



## Muff & Major

The McLENDON FAMILY of Greensboro, NC



**Christmas 1958 in Greensboro**



Left to right:

**John Aycock McLendon,**  
born Durham,  
30 January 1933

**Charles Aycock ("Tubby")**  
McLendon, born Durham,  
6 February 1923

**Mary Louise ("Bunkie")**  
McLendon Atkinson,  
born Raleigh, 25 May 1918

**Major Lennox Polk**  
McLendon  
(1890-1968)

**Mary Lily Aycock ("Muff")**  
McLendon (1893-1982)

**Lennox Polk ("Mac")**  
McLendon, Jr.,  
born Durham,  
2 February 1921

**William Woodard ("Bill")**  
McLendon, born Durham,  
29 October 1930

Portrait of Governor Charles Brantley Aycock (1859 – 1912) above the mantle.

# DEDICATION

These photographs were scanned and organized in January of 2003 by Bill McLendon at the Woodbine Studios, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, using the iPhoto program on a PowerMac G4 Macintosh computer. The photographs were then transferred via the Internet to Apple Computer, Inc., for printing as books.

These books are presented by Bill on the occasion of Tubby's 80th birthday celebration in February 2003, to his sister, Bunkie, and to his brothers, Mac, Tubby and John, in loving memory of our remarkable parents, Major Lennox Polk McLendon and Mary Lily Aycock "Muff" McLendon, and in honor of their ever "stalwart and ambitious" progeny!



# MAJOR & MUFF

MAJOR, Lennox Polk McLendon, was born in Wadesboro, NC, on February 12, 1890, the son of Walter J. and Sarah Josephine Polk McLendon. He was educated at North Carolina State in Raleigh and at the Law School of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a battery commander of the 113th Field Artillery in World War I (and thus the origin of his title, Major). He practiced law in Durham and Greensboro, NC, and was a leader in advancing university and medical education for the people of his state.

He died in Greensboro on August 7, 1968.

MUFF, Mary Lily Aycock McLendon, was born in Goldsboro, NC, on October 1, 1893, the daughter of Charles Brantley and Cora Woodard Aycock. She and Major were married on June 17, 1917, shortly before he was called to active duty in World War I. Muff was a devoted and loving mother and grandmother to a large and active family.

She died on September 3, 1982.





Lt. McLendon, 2nd NC Infantry, while serving  
with Gen. Pershing on the Mexican border, 1916



Mary Lily "Muff" Aycock, 8 years old,  
Raleigh, 1901



**McLONDON-AYCOCK ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED**

The following announcement, which appeared in the Raleigh News and Observer will be read with deep interest throughout the city:

Mrs. Charles Brantley Aycock announces the engagement of her daughter, Mary Lily, to Mr. Lennox Polk McLendon, of Durham, N. C.

Miss Aycock is the daughter of the late governor and Mrs. Charles Brantley Aycock.

Mr. McLendon is well known in Raleigh, being both a graduate of the A. and E. college and of the university of North Carolina.

He has also been a member of the general assembly.

No date has been set for the wed-

ding.

Mr. McLendon is one of the most promising young lawyers of the state. He is universally popular in Durham, where he has made his home for the past several years. His friends here and elsewhere will be greatly pleased to learn of his engagement.





### McLendon-Aycock.

Of wide interest socially throughout North Carolina will be the following account of the wedding of Mr. Lennox P. McLendon of Durham and Miss Mary Aycock of Raleigh:

"The wedding of Miss Mary Aycock, daughter of the late Governor Charles Brantley Aycock and Mrs. Aycock, of Raleigh, to Lennox Polk McLendon, of Durham, was celebrated Wednesday night at nine o'clock at the home of the bride's mother on North Bloodworth street. The house was simply and attractively decorated in palms and ferns and flowers. A bank of

palms, lighted with candles was arranged in the bay window of the parlor, where the wedding vows were given by Dr. T. W. O'Kelley.

