

# ESTATOEE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
Volume IV, Number 1

March, 1989

ESTATOEE (ēs-tā-tō-ē): Also spelled Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee Indian place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the Toe/Towe River designation is derived.

#### Officers of the Association (1988):

President: Kenneth Nelson  
President (pro tem.):  
James Byrd  
Vice-President and Program  
Chair: Lloyd Bailey  
Treasurer: Paul Kardulis  
Secretary: Theresa Blankenship  
Director: John Young

#### Correspondence with the Association:

Secretary: 108 Town Square,  
Burnsville, N.C., 28714  
Program Chair: 4122 Deepwood  
Circle, Durham, N.C., 27707

#### Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Fall meeting of the Association was held in two parts: (1) Mitzi Presnell Shook (now a resident of Charlotte, but formerly a resident of Yancey County) concluded her two-part slide presentation entitled "Historic Structures in Yancey County." The meeting was held at the Library in Burnsville on Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. A copy of her illustrations (slides) is now held by the Association. (2) The dedication of the McElroy-

Moore-Ray house on Academy Street as the site of The Rush Wray Museum of Yancey History, which took place on October 9 at 2:30 p.m. The program included a flag presentation and drill by the Revolutionary War Catawba Militia; Civil War music by the Mountain Heritage High School Band; remarks by Preservation Specialist Martha Fullington, by David Peterson (Chairman, County Commissioners), by Edgar F. Hunter (Burnsville Town Board), by State Senators Robert Swain and Dennis Winner, by State Representative Robert Hunter, and by Mary Louise Wray Wiggins (daughter of Rush Wray and Patron of the Museum). Special recognitions were proclaimed by James Byrd and Theresa Blankenship, and Lloyd Bailey was Master of Ceremonies. Following a reception hosted by the Ladies of the Burnsville Men's Club, the ceremonies concluded with an exhibition of clogging by the Yancey County Sweethearts. Descendants of families which had resided in the house were present (McElroy, Moore, Ray). Radio coverage was provided by Station WKYK (Burnsville) and the program was video-recorded. Newspaper coverage (with photos) may be seen in The Yancey Journal for October 13.

#### The Current Program:

The annual meeting of the Association will be held on March 12, at 2 p.m. at the Library in Burnsville. The speaker will be Kenneth Nelson and the topic is "Mining Activities in the Toe River Valley."

The business meeting will include election of officers for the present year, a report on plans for the Museum, and approval of By-Laws for Directors of the Museum.

MISCELLANEOUS BIBLIOGRAPHY: MINING AND MINERALS

Arthur, John Preston. Western North Carolina: A History. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Pub. Co., 1914. See chapter XXIV ("Mineralogy and Geology") and XXV ("Mines and Mining"). In addition to discussion, there are bibliographical references at the end and in the body of the text. In particular, he mentions the list of authors and index in the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, Bulletin No. 18 (1909); the Mount Mitchell Folio (No. 124, of 1905) of The United States Geological Survey; and the Annual Reports of the Department of Labor (that of 1911 lists the value of mineral production in Yancey County as \$32,660 in 1909 and \$59,284 in 1910).

Sheppard, Muriel Earley. Cabins in the Laurel. Chapel Hill: U.N.C. Press, 1935. A gold mine of information (no pun intended) concerning mineral deposits, early mining activities, struggles over claims, and so on. See especially chapters VII ("Ground-Hog Holes") and VIII ("Buried Treasure"), but elsewhere as well.

Branson's N.C. Business Directory (issued annually) sometimes has the heading "Mines." The entries under 1872 are: "Gold found, near Egypt; Iron on Caney River and on South Toe River; Iron oar, Coperas and Black Lead on South Toe River; Isinglass, G.D. Ray's, Boling Creek; Copper oar on Wm. Johnson's farm on Green Mountain; Silver oar on R.R. Johnson's land near Egypt; Isinglass mine, Widow Ballard's farm on South Toe River; Iron and Copper found near Burnsville; Silver and Copper on South Toe River." In 1883, the entries under "Mines--Mica" are: James W. Gibbs, Micaville; Presnal, Hide, and Co., Burnsville; G.D. Ray, Burnsville; Polly Robeson, Micaville; Smith and Geer, Burnsville; P. McD. Young, Micaville; Z. Young, Micaville; Young and Proffett, Burnsville."

Newspapers. There are many articles scattered over the years in area newspapers (including Asheville), and it would take a prodigious effort to collect them. A few, from my own files, are reproduced on the following pages.

Hicks, George L. Appalachian Valley. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1976. The volume is about the Celo area, and pp. 21-23 have the heading, "Mining."

History and Geography of Yancey County. Burnsville: Teacher Training Class, 1930. Chapter VII (pp. 31-44) is entitled "Minerals."

Schwarzkopf, S. Kent. A History of Mt. Mitchell and the Black Mountains. Raleigh: N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, 1985. There is a brief discussion on pp. 82f., including the statement: "Mica from the (G.D.) Ray mine won a prize at the 1873 world's fair in Vienna."<sup>1</sup>

"Industrial Guide and Directory of Industries along the Clinchfield Railroad." Issued by the Industrial Department of the Clinchfield Railroad, Erwin, Tenn. Oct. 1928 (32pp.).

<sup>1</sup>A "List of Prizes" to Americans, in the New York Times, Sept. 1, 1873 (p. 6) makes no mention of this. The Reports on the Universal Exhibition of 1873 (London, 1875; 4 Vols.) is unavailable to me.

Zeigler, Wilbur G. and Ben S. Grosscup. The Heart of the Alleghanies.  
Raleigh: Alfred Williams and Co., 1883. See especially pp. 202-  
203, 274-275 (including the story of how an ancient row of stone  
markers on Bolens Pyramid indicated a mica vein).

English, Everett. "Beneath the Soil: Mica boom--one of many--excites  
the Toe Valley." The State, June 14, 1952, pp. 12-14.

"This mine, which has been one of the most productive mica mines in the county, is 3 miles southeast of Burnsville, Yancey County, N. C., on the south face of a ridge that runs off from Black Mountain. The nearest shipping point is Micaville, 4 miles east. The workings are scattered along the slopes of a cove and are all on the same dike, which strikes N. 40° E. and dips 85° SE. The dike has in the center a clean feldspar band averaging 5 feet wide, and numerous narrow bands with more or less quartz on both sides. Some of these narrow bands are separated from one another by thin quartz bands, but a large part of the dike could be hand cobbled and marketed as feldspar.

"The upper portion of the mine has been worked by open-cut to a depth of 40 feet, below which shaft mining has been carried on to a depth of 110 feet. The dumps of this shaft consist very largely of marketable feldspar, which was sampled and analyzed with the following result:

*Chemical analysis.*

H <sub>2</sub> O .....	0.20
SiO <sub>2</sub> .....	68.18
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> .....	20.12
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> .....	.05
TiO <sub>2</sub> .....	Trace
CaO .....	.85
MgO .....	.05
K <sub>2</sub> O .....	.66
Na <sub>2</sub> O .....	9.38
	99.49

*Chemical analysis in 1901.<sup>1</sup>*

SiO <sub>2</sub> .....	63.55
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> .....	20.20
K <sub>2</sub> O .....	8.73
Na <sub>2</sub> O .....	6.65
	99.13

<sup>1</sup>See Economic Paper No. 6, North Carolina Geol. Surv., pp. 49-50.

"The albite, which was exposed in abundance during the summer of 1911, has been tested with the following results:

"Deformation temperature range, 1,270° to 1,275° C.; color, when fused at 1,330° C., an opaque white with no yellow tint.

*Properties in standard porcelain mixture.*

In this mixture the feldspar gives a vitreous mass at 1,275° C. and warps slightly at 1,330° C. The color is slightly bluish by comparison with pure-white trials. Fired at 1,350° C. the translucency is 0.65 and the transmitted light is cream colored. The total shrinkage at 1,350° C. is 15 per cent, which consists of 3 per cent drying shrinkage and 12 per cent firing shrinkage. Under the raw-lead and fritted glazes the color is unaltered.

from Joseph Hyde Pratt, The Mining Industry in N.C. During 1911 and 1912. N.C. Geological Survey and Economic Survey, Economic Paper #34. Raleigh, 1914, pp. 218-219. (553' N873)

BURNSVILLE. ELIZABETH SMITH MICA MINE.

"This mine is 1½ miles east of Burnsville, Yancey County, N. C., on the north side of and 150 yards distant from the Burnsville-Micaville road, and 3½ miles west of Micaville, the nearest shipping point. The dike is from 25 to 35 feet in width, strikes N. 20° E., and has an irregular dip. The deposit contains a number of semikaolinized lenses, but for the most part is well advanced in kaolinization. Of the mine tunnels some have been driven to expose kaolin and others in a search for mica. Those for mica have been neglected and in most instances have fallen in. On the southwest end of the dike are two tunnels about 50 feet long, connected by a crosscut, which exposes practically the entire width of the dike. At this point the dike shows 6 feet of well kaolinized pegmatite adjoining the west wall, 9 feet of semi-kaolinized material, and 20 feet of well kaolinized pegmatite adjoining the east wall. The country rock is completely kaolinized and forms a yellow claylike material. About one-third mile to the north and on

the general strike of this dike a somewhat narrower but otherwise similar dike is exposed. At various intermediate points similar dike material is exposed by test holes, indicating that the dike extends the entire distance, although its width and uniformity have not been proven. A smaller dike is exposed by a pit south of the road and one-eighth mile west.

