register.

## **Evening book club**

The Asheboro library is launching an evening book club for adults at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the upstairs area of the library, beginning September 18. The first title for discussion is Wiley Cash’s *When Ghosts Come Home*. Copies are available at the library.

## **StoryWalk Festival**

Explore nature and read a book during the Liberty library’s “StoryWalk Festival at Freedom Park,” 1-3 p.m. Saturday, September 14. The park is located at 800 Hamilton Dr. in Liberty.

## **Genealogy at Randleman**

Explore your family history in a “Hands-On Genealogy Workshop,” 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 17, at the Randleman library for ages 16 and up. Bring your own laptop or tablet. Call 336-498-3141 to register.



## **Book discussions**

**Asheboro Reads, Afternoon Edition:** *The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise* by Colleen Oakley, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 24.

**Wednesday Evening Book Club (Asheboro):** *When Ghosts Come Home* by Wiley Cash, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 18.

**Archdale Book Break:** *The Sanatorium* by Sara Pearce, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 17.

**Franklinville: Snippets Book Club,** 12:30 p.m. Monday, September 16.

**Liberty Book Club:** *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 26.

**Liberty Readers Meet-Up:** *Banyan Moon* by Thao Tai, 1 p.m. Monday, September 30, Liberty Senior Center.

## **BYO book groups**

Talk about books that you’ve read recently.

**Archdale: Book Bites,** 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 10.

**Ramseur Page Turners,** 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 3.

**Randleman Readers Recommend,** 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 6.

**Seagrove: Un-Book Club,** 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 24. This month: Mysteries.

## **Wild Tails NC to visit Liberty library**

Wild Tails NC will bring animal ambassadors to the Liberty library at 2 p.m. Thursday, September 26.

Wild Tails, located in Snow Camp, is home to a diverse collection of exotic

species serving as educational ambassadors to benefit their wild relatives and conservation efforts.

Call the library at 336-622-4605 to sign up for the animal meet-and-greet.

## Archdale to host 'Walks with Littles' at Creekside

♣ Step out on a delightful adventure as the Archdale library hosts "Creekside Walks with Littles," 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 27.

Join guide Ciara Wilder Massengale to explore Creekside Park. The journey will begin at the library and follow a paved path (ideal for strollers) less than a mile long. Participants can then continue to enjoy the park, or visit the library.

The event is designed for families with young children and homeschool families.

## Archdale offers library card sign-up incentive

♣ Chances are if you're reading this, you already have a library card. But do you know someone who doesn't?

September is library card sign-up month, and the Archdale library is offering a chance to win a \$20 gift card to Kersey Valley Attractions to a lucky new registrant.

Sign up for a new library card in September to be entered to win in a drawing on October 1.

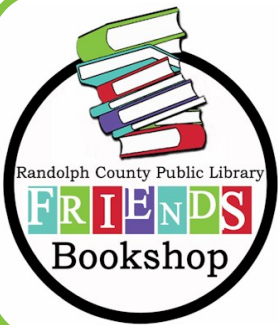
To get a card, you need a government-issued photo ID. If your ID address is not current, bring an official document or an item mailed to you showing your current address.

### Randolph County Public Libraries

201 Worth Street  
Asheboro, NC 27203

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**10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Tuesday,  
Thursday,  
Saturday**  
226 Sunset Ave.  
Asheboro  
[randolphfriends.org](http://randolphfriends.org)

## memorials & donations

*To the Friends of the Library*

By: Doris Kidwell  
Robert and Peggy Morrison

## 'Read With Me' comes to Asheboro

♣ The Archdale library's popular "Read with Me" program comes to the Asheboro library at 10 a.m. Saturdays September 14 and 28.

Read With Me enables children to improve their reading skills by reading to a certified therapy animal. Research has shown that kids who read to a friendly, non-judgmental animal improve their reading confidence as well as their



abilities.

Read With Me, which includes a variety of certified therapy animals, is best for ages five and up. Asheboro's program will start with dog volunteers and a bird volunteer.

Registration is required;

call 336-318-6804 to sign up.

Archdale's Read With Me takes place from 2-4 p.m. every second Monday; call 336-431-3811 to sign up for a slot.