Miss Helen Day, accompanied by Miss Helen Whitaker, violinist, rendered a beautiful musical program while the guests were assembling. The bride's sister, Miss Louise Aycock, attended her as maid of honor and the bridegroom's brother, Walter McLendon, of Knoxville, Tenn., was best man. The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Connor Aycock. Little Charles Aycock Poe attended her as train bearer and Misses Sylbert Pendleton and Caroline McLendon, of Wadesboro, were ribbon bearers.

"The bride was gowned in white satin with tulle veil arranged with orange blossoms. Her bouquet was a shower of brides roses and lilies of the valley. The maid of honor wore a gown of white net and carried pink sweet peas.

"Following the wedding an informal reception was held at the bride's home. Many out-of-town friends of the couple were present for the occasion. Mr. McLendon and his bride left after the reception for western North Carolina to spend their honeymoon. They will be at home in Durham, where Mr. McLendon is practicing law. He made many friends in Raleigh while a member of the general assembly the past spring. The bride has been shown many social courtesies by her friends in the city since the announcement of her engagement."

Mrs. McLendon has spent several summers in Asheville and Waynesville, where she has many friends.

Wedding on June 27, 1917

(Asheville Times, June 29, 1917)



4044  
V. 8

No. **55780**

AMERICAN  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Corps Expéditionnaires Américains

IDENTITY CARD  
Carte d'Identité

Name **L. P. McLENDON**  
Nom

Rank **CAPTAIN**  
Grade

Duty **BATTERY COMMANDER**  
Fonction

*[Signature]* **52.**  
Major 55<sup>th</sup> F.A. Brigade, Adjutant  
Signature of Holder Adjutant General.

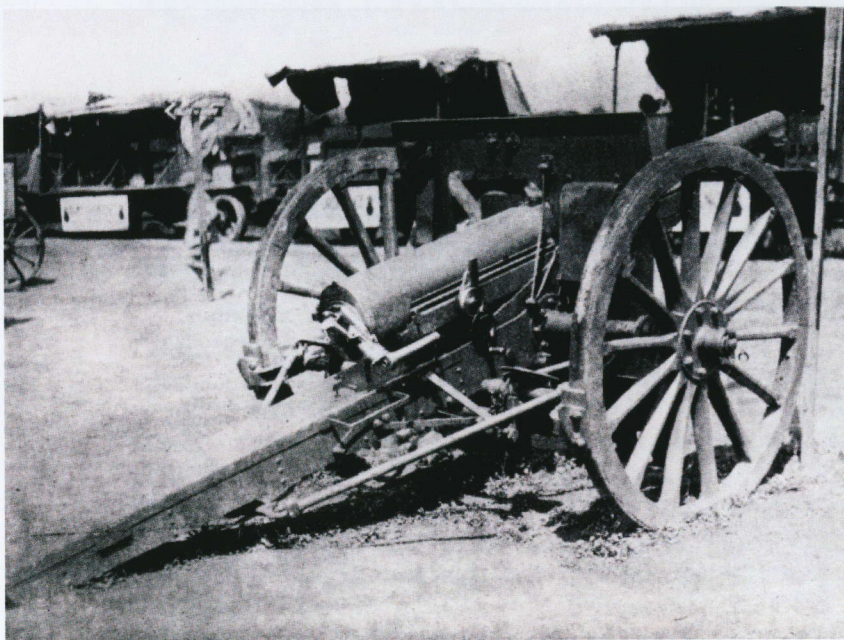
*[Signature]*  
Signature **L. P. McLENDON**



WORLD WAR I

Active duty July 1917 until April 1919





The French 75. "The 113th Field Artillery was equipped with 24 of these wonderful guns."



Capt. McLendon leading the 113th FA through a town in Luxembourg, December 1918



# Maj. L.P. McLendon's letters bring Veterans Day alive

By JIM SCHLOSSER

Staff Writer

It was on this day, exactly 70 years ago, precisely at 11 a.m., that Europe's battlefields fell silent. But only for a second.

Suddenly, somewhere in France, perhaps the strangest sound of World War I erupted.

