

# ESTATOEE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Volume IV, Number 2

June, 1989

ESTATOEE (ěs-tä-tó-ě): 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 (1989):

President: 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 Spring meeting of the Association, scheduled for March 12, 1989, was cancelled. The program ("Mining Activities in Toe River Valley," by Kenneth Nelson) will be presented at a later date. The Newsletter, containing materials related to the topic, will be mailed to members.

#### The Current Program:

The Spring meeting of the Association will be held June 17, 1989, at 7 p.m. at the Library in Burnsville (an alternate date is June 18, at 2 p.m.). The topic, "Aspects of the History of Medicine in the Toe River Valley," will be presented by Melvin Walter Webb, M.D. As usual, documents relating to the topic are a part of the present Newsletter. The program will be video-taped for purposes of preservation and future reference. Persons with additional information (newspaper articles, photos, old medical books, stories, additional names, and so on) should contact the Program Chairman (Lloyd Bailey).

#### New Publication:

The long awaited History of Washington County, Tennessee has at last appeared. Since a number of the genealogical articles refer to families in the Toe River Valley, the Program Chairman has made a list of them for inclusion in the present Newsletter. There may well be others. In any case, the volume is a good model for the kind of volume that could and should be done for Yancey County.

A dozen or more volumes on life in the Toe River Valley have recently been printed by Donald L. McCourry (born on Pigeon Roost). The Tri-County Libraries should soon have copies available.

Yancey County

Physicians mentioned in Asheville newspapers (as reproduced in Lloyd Bailey, News From Yancey):

- Austin, William (1870)
- Crumley, J.L. [John] (1859)
- Crumley, Washington (1859).
- Fairchild, J.M. (1897)
- Horton, Lorenzo D. (1862)
- Horton, Mc. Wm. (1862)
- Houston, J.W. (1870)
- Jobe, G.W. [George Washington] (1855)
- Jobe, Abraham (1844)
- Lewis, O.M. [Oscar Marvel] (1897)
- McCanless, W.W. (1841)
- Morgan, C.H. (1897)
- Reynolds, John D. [Daniel] (1854)
- Ray, Hugh, Dentist (1897)
- Robertson, W.B. [Burdett.] (1910)

Physicians from the 1860 Yancey County Census:

- Anderson, Joseph
- Blaylock, Nelson G.
- Crumley, John L.
- Garland, John C.
- Gibbs, John L.
- Lewis, Oscar M.
- Tucker, Malcombe
- Whittington, B.B.

Physicians from the 1850 Yancey County Census:

- Singletary, William E. (#2)
- Stradley, John R. (#1)
- Whittington, Benjamin B. (#820)
- Ryland, John (#18)
- Horton, William (#815)

Physicians from the 1870 Yancey Census:

- Ackard, G.W. (Burnsville, #51)
- Austin, W.M. (Burnsville, #52)
- Hague, J.A. (Burnsville, #81)
- Houston, J.W. (Caney River, #20)
- Houston, Thomas (Caney River, #69)
- Whittington, B.B. (Caney River, #152)

Physicians whose signature appears on military pension files (and who are not listed in other sources above): [some of these are Mitchell Co.]

- Penland, M.F. (1905, Civil War pension for James C. Howell)
- Stinchcomb, John (1907, Mexican War pension for Robert Boone)
- Butt, V.R. (1903, Civil War pension for James C. Howell)
- Gouge, A.E. (1939 Civil War pension for J. Patterson Howell)
- Hart, \_\_\_\_\_ (1889 Civil War pension for J. Patterson Howell)
- Peterson, J.W.(?) (1906 Civil War pension for James Howell)
- Bradshaw, J.I. (1906 Spanish American War pension for James Garfield Howell)
- Smith, Charles E. (1884 Civil War pension for William Tipton)

Yancey County

From Branson's Business Directory and the N.C. Yearbook:  
[The date given is the earliest volume that was available to me]

- Austin, William M. (Burnsville, 1872)
- Bennett, Will (Bald Creek, 1913; later to Burnsville) [William Lewis]
- Boone, J.S., "cancer specialist" (Burnsville, 1896)
- Ewing, J.B. (Micaville, 1906; see 1916 Mitchell Co., "Ewen")
- Edwards, C.P. (Bald Creek, 1903; Burnsville, 1905)
- Fairchild, J.M. (Burnsville, 1883; Cane River, 1896; Celo, 1905)
- Gibbs, J.B. (Burnsville, 1903)
- Hall, J.M. (Flinty, 1902; Micaville, 1910): same as next entry??
- Hall, Matthew (Micaville, 1896)
- Hogue, James H. (Burnsville, 1872)
- Horton, Mc. William (Burnsville, 1867)
- Houston, John (Cane River, 1872)
- Houston, Thomas (Burnsville, 1867)
- Howell, S.F. [Swinfield] (Ramseytown, 1896)
- Lewis, O.M. [Oscar Marvel] (Burnsville, 1867)
- Morgan, C.H. (Higgins, 1907)
- Nash, G.M. (Hunt Dale, 1912)
- Peek, W.A. [William/"Bill"] (Bee Log, 1906)
- Penland, W.L. (Paint Gap, 1906)
- Robertson, W.B. [Burdett] (Burnsville, 1907)
- Ray, J.L. [John Landon] (Burnsville, 1890)
- Towe, W.C. (Paint Gap, 1896; Cane River, 1902)
- Whittington, B.B. [Benjamin Beverly] (Burnsville, 1867; Cane River, 1883)
- Whittington, L. [Lafayette] (Day Book, 1887; Bald Creek, 1903)
- Whittington, W.P. [Willard] (Burnsville, 1883)
- Whittington, W.W. [William Wayne] (Cane River, 1896)
- Willis, A.P. (Cane River, 1905)

Dentists (from the above sources):

- Gillespie, L.D. [Lorenzo Delano] (Micaville, 1903; Burnsville, 1904)
- Gillaspie, W.L. (Burnsville, 1910)
- McClelland, W.A. (Cane River, 1902)
- Hamilton, S.J. (Burnsville, 1913)
- Proffitt, D.R. (Burnsville, 1902; Bald Creek, 1903)

Druggists (from the above sources):

- Fairchilds, J.M. (Burnsville, 1883)
- McInturff, J.P. (Burnsville, 1902)
- Robertson Bros. (Burnsville, 1902)
- Whittington, W.P. (Burnsville, 1883)
- Abernathy, Jule A. (newspaper, 1887)

## Yancey County

Physicians from sources other than the above:

Blalock, Yancey [newspapers]  
 Briggs, Turner Proffitt [descendants]  
 Cheadle, Charles McKee [family memory, tombstone]  
 Conley, John W. [family memory, census]  
 Howell, Ezekiel [newspaper]  
 McCourry, W. Carson [relatives, tombstone]  
 Holt, \_\_\_\_\_ [letter]  
 Neilson, \_\_\_\_\_ [letter]  
 Yancey, John [Arthur, W.N.C., p. 179]

More recent physicians: (some for Mitchell Co.)

Bennett, Mark Jr.  
 Cort, Carolyn Ray  
 Cort, David  
 Haaga, James  
 Lane, Harold  
 McGahey, Judith  
 Larson, David W.  
 Ohle, E.R.  
 Sargent, W.A.Y.  
 Wampler, Garland E.  
 Webb, Melvin  
 Baden, James  
 Santi, Kathy  
 Blanchett, Garrett  
 Craig, Frank  
 Hill, Stephen (Celo)  
 Cade, Jerry (Bakersville)  
 Horner, (Spruce Pine)  
 Oates,  
 Urquhart,

Mitchell County  
[some parts now in Avery]

1867-68 (Branson's Business Directory):  
Hart, R. (Bakersville)

1911 (N.C. Yearbook)

- Bradshaw, J.I. (Relief)
- Buchanan, Charles (Cranb.)
- Peterson, J.M. (S. Pine)
- Peterson, Charles (S. Pine)
- Wilcox, C.N. (Magnetic C.)
- Butt, V.R. (Bakersville)
- Slagle, F.P. (Bakersville)
- Buchanan, C.L. (Bakersville)

1872 (Branson's)  
 Blackburn, J.W. (Bakersville)  
 Forbs, Simon (Bakersville)  
 Harrison, R.B. (Bakersville)  
 Penland, M.F. (Bakersville)  
 Snipes, M. (Grassy Creek)

1916 (N.C. Yearbook)

- Peterson, J. Monroe (S. Pine)
- Peterson, Charles A. (S. Pine)
- Bradshaw, J. Isaac Jr. (Relief)
- Ewen, John B. (Boonford)
- Hicks, D.N., Dentist (Bakersv.)
- Butt, V.R. (Bakersville)
- Stack, R.E. (Bakersville)
- Smith, C.E. (Bakersville)

1884 (Branson's)  
 Forbes, Simon (Bakersville)  
 Harrison, \_\_\_\_\_ (Spruce Pine)  
 Hepinstall, S. (Bakersville)  
 Job, A. (Elk Park)  
 Penland, M.F. (Bakersville)  
 Reese, \_\_\_\_\_ (Bakersville)  
 Smith, C.E. (Bakersville)  
 Snipes, M.L. (Flinty Branch)

1890 (Branson's)  
 Crump, R.P. (Brummetts Creek)  
 Chadbourn, Louis (Bakersville)  
 Job, A. (Elk Park)  
 Lane, G.C. (Elk Park)  
 Lineback, John T. (Lineback)  
 Penland, John T. (Bakersville)  
 Smith, C.E. (Bakersville)  
 Snipes, M.L. (Plumtree)  
 Upton, W.P. (Bakersville)  
 Zimmerman, \_\_\_\_\_ (Cranberry)

1901 (N.C. Yearbook)  
 Penland, F.M. (Bakersville)  
 Smith, Charles E. (Bakersville)

1903 (N.C. Yearbook)  
 Bradshaw, J. Isaac (Relief)  
 Buchanan, Charles (Plumtree)  
 Wilcox, C.N. (Magnetic City)  
 Goss, W.C. (Montezuma)  
 Holcomb, P.M. (Mica)  
 Upton, R.Z. (Bakersville)  
 Slagle, Frank P. (Bakersville)  
 Lane, G.C. (Montezuma)  
 Smith, C.E. (Bakersville)  
 Butt, V.R. (Bakersville)  
 Stinchcomb, John (Bakersville)  
 Penland, M.F. (Bakersville)  
 Peterson, J.M. (Bakersville)

Notes Concerning the Physicians

Austin, William M. ("Bill"), 5/5/1832-3/24/1912. Buried in Burnsville's Academy Hill Cemetery; son of Margaret Austin; faculty member of Burnsville Academy in the 1860's; Surgeon in the Confederate Army (N.C. Regiment , Company ); married Julia M. Satterwhite of McDowell County; many descendants in Yancey County (including Winnie Lou Ray, whose house is the site for the new Yancey County Museum). Supt. of Public Health, 1901.

Crumley, John and Washington. A newspaper advertisement for their office in Burnsville is reproduced in Lloyd Bailey, News From Yancey, at p. 33 (Asheville News for Feb. 10, 1859). They also had been in the photography business (mentioned in Yancey Court Minutes, I believe); for their connection (severance) from the Methodist Protestant Church in 1854, see Lloyd Bailey, A History of the Methodist Church in the Toe River Valley, at p. 156. Family friendships sometimes led to children being named for them, as did Tom Bailey of Pig Pen when he named a son Doctor Crumley Bailey (1877-1959; "Doc" Bailey was later Chairman of Yancey County Commissioners). The nickname "Crum" (Crumley) still survives, here and there.

Jobe, George Washington. Apparently a faculty member of the Medical Department, University of Nashville (Tenn.), one of his letters (romantic), dated 1855, is reproduced in Lloyd Bailey, The Bailey Family of Yancey County, III, pp. 1100A-1100D. Apparently came to Burnsville in connection with The Rev. Stephen Adam's Presidency of the Academy in the early 1850's. (The letter was addressed to Amanda Adams, Stephen's half-sister.) Served in an administrative capacity at the Academy. (P.S.: Amanda married, instead, Joshua Curtis Bailey.)

