

Ballard, Steve

From: JP <tobacodog@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2015 3:39 PM
To: Ballard, Steve
Subject: Charles B Aycock

Chancellor Ballard, I am writing this in defense of Governor Charles B Aycock, a great Statesman and a champion for Blacks in the State of NC. There are misguided people in NC wrapped with hate that would like to destroy all Southern History and are going to do so unless you and I stand up to them. I understand the University may drop the name of Aycock from your campus. I am writing this statement in defense of Gov. Aycock and wish you to consider the History behind it. I also understand that you and the Trustees are to take up the matter this coming week.

The defense for Gov. Aycock is the context of his times and how he stood up for blacks against universal popular opinion in North Carolina and the whole country to keep them down.

In 1900, white supremacy was the reigning ideology in all of America. This was especially so in the North and Midwest. The intellectual bastion of white supremacy was Harvard, with its School of Scientific Racism. The U.S. Supreme Court had rendered in 1892 its decision in Plessy v. Ferguson allowing racial segregation in the public realm. All the states then started implementing racial segregation. This was the key issue for Progressives to support.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties in every state and at the national level were expelling blacks from public office and from any influence. With much pride and acclaim, the Democrats called it "Jim Crow" and the Republicans called it being "Lily White."

Josephus Daniels as Editor of the Raleigh News & Observer was the most vocal and the leading proponent in N.C. for white supremacy and attempted to use Aycock as his tool.

In this context, Gov. Aycock defied Daniels and asked the state legislature for equal funding for black schools. It refused and wanted no funding for black schools. Gov. Aycock then threatened to resign from office unless there was equal funding. The state legislature then caved to Gov. Aycock and voted close to equal funding. Daniels turned against Gov. Aycock (although they were childhood friends).

The most notable quote from Gov. Aycock is the "equal right of every person for the opportunity to burgeon out all that is within him." He further said before he died that "equality" is what he wants to be known for.

This is the sentiment of a true egalitarian, and not that of a white supremacist.

Gov. Aycock was an egalitarian during the heyday of racial inequality.

I urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the thought that Aycock was racist and consider the facts of a man that cared for all and allow the memory of Aycock to stand on your campus.

Yours truly,
John L Pippin, Jr.
President of the Fremont Historical Museum and Preservation Society

Ballard, Steve

From: JP <tobaccodog@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2015 11:09 PM
To: Ballard, Steve
Subject: Re: Charles B Aycock
Attachments: Aycock ECU.pdf

Chancellor Ballard I thank you for your response and I would like to add more Historical facts in defense of Govenor Aycock:

1. Gov. Aycock pushed for strong anti-lynching laws which the state legislature refused to adopt. He then by Executive Order offered large rewards to those who brought lynchers to justice.
2. Aycock served as Trustee for State Normal School for blacks in Goldsboro from 1887 to 1895 (and shows that N.C. had segregated schools long before Aycock was Gov.).
3. Aycock was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of N.C. by President Grover Cleveland in 1893 because Aycock had a reputation of fairness for blacks.
4. In his 1901 Inaugural Speech, Aycock promised a return to universal voting for blacks with universal education for blacks. Aycock also promised to protect black legal rights, which he did.
5. This is from his statute at the N.C. Capitol.

"The equal right of every child born on earth to have the opportunity to burgeon out all that is within them."

I would ask you to review your on History records of the dedication of Aycock Hall at ECU in 1962 and review the words that were written by your own educators :

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/aycock/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=171440>

I ask you to please find attachment from the ECU Dedacation and the words that read:

Public schools must be provided", he insisted, "for

both races and equally for poor children and wealthier".

I thank you for your valuable time.

John L. Pippin, Jr.

President of the Fremont Historical Museum and Preservation Society

On Sun, Jan 18, 2015 at 4:40 PM, Ballard, Steve <CHANCELLOR@ecu.edu> wrote:

Mr. Pippin,

Thank you very much for this extensive review. We appreciate your input.

Steve Ballard

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CHARLES BRANTLEY AYCOCK, 1859-1912

Perhaps the greatest tribute to Charles Brantley Aycock is not that he was Governor from 1901 to 1905. The fact that he is almost universally admitted to have been "the best loved North Carolinian of his generation" is a tribute he would much more highly have prized.

The statistical facts about him may be briefly summarized. He was born November 1, 1859, on a Wayne County farm. His parents were plain people, but ambitious, industrious, and independent. His father was for eight years clerk of the court, and in 1864-65, an outstanding member of the North Carolina State Senate.

Young Aycock was educated at the Wilson Collegiate Institute and the Joseph H. Foy School in Kinston, and later distinguished himself as a debater at the University of North Carolina. Admitted to the bar in 1881, he was thereafter almost equally known as an outstanding attorney and as a leader in the State Democratic campaigns.

In 1900, he was elected Governor. Both in his pre-election campaign and through his whole term as Governor and afterward he became the foremost North Carolina champion of "universal education". Even earlier as a member of the Goldsboro school board he had faced the problems of local education. "Public schools must be provided", he insisted, "for both races and equally for poor children and wealthier". This cause, which won him national fame as the State's "Educational Governor", still had the foremost place in his interests when he died suddenly from a heart attack while addressing the Alabama Educational Association in Birmingham April 4, 1912. Most fittingly there is carved upon his monument in Raleigh the words he had written for an address in which he had planned to announce a few days later his candidacy for the United States Senate:

Equal! That is the word! On that word I plant
myself and my party - to the equal right of
every child born on earth to have the opportunity
to burgeon out all that there is within him!

OF DEDICATION

_____ Dr. Leo W. Jenkins

_____ Miss Cathy Moreno

_____ J. Herbert Waldrop
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_____ Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr.

_____ Male Quartet
es, John Aldridge
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