"...Some fellow let out a real old big Tar Heel yell and pandemonium broke loose — rockets went up, pistols and old guns were fired into the ground, and men yelled and sang," Maj. Lennox P. McLendon wrote from the battlefield to his mother back in North Carolina.

The great World War was over. The Germans, or "the Huns," as the Americans called them, had agreed to an armistice that ended the bloodiest fighting the world had ever known.

For years afterward, the United States celebrated Armistice Day. Then came World War II and the Korean War, making Armistice Day too limited. And so, it was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to honor vets from all wars.

On this Veterans Day, memories of Maj. McLendon's war have faded with the years. But the war's

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## ■ Veterans Day closings — C1

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final hours become vivid in several letters McLendon wrote to his mother from France just after the armistice.

The letters are being donated by the McLendon family to the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Can you imagine anything more unique than standing by your guns firing away for dear life and knowing five hours in advance that the thing ended at 11 o'clock," wrote the 28-year-old McLendon, who would go on to become a prominent Greensboro lawyer and counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee during its investigation of Senate aide Bobby Baker in the early 1960s.

"All the morning we asked ourselves over and over, 'Is the Armistice really going to begin at eleven?'...There was no let-up in hostilities on our front until the exact minute the armistice became effective.

(See Veterans, A15)

Major's description in a letter to his mother of the  
events of Armistice Day, November 11, 1918



"...When it got very near eleven, we took out our watches and watched the second hand in the longest revolutions any second hand ever made since watches had such things! Finally, the noise stopped and our own guns were quiet, the men stood looking at each other in amazement." The soldier who broke the silence with a Tar Heel holler surely was from Orange, Durham, Chatham or Person county. Men from those counties comprised the McLendon-commanded Battery C of the 113th Field Artillery, a North Carolina outfit.

The regiment went overseas in May 1918, arriving in France in June and engaging in combat from September until the last shots were fired at 10:59 a.m. on Nov. 11.

That night, even the defeated Germans celebrated "by sending up all their rockets, and the whole horizon was ablaze with colors and lights. It was very pretty," wrote McLendon, whose own men went from making war to making fudge, according to his letters.

McLendon realized the momentous importance of the moment. He told his mother about a letter he had just sent to his wife, Mary, and their infant daughter, Mary Louise, in Durham.

"I wrote Mary that about 12 years from now we would be sitting by our little hearth in Durham and Mary Louise would open a history in her lap and turn over the pages to find something like this — Chapter 20: Nov. 11, 1918 — and she would wonder why this one day could be so important. And then I could tell her some interesting things about how the war ended on that day."

Twelve years later, McLendon was a renowned prosecutor in the Durham area. In 1931, he traveled to Asheville, where he was the state's special prosecutor in a bank fraud case against Col. Luke Lea, a banker, newspaper publisher and former U.S. senator from Tennessee.

In 1932, McLendon successfully managed the gubernatorial campaign of J.C.B. Ehringhaus. (McLendon's father-in-law, Charles B. Aycock, was one of the state's most famous governors.) The next year, McLendon moved his family to Greensboro and with Aubrey Lee Brooks formed the law firm that is known today as Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard, the city's second largest.

He rejected an appointment to the N.C. Supreme Court, but accepted appointments to the state Board of Elections, state Board of Higher Education and the Board of Trustees at the University of North Carolina.

He climaxed his career by accepting Sens. B. Everett Jordan and Sam Ervin's invitation to become chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee that was investigating Bobby Baker, ranking aide to Lyndon Johnson when he was Senate majority leader. Baker later was convicted of influence peddling.

McLendon died at age 78 in 1968. The letters about the armistice were discovered some years ago by the family when McLendon's widow, who died in 1982, was moving to a nursing home.

"I was just amazed," said Dr. William McLendon of Chapel Hill, a son who teaches at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Medical School. "I had always known about Nov. 11, but to read a first-hand account was unreal."

To the end of his life, L.P. McLendon was called "major" by judges, fellow lawyers and friends. He was especially proud that his unit suffered only two deaths in Europe, despite several months of constant combat, including participation in the famous Battle of the Argonne.