"The two kaolinized bands exposed in the tunnel were sampled. When washed they yielded 44 per cent of kaolin, which showed the following chemical composition on analysis:

*Composition of kaolin.*

H <sub>2</sub> O .....	13.10
SiO <sub>2</sub> .....	45.95
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> .....	39.20
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> .....	.05
TiO <sub>2</sub> .....	Trace.
CaO .....	Trace.
MgO .....	Trace.
BaO .....	.03
Na <sub>2</sub> O .....	Trace.
K <sub>2</sub> O .....	.50
	98.83

"This kaolin has a refractory value above 1,730° C. and the color is grade 2. The shrinkage dried at 110° C. is 4.4 per cent; when fired at 1,350° C., 12.9 per cent. The tensile strength of this kaolin dried at 110° C. is 29.5 pounds per square inch.

*Properties in standard porcelain mixture.*

This kaolin in the standard porcelain mixture fired at 1,350° C. has a translucency of 0.7 and the transmitted light is cream colored. Absorption is 4.6 per cent, the color grade 2. The shrinkage when dried at 110° C. was 3.4 per cent and fired at 1,350° C. 14 per cent. Tested under the fritted and raw-lead glazes the mass has a very pale green tint that is equally apparent under either glaze.

# Large Cyanite Mines Operating In Yancey

## Over 750,000 Tons Of Ore Indicated By Samples Taken

(By Staff Correspondent)

BURNSVILLE, Sept. 17.—High up on Bowlen's Pyramid on the slope of Mt. Celo, near Burnsville, Celo Mines, Incorporated, is conducting one of the most significant experiments in ore concentration in the Southern Appalachian mountains.

A semi-commercial mill built on the mountain has obtained gratifying results in developing a method of concentrating cyanite ore, and the experimental work being conducted at the plant is assisting in the development of new applications for the concentrate being produced. The experiments being conducted indicate that there will be many uses for cyanite in the refractory and white ware industries. In the white ware trade, cyanite or products derived from it are useful in the manufacture of spark plugs, electrical porcelain, radiance gas heaters and a variety of other objects.

### Large Deposit

A very large deposit of cyanite ore has been developed on the several hundred acre tract on which the mill is located. To date careful sampling has developed in the neighborhood of 750,000 tons of ore, and the indications are that a considerably larger quantity of ore is available on the property.

The operations on the property are in charge of V. L. Mattson, mining engineer, a graduate of Colorado School of Mines, who is vice-president of the company.

Mr. Mattson states that the present semi-commercial plant, which was completed in March, 1931, was built primarily as a pilot mill to thoroughly test out the ore and concentration method before installing a full-sized commercial plant. The extensive experimental work that is being conducted at the mill is doing much to widen the field of uses for cyanite. The application of cyanite in the ceramic industry is relatively difficult and Mr. Mattson pointed out that the future of the operations depends upon close co-operation between the producers and users of cyanite. At the present time, Mr. Mattson stated, around seventy-five plants scattered over a wide territory are working with the material supplied by this plant. The results being obtained in many of these plants are highly interesting and point to many possible new fields for the use

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A serious drawback to the use of cyanite in the ceramic industry, Mr. Mattson said, has been the lack of a uniform supply of high grade cyanite. The concentrating process developed by Celo Mines, Inc., has overcome this difficulty and is producing an exceptionally uniform and pure product at lower prices.

### Prospects Brighter

Prospects for the enlargement of operations in Yancey county have brightened within the past two months, Mr. Mattson stated. Plans for expansion of the plant have been made, and will be undertaken as soon as justified by market conditions. Expansion of the plant, he said, will probably be in units, the size and number of which will be dependent upon market conditions.

Celo Mines, Inc., has its main office in New York, and L. B. Norris, of New York City, is president. Operations in this county were started in 1929 by the late Joseph T. Tower, mining engineer, of New York City. Mr. Tower was largely responsible for the work being undertaken in this county, and up to the time of his death in August, 1931, was very active in the development of the property. In August, 1931, Celo Mines, Inc., was formed and took over the property.

### Road Built

A road for the purpose of transporting the ore from the mill to the railway has been built from state highway 89 to the mill. This road climbs nearly 1,300 feet in altitude in a distance of two miles. The mine is 4,000 feet above sea level, and the mill about 3,800 feet. The ore as mined is extremely uniform in its cyanite content, Mr. Mattson said. It has not varied over one or two per cent over several months' operations. This fact, Mr. Mattson said, makes it one of the most valuable cyanite deposits yet found. A vertical face of ore is exposed in a cliff seventy feet high and the vein is about 120 feet wide. The deposit is known to run for at least 3-4 of a mile.

Cyanite, of course, is the principal valuable mineral in the ore, but several by-products are being produced, including ground quartz and ground black mica. The cyanite occurs in a granite gneiss and as many as twenty-two different minerals have been identified in the ore, the principal minerals being cyanite, muscovite, biotite, garnet, quartz and beryl.

A calcining unit is now being added to the mill for the production of mullite. At the present time four men are employed at the mill and the mining force varies with the requirements of the mill for ore.

Mr. Earl Buchanan foreman for the Dent and Kester Mining Co., of this place, was badly hurt when he was caught in some of the mining machinery on last Saturday, resulting in his right arm being taken off near the shoulder.

Celo item from the Burnsville Eagle, 10/20/1922.

**YANCEY.**

Crops Fine. Money More Plentiful.  
New Building Going Up.

BALL CREEK, N. C., July 26.—Old Yancey is still in the fight and she is gaining too. Crops are very fine and money is getting more plentiful. Mr. Hayes of Grand Rapids, Mich., is working several hands in his corundum mines in Egypt and they are taking out considerable ore. Messrs. Ray and Young are working the old Ray mica mines again and are doing a good business. Several other mica mines are being profitably operated in the county. The distillery of birch oil has grown to be a profitable business in this county. Four new stores have gone up in this county this year, and some of the old ones have increased their stock. The threshing machines are out now. Wheat is very good and oats and rye were never better. We have a shoe factory here now in operation by Parker Bros. They make specialty of fine custom work.

Asheville Citizen,  
7/29/1895.

**Rare Jewels From A  
Rich County**

Our friend, G. D. Ray, Esq., of Yancey, gave us a pleasant call Monday, and showed us some beautiful jewels of aquamarine, which were as brilliant as diamonds. All these, and many more of various kinds Mr. Ray has gathered in the splendid county of Yancey, which will yet prove one of the richest and most attractive counties in the State. All it lacks is railroad facilities to bring to light the valuable treasures which now lie dormant in her forests and in her soil. Mr. Ray says he can dig out chrome ore which will yield 50 per cent of chromic oxide and it exists in inexhaustible quantity, and is easily taken out. Four hands got out one carload of the ore in two days. Iron, mica, kaolin and other valuable minerals and ores abound. The splendid timbers have long been noted. A railroad through the county will find plenty to do for a long time in transporting raw materials to market. The Democrat sincerely trusts it will not be very long before one or more railroads will traverse that splendid old county.

*Asheville Democrat, Dec. 5, 1889*  
[“G. D. Ray” is Garrett Deweese, owner of the Nu-Wray Inn; the gems are from the “Ray mine” on the head of Bolens Creek. ]-Ed.

Yancey.—Thirty-six mines produced mica; 30 produced sheet only (full-trimmed and/or hand-cobbed), 5 scrap only, and 1 both sheet and scrap. The leading producers of sheet mica were Geouge & Allen (Barger mine) and Eugene and V. O. Adkins (Coletta mine). The leading producers of scrap mica were Deneen Mica Co. (Young Mica mine) and Hassett Mining Co. (Simpson mine).

The Feldspar Corp. (Webb, McCracken, Land's Creek, and McClain mines) mined crude feldspar. McCrary Construction Service Co. mined paving gravel. C. R. Wiseman (Wray mine) mined olivine. Herby Bolick and Floyd Wilson collected various types of gem stones.

from Jasper L. Stuckey and Stephen G. Conrad, Mineral Industry of N.C., from 1954-1959. N.C. Dept. of Conservation and Development, Economic Paper #67. Raleigh, 1961, p. 29. (553 N873)

ASSORTED TIPS FOR USE IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH FROM OLD RECORDS

1. "Junior," following a name, does not necessarily mean that the person is the son of someone by the same name. Rather, it may mean that he is the younger of two persons with the same name, regardless of their relationship. They need not even be related.

2. The designation "orphan" does not necessarily mean that the parents of the person so described are both dead. It may only mean that the father is dead.

3. The given name "Doctor" might result from one of the following circumstances: (1) a physician whom the parents admired, especially if the physician had delivered the child (e.g., Doctor Crumley Bailey of Green Mountain, for Dr. Washington Crumley, a friend of his parents); (2) the child is the 7th born son (or even the 7th of a 7th son), in which case he was expected (or sometimes claimed) to have extraordinary talents as a consequence (e.g., Doctor Walter Hoppes of Estatoe who thus explained his musical abilities; other 7th-born sons were sought out so that they could breathe into children's throats and cure the "thrash").

4. U.S. Census Takers sometimes guessed at the names of family members (rather than walk a mile or two to the house), or were (inadvertently?) given erroneous information by the family. Thus, persons may age only a year or two in a decade!

5. Census Takers sometimes listed all household members under the same family name, regardless of their true names (which may not have been indicated to them by the family). (E.g., in the 1900 Census of Jacks Creek, the oldest child in the household of John and Loretta [Honeycutt Bailey] Duncan is Ancil, a Bailey, whereas all the other children are Duncans.)

6. There is a State copy and a Federal copy of a given census, and there are occasional divergencies between them (i.e., in copying from one form in order to produce the other, a mistake was made).

7. No given form of record for dates of birth/death can be trusted absolutely: not tombstones (perhaps erected years later); not family Bibles (perhaps purchased and inscribed years after a given death); not death-certificates (which are subject to error by family member/friend at a time of stress). Tombstones are the least reliable.

