

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fund 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program

May 10, 2008 - The Person Place Preservation Society, Inc., will host an afternoon reception and program on May 25, 2008, to honor Missouri Alston Pleasants, a long-time resident of Louisburg, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of her May 9, 1958, establishment of the Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fund.

Miss Missouri, as she was generally known, established the Fund shortly before her death on February 12, 1959. The Fund provides scholarships to selected UNC students from Franklin, Halifax and Warren Counties as a perpetual memorial to her grandfather, Willis "Congress" Alston. Alston was an important late eighteenth and early nineteenth century local, state, regional and national political leader.

"The goal of Person Place is to promote an appreciation of local history through preservation activities and informative programs," says John Young, its President. "We are very excited and proud to host the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fund on behalf of all three counties that benefit from Miss Missouri's contribution," Young continued.

NC Representative Lucy T. Allen, a member of the Person Place Board of Directors and head of its Alston-Pleasants Commemoration Program Committee, added: "The Fund has awarded scholarships to 79 UNC students over the past 50 years. This event will serve to remind us what a dedicated and generous person can accomplish and give us an opportunity to show our gratitude to Miss Missouri for her wisdom and foresight in providing this perpetual recognition and encouragement to our children. She has made and will continue to make a beneficial difference in our lives. We are truly proud of her."

The event will begin at 2:00 PM. Joseph A. Pearce, Jr., a member of the Person Place Board of Directors, who knew Miss Missouri as a friend and neighbor, will talk about Miss Missouri as a 70-year resident of Louisburg. Retired Franklin County School Superintendent and former Person Place member Warren W. Smith will discuss the importance to the community of having this continuing source of recognition and encouragement for University studies.

Then, to further Miss Missouri's goal of memorializing her grandfather, there will be a feature joint presentation on Willis "Congress" Alston, by Timothy J. Williams, of the UNC Department

of History and the UNC Center for the Study of the American South, and The American Historical Theatre's Elizabeth Michaels in an interpretation of Dolley Madison.

Tim Williams, who specializes in antebellum southern cultural and intellectual history, will present an overview of the political life and times of Willis "Congress" Alston with particular emphasis on his involvement in national political life in the Jefferson, Madison and Jackson Administrations.

Elizabeth Michaels, a professional actor/historian, will portray Dolley Madison, a North Carolina native and the wife of our fourth President, James Madison. In the presentation, Dolley Madison will, in the context of her own exciting and memorable life as First Lady and Washington hostess, share recollections of Willis "Congress" Alston during his time in Washington. Alston, during this period, was a valued supporter of the Jefferson and Madison Administrations, even when his support went against the policies supported by his uncle, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nathaniel Macon.

After their featured presentations, Tim Williams and Dolley Madison will have a discussion and provide an opportunity for audience questions and answers. At the conclusion of the Program, there will be an opportunity for light refreshments, conversation and photos.

The Person Place Preservation Society, Inc., has restored the historic Person Place House, an original Georgian structure that dates from 1789, with a later Federal addition, that is located on its original site, on the Louisburg College campus, at 605 N. Main Street, Louisburg, NC. Matthew Dickenson, an early Person Place House resident, was the Yale scholar who, on January 1, 1805, became the first headmaster of the Franklin Academy. Its successor, Louisburg College, which dates from 1787, is the nation's oldest chartered two-year, church-related, co-educational college. The Person Place House was, for many years, the Person family home and, since 1970, has been owned by Louisburg College.

Person Place invites all who are interested in the Fund and all who share an appreciation of local history to attend. There is no charge for the event but seating capacity is limited; therefore, reservations are strongly suggested.

For reservations, information or questions, please contact Jennifer Brighton of Signature Events, Inc., the corporate, non-profit and special occasion event production company that is assisting Person Place with this event. Jennifer can be reached at 919-803-6819 or via email at: jennifer@signatureeventsnc.com.