(Greensboro News & Record  
November 11, 1988)



AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Major Lenox P. ...endon.

TO DEPARTING OFFICERS OF THE A.E.F.

After honorably serving your Country in a great war, you are about to embark for the homeland. Remember that the bearing of their officers is reflected in the behavior and discipline of the men you are commanding homeward bound. I most sincerely trust that no single act may occur to stain the splendid record won by our troops in Europe. My confidence and best wishes follow you and them as you cross the sea and in your future service in the Army or elsewhere.

*John J. Pershing.*

General John J. Pershing's letter to the departing officers of the A.E.F.



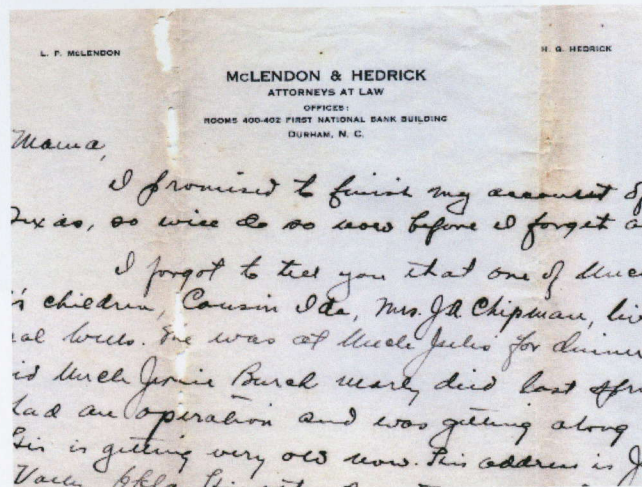
The 113th FA marched in a Victory Parade in Raleigh on Monday, March 14, 1919, before their discharge





DURHAM: 1702 Roxboro Road, 1926-1933  
First Durham home at 802 Duke Street





Practicing law in Durham

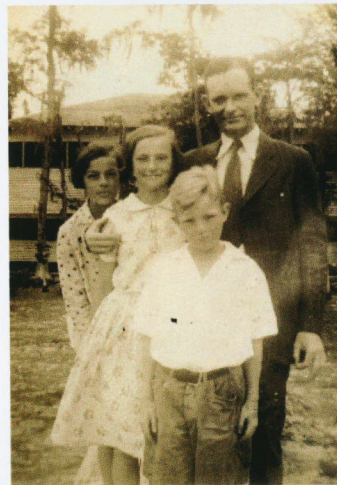




Bunkie, age 3, at Grandmother Aycock's,  
Raleigh, 1921



Bunkie, age 13, 1931



Mac and Major, 1931



Tubby, age 5, Durham, 1928





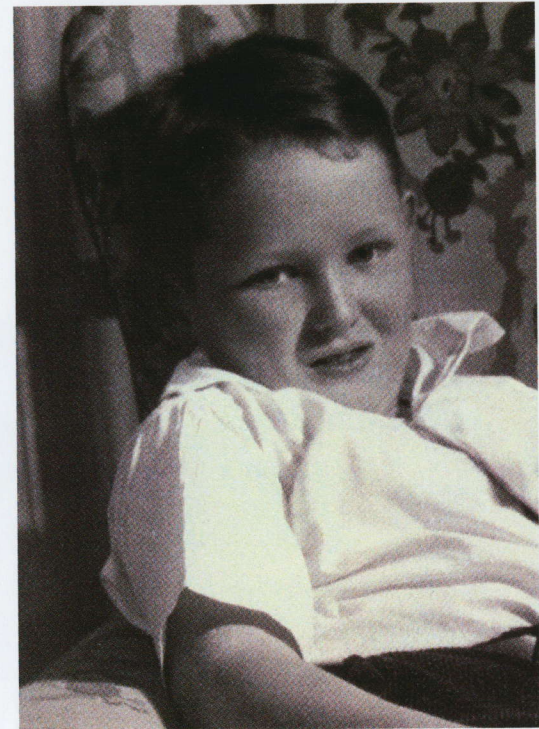
Bill, 8 months, Durham, 1931



John and "Major"



John, 21 months, and Bill



Tubby, 8 years, Durham, 1931



## MAJ. L. P. M'LENDON TO PRACTICE LAW IN CITY

He Will Come Here November  
1 to Join Brooks and  
Holderness Firm.