Jobe, Abraham. Notice of his marriage to Burnsville's Sophronia Poteet may be found in News From Yancey, p. 6 (Aug. 8, 1844). (Sophronia was the daughter of James and Jane Horton Poteet.) Practiced medicine in Unicoi Co. (Tenn) and in what is now Avery Co. (N.C.). Considerable correspondence preserved in the John Wesley Garland-Papers.

Lewis, Oscar Marvel, 12/25/1833-10/21/1903. Buried in Burnsville's Academy Hill Cemetery; son of William J. Lewis; born in Burnsville, moved to Newport, Tenn. as a child; an uncle/great uncle (Col. Fielding Lewis) was married to George Washington's sister; photographer in Asheville (took a famous photo of the falls where Elisha Mitchell drowned); physician in Burnsville; Confederate surgeon (Regiment , Co. ); married Frances Rhea/Ray; numerous descendants in Yancey Co.

Stradley, John Ryland, 6/15/1825-1/15/1905. Born in London, and came to America at age three; after becoming a physician, he relinquished the profession in order to become a Methodist Clergyman (Holston Conference; married Harriett Newell Wilson of Bald Creek (Yancey Co.) in 1852; much information, including obituaries, may be found in A History of the Methodist Church... (consult index).

---

NOTE: References to "I" or "my" in the descriptions refer to the compiler of this data (Lloyd Bailey).

7

Howell, Ezekiel, 5/ /1882- / /19 . Son of Dillard (Sr.) and Sarah Ann Honeycutt Howell of Patterson Branch (Jacks Creek, Yancey Co.); married (1st) Imogene Piercy of Jacks Creek and (2nd) Juanita Byerly of Telford, Tenn. See attached newspaper article (Asheville Citizen) for some details of his education and career (Lincoln Memorial University and the University of Tennessee (Memphis). The graduation invitation which was sent to his mother by the former institution (1914) lists him as class treasurer. Licensed by the Tenn. State Board of Medical Examiners, 1914 (see History of Washington County, Tennessee, p. 88). I have often wondered about whether the circumstances of his father's death influenced his decision to enter the field of medicine: Ezekiel had gone to Johnson City to purchase a tombstone for his mother (died 1903), during which trip he caught smallpox which spread in the family and caused his father's death.  
(Wilburn)

Robertson, W. Burdett, 11/2 /1874- 1/6 /1951. Buried in the Robertson (West Burnsville Baptist Church) Cemetery; born at Double Island, son of Merritt B. and Margaret Louisa Roland Robertson; married Mary Ella Skerry of Nova Scotia, Canada (had been adopted by The Rev. William Grocer, of New York, N.Y.); attended Burnsville Academy, medical school in Baltimore, Intern at McLean Hospital in Baltimore; served as a physician in Yancey County for 52 years. See attached newspaper articles concerning his collection of historical artifacts and his obituary. She was a Nurse.

Ray, John Landon, / /1857-10/18/1922, buried in Burnsville's Academy Hill Cemetery; son of Nathan W. ("Big Nate") and Sarah Bennett Ray of Pensacola (Yancey Co.); married Kate Burton; graduate of Baltimore College of Physicians (?); physician in Yancey Co. for 38 years; Superintendent of Public Health in Yancey, 1894-1898, 1901-1902 (and perhaps other years; regular reports in Bulletin of N.C. Board of Health; apparently brought about vast improvements). Excerpts from a few of his reports were published in the Yancey Journal, 2/23/1989 ("History of Public Health in Yancey"); copy of obituary attached (from Burnsville Eagle, 10/20/1922).

Conley, John Wesley, / /1816(?) - / /18 (shown in the 1880 Census of Yancey as residing on Jacks Creek). Son of William G. Conley (Connolly), a prominent Methodist family of Wilkes (now Caldwell) County; married Margaret ("Peggy") \_\_\_\_\_; buried in unmarked graves near the old John Bryant mill (just above the mouth of Moses Honeycutt/Brinkley/Sam Byrd Branch) on Jacks Creek. I was given the following account of his death by Anna Mae Howell Peterson: He had made a house-call to the Roan Mtn. area in Mitchell County, and when he returned he pointed to a small black spot on his face, telling his wife that it was "black erysipelas," and that it would kill him. He was right. (Erysipelas is an acute bacterial infection, usually fatal before the development of sulfa-drugs. (For further details, see my sketch in Old Buncombe County Heritage, II, No. 128.) The couple has many descendants in Yancey County.

Briggs, Turner Proffitt, 4/12/1866-11/19/1955. Son of Howell W. and Naomi Honeycutt Briggs of Egypt Twp. in Yancey Co.; also a Baptist Clergyman; served as a physician at Murphy and Mt. Holly, N.C. According to an article in the Tri-County News (Aug. 21, late 1970's, concerning his son Harvey Bailey Briggs), "The North Carolina Medical Board gave him [T.P. Briggs] a citation for curing the first case of pellagra in this state."

Blalock, Nelson Gales, 2/17/1836-3/14/1913. Son of Jesse and Eura Tipps Blalock who lived in the vicinity of Spruce Pine in Mitchell Co. (then Yancey). Considerable detail about his professional life is available, e.g., in the attached sketch entitled "Dr. Nelson G. Blalcok," from Penrose Memorial Library of Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington. Family papers are also held by the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, and a detailed diary of a trip west is held at Washington State University at Pullman. Letters and documents relating to the World's Fair Commission are at the University of Washington in Seattle. (Copies of most of this material have been secured by Lloyd Bailey.) Married Panthea A. Durham (died 1864). Jesse Blalock (brother of Tilmon, of Mexican War leadership) was the son of old Revolutionary War Veteran John Blalock. The family homestead and cemetery was on highway 19-E, in the vicinity of Hardee's Restaurant. The graves were removed to the Spruce Pine Memorial Cemetery (Sect. D, Map #3, spaces 145-165).

Blalock, Yancey C., 8/5/1859-5/12/1921. Son of Nelson G. and Panthea Durham Blalock (above). Born in Yancey Co. (now Mitchell Co.), N.C. (source of his name); graduate of schools in Walla Walla, Wash., and Whitman Seminary, then of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia (as had his father). Many newspaper articles are in the Penrose Memorial Library of Whitman College, and a few have been reproduced below.

Peterson, Charles A., / /1882-3/ /1960. Son of Solomon and Julia Edwards Peterson of Relief; served as a physician in Mitchell County for 53 years. For details of his education and career, see the attached newspaper article concerning his death (The Tri-County News, 3/17/1960).

Peterson, James Monroe, / /18 - / /19. Brother of Charles (above). Office in Spruce Pine, 1911-1916 (perhaps much longer); member of the Staff at Veterans Home, Johnson City, Tenn.; reportedly specialized in diabetes and published articles in professional journals (to date, I have not been able to verify this); claimed to be the only person (at least, known to him) to be licensed to practice both medicine and law in N.C. (See Donald L. McCourry, Biography of Ed Barnett, pp. 36-37, 116, 241.)

Reynolds, John Daniel, 4/15/1832-10/25/1875. Son of Methodist Clergyman John Reynolds and wife Ann Pou O'Hara (see Old Buncombe County Heritage, II, No. 482; for his ministry in Yancey County, see A History of the Methodist Church in the Toe River Valley). John Daniel Reynolds married Theresa E. Shepard, daughter of Joseph (hotel owner in Burnsville); notice reproduced in News From Yancey, p. 19 (5/18/1854 Asheville News). One year later (issue of 3/8/1855), he announces that his office will be in the Asheville (N.C.) Hotel.



Peake, William Allen ("Bill"), 5/ /1854- / /19 . Son of John W. and Achsah Byrd Peake of Ramseytown (Yancey Co.), more specifically, Bee Log. Served as Yancey Co. Coroner, 1921-1924. Apparently lacked formal medical training and reportedly was licensed under the "grandfather clause" (i.e., when licensing was first required, traditional practitioners were recognized regardless of education). (I recently found an interesting reference to him in Thomas R. Dawley, Jr., The Child That Toileth Not, p. 348. It concerns a widow who lived beneath the Bald Mountain and whose child had been fatally injured when hit in the head with a rock at school. When asked whether a doctor had seen him, she replied, "We got Doctor Pecks, but he's only a jack-leg doctor. He couldn't do nothing.") Regardless of lack of formal training, such doctors rendered faithful service to many for whom no other help was available.

Johnson, Mary L. Sharpe, 9 /20/1827-12/28/1902. Daughter of Alfred and Mahala Sharpe of Iredell Co.; wife of Andrew Johnson (who died in the Union Army in 1864. Lived in Hollow Poplar area (present Mitchell Co.) in the 1860's; died in Yancey Co.; formal education in medicine (if any) unknown; carried medical books with her wherever she went; records destroyed in a house fire (Quince Johnson's house) at Bee Log. If licensed, possibly under the "grandfather clause." (Information courtesy of Donald McCourry) Apparently shown in 1900 Yancey Census, Ramseytown Twp., #59.

McCourry, William Carson, 6/26/1888-6/4/1923. Son of Thomas and Melissa Bennett McCourry of Jacks Creek. Attended Carson-Newman College and medical school in Tenn. Killed in a railway accident while on the way to a Shriners/Masonic meeting in N.Y. City: fell (or pushed?) between the cars near Statesville, N.C., and mangled badly; identified by his watch which had his name on it; found only later, when a man's horse refused to go near an area where his body was decaying. A photo of him and medical school classmates survives (watching a surgical procedure); buried in the family cemetery near Clearmont School (marked). His office was at Murchison (near Pensacola, Yancey Co.).

(Porter)  
Whittington, Willard P., / /1855(?) - / /19 . Son of Dr. B.B. Whittington (and wife Margaret Jane Ray) of Cane River section of Yancey Co. Graduate of College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, Md. (1882); office in Burnsville (also a merchant, whose letterhead reads: "Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils," etc. Moved to Asheville, N.C., in 1889; City Physician, President of Buncombe Co. Medical Society, member of staff at Asheville Hospital, etc. See the attached newspaper article (Asheville Daily Citizen, 9/20/1903). Buried at  
Several children, delivered by him in Yancey, were named for him (e.g., my grandfather, Willard Whitting Ray).

Horton, Mc. (McDaniel?) William, / /1828(?) - / / , and Lorenzo D. Horton, / /1836(?) - 8/25/1862. Sons of Zephaniah (Jr.) and Elizabeth Horton (who lived in the vicinity of Tipton Hill in the 1850 Census (#815). See attached newspaper article (Asheville News, 10/9/1862) for latter's death: had gone to Arkansas to study medicine under his brother; offered job as surgeon there in Confederate Army; returned to N.C. instead and died in the army of typhoid fever.

Stinchcomb, John, 7/1/1833-1/17/1913. Buried at Lilly Branch Church, Mitchell Co.; married Dovie Ann Howell (dau. of Patterson and Mary Ann Thomas Howell of Bandana), who is buried at Silver Chapel (Bandana).

Cheadle, Charles McKee, 8/27/1869-9/3/1945. Buried in Burnsville's Academy Hill Cemetery. Office in Burnsville.

Smith, Charles E., / /18 - / /19 . See the attached newspaper article by Harvey Miller (Tri-County News-Journal, 11/23/1988). For an interesting accusation, see D.L. McCourry, Ed Barnett, pp.41,82)

Howell, Swinfield F. ("Ten"), 10/ /1861- / /19 . Son of Swinfield D. and Sarah Honeycutt Howell of Patterson Branch and Ramseytown); uncle of Dr. Ezekiel Howell; married Margaret Price; lived in Yancey, then moved to Graham Co.; physician for the Kanawha Hardwood Company in early 1900's (photo in Asheville Citizen, 7/17/1960); sketch in the Graham Co. Centennial Volume.