8. Not all minors in a household in census records are necessarily children of the parents listed: they could be cousins or domestics. Some of the later census records will indicate the relationship, however. Conversely, not all of the children of a given set of parents need be listed (since they may be living with relatives).

9. The designation "infant" need not be literally meant: it can indicate someone under legal age.



Assorted Tips (contd.)

10. It is possible for more than one child in a given family to have the same given name, e.g., John C. Bailey and John A. Bailey apparently are the sons of "Yellow Jacket" John Bailey. This tended to happen more often if a child had died (its sibling then being given the same name).

11. Given names are often an indication of ancestry, especially when mother's family name becomes a given name. For example, Bailey Willis is the son of Earl and Chloe Bailey Willis.

12. The designations "brother" and "sister" (especially in correspondence) may indicate brother-in-law and sister-in-law rather than siblings of the writer. For example, Isaac Bailey regularly addresses his brother Curtis' wife, in the 1860's, as "Dear Sister Amanda."

13. Names of foreign origin may change with the passage of time (that is, be "Americanized"), or may be spelled in a bewildering variety of ways (phonetically). For example, the mother-in-law of Martin Davenport, who died near Ingalls in 1810, is identified in an obituary (Raleigh newspaper) as Mrs. Sarah Brownrigg (later to become Browning?). The family name of the Rev. W.M. Boring (who served the Burnsville Circuit in the late 1800's) was originally Boren.

Phonetic spellings can cause havoc as one searches an alphabetized list (e.g., index to a census). For example, the family name Honeycutt occurs as Honeycutt, Honeycut, Hunnycut, Hunnycutt, Hunnicut, Hunnicutt, Hunnuktt, Honycut, Honeycott, Hunecut, Hunicut, Hunnecut, and so on. Can you imagine, trying to find, in a list of immigrants, my wife's ancestor Henry Rieksgers? (For these reasons, the Soundex is especially helpful for census records of 1880, 1900, and 1910.)

14. Punctuation and capitalization may be irregularly used (or not at all), so that the reader may be uncertain about clauses or even sentence boundaries. For example, a list of Jesse Bailey's children, copied several times, reads: Elizabeth, Thomas, Catherine, Sherford Ollie, McCourry, Flora Hughes. The correct reading is: Elizabeth Thomas, Catherine Shuford, Ollie McCourry, Flora Hughes.

15. Deeds were often registered in the county of the grantor's residence, rather in the county in which the property was actually located. (This produces a certain difficulty in tracing the transfer of real estate from one owner to the next!)

16. An illegitimate child (formerly described as "base born") usually (but not always) took the family name of the mother. For example, Nathan Boone Ray, son of Susannah Anderson who later married a Boone, was really the son of Billy Ray.

17. References to an event as having happened "on the 25th ultimo" means in the preceeding month, whereas "on the 25th instant" means within the month just passed (often abbreviated to ult. and inst.).

18. The following terms are not necessarily interchangeable: age of consent (below which one cannot marry without parental consent); age of contractability (below which one cannot marry); age of discretion (at which one may choose one's guardian); and age of majority (when legal contracts could be made). In 1850, these ages were, for a female: 15, 14, 14, and 21.

Assorted Tips (contd.)

19. The description of a person as "late of the County of Yancey" means that the person has resided there in most recent times (and not that the person is deceased).

20. The designations "nephew" and "niece," in early documents may not mean what they do now: they were sometimes used for grandson and granddaughter.

21. Native Americans (Indians) are reckoned as "Black" on U.S. Census Schedules. "Of color" has the same double designation.

22. The designation "next friend," in a legal proceeding, refers to someone who acts in behalf of a minor orphan (without the official status of guardian).

23. The designation "Planter" referred to someone who owned 100 acres or more of land.

24. The Soundex (index) to the 1880 Census does NOT list every household, but only those in which there were children aged 10 and under. (This most annoying reality, if unrecognized, can lead the researcher to wonder what happened to a given family since the last census!)

25. Present cemetery surveys should be checked against the one done by the W.P.A. (or other project) in the late 1930's. In this fashion, one may discover a number of grave markers that have "disappeared" in the meanwhile.

26. Marriage records are sometimes scattered among other county records. (E.g., Mitchell County Deed Book I contains such information from the 1860's.)

27. A tax list will not necessarily contain the names of all residents of the area: the poor, those without property, the aged, and blacks are usually missing.

28. County Court Minutes (Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions), available until 1868, should always be consulted. They contain list of officials, jurors, petitions, licenses, estates, bastardy, and other general county business.

29. The range and availability of N.C. records is given in the essential volume, North Carolina Research, edited by Leary and Stirewalt (1980; 633 pages). Federal records are outlined in Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives (revised, 1985; 304 pages). The location of specific records, by N.C. county, is found in North Carolina Genealogical Reference, by Draughon and Johnson (1966; 571 pages). Leary and Stirewalt, in an extended appendix, give definition of "selected terms and abbreviations" (e.g., ca. sa., in a court proceeding, means that a writ for the arrest is to be issued, pending payment for a monetary judgment).

7

SOME RECENTLY AVAILABLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Swink, Daniel D. The Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Burke County, North Carolina, July 1795 (part)-October 1798 (entire). Abstracted, with index, pp. 132. Available from the editor, Rt. 2, Box 173-A, Lawndale, N.C. Copyright, 1987. (Cost is approximately \$50.00) [Note: the surviving court minutes extend from Oct. 1791 to July, 1798, such that this volume of abstracts is incomplete. Items that touch on the Toe River Valley are evident in Jan., 1792, if not in Oct., 1791 (Where Isaac Burleson attests that he did in fact bite off the left ear of Charles Phillips in a fight.)]

Duke University Library #: q929.3975685 S978 M668 1987.

Philbeck, Miles S. Jr., and Grace Turner. Burke County, North Carolina, Surviving Will and Probate Abstracts, 1777-1910. Copyright by the editors, 1983; 571 items, with index.

Duke University Library #: q929.375685 P545 B959 1983.

Turner's address: 600 Lynnwood Ave., Wilson, N.C., 27893.

Philbeck's address: Chapel Hill, N.C., 27514.

Bishop, Brenda C. 1860 Census, North Carolina, Yancey County.

Transcribed in entirety, indexed; pp. 49; copyright, 1983.

Editor's address: 2105 Bellevue Way, Tallahassee, Fla., 32304.

Generally well done.

Williams, Sally Seaman. 1900 Yancey Co., N.C. Federal Census.

Compiled from microfilm; 2 vols., transcribed in entirety; indexed. Editor's address: 418 Hwy. 110 North, Whitehouse, Texas, 75791.

Abounds with errors and blanks (where editor could not read the original).

Edwards, Terry. Yancey County Marriage Register, 1850-1899.

Alphabetized by groom; lists bride, with ages of both; minister, witnesses. In finalization; will have bride index, and other statistics.

Generally well done, and invaluable for genealogical research in the county.

Editor's address: 410 Pineview Drive, Kings Mountain, N.C., 28086.

Williams, Sally. Index and Abstract of Deeds of Yancey Co., N.C.

Deed Book I. 1985. For address, see above.

Well done.

McCourry, Donald L. Has some 20 books, each with many photos, in preparation (possible publication 1989). Titles include:

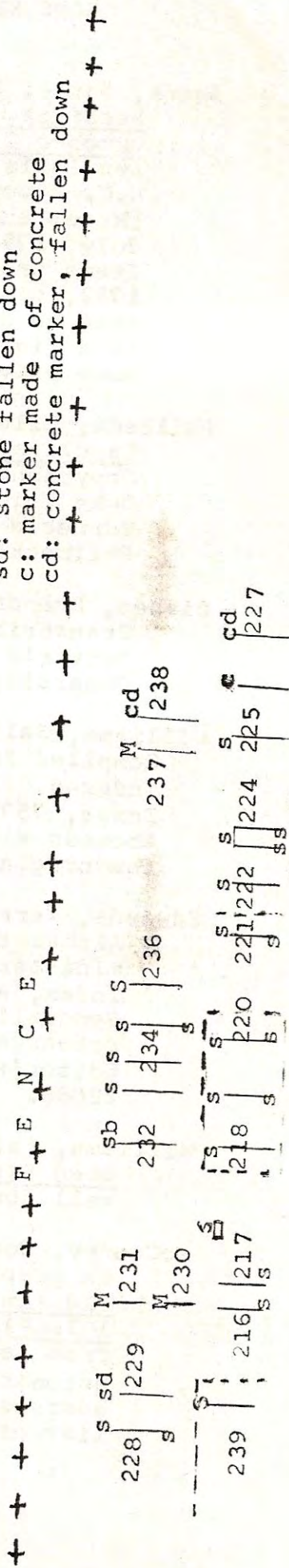
Old Time Ways of Living; Lost Cove; Old Fashioned Days; 1916 Flood; Special People (list of "over 700 different