### IS A PROMINENT LAWYER

Formation of the law firm of Brooks, McLendon and Holderness, composed of A. L. Brooks, Major L. P. McLendon and William H. Holderness, with offices in the North Carolina Bank building here, was announced last night by Mr. Brooks.

Major McLendon, the new member of the firm, has been practicing law in Durham a score of years. He also is well known in the political life of the state, one of his chief accomplishments aside from the practice of his profession having been his management of the successful campaign of Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus, of Elizabeth City, last year.

The major will become a member of the firm November 1. He and Mrs. McLendon and their five children expect to move to Greensboro from Durham in the fairly early future.

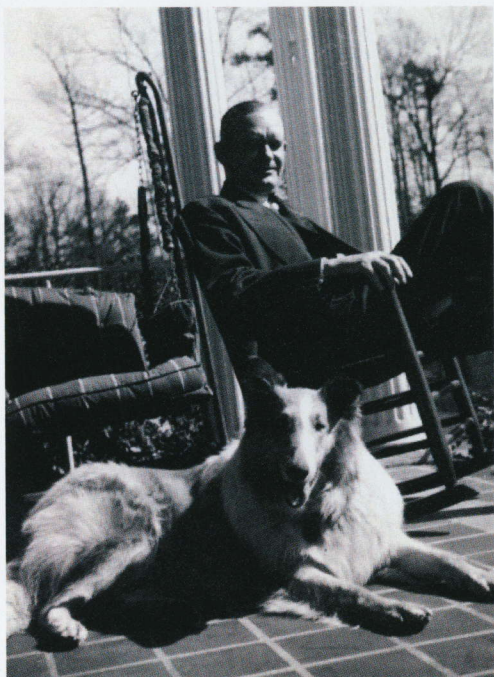


(Greensboro Daily News, October 10, 1933)

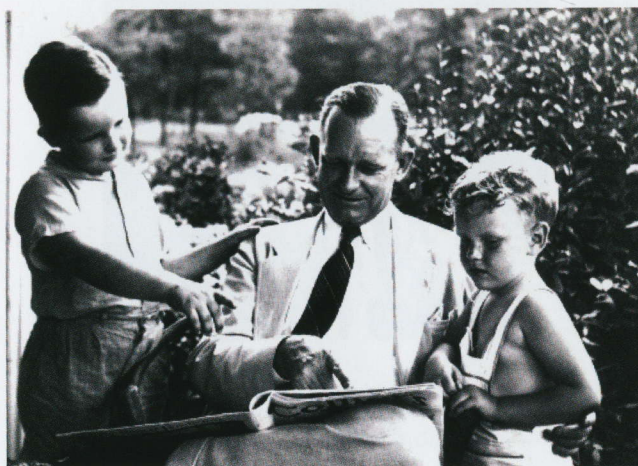
GREENSBORO

2301 West Market Street, Sunset Hills





Tess and Major, c1936



Bill, Major and John, c1936



Jim Lindley, Bill and John, c1935



Tubby, Bill and John, c1936





Bill decorating Christmas tree



John on Christmas morning



Bunkie

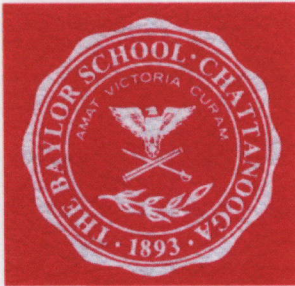


Muff and Tubby at Christmas dinner



**1936-1950**  
**The BAYLOR SCHOOL, Chattanooga, Tennessee**

Major believed his sons needed the military discipline he had as a young man, so each of the four brothers spent their last two years of high school at Baylor (then a male-only military school, but now a non-military coed prep school):



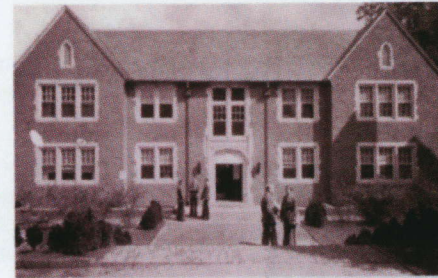
**Mac from 1936-38**

**Tubby from 1938-40**

**Bill from 1946-48**

**John from 1948-50**

After Major had paid Baylor tuition all those years he was asked to give the Commencement Address in 1950 when John finished! He delivered a stirring address to the graduating cadets and their families.