Boone, J.S., / /18 - / /19 . Lists himself in Branson's Directory as a "cancer specialist" (1896). I suspect that this is an instance that would come under the "grandfather clause" of licensing. (Several other members of the Boone family dabbled in medicine. For example, I once heard my great-grandmother refer to Nathan "Boone" Ray as "the old clap doctor.") This likely is Jeremiah Boone, Jr.

Whittington, Benjamin Beverly, 11/27/1822-1/27/1902. Mar. (1st) Margaret Jane Ray (dau. of Henry and Elizabeth Wilson Ray of Yancey Co.) and (2nd) Harriett Melissa Angel (dau. of Daniel W. and Lucy Catherine Ray of Madison Co.). Trustee of Mars Hill College. Buried at Cane River Baptist Church. He was born in Kentucky (parents had moved there temporarily from Wilkes/Watauga Co., N.C.); 1850 census shows wife as aged 14 (married in 1850); studied at medical college in Charleston, S.C.; parents of two sons who became physicians (Willard P. and Wm. Wayne); had a brother (Wm. Wayne) and nephew (Wm. Lafayette) who were physicians. A letter by Wesley Bailey, written in 1860 (reproduced in Lloyd Bailey, A History of the Bailey Family, III, pp. 1122M-1122o) says that Dr. B.B. Whittington is campaigning for the State House of Representatives as an "old line Whig" and in favor of ad valorem taxation. (He was not elected.)



- Whittington, William Wayne, / /1869- / /19 . Son of Dr. B.B. Whittington. Studied at a medical college in Louisville, Ky.; office in Yancey Co. in 1890's; buried at Snow Hill, N.C. (Greene Co. (There was another Wm. Wayne Whittington, also a physician: he was the brother of B.B. Whittington, but did not serve in Yancey Co., although his son Wm. Lafayette did.)
- Whittington, Lafayette, 4/ /1838- / /19 . Son of William Wayne Whittington (the brother of B.B.). Studied at Jefferson Medical College in Pennsylvania. Buried at the Wilson Cem. at Bald Creek in Yancey Co.
- Hart, B.E., / /18 - / / . Married Jane Amanda McKinney (dau. of William and Nancy Baker McKinney of Mitchell Co.), whose dates are 7/5/1834-4/12/1902 (buried at the Gouge Cem. near Bakersville; the Dr. is not, at least, not in a marked grave). (Nancy Baker McKinney later married Hodge Rayburn Garland.) I assume that this is the same as the Dr. Hart who is listed among those who signed pension applications. See, however, Branson's Directory for 1867-68 (Mitchell Co.) for R. Hart (however, this directory often gets initials mixed up).
- Holt, \_\_\_\_\_, and Neilson, \_\_\_\_\_. A letter written by Isaac Bailey of Red Hill (10/31/1866) says that his father is being treated for sore eyes by these two doctors: "He has turned to wearing his beard all over his face; mustache as long as your finger and as gray as a Norwegian rat! Drs. Holt and Neilson prescribes it, the wearing of beard all over the face, as a remedy for the sore eyes... He dispises the upper lip fashion the worst, he says. The Doctors impressed it on him to wear it on his upper lip more especially." (Entire letter reproduced in Lloyd Bailey, History of the Bailey Family, III, pp. 1157-1160.) This does not prove, however, that these physicians actually had offices in the Toe River Valley. I wonder if this is related to a tombstone at the Stanley McCormick Institute Cemetery (now abandoned) in Burnsville: "Ann Eliza, daughter of P.H. and S.B. Neilson, died 1/25/1853, aged 15 years and 10 months." Other correspondence shows that two Neilson daughters, from Hot/Warm Springs, attended Burnsville Academy in the early 1850's.
- Harrison, R.B. May be buried at Berry Baptist Church, Altapass, with the dates: 6/9/1855-3/21/1923.
- Snipes, M.L., 4/5/1836-11/3/1899. Bur. at the Grassy Creek Cem. near Spruce Pine.
- Upton, W.P., 1/29/1850-11/19/1890. Buried in Bakersville Town Cemetery.
- Slagle, Frank P., 5/29/1851-6/6/1911. Buried at the Penland Cemetery, near Bakersville.
- Ewing, J.B., 8/25/1856-10/10/1932. Buried at Rebels Creek Cemetery.
- Gillespie, Lorenzo Delano, . / . /1857-4/22/1945. Dentist (and Methodist Clergyman) in Burnsville; buried at Academy Hill Cemetery; obituary for him and wife (Mollie Dover) may be found in A History of the Methodist Church in the Toe River Valley, p. 366.

Cooper, Samuel Jefferson, 5/19/1872-10/17/1952. Son of Thomas M. ("Doc") Cooper and Martha ("Patty") Bailey Tipton Cooper of Hunt Dale (Mitchell Co.). Married Sarah Ann Gouge; both buried at the Bud Bennett Cemetery in the Bailey Settlement near Hollow Poplar. Studied medicine with Dr. B.F. Banner (Erwin, Tenn.?), then in Louisville, Ky. and Knoxville, Tenn. For a photo, as well as his obituary, see below.

Garland, John C. Calvin ("Cal"), / /1841- 6/ /1866. Son of the Rev. Elisha and Nancy Garland (Methodist Local Pastor) of Red Hill. Married Martha Chandler (widow of Thomas Bailey). Captain, 3rd N.C. Mounted Infantry, Co. F (Union Army); mentioned several times in Bailey correspondence during the Civil War period (see A History of the Bailey Family, III, pp. 1122-K, 1160. The latter says: "Cal Garland was supposed to have been killed by his cousin Bill Burchfield. He was killed last June." (The letter is dated 10/31/1866.) I believe that I have read elsewhere that he was found lying against a tree near the top of Iron Mountain, shot through the heart. Bur. at the Garland Cem. beside the Baptist Church at Red Hill.

Gibbs, John B. / /1871- / /1946. Buried at the Holcombe Cemetery, Burnsville, N.C. Son of James and Margaret Young Gibbs.

Bradshaw, J. Isaac, / /18 - / /19 . Son of James Bradshaw; office at Relief, N.C.; sold building to nephew (Isaac Walter) and moved to Erwin, Tenn., where he is buried. Possibly studied medicine in Chicago (spoke of an instructor there having been killed while riding a bicycle). Father of Dr. Holt Bradshaw of Winston-Salem, N.C. Called "Old Ike."

Bradshaw, Isaac Walter, / /1887- / /1942. Son of John W. Bradshaw of Relief (nephew of J. Isaac Bradshaw). Studied at University of Tenn. (Knoxville), and medical school elsewhere. Buried at Horton Hill Cem. (Fairview Cem.) in Yancey Co. Called "Little Ike." For photo of office, see Donald L. McCourry, Us Poor Folks, p. 73.

# FOLKS WORTH WHILE IN W. N. C.

ROBBINSVILLE, April 29. (Special) One of the outstanding physicians of Graham county is Dr. E. Howell, 48 years old, who moved to Robbinsville one year ago. He was reared near Clearmont, Yancey county.

Dr. Howell attended high school at Clearmont and was taught by James J. Britt at the Britt high school. Mr. Britt was the founder of the first educational institution in Yancey county.

Dr. Howell has been railroad section hand, editor, telegraph operator, photographer, school teacher, and physician.

In his early teens he formed a partnership with V. L. Edwards, at Burnsville, and established The Mountain Echo, a weekly newspaper that was published for years. Dr. Howell and Mr. Edwards were the originators and builders of their newspaper press and purchased their type from a mail order merchandising house.

After deciding to study medicine Dr. Howell graduated from the medical department of Lincoln Memorial University, at Harrogate, Tenn., and then went to the University of Tennessee, getting a degree in the medical school of this university at Memphis.

Practicing for 19 years, Dr. Howell has lived in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina, holding licenses to practice medicine in those three states.

Through a competitive examination, Dr. Howell was commissioned a first lieutenant in the World War and served in the medical corps.

Dr. Howell is a nephew of the late Dr. S. F. Howell, of Graham county.



DR. E. HOWELL

In 1912 Dr. Howell married Miss Juanita Byerly, of Washington county, Tennessee. To this union were born four children: Horatio C., Claud Bernard, Imogene, and Beatrice. Dr. and Mrs. Howell also have an adopted son, Eugene Reece Howell.

Mrs. Howell is an accomplished musician. Their daughter, Imogene, and the other children are also talented in music.

Asheville Citizen, / /19

MAY 7, 1930 Yancey Record

## Dr. W. L. Bennett Dies At Age 75

Dr. William L. Bennett, 75, physician and former state legislator, died in an Asheville hospital Thursday following a long illness.

He had practiced medicine in Yancey County since 1911 and was a member of the State Legislature for two terms.

He also was a Shriner and a member of the Tri-County Medical Society and the North Carolina Medical Society.

He was born in Yancey County, a son of Andrew Jackson and Julia Bailey Bennett.

Services were conducted in the Higgins Memorial Methodist Church at 3:00 p. m. Saturday.

The Rev. O. L. Brown officiated, assisted by the Rev. C. B. Trammel and B. M. Tomberlin. Burial was in Holcombe Cemetery.

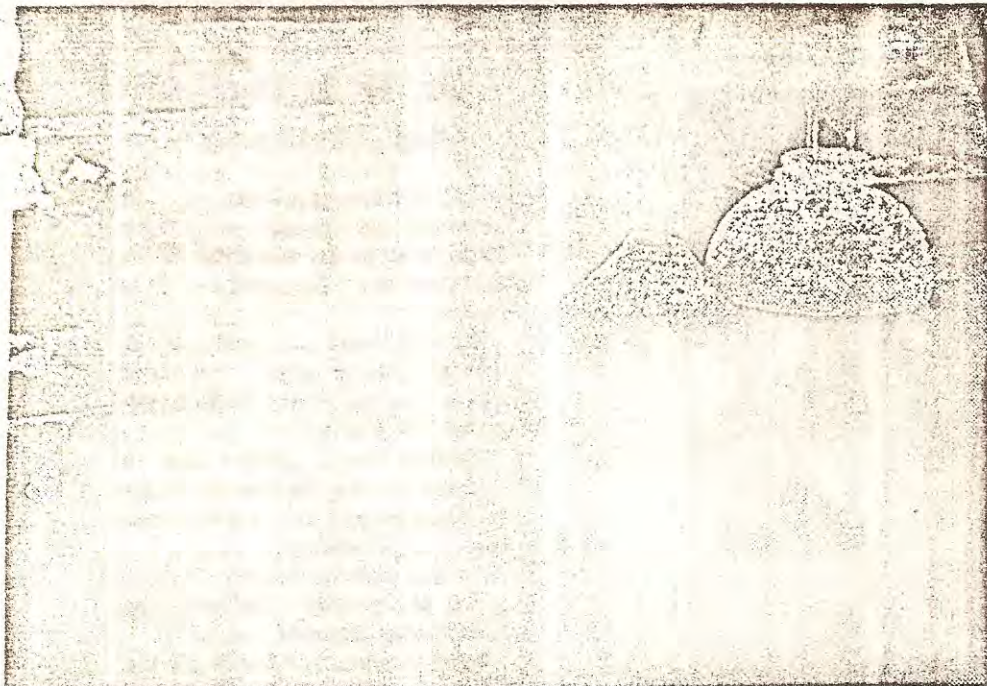
Active pallbearers were Robert Peterson, Bill Peake, Edgar Hensley, R. A. Tomberlin, Mack Ray, Yates Bennett, Paul Higgerstaff and Hubert Cooper.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Tri-County Medical and Dental societies.