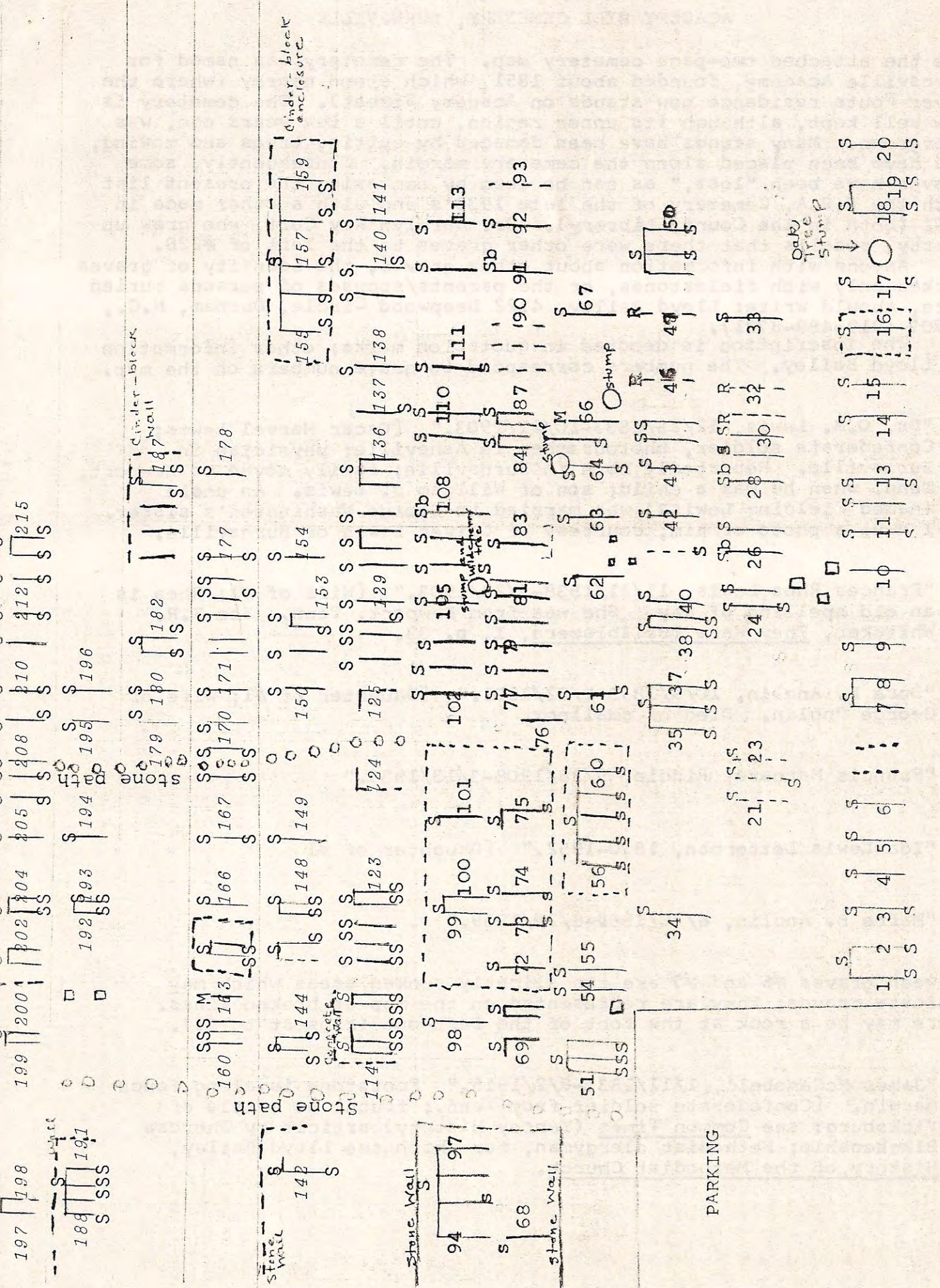
from lower Mitchell County," with 187 photos); etc. An astonishing and invaluable collection of material. Author's address: Rt. 2, Box 99, Marion, N.C., 28752. Write author for list of titles and prices.

ACADEMY HILL CEMETERY  
 Burnsville, N.C.  
 mapped: June, 1984-1986

In a few instances, obituaries are cited in Lloyd Bailey, A History of the Methodist Church in the Toe River Valley (Celo Press, 1986).

-----: stone/brick/concrete enclosure  
 s (at head): stone with inscription  
 M: metal marker, placed by funeral home  
 sb: stone broken  
 sd: stone fallen down  
 c: marker made of concrete  
 cd: concrete marker, fallen down





197 198

188 197  
S SSS

199 200  
192 193  
194 195  
196

205 204  
208 210  
212 215

Cinder-block wall

179 180 182

160 163 166

142

143 144 148 149  
150 153 154  
167 170 171 177 178  
179 180 182

Stone wall

144

148 149

150 153 154

167 170 171 177 178

154 157 159

114 117 118 119 120 121 122

123

125 126 129

136 137 138

140 141

94 97

68

72 73 74 75 76

77 78 79 80 81 82 83

84 87 88 89 90 91 92 93

111 113

Stone wall

98

100 101

102 105 108

110 111

113

51 55

54 55

56 59 60

61 62 63 64 66

67

50

34

35 37 38 40

41 42 43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

32 33 34

21 23

24 26 28 30 31 32

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

16 17 18 19 20

PARKING

Oak tree stump

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

ACADEMY HILL CEMETERY, BURNSVILLE

See the attached two-page cemetery map. The cemetery was named for Burnsville Academy, founded about 1851, which stood nearby (where the Dover Fouts residence now stands on Academy Street). The cemetery is now well kept, although its upper region, until a few years ago, was overgrown. Many stones have been damaged by cutting trees and mowing, and have been placed along the cemetery margin. Consequently, some graves have been "lost," as can be seen by comparing the present list with the W.P.A. Cemetery of the late 1930's and with another made in 1971 (both in the County Library). Dr. Carolyn Ray Cort, who grew up nearby, recalls that there were other graves to the left of #228.

Anyone with information about other graves, the identity of graves marked only with fieldstones, or the parents/spouses of persons buried here, should write: Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, N.C., 27707 (919-489-8731).

The inscription is denoted in quotation marks; other information by Lloyd Bailey. The numbers correspond to grave numbers on the map.

1. "Dr. O.M. Lewis, 12/25/1833-10/21/1903." [Oscar Marvel Lewis; Confederate soldier, photographer in Asheville; physician in Burnsville. Reportedly born in Burnsville; family moved to Newport, Tenn. when he was a child; son of William J. Lewis. An uncle (named Fielding Lewis?) was married to George Washington's sister. I have a photo of him, -courtesy of Oliver Lewis of Burnsville.
2. "Frances Rhea Lewis, 11/21/1838-7/22/1903." [Wife of #1; Rhea is an old spelling of Ray. She was from Newport, Tenn. See K.R. Whitaker, They Were Trailblazers, I, p. 33.
3. "Dora L. Anglin, 10/9/1873-2/22/1901." [Daughter of #1; wife of George Anglin. Died of smallpox.
4. "Francis Margaret Riddle, 9/28/1908-3/13/1937."
5. "Ida Lewis Letterman, 1870-1952." [Daughter of #1
6. "Mafre B. Anglin, 6/26/1889-8/27/1939."

Between graves #6 and #7 are two slightly sunken areas which may indicate graves; they are represented on the map as broken lines. There may be a rock at the foot of the left-one (closest to #6).

7. "James McCampbell, 1/11/1837-8/2/1915." Footstone is along fence margin. [Confederate soldier from Tenn.; fought at battle of Vicksburg: see Common Times (Yancey History) article by Theresa Blankenship; Methodist clergyman, for which see Lloyd Bailey, History of the Methodist Church.

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- 8. "Sarah E. Clark McCampbell, 6/6/1839-1/14/1919." [Wife of #7
- 9. "Horace McC. Banks, 5/9/1899-12/25/1899." [Grandson of #7?
- 10. "Sallie L., dau. of J.P. and L.L. Gibbs, 1/19/1896-1/25/1897."  
[Parents likely are Joshua P. and Elizabeth L. Dellinger Gibbs,  
he being a State Senator in 1935.

Above #10, shown on the map, are square concrete bases upon which markers must once have stood.

- 11. "Logan G. Dellinger, 11/14/1853-8/25/1938." [Middle name: Gamewell,  
son of #29
- 12. "Robert L. Riddle, 1/10/1877-6/12/1914."
- 13. "Lucretia Ray, wife of L.G. Dellinger, 4/19/1855-6/3/1935." [Wife  
of #11; full name: Martha Lucretia, dau. of Nathan W. and Sarah  
Ann Ray.
- 14. "Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.G. Dellinger, 8/23/1894-11/21/1899."  
[Son of #11
- 15. "Rosie L., dau. of G. (C?) B. and E.E. Lyda, 2/28/1898-7/10/1908."  
[This likely is a grandchild of the Rev. William Brownlow Lyda,  
a well known and revered Methodist clergyman, who had a son named  
Charles (the first initial on the stone may be a "C"; see Bailey,  
History of Methodist Church, p. 213.
- 16. "Mae Dellinger English, 1880-1933." [Dau. of #11?; if so, full  
name is Addie Mae. At the time of the 1938 cemetery survey, a  
stone read: "May English, 3/12/1880-4/3/1933."
- 17. "Jessie Milton Dellinger, 7/4/1892-4/12/1933." [Son of #11

Leaning against a stump near #17 in August of 1985 were footstones with initials: S.L.G. [#10?]; H.L.D. [#25?]; R.R.B. [1938 survey has: Robert Ray Baker, born and died 4/3/1913]; O.L.G. [survey: Ollie L. Gibbs, 8/3/1893-1/2/1897]; M.A.R. [survey: Margaret A. Riddle]; T.M. [#67?].

- 18. "G.S. McCanless, 7/25/1829-5/7/1901." [Apparently George S., son  
of David. Shown in the 1870 Yancey Census as Sidney McCanless, aged  
39.