⇐ The “water” tower over the mess hall was alleged by the cadets to be filled with grits to help satisfy the appetites of the always-hungry Baylor boys!

Cadet Mac “just dreaming” in Tennessee ⇒

Those two years of military discipline and enforced study habits served each of the brothers well in college, military service and future life. Furthermore, being removed from the hometown high school in these formative years prevented the brothers from becoming indolent “drugstore cowboys” – Major’s term for those who wasted away the hours after school drinking Coca Cola with friends at the local drug store soda fountain!





## 1940s – 1960s WORLD WAR II and the COLD WAR

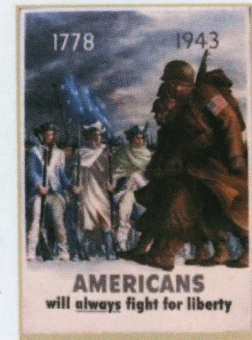
**During World War I** Major (Battery C of the 113<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery) and his two brothers, Moran (Bicket Battery of the 113<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery) and Preston (U. S. Navy Medical Corps assigned to the Marine Brigade of the Second Division), all served in France with the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) to protect the freedom of Americans and our allies in Europe from the tyranny of Imperialist Germany.

**During the 1940s-1960s**, a second generation of McLendon brothers served their country in Europe to protect our freedoms and that of our European allies against the tyranny of Hitler and Nazi Germany during World War II and the tyranny of Communism and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

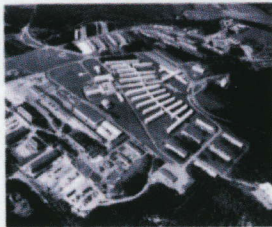


**Lennox Polk McLendon, Jr. (Mac)** enlisted in the Air Force in 1942 and received training in communications and navigation before going to England in November 1944. He was the Lead Navigator for a Bomb Group of the Eight Air Force and flew 21 missions over Germany in B-24.Liberators from their base in England. He was discharged in 1945. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal.

**Charles A. McLendon (Tubby)** received basic training at Camp Wheeler, Ga., in 1943. He served in Europe with the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He arrived in Normandy a month after the initial D-Day landings of June 6, 1944, and was wounded by shrapnel from a German 88 artillery shell on September 10, 1944. He had a long recuperation in a military hospital in England before returning to duty with a Quartermaster Unit in Paris in March 1945. He returned to the States and was discharged at Fort Bragg in December 1945. He received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars and the Purple Heart.



**John A. McLendon** enlisted in September of 1954 and received basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He received further training as an Ordinance Specialist and was stationed with an Ordinance Unit near Munich, West Germany, from 1955-1956 during the early days of the Cold War.



**William W. McLendon (Bill)** entered the US Army Medical Corps following his medical education and residency. He was stationed from 1961-63 at the US Army Hospital (Second General Hospital) at Landstuhl, West Germany, then and now the US's major specialty and referral hospital for the European theatre. The Berlin Wall was going up in the summer of 1961 when he arrived in Germany during a period of intense Cold War confrontation between the US & its allies and the Soviet Union. He was thrilled to see the Wall come down in 1989, followed by the reunification of Germany and the end of the Cold War that had waxed and waned for over four decades.

The family was blessed with the safe return home of all seven McLendon brothers after their service in Europe in World War I, World War II and the Cold War.