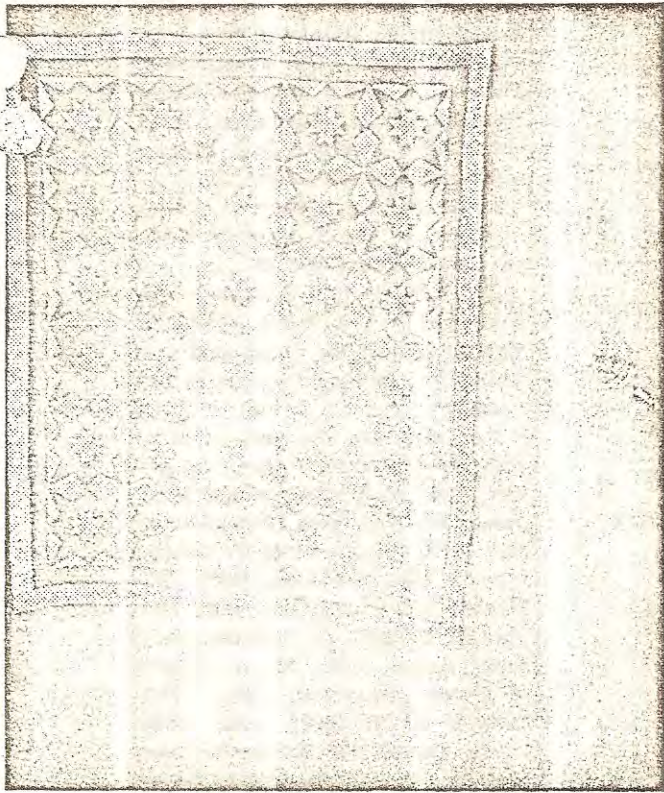
Dr. Bennett was affiliated with the civic and political circles of Yancey County for years and was one of the leading farmers in the county.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Nell Byrd Bennett; three daughters, Mrs. E. L. Briggs and Mrs. James W. Ray, both of Burnsville, and Mrs. N. A. Price of Greenville, S. C.; two sons, Mark W. Bennett of Burnsville and Dr. Van B. Bennett of Valdosta, Ga.; three sisters, Mrs. R. A. Peake of Green Mountain, Mrs. Zeb Bennett of Charlotte, and Miss Nettie Bennett of Burnsville; one brother, John B. Bennett of Asheville; and eight grandchildren.

# Burnsville Physician Has Unusual Collection



The history of lighting in the North Carolina mountains is illustrated by these pieces on display in the private museum of Dr. W. B. Robertson at Burnsville. At the left are fat pine torches, the crudest light of the pioneers. Behind them is the tallow dish, with wax dipped, rolled papers for transferring the flames. In the cup of wax floats a wick. Next are the candle, candle moulds, earliest kerosene lamp, carbide lamps, and the modern lamp.



On this quilt is inscribed the World War records of Yancey county soldiers, stitched there by Mrs. W. B. Robertson, of Burnsville, shown at the right. Mrs. Robertson took four years to stitch into the quilt the names of the 350 men who served in the war from Yancey county. She undertook the task when she found there was no war record for the county in existence.

By EVERETT KANE  
 BURNSVILLE, March 19. (Special)  
 A life-time of riding through Yancey county's hills on his rounds as a family practitioner has given Dr. W. B. Robertson, of Burnsville, an exceptional opportunity to ride his hobby as well, that of collecting early Americana.

In his years of pursuing his calling, the doctor has gathered a fine collection of early Americana and a group of articles dealing with the historic background of North Carolina.

In his little museum built as an addition to his office, Dr. Robertson has arranged his collection.

There row on row, are samples of most of the many minerals to be found in North Carolina—gold, iron, coal, diamonds, amethysts, zircons, emeralds, feldspar, kaonite, kaolin and many others.

An unusual piece which occupies a place of honor is a chalice which once served the parishioners of a priest in New Brunswick and has traveled thousands of miles.

One frightful night in France it passed from hand to hand—many of them nervous and shaking — and brought solace and hope to green Canadian troops facing a new and strange terror.

On that night, early in the war, a French soldier staggered into the Canadian trenches, pointed to the skies and cried "Boche!" He died before he could explain, but the surgeon determined he had been gassed.

**Minister Comforts Men**

The Canadians had never before faced gas, though they had heard of its frightfulness. Down the line went the Rev. Captain A. D. Skerry, of New Ross, Nova Scotia, to comfort them.

"We do not know what this thing is," he told them. "We may stand now upon the threshold of eternity. Therefore, let us hold what may be our last communion. Let all who will join in this service.

The silver chalice, which once served a parish in Fredericton, New Brunswick, was passed from man to man, many of them young boys. The religious ceremony stayed possibility of a panic, and, while the cup was being passed, the surgeon was showing the men how to tie the wet handkerchiefs across their faces. The gas, happily, was of a type effectively filtered by the wet cloth, and no serious damage resulted.

The Rev. Captain Skerry later taught English at the University of Indiana, and still later organized several states in the American Legion drive for endowment funds. He died three years ago from the effect of gas suffered in another attack at the front. The chalice came to his sister, Mrs. W. B. Robertson, who for safe-keeping placed it in the little museum of her husband.

Mrs. Robertson is a collector in her own right and has added numerous pieces to her husband's collection.

**Makes Unique Quilt**

One of these is a quilt which she made herself and which contains the names of nearly 350 soldiers who went from Yancey county and served in the World war. The patchwork quilt was begun when she and her husband found there was no record kept in the county. The work took four years and soldiers who lost their lives, served overseas, or in training camps in America are indicated on the quilt.

Mrs. Robertson, Canadian by birth, came to the mountains as the bride of the country doctor. She remembers

the wedding trip to Burnsville and tells how they met a wagon on the precipitous road and had to take the buggy apart to pass.

She is a graduate nurse having studied at the Massachusetts General hospital. It was through this work that she met the doctor.

Dr. Robertson has all of his collection carefully arranged and cataloged. His group of early North Carolina home furnishings contains a number of unusual pieces. Old guns, spinning wheels, and crude farm implements have their places here.

Another section gives the history of lighting in mountain homes, beginning with the fat pine torch and progressing through each step, the candle groups of candles bunched for a more brilliant light, the kerosene candle, kerosene lamp, and through the various steps to the modern electric light.

**Has Historic Skull**

In one of his show cases the doctor has on display an old skull. Nothing unusual for a doctor's office, you may say, but this skull has a special history. It is the skull of the first man electrocuted in North Carolina. He was a negro by the name of Morgan and came from Cumberland county.

Dr. Robertson exhibits with pride one of the first apple peelers ever seen in the North Carolina mountains. It was owned by his grandfather and peels an apple expertly and neatly when the crank is turned.

One might go on indefinitely listing the things which the doctor has gathered, each with its bit of history. But it is there for any visitor to the Blue Ridge to stop in and inspect any day. And the doctor, provided he is not out on one of his trips to see a patient, will be glad to explain each item with the true collector's zeal for a hobby.

## The Early Americana Collection Is Owned By Burnsville Doctor

**DR. J. L. RAY.**

The many friends of Dr. J. L. Ray will be pained to hear of his death, which occurred at his home in this place, Wednesday morning, October 18th, at about 9:30 o'clock. Monday afternoon preceeding his death, he had the misfortune to fall from his barn loft and sustained injuries from which he never regained consciousness.

Perhaps in all Yancey county there was no citizen who stood higher in the estimation of the people, or who was more widely known than Dr. Ray. He was born and raised in Yancey county and for about 38 years he practiced his profession among his home people whom he loved. He was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church and had been for a number of years. He loved his church, to which he was loyal and faithful to an unusual degree, liberal in its support and always present at its services when it was possible for him to attend. For many years Dr. Ray enjoyed a large practice, and the news of his death will bring sorrow to the hearts of members of the majority of the homes in Yancey county. He was universally loved, and he will be missed. The funeral occurred at the M. E. church Thursday forenoon, the services being conducted by his pastor, Rev. J. H. Gruver. Interment in the Burnsville cemetery, the services being conducted by the Masonic fraternity, of which he was a member. A large number of people were present to pay their last respects to the memory of the deceased.

Another noble hearted young man has fallen by disease contracted in the service of his country. LORENZO D. HORTON, the subject of this obituary, departed this life near Johnson's Depot, East Tennessee, 25th, August, 1862, aged 26 years, of Typhoid fever. Lorenzo was a young man of promise-having obtained quite a liberal share of education at Tusculum College under the care of Rev. Samuel W. Doak-after which he had taken a regular course of the study of medicine under his brother, Dr. McWm. Horton, in Arkansas. He was offered a position in the army in the State of Surgeon, but was advised by his brother to return to North Carolina. He was not a member of any church, but a very moral young man-was very much engaged for the salvation of his soul for several days prior to his death, and remarked to his brother that he did not think that he would be lost. In his death the country has lost a soldier, his parents a loving and dutiful son, the family a brother in whose society they delighted to dwell. But he is gone! May this sad lesson be improved by his friends of whom he has many-so that when the summons comes they may be ready for "in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."

B. M. J. Sept.

*Asheville News, Oct. 9, 1862*

# Writer Backs Up Old Stories With Pictures

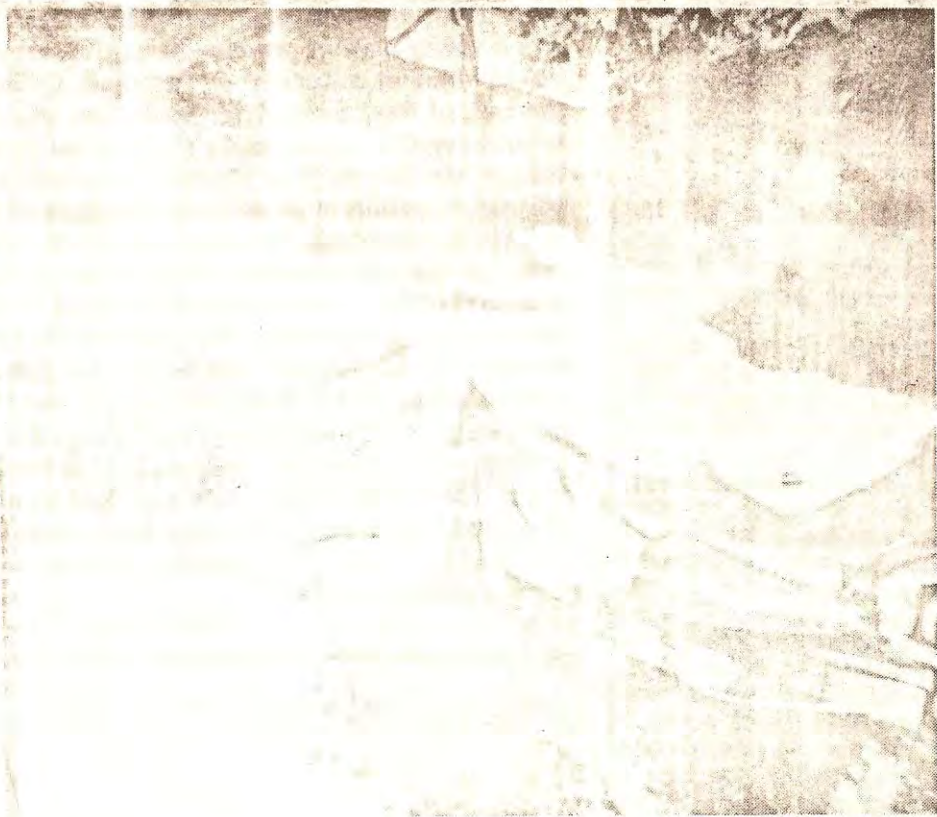
Well of all things I am not acquainted with all the places in this county to even know whether for sure we have any commercial chicken houses in business. But I was just looking through my picture album and found a very old picture of the late Steve Ledford, the well known musician of the Green Creek Section at Glen Ayre just under brow of the famous Roan Mountain.