## Academy Hill Cemetery, p. 3

19. "Elizabeth McCanless, 4/25/1848-12/25/1899." [Wife of #18, shown in the 1870 census as aged 21. Daughter of #29 (?). Obituary in Bailey, History, p. 197.
20. "Sister Jennie McCanless, wife of Clayton Harris, 6/3/1868-6/13/1908." [Dau. of #18, shown in the 1870 census as Mary Jane, aged 3.
21. Small marble marker at ground level.
22. Small marble marker at ground level.
23. Small marble marker at ground level.
24. "Infant son of J.M. and F.E. (?) Gudger, 3/8/1874-3/9/1874." [Son of James Madison Gudger, 1836-1916, who was the son of Robert Love and Mary Johnston Gudger; J.M. was an attorney and President of Burnsville Academy in the 1870's; Captain, 14th N.C. Regiment, Confederate Army; buried in Asheville, N.C.
25. "Henry Lee, son of S.D. and M.A. Delinger, 1/12/1874-9/11/1884." [Son of Solomon David and Margaret Ann Ray Delinger who are buried at the Tom Ray Cem., Pensacola Road; grandson of #29. See Lloyd Bailey, History, p. 231.
26. The pedestal for a wide, thin headstone is all that remains here. [Husband of #27??
27. "Addie L. Riddle, 1846-1899." [This may be Margaret L., dau. of #29, aged 12 in the 1860 Yancey census; wife of William Riddle in 1870 and aged 23.
28. "Indianna, wife of John W. Ballew, 9/28/1867-4/25/1895. Aged 27 years." [This stone was intact when I began to map the cemetery in the early 1980's; by August, 1985, it had been broken in half. Dau. of #29 (?]
29. "Logan H. Dellinger, 10/3/1814-2/10/1904." [Middle name: Henry; son of Henry and Catherine Setzer Dellinger. Obituary in Bailey, History, p. 201.
30. "Elmira, wife of L.H. Dellinger, 1/11/1818-11/16/1873. She joined the M.E.C. [Methodist Episcopal Church], South, in her 15th year and died with full hope of a reward in heaven." [Family name: McCall, dau. of John and Phoebe Smith McCall.
31. fieldstone marker.



32. fieldstone marker.

33. "Sarepta C., wife of W.M. Moore, 4/18/1864-2/20/1892." [The upper half of the headstone has very recently been broken off, reportedly by a tree which fell during a storm. She is the 2nd wife of William M. Moore, #129, and they lived in the McElroy-Moore-Ray house, which still stands nearby on Academy Street. Tombstone repaired by Aug., 1985. Full name: Sarepta Celeste Woody; she died as a consequence of childbirth, and the infant (named for his father) is buried in her arms. His 1st wife is #67.

34. "Infant son of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Lyon, 7/4/1916. Our baby." [The father is likely the son of #219.

35. "Avery B. Ray, 7/2/1904-6/3/1950." [Son of J. Bis Ray, #37. Middle name: Burchfield (his grandmother's maiden name); not married. Died of a heart attack in Arizona.

36. "Pansy C. Ray, 5/9/1873-1/29/1964." [Wife of #37; family name: Carter (her middle initial here); dau. of #38.

37. "J. Bis Ray, 6/27/1873-10/21/1924." [Son of Garret D. Ray, #73; full name: John Bispham (middle name possibly for a famous opera singer, David Bispham). Judge of the 18th N.C. Judicial District, 1921-1924; N.C. House of Representatives, 1903; had a small law office on the town square.

38. "Sol W. Carter, 4/24/1836-11/2/1891." [Son of Daniel and Margaret Jennings Carter of Mars Hill area; brother of #61; owner of hotel in Burnsville (the Carter House); see Whitaker, They Were Trailblazers, p. 143.

39. "Laura J. Carter, 9/30/1838-6/30/1929." [Wife of #38; family name: Avery

40. "Infant son of S.W. and L.J. Carter, died 1871." [son of #38

41. footstone reads: "Rev. S.D.A., 1855." [The headstone, now broken in half, reads: "Rev. Stephen D. Adams, who died 12/25/1855, aged 28 years, 6 mo., 13 days." There is no sign of the pedestal or lower half of the headstone. He is the son of David Adams, of Strawberry Plains, Tenn.; actually died in 1853; first President of Burnsville Academy in 1851; Methodist clergyman; wife Cordelia was the dau. of #44. A new headstone, bought by his great-grandson, Junius Greene Adams (attorney in Asheville) in 1986 (at my suggestion), has been erroneously placed to the left of #46! Middle name: Dulaney. See R.N. Price, Holston Methodism, for several mentions, and also Bailey, History. Wife buried in Riverside Cem., Asheville, N.C. Father of (Judge) Joseph Shepherd Adams.

42. "Millard P. Honeycutt, 1856-1951." [Son of William and Jane Byrd Honeycutt of Jacks Creek; Jane and 2nd husband John C. Byrd are buried here, but the stones have been removed.
43. "Julia E., wife of M.P. Honeycutt, 11/20/1853-3/10/1899. At rest." [Dau. of Dr. John W. Conley and wife Peggy of Jacks Creek; wife of #42.
44. "In memory of Joseph Shepherd, died 2/27/1860, aged 67 years. Resting in hope of a glorious resurrection." [Large, 3' tall stone. Owned hotel on Burnsville town square. Born 12/11/1794, son of Thomas and Nancy; father-in-law of #41.
45. "In memory of Elizabeth Shephard, consort of Joseph Shepard, who departed this life 8/2/1838, in the 39th year of her age. Lo, where this silent marble weeps, a friend, a wife, a mother sleeps; a heart within whose peaceful cell, affection (and) virtue loved to dwell." [Dau. of Zephaniah Horton, #82; born 11/15/1799. Wife of #44, who later remarried.
46. fieldstone marker. For an erroneously placed marker just to the left, see #41.
47. fieldstone marker.
48. "Thomas Horace Higgins, U.S. Army, WW I, 1895-1982." [Bronze marker at foot of grave, ground-level.
49. "Carrie Bailey Higgins, 1893-1930." [Daughter of Tom and Martha Lewis Bailey of Green Mtn.; wife of #48
50. "Lula Ward Higgins, 1905-1978."
51. "Mother. Prueella M. Evans, 9/23/1880-12/27/1942." [Wife of #52; family name: Marshbanks, dau. of Dudley and Julia Ann Buckner Marshbanks.
52. "Father. John E. Evans, 3/7/1863-7/20/1956." [Middle name: Ellis, likely named for N.C. Governor John Ellis; son of John J. and Elizabeth Byrd Evans of Jacks Creek; Trustee of Yancey Collegiate Institute; County Commissioner; Deacon of Baptist Church; merchant on Burnsville town square; lost an arm in a cane mill as a youth.
53. "H. Lee Evans, 6/16/1904-5/10/1934." [Harry Lee, son of #52

## Academy Hill Cemetery, p. 6

54. "W.K.B." Apparently, the footstone of #55, moved here to serve as a headstone for an unknown person.

Between #53 and #54, at ground-level and at right-angles to the line of graves, is a small marker initialed "W.B.W.," which may belong with #60. Does it mark a grave?

55. "William K., son of W.M. and M.W. Boring, died 3/7/1889, aged 7 years, 2 mo., 19 days." [Son of the Rev. William Milburn Boring, a Methodist clergyman in Burnsville, for whom Boring's Chapel on Jacks Creek was named. The child's name was William Kavanaugh (for the bishop who ordained his father). Died of whooping cough. For the Rev. Mr. Boring, see Bailey, History.
56. "James Garrett Wray, N.C. 2nd Lieut., U.S. Navy, WW I, P4, 2/5/1895-3/30/1956." [Son of #60
57. "Jane Claire Bellack Wray, wife of Rush T. Wray, 10/18/1922-7/15/1963. Love is eternal." [Husband is #58
58. Rush Tracy Wray, 5/11/1911- / /1985 (cemetery mapped just after his funeral, and no data had yet been added as footmarker). [Son of #60; operator of Nu-Wray Inn; invaluable source for local history.
59. "Julia Ray Wray, 3/4/1870-10/16/1966." [Wife of #60; dau. of #73; Middle name: Sarah; operated Nu-Wray Inn for years; phenomenal memory of local history.
60. "William B. Wray, 4/23/1865-11/15/1932." [Middle name: Bryan; from Cleveland Co., N.C.; founded Wray Villa (Prices Creek); changed name of Ray Hotel to Nu-Wray Inn.
61. "Daniel Ginnings Carter, 11/20/1829-3/13/1886." [Son of Daniel and Margaret Jennings Carter of Mars Hill, N.C.; brother of #38
62. "John Baptist Smith of Granville County, N.C., died 8/23/1843, aged 22 yrs., 5 mo., 29 ds. 'As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the fields, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.' Ps. 103:15-16." [Marker is a granite spire, about 6' tall. Graduate of U.N.C. School of Law, studying in Burnsville for the summer. Obituary in Asheville's Highland Messenger (newspaper) for 9/8/1843, reproduced in Lloyd Bailey, News From Yancey, p. 5.

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Between #62 and #63, at ground-level, are small polished granite cubes, each marked "N" (apparently to mark the boundaries of a reserved area?).

63. "Frank E. Baldouf, 7/19/1917-1/27/1981."

64. "Kristen Louise Baden, 7/11/1980-7/21/1980. Ten days of joy."

Leaning against the stump at #64 in Aug. of 1985 was a tall marker reading: "In memory of John H., infant son of Isaac M. and J.A. Broyles, died 7/26/1851, aged 2 months and 22 days." [Jane A. is the dau. of #44; Isaac M. Broyles owned a boarding-house in Burnsville in the 1850's, then moved to Tyler, Texas.

65. "Thomas P. McGrath, Pvt. US Army, WW II, 1/6/1908-12/20/1982."

66. "Lloyd Miller, 1914-1985, aged 71."

67. "Timandre, wife of W.M. Moore, 6/28/1835-1/12/1887." [First wife of #129; family name: Phillips. (The 2nd wife is #33.) There has been much conversation about her headstone: a heavenly hand seems to point downward, whereas that of the 2nd wife has a hand pointing upward! In actuality, the hand here is reaching down to reunite (or has broken?) a chain, symbolizing family relationship. She is possibly the daughter of James/John Phillips and a Honeycutt wife, from near Washington College, Tenn.