Christmas in Greensboro, 1955  
(John absent with US Army in Germany)





Christmas in Greensboro, 1958





Christmas in Greensboro, 1963





New cottage at Long Beach on left, 1954



McLendon cottage after Hurricane Hazel  
came ashore on October 15, 1954



Easter Sunday at Tubby and Stu's  
Long Beach, 1960s





McLendon cottage at 6501 N. Ocean  
Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, late 1950s



Welcoming guests



Family dinner at Myrtle Beach



Major and Muff enjoying  
Major's garden at Myrtle Beach





GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



June 27, 1967



<b>CLASS OF SERVICE</b> This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.	<b>WESTERN UNION</b> <b>TELEGRAM</b>	<b>SYMBOLS</b> DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter LT=International Letter Telegram
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The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

156P EDT AUG 8 68 AA161 AA  
 EOA014 LONG PDB ELIZABETH CITY NCAR 8 145P EDT  
 MRS LENNOX P MCLENDON  
 GREENSBORO NCAR

JUST HEARD SORROWFUL NEWS. MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND ALL THE FAMILY. HAVE A HEAVY SENSE OF PERSONAL LOSS. AS CAMPUS LEADER AT N. C. STATE AND CHAPEL HILL, MANAGER OF ATHLETICS, MAJOR IN 113TH FIELD ARTILLERY# A. E. F, BRILLIANT LAWYER, PRESIDENT N. C. BAR, MAYOR LEGISLATOR, SOLICITOR, MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES OF MANIFOLD UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION, HE SERVED THE PEOPLE OF HIS BELOVED STATE WITH EMINENT ABILITY AND AND DEVOTION. HE WAS ONE OF MOST VALIANT BUILDERS ON ONE OF MOST MANIFOLD MEDICAL CENTERS IN THE NATION. BRAVE ON FAR FRONTS OF BATTLE IN FIRST WORLD WAR AND ON CONTINUING FAR FRONTS OF PEACEFUL STRUGGLES

SP1201 (23-65)

Major died  
 on August 7, 1968

<b>CLASS OF SERVICE</b> This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.	<b>WESTERN UNION</b> <b>TELEGRAM</b>	<b>SYMBOLS</b> DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter LT=International Letter Telegram
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TO MAKE NORTH CAROLINA A FREER, BRAVER AND NOBLER STATE. INDIGNANT AGAINST LAWLESSNESS AND WRONGS IN PLACES HIGH OR LOW, MILITANT CHAMPION OF LAW AND ORDER BASED ON JUSTICE AND FIGHTING Foe OF ABUSE OF POLITICAL POWER A GRATEFUL PEOPLE WILL REVERE HIS MEMORY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. TO YOU WHO INSPIRED AND SUSTAINED HIM ALL THESE NOBLY USEFUL YEARS MAY HAPPY ASSOCIATIONS AND BLESSED MEMORIES ALWAYS BE YOURS AS YOU AND THE FAMILY CARRY ON IN HIS IMMORTAL SPIRIT DEVOTEDLY

FRANK GRAHAM  
 (153).

SP1201 (23-65)

Muff died  
 on September 3, 1982





Bunkie and brothers visiting Governor Aycock in  
Raleigh during family reunion, April 1990



## The McLendons

A people sturdy as an oak,  
Stalwart as the pine,  
Svelte as a brook, and  
Enduring as the hills.

-- Headstone in the Mt. Zion Cemetery,  
Calhoun, Louisiana



Lastly to my children with whom 'God the giver of all good and perfect gifts' has blessed me and their father, I leave the undying love of their mother's heart. Every pain of theirs has brought suffering to me and every triumph of theirs has brought me boundless joy. Both their father and I have realized our fondest dream and desire in living to see them grow into stalwart and ambitious manhood and womanhood...

My last earthly prayer...is that you in your turn may be blessed with God fearing children as devoted, as worthy, and as upright, as mine have shown themselves to be, and that they may ennoble the name they bear by so living that when their work is finished they will leave to their children a more precious heritage than was left to them.

--Last Will and Testament of Sarah Josephine Polk McLendon (1855-1924),  
Mother of Lennox Polk McLendon