Harvey  
Miller

103 Berry St.  
Spruce Pine,  
N.C. 28777  
Ph: 765-6383

I visited recently Jacks Creek Section in Yancey County where Fred Peterson once operated a big chicken house but the place is vacated and no longer in business. Although the farm reaching far around the building appeared to of been well farmed this year growing tobacco. I recall when I lived on Pigeon Roost I bought eggs from him. They was fresh cracked eggs for home use and I got them at very cheap price.

I sure do remember our county doctor who was none other than C.E. Smith and passed on a long time ago. When I went to school at upper section of Pigeon Roost is all the school I ever attended he came one day and checked us children tonsils. He was riding a big black white striped horse. He was also our county corner. I have had his picture in my possession for many years but a friend in Bakersville give me the picture after I quit going to school. I remember when going to Bakersville and at the little hamlet of Ledger I seen a buggy setting beside a house and who I was with said that was where Dr. Smith live. They said he sure did stay busy and was called to see patients who lived over 15 miles away.



Dr. C.E. Smith who was our country doctor for many years and was the first doctor to go around to school houses and check the children's tonsils. He traveled on horseback. He was also county coroner.



## Dr. Cooper Succumbs To Chest Wound

BAKERSVILLE—Dr. Samuel Jefferson Cooper, 80, retired physician of Relief, RFD 3, died of a 16 gauge shotgun wound in the chest Friday about 10:15 a. m. at his home, Brown McKinney, acting Mitchell County coroner, reported.

A coroner's jury ruled that Dr. Cooper died of a self-inflicted wound, McKinney said.

He was found dead in the bedroom of his home by his wife.

Dr. Cooper was a native and life-long resident of Mitchell County and the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Cooper.

The only survivor is the widow, the former Miss Sarah Ann Gouge.

Funeral services will be held Sunday at 2 p. m. in Belle Brethren Church in the Relief community and burial will be in Bennett Cemetery.

Webb Funeral Home is in charge.

Asheville Citizen, 10/18/1952

## Robertson's Funeral Rites Slated Today

BURNSVILLE — Dr. W. B. Robertson, 76, well-known Yancey County physician, died Saturday in a Rutherfordton hospital following a year of declining health. He had been in the hospital three months.

Dr. Robertson, a veteran of World War I, had been a practicing physician in this area about 52 years. He was born and reared in Burnsville.

He was master of the Burnsville Masonic Lodge, president of the Tenth District Medical Society and a member of the American Legion.

Known as a collector, his hobby included the collecting of Indian relics, sea life and minerals. He also had items of historical value.

When he married he brought his Canadian-born bride, a former nurse, to Burnsville to live. He then recalled their trip here, telling how they met a wagon on the then precipitous road and were forced to take their buggy apart before the two vehicles could pass each other.

His wife years ago made a quilt with the names of Yancey County's war veterans stitched on it. She did considerable research and travel about the county before beginning the task.

Surviving are the widow; one son, W. B. Robertson Jr., superintendent of the Rutherfordton - Spindale school system; three daughters, Mrs. H. M. Roland of Wilmington, Mrs. Clyde Whittington of Cane River in Yancey County and Mrs. G. W. Willson of Nebo; two brothers, Hubert Robertson of Frostburg, Md., and W. Z. Robertson of Burnsville; 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held in the Methodist Church here Sunday at 3 p. m. Although an Episcopalian, he was active in the Methodist Church.

Asheville Citizen,  
1/7/1951

## DR. WILLARD P. WHITTINGTON.

Graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, Md., in March, 1882; practiced medicine at Burnsville, N. C., until October, 1883, when he moved to Asheville. While at Burnsville he served as county superintendent of health for several years, and as special U. S. pension examiner. Since moving to Asheville he has served as city physician two years. Was a member of the U. S. board of pension examiners for four years during Cleveland's last administration. Has served as president of the Buncombe

County Medical society. Is a member of the North Carolina Medical society and member of the staff of the Asheville hospital, at 55 College street.

Asheville Daily Citizen,  
9/20/1903 (part of an  
article on members of  
the Buncombe Co. Medical  
Society)

Dr. Nelson G. Blalock

Recently Washington State celebrated Centennial week. We have come a long way since March 2, 1853 when President Fillmore signed the act making Washington a territory, including parts of Idaho and Montana, which were north of the forty-sixth parallel. In all this region in 1853 there were less than 4,000 white settlers and some 12,000 Indians. Today, within our state's boundaries, live nearly 2½ million people engaged in almost every modern enterprise known to man. It was not until 1873 that Dr. Nelson G. Blalock arrived in the Walla Walla Valley to play a part in the building of southeastern Washington.

Nelson G. Blalock was born in Mitchell County, North Carolina on February 17, 1836. He lived there until after his graduation from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in March 1861, when he moved to Illinois where he was engaged in the practice of medicine. Here he kept three saddle horses and two teams for his transportation.

On the thirteenth day of September 1862 Dr. Blalock was commissioned First Lieutenant by Governor Yates of Illinois. At this time he was appointed First Assistant Surgeon of the 115th Regiment Illinois Volunteers. He remained in the service until the close of the war, when he resumed his private practice in Illinois until 1872. Upon the advice of his fellow physicians he set out in search of a new location and climate for his health. This summer trip in 1872 to the Walla Walla Valley was made by team and wagon. The doctor was so favorably impressed with the valley that he decided to make it his future home.

Upon his return to Mt. Zion, Illinois plans were begun for the wagon train which Dr. Blalock organized and led across the states and territories. The date of departure from Mt. Zion was May 29th 1873. Besides the Doctor's family, consisting of his wife, son Yancey, age thirteen, daughter May, not yet two, there were three other families- Montgomery, Widick and Cox. Two young men by the Gillispie, William Mariner and his sister, Nellie, Mr. Boardman, ~~Mr. Boardman~~, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Hutchens. The wagon train finally reached the Walla Walla Valley on October eleventh after four and one half months of travel. *Another daughter, Rose, was born here*

Upon his arrival here the Doctor immediately entered upon the same strenuous kind of practise he had led in Illinois. However he was spared the extremes of climate here in the Valley and was able to conduct large business enterprises. There was no railroad in the Walla Walla Valley in 1873. Passengers and freight came from Wallula to Walla Walla in stage coaches and great freight wagons over roads filled with chuck holes and in the summer time thru clouds of dust so thick <sup>at times</sup> that the drivers could not distinguish the horses they were driving. There were between 1500 and 2000 people in the city of Walla Walla then. The surrounding country was unoccupied and untilled save for strips along the streams and in the more favored portions of the foothills. The rest of the valley was native bunch grass and sage brush plains.

Still an idealist the Doctor purchased a sage brush tract of land in 1875 or 1876. This was 160 acres west of the city and was the beginning of the Blalock Orchards. This tract was increased to 640 acres. In 1877 or 1878, sixty acres was set out in fruit trees. Then forty acres a year was added until the entire tract was planted.

3

Later forty acres of this tract <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ donated to the Walla Walla College where the College and College Place are now located.

In 1878 or 1879 the Doctor purchased a 3600 acre tract a few miles south of the city of Walla Walla in the state of Oregon. The purchase price was ten bushels of wheat or five dollars cash per acre. The first crop that was raised paid all the expenses of raising the crop and fencing the land as well as paying the entire purchase price of the land ~~and would be paying the entire purchase price~~ and left \$3000.00 profit. In 1881 Dr. Blalock raised 90,000 bushels of wheat on this same tract of land. Very few had had faith in the Doctor's venture when the land was broken and put into cultivation. The common expression among the early settlers was that he was "a damn fool doctor with more money than brains". After this successful experience in raising wheat, the entire district along the Walla Walla River and other blocks of land in the Valley of the same elevation were broken up and put under cultivation for raising heat and other cereals.

Another enterprise in which Dr. Blalock was interested, was the corporation known as the John Day Land Co. Here 20,000 acres of land were broken up, cultivated and developed in the triangle formed by the John Day and Columbia Rivers. A long ditch was constructed between these two rivers by the company.

During the Doctor's farming enterprises he learned how difficult it was to secure, readily and in sufficient quantity, fencing material, wood and lumber. He therefore purchased 1280 acres of timber on what is now known as Blalock Mt. between the North and South forks of the Walla Walla River. He constructed a flume seven miles down the South-fork of the Walla Walla River. By means of this he could secure fencing material and provide the neighboring settlers with wood. Later he entered into a contract with the O. R. & N. Railway Co. to furnish ties for the construction

of its road from Umatilla eastward toward Spokane. At this time Dr. Blalock's flume was extended to Milton Station, then about four miles below the present town of Milton. On a branch of the flume, twelve miles up the Walla Walla River, was established a saw-mill which was supplied with logs sent down a chute from the top of the mountain. The Doctor then supplied the ties with which the Oregon, Railway & Navigation Co. constructed its road from Umatilla eastward <sup>and northward to Spokane</sup> and also supplied the ties for widening ~~Dr. Blalock's~~ <sup>the</sup> Baker's narrow gauge road from Wallula to Walla Walla and its extension to Spokane. It was this undertaking that absorbed not only the flume properties, but also the farm properties with the exception of the orchard.

About 1890 Dr. Blalock became interested in a 4000 acre island in the Columbia River below Umatilla. This island, known as Blalock Island, was purchased from the Northern Pacific Railway Co. and from homesteaders. By experimentation it was determined that the island could be placed in a high state of cultivation by the application of water. This island was later sold to a corporation with the Doctor retaining a large interest up to the time of his death.

Since the Doctor arrived in the valley when transportation was most primitive, he was aware of the necessity for adequate and reasonable transportation for the valley's products. He early became interested in the opening of the Columbia River, the great highway <sup>to</sup> of the Pacific. He was one of the original agitators for the building of the Cascade Locks which were completed in 1896. He then became connected with the open-river transportation movement which shortly afterward brought boats to The Dalles and Celilo to up river points. His practical experience in the advantages of the Cascade Locks and the difficulty and expense of the transportation at Celilo made him a very great advocate of the opening of the Columbia River to that point where there could be thru transportation from the upper Columbia and Snake Rivers to the sea.

22

For several years the Doctor was the delegate from the State of Washington to the Rivers and Harbors Congress and in that capacity came in touch with influential persons who helped to maintain the constant interest in the Canal which was opened in May 1915.

About 1880 or 1882 Doctor Blalock became a member of the Board of Trustees of Whitman College. Never in the history of his connection with the Board was he absent from a meeting when it was possible for him to attend. At times, in his later years, he insisted on being present at the meetings, even if he had to arise from his bed of illness. He gave liberally of his time, thought and money and will ever be remembered as one of the most devoted and faithful builders of that institution.

In addition to the many activities which have been specified as holding the interest and devotion of Dr. Blalock, there was no enterprise which could be related to the ministering to the public good, or developing the Inland Empire which failed to receive the attention, interest and service of the Doctor. He gave not only of his money but of his very life unstintingly to the advancement of public well being in every way.

In 1889, ~~because-of-the-Doctors~~ when Washington entered statehood, Dr. Blalock was a member of the Constitutional Convention and was one of those signing the constitution of our state.

In 1898, because of the Doctor's interest in Agriculture and horticulture in the Walla Walla Valley, he was placed in charge of the Washington State exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago.

However useful a man may be in public enterprises the true strength of his life is determined most accurately by his personal contact with his fellow citizens and by his influence upon their lives and no more accurate index can be obtained than the personal

appreciation and love of those with whom he came in contact.

Dr. Blalock endeared himself to the entire valley by his unselfish service, disregarding remuneration he was to receive in his ministrations to those who were sick and in his comforting presence to those who were tortured by anxiety. It has been said that no kinder, gentler or more comforting physician ever entered a sick room than Dr. Blalock. During the years of his practice he was a physician beloved and a friend of the people of this district.