68. "Roy C. Honeycutt, 1/29/1903-7/12/1949." [Son of #94

69. "Richard Currie, 2/21/1939-9/8/1982." [Son-in-law of Bruce and Dorothy Ray Westall of Burnsville; Dorothy is the dau. of #37; Wife Mary Alice lives in Weston, Conn. See #98.

70. "James Lee Hyatt, 1864-1936." [Son of Jason L. Hyatt; represented Yancey Co. in State Senate, 1897 and 1911. Actually born 3/14/1865.

71. "Margaret C. Hyatt, 1871-1951." [Wife of #70; family name: Griffith.

72. "At rest. Thomas R., son of G.D. and E. Ray, died 8/11/1877, aged 21 years. Asleep in Jesus; blessed sleep." [Son of #73.

73. "Garrett Dewese Ray, 7/6/1833-5/14/1912." [Son of James Bean and Martha Elvira Bailey Ray; owner of Ray Hotel in Burnsville: see #s 59-60.

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74. "Elizabeth Ray, 1/22/1833-12/7/1912." [wife of #73; family name: Burchfield (see #35).
75. "Requiescat in pace. Peter C. Coletta, 12/2/1904-11/24/1975. Father." [Son-in-law of #s 99-100.
76. bases for head- and foot-stones preserved here.
77. "Mittie L., wife of J.P. McInturff, 4/22/1868-5/26/1903." [He is Joseph P. McInturff.
78. "Rossie N., daughter of J.P. and M.L. McInturff, 11/3/1894-3/29/1896." [Daughter of #77
79. "Corpl. C.R. McInturff, Co. L, 13 Tenn. Cav." [Clayton Reeves, son of John and \_\_\_\_\_ Carter McInturff; 9/26/1835-3/17/1916.
80. "Eliza J., wife of C.R. McInturff, 5/26/1836-8/18/1902." [Dau. of Zephaniah and Jane Phillips McCourry of Jacks Creek; middle name: Jane.
81. "Margaret Austin, 3/5/1803-4/1/1895. Asleep in Jesus." [Mother of #105; dau. of Robert Austin.
82. "Zephaniah Horton, Pvt. N.J. Militia, Rev. War. 11/13/1760-4/5/1844." [Reportedly, he is not actually buried here, but rather at his house which stood on Charlie Brown Road, near where Jerry Holcombe now lives. Rush Wray (#58) told me that the D.A.R. chapter had this stone delivered to Burnsville, but it was put at the wrong cemetery! Zephaniah came to Yancey Co. (then Burke) with wife Jane, dau. of Malcolm McCourry (Sr.) who had also served in the Revolution.
83. "Celia Edwards Shook, 1885-1934."
84. "Romulus E. Anderson, 1878-1930."
85. "Nellie M. Anderson, 1881- . ." [Wife of #84; dau. of #86
86. "Rev. L.D. Gillespie, 1857-1945." [Lorenzo Delano, a Methodist clergyman, and dentist in Burnsville. Son of William A. and Telitha Palmer Gillespie; obituary in Bailey, History, p. 366.
87. "His wife, Mollie A. Dover, 1859-1938." [Wife of #86; obituary in Bailey, History, p. 366.

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- 88. sunken place, suggesting a grave.
- 89. sunken place, suggesting a grave.
- 90. sunken place, suggesting a grave.
- 91. "Thelma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Horton, 4/1/1902-6/19/1902." There is an inscription at the bottom of the stone, difficult to read. [Dau. of #92
- 92. "J. Woodfin Horton, 9/18/1857-8/8/1916. He was beloved by God and man." [John Woodfin, son of Joshua and Sarah C. Deyton Horton; married Martha Silver. For newspaper article, see News From Yancey, p. 76.
- 93. sunken area, suggesting a grave.
- 94. "M.C.A. Honeycutt, 1870-1935." [Arcemus, son of Ephraim and Aldecha Hampton Honeycutt of Jacks Creek; Sheriff of Yancey County; father-in-law of #142; father of #68.
- 95. "Augusta P. Honeycutt, 1877-1963." [Wife of #94; daughter of Milton and Ann Proffitt (#97); sister of #202.
- 96. "Elizabeth H. Jones, 1914-1969." [Daughter of #94; died in U.S. Navy Hospital in Washington, D.C.
- 97. "Mary A. Ray, July, 1852-July, 1954." [Mary Ann Anderson, wife of Milton Proffitt (see #95, #202) and Elbert Ray. Dates of marriages: 1874, 1894.
- 98. Westall headstone (reserved? See #69)
- 99. "W.D. Chase, M.D., 8/2/1875-11/20/1915." [William Dana; son-in-law of #73; wife is #100.
- 100. "Lilly Ray Chase, 5/29/1877-4/4/1959." [Wife of #99; she later married Will M. Peterson (son of "Little M<sub>o</sub>se" and Cordelia Ray Peterson of Jacks Creek) and lived in Oregon for a while.
- 101. "Veronica Ann, 8/9/1954-8/11/1954. Daughter of Peter and Gladys Coletta." [Dau. of #75 and granddaughter of #s 99-100.

## Academy Hill Cemetery, p. 10

102. "Juliet M., wife of W.J. McMahan, 8/22/1845-5/16/1888."
103. "Nora Sorrells, 12/13/1875-5/10/1886."
104. "Kivett C., son of J.M. and C.M. Moose, 6/24/1886-1/4/1890."  
[The family name may be Moosha (Albanian), and if so, a cemetery on Jacks Creek has relatives.]
105. "Dr. W.M. Austin, 5/5/1832-3/24/1912. Our loved one." [Son of #81; served in Confederate Army; taught at Burnsville Academy in the 1860's; physician in Burnsville; William ("Bill").]
106. "Julia M. Austin, wife of Dr. W.M. Austin, 5/25/1846-11/30/1918."  
[Family name: Satterwhite, from Nealsville in McDowell Co. Grandmother of Mrs. Troy Ray of Burnsville, who lived in the McElroy-Moore house nearby (see #33.)]
107. "Sallie M., wife of Rev. J.A. Sronce, 12/6/1858-3/27/1891."  
[He likely is John Alexander Sronce, a Methodist clergyman from Bald Creek, who served the Burnsville Circuit, 1891-1892. She is Sarah Matilda Effler, of Flag Pond, Tenn. See Bailey, History.]
108. "Thaddeus W. Young, 10/10/1855-1/25/1895. Gone but not forgotten."  
[Possibly the son of Mc. W. and Lurana Young, for which see 1860 Yancey Census, #1314. Apparently married Mary Woody in 1894.]
109. "In memory of Jane (?) Bryant, born 3/15/1821, died 7/26/1890. Aged 72 years, 4 mo., 11 d." [Soapstone marker, with faded inscription. Possibly Jane McCourry, wife of William Bryant.]
110. "L. Eustace Williams, 8/2/1898-10/31/1935." [Son of John and Salley L. Williams, according to the 1900 Yancey Census, Burnsville Twp., #190.]
111. "Ethel Mc. Williams, 1/6/1900-12/14/1980." [Dau. of #112.]
112. "William Monroe McCurry, 7/17/1873-12/24/1931." [Son of William Franklin and Sara Fender McCurry of Bee Log; studied at Washington College (Tenn.); merchant at Bee Log and Burnsville. See Carolyn Wallin, The McCurrys of Bald Mountain Creek, pp. 101-110.]

## Academy Hill Cemetery, p. 11

113. "Martha Howard, wife of W.M. McCurry, 11/23/1877-10/1/1918. Farewell, my husband and children all; from you a mother Christ doth call." [First wife of #112; Martha H. Barnard, of Iredell Co., N.C.]
114. "Roy Sevier Roland, 1895-1956." [Son of #115]
115. "Robert Stowe Roland, 1867-1944." [Son of James and Sarah Roland of Jacks Creek?]
116. "Mary Robins Roland, 1878-1955."
117. "Alice Roland Ray, 1908-1969." [Wife of #118; organist at Burnsville Baptist Church for 47 years.]
118. "Phillip Carter Ray, 1909-1977." [Son of #37]
- According to State Hwy. reburial chart, an unknown (unmarked) grave is relocated here from same site as #s 119-120.
119. "Samuel W. Byrd, 2/12/1855-9/6/1903." [THIS GRAVE (and #120) WERE REMOVED BY THE STATE HWY. DEPT. from the family cemetery near the mouth of Prices Creek, about 1980. This is Samuel Willing ("Big Sam") Byrd. For the debate about his parents (son of Cornelius and Nellie vs. left with that couple as an infant when his parents' returned to Virginia), see Lloyd Bailey, The Bailey Family, III, p. 1033.]
120. "Mother, Mary Ray Byrd, 9/17/1862-8/29/1936." [Wife of #119; Dau. of #73; family records give her birth-date as 9/7/1861. Reburial (see #119).]
121. "Mother, Nancy Anderson Gardner, 1815-1913." [Marker at ground-level; wife of William Gardner; dau. of William M. and Martha ("Patty") Elkins Gardner of Madison Co. See Old Buncombe County Heritage, I, #212. Commonly called "Grandma Gardner." Obituary in Bailey, History, pp. 211f.]
122. "G. Ellis Gardner, 3/22/1858-7/15/1923." [Son of #121; attorney in Burnsville; representative to State House, 1917-1920. Full name: Gaston Ellis. See Bailey, History, for many citations with respect to the Methodist Church.]
123. "Mollie C. Gardner, 1/22/1856- . ." [Wife of #122]
124. concrete base for a huge headstone here; depression indicates grave to left of it.
125. concrete base for a huge headstone here; depression indicates grave to right of it.



## Academy Hill Cemetery, p. 12

126. "Samuel A., son of J.H. and Mattie Higgins, 8/9/1891-10/4/1910." There are four lines inscribed below this, quite faded. [Parents are John H. and Mattie (Martha?) Austin Higgins.
127. "John C. Allison, 5/16/1862-10/2/1929. Gone but not forgotten." [Likely related to the 3rd wife of W.M. Moore, #129, named Mary Elizabeth Allison who is not buried here (moved to Marion, N.C.).
128. "Nancy Jane Allison, 1871-1947." [Wife of #127; family name: Banks.
129. "Capt. W.M. Moore, deceased 5/1/1899 in the 65th year of his age." Masonic emblem. [Husband of #67 and #33; 3rd wife not buried here (see #127). Confederate Army; Union Army (3rd NC Mounted Infantry); attorney in Burnsville; member of N.C. Senate, 1868-1870 (the famous/infamous reconstruction session); son of John ("Jackie") Moore and Sarah Hundley of Washington College, Tenn. Full name: William ("Bill") Martin. Obituary in Bailey, News From Yancey, p. 79; merchant in Burnsville; reportedly gave land for Burnsville Presbyterian Church. Family sketch in Old Buncombe County Heritage, II, #388.
130. "In memory of Mary \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>R</sup>eed (?), 8/7/1818-1/25/1896." Six lines of inscription are below this, quite faded. [See 1860 census, #1138 for Mary Read, aged 41; 1850 #444.
131. "N.H. Alison, 12/28/1853- . ." The footstone is now at #229. [In the 1900 Yancey census, Burnsville Twp., there is a Nathan Allison, born Dec. 1838, with wife Sarah E., born Sept., 1844 (see #132), listed as his wife.
132. "Sarah Alison, 9/25/1844-2/5/1918." [Apparently the wife of #131.
133. "Marie, infant of J.A. and R.A. Goodin." [Dau. of #136; stillbirth?
134. "Joseph A. Goodin, Jr., 1918- . ." [Son of #136; reportedly lives in San Francisco, Calif.
135. "Ruby Goodin, 1898-1982." [Wife of #136; dau. of Carter Higgins of Yancey Co.
136. "Joseph A. Goodin, 1886-1955." [From Mosheim, Tenn. Reportedly a grandparent was American Indian.
137. "Theodore M. Swann, US Navy, WW II, 9/7/1916-3/22/1978." [Son-in-law of #136.

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138. "Herbert Ralph, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Whitehead, 5/30/1918."
139. "Baby J.R. Horton, Jr., 1948."
140. "Zeph L. Horton, 8/4/1865-6/9/1941." [Son of Joshua and Sarah? See #92.]
141. "Amanda Weaver Horton, 2/15/1869-6/12/1935." [Wife of #140.]
142. "Dover R. Fouts, Sea 2, US Navy, WW I, 1896-1979." [Representative to N.C. House, 1941; son of John H. and Arlesa Watson Fouts; attorney; Mayor of Burnsville; son-in-law of #94.]
143. "Dr. Clarence McKee Cheadle, 8/27/1869-9/3/1945." [Physician in Burnsville; a daughter, Mrs. Cheek, resides in Asheville (?).]
144. "Maggie E. Cheadle, 4/28/1868-3/16/1948." [Wife of #143.]
145. I am uncertain if there is a grave here at this double-headstone; ground looks disturbed. Likely Lena Ray Tilson, wife of #146; dau. of #148; died / /198 .
146. "Robert Yates Tilson, 7/6/1888-11/14/1937." [Son-in-law of #148; reportedly tennis coach at Duke University.]
147. "Kate B. Ray, 1871-1955." [Wife of #148; dau. of Burton.]
148. "J.L. Ray, M.D., 1857-1922." [John Landon Ray, son of Nathan W. and Sarah Bennett Ray; physician in Yancey Co.; County Health Officer for many years; graduate of school of medicine in Baltimore, Md.]
149. "Lucille, dau. of Dr. and Mrs. J.L. Ray, 1895-1918." [Dau. of #148; not married.]
150. "Ted, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Riddle, 8/1/1910-5/15/1924."
151. "Madge, dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Riddle, 5/20/1929-2/15/1930." Diamond-shaped headstone. [Dau. of #152.]
152. E. Carl Riddle, 1898-1967."

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153. "Mary G. Riddle, 1902-1981." [Wife of #152]
154. "Johnsie, dau. of T.F. and M.J. Roland, 7/3/1900-8/24/1900." [Possibly the dau. of Fulton and Mary J. McIntosh Roland, and if so, the grandchild of #79.]
155. "Esther Naomi Buckner, 3/30/1906-1/12/1982."
156. "Max A. Buckner, N.C. A3C, 6351, A.F. Medical Sq., 8/17/1931-5/24/1952." [Son of #155?]
157. "Levi Buckner, 8/17/1844-12/31/1946." [Son of John and Nancy?]
158. "Celia S. Buckner, 7/7/1854-1/14/1938." [Wife of #157?]
159. "Jake Frank Buckner, 6/23/1898-12/13/1980."
160. "Samuel Clayton Riddle, 11/15/1870-9/18/1954."
161. "Georgia Lewis Riddle, 1/29/1877-3/17/1966." [Wife of #160]
162. "Charles E. Rex, Jr., Pvt. Hq. Co. 158 Inf., WW I, 3/29/1895-6/21/1962." Marker at ground-level.
163. "Frederick Bacon, 1923-1986; age 63."
164. "Father. John R. Burton, 1875-1948." [Middle name: Robert.]
165. "Mother. Nancy R. Burton, 1878-1941." [Wife of #164; dau. of the Rev. Goodson Hampton (see #201).]
166. "Norris Ray Byrd, 1/31/1916-11/19/1916." Grave has a marble stone boundary. [Possibly the son of Thomas Ray and Katherine ("Kitty") Burton Byrd, who once lived in the McElroy-Moore house nearby.]
167. "Lillie M., wife of A.Z. Burton, 4/27/1865-6/8/1916." Large marker; wife of #168.

168. "Augustus Z. Burton, 6/4/1860-5/9/1926." Large marker. [Husband of #167; son of John W. and Sarah.
169. "Walter Roy Bryant, son of W.S. and Julia Bryant, 6/13/1893-1/6/1940." [Son of #170.
170. "Julia Mae, wife of W.S. Bryant, 2/3/1877-10/2/1917." [Wife of Wade Sucratus ("Crate") Bryant of Jacks Creek, who was later a merchant near Celo; sau. of Mack (?) Sorrels of Jacks Creek.
171. "Avis Riddle, 5/27/1913-7/8/1913." [Likely related to #s 150-153.
172. Obvious disturbance of soil suggests that there is a grave here.
173. Obvious disturbance of soil suggests that there is a grave here.
174. "Anna Blalock Tindall, 1873-1957." [Wife of #175? Later remarried? See 1900 Census, Crabtree Twp., #125.
175. "Col. S.W. Blalock, 3/30/1845-12/24/1917." [Samuel W., son of Tilmon Blalock of Spruce Pine.
176. "Samuel Paul Blalock, 5/18/1902-11/24/1905, aged 3 yrs., 6 mos., 6 dys." [Son of #175?
177. "Ruby, dau. of J.R. and M.B. McCanless, 8/23/1902-9/22/1903." Diamond-shaped headstone.
178. "Joshua M. Sorrels, Co. A, 58th Regt., N.C. Inf., C.S.A., 4/7/1843-2/4/1917." [Son of Richard and Malinda Sorrels.
179. "Hanby O'Neal, son of J.A. and Gusta Riddle, 3/18/1918-1/2/1919." Diamond-shaped headstone.
180. "Wilburn P., son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Riddle, 11/12/1921-7/25/1921" (sic!). Diamond-shaped headstone. [See #152.
181. "James O. Higgins, 5/23/1898-5/8/1937."

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- 182. "Edith R. Higgins, 8/6/1902-2/18/1928." [Wife of #181,
- 183-187. The headstone reads: "T.M. Baker, 1870-1938; Minnie Baker, 1871-1904; Sudie-Mary Jane-Ethel." [According to the 1900 Census (Burnsville Twp., #214), this is Thomas Baker (born July, 1868); wife Minie J. (born Sept, 1868); and daughters Sudie (born March, 1890), Mary J. (born Nov., 1892), and Ethel (born April, 1899).
- 188. "James B. Hensley, 6/1/1881-6/7/1939."
- 189. "Georgia Hampton, wife of James B. Hensley, 9/11/1876-4/5/1975." [Wife of #188; sister of #201; dau. of the Rev. Goodson Hampton.
- 190. "G. Leslie Hensley, 2/25/1900-11/22/1975." [Son of #188; first name: George; Postmaster in Burnsville
- 191. "Mary Elizabeth Wray, wife of G. Leslie Hensley, 5/11/1900-12/31/1950." [wife of #190; dau. of #60  
Between #191 and #192 are two square stones, apparently meant to reserve the area: inscribed "COE" (?).
- 192. "J.W. Higgins, 9/10/1840-4/2/1923." [John Wesley ("Wes"), son of John Wesley Garland; Representative to State House, 1895; banker; benefactor of Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church which is named for him. See Bailey, History, pp. 341-342, 365, 47 (photo).
- 193. "David C. Higgins, 3/29/1838- . ." The large stone heading #s 192-193 bears the notation, "brothers." The footstone has a masonic emblem.
- 194. "Margaret Ellen, wife of J.<sup>W.</sup>~~F.~~ Waddle, 1866-1918."
- 195. "James McAlister, husband of Zula McAlister, 3/17/1888-2/1/1915."
- 196. "Ralph, son of J.R. and Z.A. McAlister, 1909-1914." [Son of #195.
- 197. "William W. Sorrels, N.C. Sgt. 9th Co. Coast Artillery, 12/11/1879-12/10/1940." Marker at ground-level.
- 198. "Mattie G. Sorrels, 7/23/1887-12/25/1954." [Wife of #197.
- 199. "Elmer L. Day, 1902-1976."