But so active a life must needs wear out the human frame. For several years the Doctor was aware of the approaching end. Until the last he was cheerful, ambitious and actively interested in the enterprises which were so near to his heart. Dr. Nelson G. Blalock passed away on March 14th, 1913 following a stroke.

# Memorial Addresses

IN JOINT SESSION OF  
SENATE AND HOUSE



Fourteenth Legislature of the State  
of Washington

1915



DR. NELSON G. BLALOCK



**MR. HILL SPOKE AS FOLLOWS:**



R. PRESIDENT, Gentlemen of the Senate and House:

It is with a sense of profound sorrow that we pay a tribute to the memory of Dr. Nelson G. Blalock, the distinguished member from Walla Walla of the Constitutional Convention.

Dr. Nelson G. Blalock was born in Mitchell County, North Carolina, in 1836. He was a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, served as a surgeon in the 114th Illinois Regiment in the Civil War, and came in 1873 to Walla Walla, the then metropolis of the Northwest.

The brilliant young surgeon was in demand throughout the whole of the Inland Empire. He became acquainted in his travels with the religious and geographical work of the great Marcus Whitman, and his chief ambition appeared to be to develop the economic resources of that part of Washington Territory.

For this reason the names of Marcus Whitman and Nelson G. Blalock will be indelibly linked together in the building and construction of our great state.

One of Nelson G. Blalock's earliest exploits was, when roads were impossible, the building of a large flume from the Blue Mountains to Walla Walla for the purpose of transporting logs, fuel and lumber to that growing community.

He made a success of and was the pioneer of arid land wheat farming. As early as 1881 he produced the unprecedented yield of 50,000 bushels of

wheat on 1,000 acres of arid land. After proving that wheat could be successfully produced, he turned to irrigation projects, some of which now are honored in retaining the Blalock name.

He drilled for and found artesian water, utilized the water of the various streams, and every one of the districts he founded is now a prosperous and conservative community.

I could go on and tell you of his work to complete the Celilo Locks and Canal and of his intense desire to see an open Columbia River, but those and local problems are developing as he anticipated they would. In fact, before Dr. Blalock passed away he had the final pleasure of knowing that all of these great economic benefits to the Inland Empire would be indeed finished.

In the 1913 session we were honored by having Dr. Nelson G. Blalock, during one of our sessions, invited to take his place with our Speaker, and then a few days later during the session we were shocked to hear of his death.

You do not wonder then that Dr. Blalock was elected to represent the Walla Walla district at the Constitutional Convention, and we revere and honor that man, soldier, physician, statesman, who in the economic development of the Inland Empire, was the greatest man the Northwest has yet produced, Dr. Nelson G. Blalock.

**DR. YANCEY C. BLALOCK**

The large number of friends who on Sunday paid tribute to the memory of Dr. Yancey C. Blalock was in itself a most fitting testimonial of esteem and regard for this man who rendered such invaluable service in and out of fraternal circles.

For a third of a century, he labored unceasingly for the upbuilding of Masonry. His influence reached far and will go on in ever increasing circles. Aside from his family, Masonry was above his profession and all else. His place may be filled, but none will be more earnest, untiring and faithful to his high ideals of charity, sympathy and kindness.

Beneath a rugged exterior, there beat a heart, warm and sympathetic to a high degree. His individual service was large. The nature and extent of his service made his influence of incalculable extent. Coming from a distinguished family, he lived full up to its honorable traditions and rendered a distinctive service well in keeping with those of his name who had preceded him.

**Dr. Yancey Blalock Dies Suddenly at Walla Walla Home**

Dr. Yancey Blalock, prominent Walla Walla physician and son of Oregon pioneers, died suddenly at his home in Walla Walla this morning, according to word received by his sister, Mrs. Glen B. Hite, wife of the manager of the Hotel Washington. Dr. Blalock, who was well known in Portland, is survived by Mrs. Blalock and one son and one daughter, the latter a Walla Walla school teacher and the former a pharmacist at Seattle. The doctor was a popular Washington Shriner. Funeral arrangements are not known here.

**DR. Y. C. BLALOCK OF WALLA WALLA IS DEAD**

Word was received here today from Walla Walla by Mrs. Glen Hite, wife of Manager Hite, of the Washington hotel, that her brother, Dr. Y. C. Blalock, one of the best known physicians of the Inland Empire town, had died this morning. Dr. Blalock was a son of the late N. G. Blalock, for many years a leading figure in the open river movement. Besides his widow, he is survived by a daughter, who is now teaching school in Washington, and a son, Jesse, of Seattle.

**YANCEY C. BLALOCK, 33° HON.**  
(Spokane, Wash., Bodies)  
Born August 3, 1859, at Mitchell, N. C.  
Died May 12, 1921, at Walla Walla, Wash.

**CRAFT SHOCKED BY DEATH OF BLALOCK**



DR. YANCEY C. BLALOCK

The death at his home in Walla Walla Thursday of this week of Dr. Yancey C. Blalock comes as a peculiarly pointed reminder of the uncertainty of life to the masons of the State and particularly of the representatives of York Rite masonry who were gathered in Seattle last week in annual sessions.

Dr. Blalock attended these sessions as he has attended all similar sessions since the organization of the York Rite in Washington. His appearance and activity throughout the sessions evidenced the best of health. As Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and as Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar he performed his arduous duties with all his accustomed vigor and efficiency with still a glad smile and cordial greetings for each of the great host of his associates and friends gathered from all parts of the state.

Dr. Blalock was born in Mitchell county, N. C., August 5, 1859, and crossed the plains with his father when fourteen. After graduation from the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in 1884 he entered upon the practice of medicine at Walla Walla in association with his father the late N. G. Blalock and continued in active practice of his profession until his death.

DR. Y. C. BLALOCK  
WILL BE BURIED  
SUNDAY, 2 P. M.

MASONIC GRAND LODGE OFFICERS OF STATE WILL HAVE CHARGE AT GRAVE.

COMMISSIONERS ADOPT RESOLUTIONS IN MEMORY OF COUNTY PHYSICIAN.

The funeral of Dr. Yancey C. Blalock, will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the First Presbyterian church with Rev. Hermann Reichard, pastor of the church in charge. These services will be public as will the services at the grave.

The grand lodge of Masons of the state will have charge of the services at the grave with James H. Begg of Seattle, grand master of the state, in charge assisted by the other grand lodge officers.

Members of Blue Mountain lodge No. 13 F. & A. M. will meet at Masonic temple at 1:00 p. m., Sunday, and march to the church in a body. Members of the commandery will act as official escort and will meet at the temple at 1:00 o'clock in full uniform.

Pall bearers will be selected from the grand lodge officers and members of the Masons here.

Horace W. Tyler, of Tacoma, grand secretary of the grand lodge, arrived yesterday morning to assist in arranging details of the funeral.

Jesse N. Blalock, son of Dr. Blalock, arrived yesterday from Seattle for the funeral.

The county commissioners yesterday adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, in the untimely death of Dr. Y. C. Blalock, a valued and dependable public official has been lost to Walla Walla county, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Walla Walla county feel deeply the loss sustained thereby,

NOW THEREFORE, Be it resolved, that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Walla Walla county, in session this 13th day of May, 1921, do express our sincere regrets at the loss

sustained and do offer our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes, and one given to each of the daily newspapers, and one sent to the bereaved family.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WALLA WALLA COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

BY GUY ALLEN TURNER,  
Clerk of Said Board.

DR. YANCY BLALOCK  
DIES IN HOSPITAL  
10 A. M. THURSDAY

Physician Passes Away at St. Mary's Hospital Where He Went Tuesday.

CAME HERE AS YOUTH OF 14

Practised Profession for Many Years in Walla Walla With His Father.

Death at 10:20 o'clock Thursday morning claimed Dr. Yancey C. Blalock, 63 years old, one of Walla Walla's most prominent citizens, and probably the most prominent member of the Masonic fraternity in southeastern Washington. The funeral, which will be under Masonic auspices, is being arranged by members of the order, but the details have not been completed.

Dr. Blalock was in Seattle last week attending the annual convclave of the grand commandery, Knights Templar, of which he was the grand recorder, and on his return home, Saturday, complained of a cold. He said he had been chilled during the parade at Seattle. He developed a cough on Monday morning and Tuesday was removed to St. Mary's hospital, where he died.

A native of North Carolina, where he was born August 3, 1859, the son of Dr. Nelson G. and Panthea A. Durham Blalock, Dr. Blalock crossed the plains with his parents. They settled first in Macon county, Illinois, and when the son was 14 years old, came to Walla Walla, where they settled, the father becoming one of the most noted physicians in this section.

Dr. Blalock followed the precepts of his father, and following his preparatory education in Whitman college he returned east and received his medical education in Jefferson medical college, Philadelphia, from which he was graduated in the class of 1884. Returning to Walla Walla, he was associated for a time with his father. Later he established himself independently.

In April, 1883, Dr. Blalock married Miss Julia Sanderson, of this city, and to them one son was born. Mrs. Blalock died in 1885, and five years later Dr. Blalock was again married, this union being with Miss Lillian Ballou, a native of Illinois, who with a daughter, Miss Phoebe L., and son, Jesse N. Blalock, survive.

**Was Prominent Mason.**

Dr. Blalock was a prominent Mason, there being practically no honor within the power of the fraternity to confer which he had not received, the crowning honor coming on March 6, 1914, when he was made a 33rd degree mason. Dr. Blalock was the only member of the fraternity to be thus honored in this state.

Politically he was a republican and served the councils of his party for several years as chairman of the county central committee.

It is the request of the family that flowers be omitted.

Dr. Blalock received his initiation into the mysteries of masonry when he was raised to the master degree in the Blue Mountain lodge, No. 13, F. & A. M. He later went through the chairs of this lodge, serving as master during the year 1889. He was elected secretary of the lodge in 1892, and held this office continuously until his death. He was also past grand master of the grand lodge, being elected in June 1896, and serving the customary term.

**Reelected 33rd Time.**

He was a member of Walla Walla chapter No. 1, Royal Arch Masons, and past high priest of the chapter, honorary past grand high priest an active member of the Order of High Priesthood, and was during the recent convention reelected for the 33rd time, grand secretary of the grand chapter of the state.

A member of Zabud council, No. 7, he passed through the chairs of the council and was past master, he was also past grand master of the council, serving in this office in 1898.

Serving through the chairs of Walla Walla commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, as past commander, he attended the grand commandery convention and was elected grand commander in 1890. Five years later he was elected grand re-order of the grand commandery, to which office he was reelected annually.

and was serving his 26th term at the time of his death.

Dr. Blalock was a member of El Kaliff

temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He was also a member of Oriental Consistory Scottish Rite, of Spokane, and at the time Walla Walla Consistory was constituted, several months ago, Dr. Blalock was among the charter members, with others, withdrawing membership in the Spokane jurisdiction.

With his wife, he was a member of Alki Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, and past worthy patron of the chapter.

**Was Health Officer.**

At the time of his death Dr. Blalock was county health officer, and had been named the full-time county and city health officer, which position he was to have assumed on July 1.

He served the county three terms as coroner, and was for 22 years a member of the Walla Walla city volunteer fire department, six years of that time as the chief of the department. In 1902 he received his first and only appointment to

**THE LAND OF THE GONE-AWAY SOUL**

I walk in a world that is sweet with friends,  
 And earth I have ever held dear:  
 Yes, love with duty and beauty blends,  
 To render the earth plane bright;  
 But faster and faster, year by year  
 My comrades hurry from sight.  
 They hurry away to the Over-There,  
 And few of them say farewell,  
 Yes, they go away with a secret air,  
 As if on a secret quest,  
 And they come not back to the earth to tell  
 Why that land seems the best.  
 Messages comes from the mystic sphere,  
 But few know the code of that land.  
 Yes, many the message, but few who hear  
 In the din of the world below,  
 Or hearing the message, can understand  
 Those truths which we long to know.  
 But it must be the goal of all good souls,  
 And I think of it more and more.  
 Yes, I think of that land of the Gone-Away Soul  
 And its growing host of friends  
 Who will hail my bark, when it touches shore,  
 Where the last brief journey ends.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

# Grandmaw Was A Midwife

Emma Ann Gouge Edwards Barnett was Pigeon Roost's mid-wife. Not much was ever said about the term "mid-wife" in my time, nor ever Emma Ann as far as that goes, but she was the mid-wife. Having on record in Bradshaw Township of Mitchell County, NC delivered 200 babies, this does not count other townships in the county or even include Yancey County just across the river from Pigeon Roost, Relief and Hunt Dale and Poplar, NC. A number of babies delivered wasn't put on record, so it makes it impossible to make an account for all babies she delivered.