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- 200. "Marie E. Day, 1901- . ." [Wife of #199?
- 201. "Althea H. Proffitt, 11/7/1885-9/11/1980." [Wife of #202; dau. of the Rev. Goodson Hampton; sister of #189 and #165; very interested in local history and wrote several articles in newspapers; commonly called "Atchia."
- 202. "Frederick F. Proffitt, 10/15/1886-9/2/1977." [Register of Deeds for many years; son of Milton and Mary Ann Anderson Proffitt, #97.
- 203. "Althea Proffitt McElroy, 1856-1937." [Wife of #204; dau. of William W. and Manerva Proffitt of Cane River; earlier married to the Rev. Goodson Hampton, see #201. Middle name: Amanda.
- 204. "Robert Vance McElroy, 1853-1922." [Son of John Wesley McElroy, who lived in the McElroy-Moore house nearby; commonly called "Bob"; second husband of #203. Mother was Catherine Poteet McElroy (#234).
- 205. "Cora Ray Watson, 12/27/1871-5/7/1934." [Wife of #206; dau. of #73.
- 206. "E. Frank Watson, 10/13/1867-1/24/1961." [First name: Elbert; first wife is #205; second wife was Lucy Davidson, widow of Wesley Bailey of Spruce Pine. Attorney in Burnsville.
- 207. "Elbert Watson, 3/2/1843-10/4/1942." [Father of #206?
- 208. This is the marker for #s 207, 209, rather than a grave itself. It reads: "Mother and Father Watson," and is about 6' tall.
- 209. "Martha A. Watson, 1/31/1845-1/27/1917." [Wife of #207. Family name: Alexander.
- 210. "John A. Watson, 5/26/1883-10/20/1929." [Middle name: Alexander; son of #s 207, 209; born in Jackson Co., N.C.; Representative in State House, 1925; Attorney in Burnsville. Wife, Willie Dale Hampton (dau. of #203) died 1988 (bur. here, # ).
- 211. "John A. Watson, Jr., 5/20/1928-9/18/1928." [Son of #210.
- 212. "Charles H. Watson, 1/1/1919-12/14/1974." [Son of #210.
- 213. "Emma Louise Watson, 3/7/1910-6/28/1977." [Dau. of #210.

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214. "Harry James Hayter, 1/23/1920-3/26/1977."
215. "Thelma Rebecca Hayter, 10/11/1917- . ." [Wife of #214.]
216. "H. Vance Hensley, 1905-1982."
217. "Agnes Hill Hensley, 1913-1977." The Hensley headstone is to the right of this grave. [Wife of #216?]
218. "Laura Lee Lyon McCall, 6/24/1900-3/20/1944." [Dau. of #219? Public School Teacher.]
219. "John M. Lyon, 1860-1951." [Born in Tenn.; middle name: Mitchell. Representative to State House, 1931-1932; son of James Benjamin and Martha Britton Lyon. Editor of Burnsville's first newspaper (along with Oscar R. Lewis, son of #1). See Common Times, p. 53.]
220. "Mary Lewis Lyon, 1/5/1866-3/18/1923. She kept the faith." [Wife of #219; dau. of #1; see #34.]
221. "Ralph A. Peterson, 12/15/1903-4/25/1981." [Son of Reuben Jr. and Georgia Honeycutt Peterson of Jacks Creek (she a sister of #94); policeman in Burnsville, blinded by gunshot while on duty.]
222. "David R. Casida, 5/19/1887-12/14/1917."
223. "Eddie R. Gillespie, 1888-1958." [Son of #86; 1900 Census put birth in July.]
224. "Julia M. Gillespie, 1892-1979." [Wife of #223.]
225. "W.L. Casida, 4/6/1896-4/27/1920. May he rest in peace." Star emblem before and after inscription. [Based on the 1900 census, this should be William L., born April, 1896, son of James and Rosse Casida of Prices Creek (#6). #222 not in this household.]
226. concrete marker, no inscription.
227. concrete marker, no inscription, broken.

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228. "Roy Lafayette Ray, Sr., husband of Marjorie Stanley, 8/23/1905-12/29/1982."
229. At my first survey, a footstone reading "N.H.A." stood here, apparently belonging to #131. Later, a headstone appeared, reading: Chloe Allen Boone, 4/8/1906; Lawrence G. Boone, 4/24/1906-3/7/1983."
230. "M.E. 'Jack' Haley, 1920-1986, aged 65."
231. "Roy V. King, 1918-1985, aged 66."
232. sandstone marker, 2' high, broken below inscribed area; at a later visit, all traces of it had disappeared! Likely the same family as #s 233-234, and shaped the same way. The McElroy's (J.W.) had a child (male?) who died at a young age and this is likely its grave.
233. "In memory of W.P. McElroy, son of J.W. and C. McElroy, who died 1/7/1854, aged 2 years, 9 months." [Named Poteet, for his mother's maiden name.
234. "In memory of Mrs. Catharine McElroy, consort of J.W. McElroy, born 12/3/1810, and departed this life 10/30/1855 (?)---of faith; her dying words were-----'I know that my Redeemer liveth'." Very faded sandstone marker, about 2' high. For newspaper notice of her death (in the Herald of Truth), see Lloyd Bailey, News From Yancey, p. 24. Family name: Poteet. Wife of John Wesley McElroy, 4/7/1808-2/8/1886, who is buried in the Robbinsville Cem., Graham Co.; he was a prominent Methodist; merchant in Burnsville; Colonel, 11th Rgmt. of militia and then Brigadier-General during the Civil War; their house stands near the cemetery (referred to in #s 33, 166).
235. "Bertie Chandler, 3/17/1885-12/28/1928."
236. "Frederick Earnest Duro, Jr., Sgt. U.S. Army, Korea, 1928-1982."
237. "Louise Banner, 1927-1982." Originally marked with a metal frame from funeral home; later with stone reading: "Louise McIntosh Banner, 11/15/1927-7/17/1982."
238. concrete marker, no inscription, fallen down.
239. "In loving memory of Zula Josephine Ray Bailey, 4/27/1897-10/6/1985." [Wife of H. Grady Bailey, who has subsequently died and been buried here.



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Additional note on #s 232-234: Mary Vance Proffitt Orr (dau of #202), recalls that 3-4 old McElroy graves were in a small fenced-in area, near cherry trees, behind her parents' house. Parents forbade the children to play inside, for fear that they would knock down the stones. When Mr. Proffitt was about to sell the property (late 1930's?), he had the graves moved to the Academy Cemetery nearby. She remembers that the stones were large and ancient-looking.

Comparison of my map with earlier surveys (W.P.A. project of 1938; county survey of 1971) reveals that several markers then in place have subsequently disappeared. See my preface for comments (by Carolyn Ray Cort) about graves to the left of #228. See comment following #17 about misplaced stones for Robert Ray Baker, Ollie L. Gibbs, and Margaret A. Riddle. See comment following #64 about John H. Broyles. See following #118 for unknown grave. See comment at #10 for loss of marker. See #s 21-23, 26, 54, 76, 88-90, 93, 124-125, 172-173, 191, 226-227.

## Tombstones from previous surveys:

- a.-b. "J.C. Byrd, 5/6/1846-6/14/1927" and "Jane M. Byrd, 3/29/1835-8/31/1924." [J.C. is "Col." John, son of "Jack" and Nancy of Jacks Creek; Jane Melissa is the dau. of Charles and Jane Hampton Byrd of Jacks Creek, and the widow of William Honeycutt. She is the mother of #42. I believe that they operated a boarding house in Burnsville ("the Byrd House"), in the vicinity of Bruce Westall's residence.
- c. "Lee Roy Horton, 6/11/1917-10/29/1935, son of Roy D. and Fany." [Possibly in the area of #s 88-90?
- d. "Leon Horton, 7/2/1893-6/2/1918."
- e. "Margaret Riddle, 9/6/1846-2/17/1897. Wife of W.P. Riddle." [Possible area is #s 172-173. For mention of her footstone, see after #17. The 1870 census suggests this is Margaret A. Riddle, wife of William. William P. Riddle married M.A. Dellinger in 1866, which suggests that the grave location is in the vicinity of #s 10-11.
- f. "Fred King, 9/12/1912-4/5/1928. Son of R.A. and Cora King." [Possibly related to #231.
- g. "David Dennis Baker, 5/7/1910-9/20/1910." [The 1971 survey suggests that this grave is in the vicinity of #s 25-27.
- h. "Robby Roy Baker, 4/3/1913-4/3/1913." [For mention of footstone, see after #17. The 1971 survey suggests that this grave is in the vicinity of #s 25-27.

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- i. "Ollie L. Gibbs, 8/3/1893-1/2/1897. Daughter of J.P. and L.L. Gibbs." [For mention of footstone, see after #17. Sister of #10, and likely buried in that area.
- j. "Herbert R. Gudger, 12/13/1866-8/21/1874. Son of J.M. and F.E. Gudger." [Brother of #24; very likely this is grave #23, as the 1971 survey suggests.
- k. "Martha Silver Horton, died 2/11/1945, aged 81y, 10m, 1d." [The 1971 survey suggests that this may be #93, and indeed Woodfin Horton (#92) married Martha Silver.

The 1971 survey states that there are 39 unmarked graves. My count, in 1986, is 22; even with the 11 above added, plus the Broyles infant (see after #64), a number of graves remains undetected. (Unless, of course, some of them have been marked since that time.)