I remember one time a few years ago, Conway Hughes told of his uncle Seth Hughes coming up to his place one day and asking Conway if he would come the next morning and take his horse out to Emma Ann's house on Rich Mountain and fetch Emma Ann to his (Seth's) house for his wife, Mary was expecting. Conway told Seth he would. Emma Ann was getting on up in years and could not make the trip off the mountain easily. The wife of Charlie Barnett, the mother of 12 children, she made the community a good mid-wife since in those days doctors were far and wide in between, no hospitals in local country sides.

Now days the profession is about outlawed, one must have on paper and pay some big firm money to practice mid-wifery, which makes a person no better, just to better off someone with a little more cash in his pocket. I am against such doings in all this new world of doing things. The old timers survived and why can't we? Like fish, animals and birds living off of themselves, humans do not live from their flesh but instead live from off of the money one gets. So mid-wifery these days has changed beyond the reason of man because of the dollar that can be earned from it.

Emma Ann's father, Mr. Gouge ran away leaving her as a baby with her mother, Julia Edwards. Julie then married Solomon Bennett of Brummett's Creek section of Mitchell County. Solomon had already been married and his first wife died. Three of Solomon's sons were: Drs. Charles Peterson, the well known doctor of Spruce Pine, NC and served 6 years in Raleigh in the house and James Monroe Peterson, the only known man in North Carolina holding both doctor and law degrees. The other son was a preacher. Emma Ann married Charlie Barnett at age 14 to get away from home from all the other children.



Emma Ann Gouge Edwards Peterson Barnett, mid-wife of Pigeon Roost.

Reproduced with permission from Donald McCourry, The Country Side, p. 79.

# Call Of The Country Doctor:

**Ike Bradshaw, Jeff Cooper,  
Charles Peterson**

The old country doctor is no longer around in these parts. The memory, however, lives on. Dr. Ike Bradshaw at Relief. We tried to obtain a photograph of little Ike, but Johw W. Bradshaw told us the only known picture of little Ike was owned by his aunt and she would not let us borrow it. (See little Ike's office picture in "us Poor Folks Book". Jeff Cooper's office was his home in the Bailey Settlement area of Lower Mitchell County.

Charles Peterson's office was in Spruce Pine. (See his photo in "Tribute To Ed Barnett Book". Dr. Charles Peterson, son of Solomon Peterson of Brummett Creek had also a brother who was a medical doctor, Dr. James Monroe Peterson.

Jeff Cooper, however is said to have shot and killed himself. But and man told us one day, he could hardly see how a man could take a shotgun. shoot out his heart, take the gun and set it up in the corner of the house, then be on the floor.



Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Cooper.



# THE TRI-COUNTY NEWS

This Newspaper Is A Member Of The Audit Bureau Of Circulations

32 YEAR—NO. 48

PRICE FIVE CENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1960

SPRUCE PINE, NEWLAND AND BURNSVILLE, N. C.

## Community Mourns Death Of Dr. C.A. Peterson

### Funeral Services

### At First Baptist

### Thursday At 2 P.M.

Services for Dr. Charles A. Peterson, 77, of Spruce Pine, who died Monday will be held at First Baptist Church, Spruce Pine, Thursday at 2 p.m.

The Rev. R.M. Cassity and the Rev. William Heath will officiate, and burial will be in Memorial Cemetery. Masonic rites will be held at the grave. The body will remain at Webb Funeral Home until time to be taken to the church to lie in state an hour prior to the services.

### 53 Years of Practice

"Dr. Charles is dead" was the grief stricken cry on Monday, March 14, 1960, when the news came that the "beloved physician of Mitchell County," Dr. Charles A. Peterson of Spruce Pine had left his field of loving ministrations to the sick, the injured, the bereaved and the unfortunate.

For 53 years he had practiced medicine in his native county, but was known far outside that area as a great humanitarian and a leader in progress in the state.



### Dr. Charles Peterson

His greatest dream was a hospital and he lived to see the Spruce Pine Community Hospital opened November 15, 1955 and became its first chief of staff.

Dr. Charles A. Peterson had suffered a fracture of a hip when he had a bad fall at a Ft. Myers hotel about a week ago. He and his wife, Mrs. Norene McCall Peterson, were in Florida on a vacation. He died in a hospital in Fort Myers, Florida.

Served in General Assembly

Dr. Charles A. Peterson born at Relief, Oct. 1, 1882. Served three terms in the House and two terms in the State Senate as a Republican after being elected the first time as state representative in 1928. He introduced a bill to substitute the gas chamber for the electric chair for execution in North Carolina, which was passed.

Besides the legislation changing the method of execution, other bills Dr. Peterson sponsored included one making the handling of snakes in religious services a misdemeanor; and allowing the State Board of Medical Examiners the freedom to choose its meeting places.

While he was in Raleigh at work in the General Assembly, however, his office kept open, with a substitute taking care of his patients.

He was a popular man in the General Assembly as he doctored members free if they got sick.

At the time of his death, he was co-owner, with R. Dale Banner, of Spruce Pine Pharmacy.

One of 11 children of Solomon and Julia Edwards Peterson, he attended a one-room, one-teacher school. He was

born at Relief, Oct. 1, 1882. Later, he attended Dwight Institute at Erwin, Tenn., for his grammar and high school education, then taught for two years at Poplar in Mitchell County.

In his spare time from teaching, he served a one-year preceptorship with Dr. J. I. Bradshaw of Relief, then studied three years at Tennessee Medical College, passed his state board examination and started practicing medicine at 23.

Later he received his medical degree and North Carolina license after studying a year at North Carolina Medical College of Charlotte and at Davidson.

He settled in Spruce Pine in 1907.

In making his rounds, tending patients, Dr. Peterson spent many a day on horseback, carrying his dispensary with him.

In 1916, he established Spruce Pine's first drug store in Spruce Pine's first brick building, to ease the work of handling his medicine, this is called Spruce Pine Pharmacy. Civic Clubs

Dr. Peterson was the oldest living past master of Vesper Masonic Lodge, and was an honorary member of Oasis

Shrine. His brother, Dr. J.M. Peterson was the first WM of Vesper Lodge.

He was a member of Spruce Pine Lions Club.

Main hobby of Dr. Peterson was sports, especially golf. He drove the first ball when the Spruce Pine Golf Club was opened. In his younger days he was an expert trout fisherman and hunter. He attended all games especially basketball, if it was possible to get there.

Dr. Peterson, besides serving the General Assembly, has been mayor of Spruce Pine. He also has served as president of the Spruce Pine Chamber of Commerce and as a director and chairman of the board of managers of Northwestern Bank of Spruce Pine. He was on the Board of Directors of Mitchell Building and Loan Association for many years.

Shortly after coming here, he met his wife, a native of McDowell County who was teaching school in Spruce Pine. She was Miss Norene McCall of the prominent pioneer McCalls.

Surviving in addition to the widow are three sisters, Mrs. R. Bennett and Mrs. Green Barnett of Relief, and Mrs. J.

son of Mountain City, Tenn., and several nieces and nephews. Brothers, I.V. Peterson of Re...



Dr. Melvin Walter Webb

# Physician Shares Memories Of Medical Practice

BY ROY HENSLEY

If you haven't heard of Dr. Melvin W. Webb chances are you are not acquainted with the former Burnsville Hospital system. He was actively engaged in that hospital

since before its inception and until it was finally merged with the Blue Ridge Hospital System, Inc. He maintained his office in the old hospital building where he was engaged in general surgery, obstetrics, orthopedics and general medical practice. In addition, he made house calls throughout this county as well as in Mitchell County. One lady told me quite some time ago that while her husband

was living and was seriously ill that they had many occasions to call Dr. Webb at all hours of the night—he never failed to come. Realizing that when a baby is ready to come into this world it doesn't necessarily check the clock to see when it is convenient to arrive—they seem to arrive at the most inconvenient time for both the doctor and the mother. I asked Dr. Webb how many babies he had helped deliver. He didn't hesitate when he said 3,000 plus. "I have delivered them in the homes, hospital, and in some of the most inconvenient and humble surroundings that one can imagine," Dr. Webb said. "I still enjoy being approached by someone who reminds me that I was in attendance at his or her birth or that they sometime show me a scar and remind me that I performed surgery on them or patched them up when they were ill."

I asked Dr. Webb what induced him to become a physician. He said, "I think it all started when I was just a young boy growing up on a farm. I was born in Mitchell County and like everyone else around there in that day and time, we were very poor. When one of the animals got sick or hurt itself by getting tangled up in barbed wire, I doctored them as best I could rather than send for the vet. I have sewed up many a calf and helped cows and pigs give birth. My brother was two years younger than I and I sort of talked him into helping me. By the time I finished high school I knew I wanted to be a doctor.

"I was born on Cub Creek in Mitchell County April 10, 1921. My father was Walter L. Webb and my mother as Molly Bowman Webb," said Dr. Webb. "They were also born in Mitchell County. In fact, the Bowman High School in Bakersville was named for some of my mother's people. After graduating from high school I attended Mars Hill College for two years (it was just a two year college at that time.) I then went to Wake Forest for a year before entering the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Winston Salem where I eventually got my M.D. degree in 1945." Dr. Webb pointed out that he worked his way through all his schooling until he went to medical school where he joined the U.S. Navy V-12

program that paid his way. For this, he was obligated to serve three years with the Navy after graduation, which he did from 1945 to 1948.

While in the Navy, and stationed in Boston, Mass., Dr. Webb met and married Evelyn Wright in 1946. From this marriage came three sons, of whom he is very proud. Ron lives in Knoxville and operates his own successful business; Melvin II teaches at Community College located in St. Louis, Mo., and Clifton is currently pursuing a doctorate degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "I am very fortunate to have three healthy and wholesome young men who are doing well in each of their chosen professions," Dr. Webb said. "I told them each, a long time ago, that I would not try to influence them in choosing their profession but once they made up their mind, I would support them to the best of my ability." To date, these sons have provided Dr. Webb with four grandchildren, two boys and two girls.

From 1948 to 1949 Dr. Webb

and Dr. David Phillips were in partnership and served in the Williams Clinic in Spruce Pine. Dr. Webb came to Burnsville in September, 1949. He bought the office and interests owned by Dr. Gus Laughrun at that time. In 1952, the Burnsville Hospital was completed and from that day forward, Dr. Webb maintained his office in that building and until the Burnsville Hospital merged with the Blue Ridge Hospital System.

Dr. Webb, like so many doctors who treat country and mountain people, has many stories to tell of his experiences. "The people in these two counties, Yancey and Mitchell, are the finest people in the world," Dr. Webb said. "I wouldn't trade my experiences and my understanding of these people for anything on earth." I finally persuaded him to tell me a few stories. Some I can hardly put in print but a couple I would like to share with you. It seems that Dr. Webb was called to visit an elderly man in the Poplar section of Mitchell County. He



DR. MELVIN WALTER WEBB

to save my life!"

In November 1978, Mrs. Webb died. The following year Dr. Webb married the former Louise Banks. They reside in a lovely home on the West Side of Burnsville that he had built several years ago. The view from their house is absolutely fantastic. It takes in Mt. Mitchell and the range of mountains called the Black Range. They make a hobby out of their gardening. They have both a vegetable garden and flowers, especially roses. "I enjoy my home," said Dr. Webb, "and the many hobbies I have kept alive over the years. I do have a mild heart failure which was partly responsible for my taking early retirement but it doesn't keep me from hunting and fishing which I enjoy so much. And, I love to read. I am a firm believer in the old principles of education such as reading, writing and arithmetic. I think the young people of this day and time should do more reading. I wouldn't necessarily confine the reading to just one area. I think that when one reads he should read an opposing view also as there are often two sides to most subjects. I truly believe that more education for all the people is our answer to some of our economic difficulties. I think that Governor Hunt should be commended for his views on education."

had to walk about three miles up a steep mountain in the middle of the night and had to work with the old boy for half the night before he got him in good enough shape to leave. The old man said, "how much do I owe 'ya?" Dr. Webb quickly said, "\$50.00." The old man grudgingly went back to his bed and dragged out a purse from under his pillow that was about two feet long. The purse was just stuffed with money and he counted out the amount and handed it over. Dr. Webb said, "aren't you afraid to have that much money around, what if someone decides to rob you?" The old man quickly shot back, "you're the first one that's tried it."

A woman came to him with a severe case of asthma. "This is often accompanied with upset stomach," Dr. Webb said, "so I prescribed suppositories. I asked her if she knew what they were and she assured me she did so I prescribed them and thought no more about it." The next day she came back to the office and said, "Doc, I can't swallow these things if it were

Dr. Webb, along with Dr. Sargent and Ed Hunter, recently received an award from the Chamber of Commerce for over 30 years of Outstanding Community Service. He feels that this award was mostly directed to his service to the Yancey Hospital. Dr. Webb is currently a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Yancey and Mitchell County Medical Society, and the North Carolina and American Medical Association. In response to my question on what he plans for the future, Dr. Webb said, "If I can keep my heart condition under control I would like to continue some sort of medical practice, at least try to provide some service where it is needed. I wouldn't rule out practicing in some foreign country—even Saudi Arabia if that were where my services were needed. But for now, I don't want to make any decisions for at least another year as I am enjoying not being tied down to any set routine."

Dr. Webb is a very youthful looking 62 year old man. He has a zest for living that one just has to admire. "I enjoy my home, my friends, and my hobbies," he said, "and I feel I am a very lucky man. My children have all done well and never caused me any trouble. I am proud of each of them. I am happy to be living among the finest people on earth and I enjoy each day as it comes."

I wish to thank Dr. Webb, along with the other fine and upstanding citizens that have so willingly consented to share a brief portion of their lives with us. I'm sure we all wish him the very best for the future as he so willingly gave us a large portion of his life in the past.

## HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, 1988

This large volume (618 pages) was compiled by the Watauga Association of genealogists--Upper East Tennessee. It is available from their offices (P.O. Box 117, Johnson City, Tenn., 37605) for \$39.75, and is similar in format to the County Heritage volumes that have been done by several counties in N.C. (although not by the same publisher). County history consumes 216 pages of the volume, and the rest is given to family history.

I have scanned the volume and found at least the following entries that touch upon families in the Toe River Valley (Yancey and Mitchell Counties):

<u>entry</u>	<u>page</u>
Bailey Family	223 [The first paragraph is totally in error]
Bailey	223-224
Hiram Bailey, Sr. Family	224 [by Lloyd Bailey]
Morgan Bailey Family	224 [by Lloyd Bailey]
Herbert Barnett Family	229
Bennett-Rae	236-237
The Family of George W. Burleson	271
The Grant Burleson Family	271-272
Thomas and Jefferson Burleson Families	273-274
Charles R. Byrd	275
Richard M. Byrd	275-276
Charles Zede Deyton Family	311-312
Thomas Peter Dillow	313-314
Aaron Ellis and Judy Hoppas McKinney	321-322
Ellis-Buchanan-McKinney	322
Charles, William, and Nathan Garland	337-338
Garland	338
Guthridge Garland	338
Gutridge Garland Family	338-339
Holden Garland Family	339
Stephen Garland	340
Green(e)-Dunn	350
Griffith-Silver-Mellon	353-354
The Jones Family	388
Henry Masters Family	415
Parsons	448
Phillips-Rosebaum	454
William Alburta Ray Family	458-459
Mark Andrew Shelton Family	486-487
Major Jonathan Tipton	516-517
Tucker	520
The Whitson Family	536
Wilhite	536-537
Wilson-Young-Ellis-Timbs	542
John Preston Wolfe Family	543 [See George Burleson, p. 271]
Ernest F. Young	545-546
Ralph Young Family	547

## Bibliography

- Bulletin of the North Carolina Board of Health. Contains sections on "Condition of Jails and County Homes by Counties"; "Review of Diseases" by county; "Mortuary Report"; etc. In 1913, the name of the publication was changed to The Health Bulletin.
- Wheeler, G.A. Pellagra in the Mountains of Yancey County, North Carolina. Reprint No. 619 from the Public Health Reports, Oct. 22, 1920, pp. 2509-2514. Washington: Govt. Printing Office, 1920.
- Tennent, Gaillard S. Medicine in Buncombe County Down to 1885; Historical and Biographical Sketches. The Charlotte Medical Journal, May, 1906 (reprinted). [Duke Univ. Medical Library Number: WZ 70.AN8 T25M 1906] (Remember that Yancey was taken, in part, from Buncombe in 1833; the volume contains information pertaining to Yancey.)
- Long, Dorothy (ed.). Medicine In North Carolina. 2 Vols.; North Carolina Medical Society, 1972. [Duke Medical Library Number: WZ 70.AN8 L85M 1972]
- Phifer, Edward William Jr. Burke: The History of a North Carolina County, 1777-1920. Privately Printed, 1977. Chapter 6 is entitled, "Health and Allied Services." A very reliable volume. (Remember that Yancey was taken, in part, from Burke in 1833.)

Records in the Office of the State Board of Medical Examiners (1313 Navajo Drive, Raleigh, N.C.)

I. "Unlicensed physicians qualified to practice medicine in N.C. by virtue of registration under the provisions of the Act of 1889."

<u>name</u>	<u>route</u>	<u>county</u>	<u>date</u>
Austin, W.M.	oath	Yancey	7/15/1889
Brinkley, J.R.	oath	Yancey	11/8/1894
Bryant, Charles C.	permit	Mitchell	5/6/1907
Butt, V.R.	diploma	Mitchell	7/27/1898
Davis, James	oath	Mitchell	12/27/1889
Ewing, J.B.	permit	Yancey; Mitchell	5/24/1905; 10/9/1907
Fairchild, J.M.	permit	Yancey	6/10/1905
Fisher, Charles E.	diploma	Mitchell	5/21/1908
Hall, J.M.	oath	Yancey	11/14/1889
Howell, S.F.	oath	Yancey; Graham	1/11/1894; 10/ /1901
Lane, G.C.	diploma	Mitchell	9/19/1889
Lewis, O.M.	oath	Yancey	7/9/1889
Lovett, W.D.	oath	Mitchell	10/5/1907
Peek, W.A.	permit	Yancey	5/24/1905
Penland, M.F.	oath	Mitchell	7/5/1889
Peterson, J.M.	diploma	Mitchell	5/3/1902
Quinn, James A.	oath	Mitchell	11/12/1907
Sizemore, James J.	oath	Mitchell	10/19/1889
Slagle, F.P.	oath	Mitchell	1/7/1898
Snipes, M.S.	oath	Mitchell	12/5/1889
Stinchcombe, Nelson John	diploma	Mitchell	1/25/1901
"	"	Yancey	6/8/1894
"	"	Mitchell	6/25/1898
Story, J.G.	diploma	Mitchell	11/25/1899
Tinsley, James G.	oath	Yancey	10/1/1889
Towsley, William C.	oath	Mitchell	3/25/1897
Upton, Romulus S.	oath	Yancey	7/5/1889
Upton, W.P.	oath	Mitchell	6/14/1893
Whittington, B.B.	oath	Yancey	12/27/1889
Whittington, Lafayette	oath	Yancey	9/19/1889
Zimmerman, George H.	diploma	Mitchell	

II. "Alphabetical List of Rejected Applicants" [no county is given, so I have selected a few that might be Yancey-Mitchell; undoubtedly there are others. Rejection was not permanent: some were licensed later.]

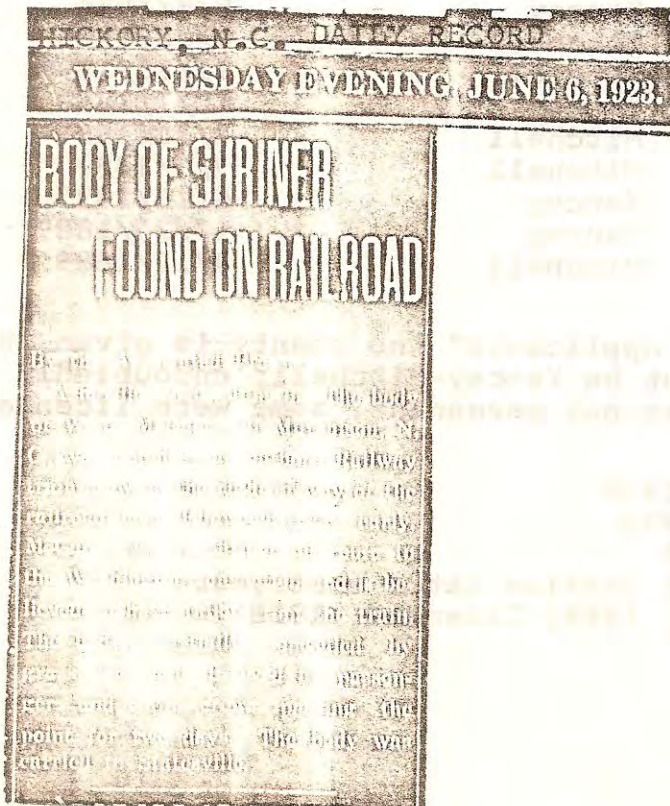
Bennett, W.L.	1911; licensed, 1932
Butt, V.R.	1881; licensed 1898
Gibbs, John B.	1903; licensed 19
Hartsell, F.E.	1895; licensed at session later that year
Peterson, J.M.	1903, 1905, 1907, 1918; licensed, 1918

### III. Minutes, Board of Medical Examiners

<u>name</u>	<u>year</u>	<u>institution</u>	<u>score (or State)</u>
Whittington, Willard P.	1882	College of Phys. and Surg., Baltimore	
Ray, John L.	1887	" " " " " "	
Moore, R. A.	1891	Univ. of Md.	withdrew
Hartsell, F.E.	1895	?	(pseudonym for score: "Hope")
Gibbs, John B.	1903	U. Tenn. Med. College, Knox.	76.75
Edwards, Charles P.	1903	" " " " " "	, 1900 81.28
Peterson, James M.	1903	" " " " " "	, 1902 69.15
Gibbs, John B.	1904	N.C. Coll. of Med.	86.25
Peterson, James M.	1905	Tenn. Medical College,	1902 63.57
Morgan, Cassius H.	1905	" " " " " "	, 1901 80
Peterson, James M.	1907	" " " " " "	, 1902 68.71

### IV. Licenses Granted (partial list)

Peterson, James M.	1918	Tenn. Medical College, 1902	80
Peterson, Charles A.	1907	N.C. Medical College, 1907	89.28
Bradshaw, James I.	1904	Tenn. Medical College, 1901	80
Cheadle, Clarence M.	1919	Keokuk Medical College, 1898	Illinois
Robertson, Wilbur B.	1908	Baltimore Medical College, 1898	88



Additional physician, born on Jacks Creek: Marcus W. Patterson (son of William and Lucinda) [so family tradition; did not practice in Yancey]