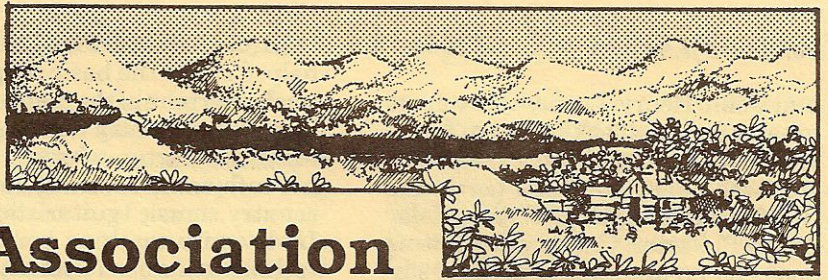


ESTATOEE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



VOLUME IX, NUMBER 1

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

APRIL 1995

Yancey Man's Contribution To Country Music

April 29 Program On Lesley Riddle's Influence On Carter Family

In 1963, the Johnny Cash show was playing the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. Touring with him was Maybelle Carter and her daughters. One of the daughters, June, would soon to become Cash's wife.

Also playing on the bill was Mike Seeger and the New Lost City Ramblers. When "Mother Maybelle" and the Carter sisters finished their part of the show, Seeger asked Maybelle where she had learned "The Cannon

Ball Blues" and "Red River Blues"

Maybelle gave quick and certain credit to Wesley Riddle, whom she called "Esley," of Kingsport, Tennessee. Seeger, the nephew of legendary folk musician Pete Seeger, set out to find the mysterious man whose music had so influenced one of the founding groups of country music.

Lesley Riddle was born in the Higgins community of Yancey County on June 13, 1905 to Edward and Hattie Riddle. He had two brothers and four sisters. Three siblings are still living: Selelia Griffith and Rev. Grady Riddle of Burnsville; and Rosa Lee Edmund of Detroit, Michigan.

Around 1913, the family moved to Kingsport but Lesley visited Burnsville frequently and lived here on and off until 1942 when he moved to Rochester, N.Y. He returned to North Carolina when he learned that he had cancer and died July 13, 1980 while staying with his brother, John, in Asheville.

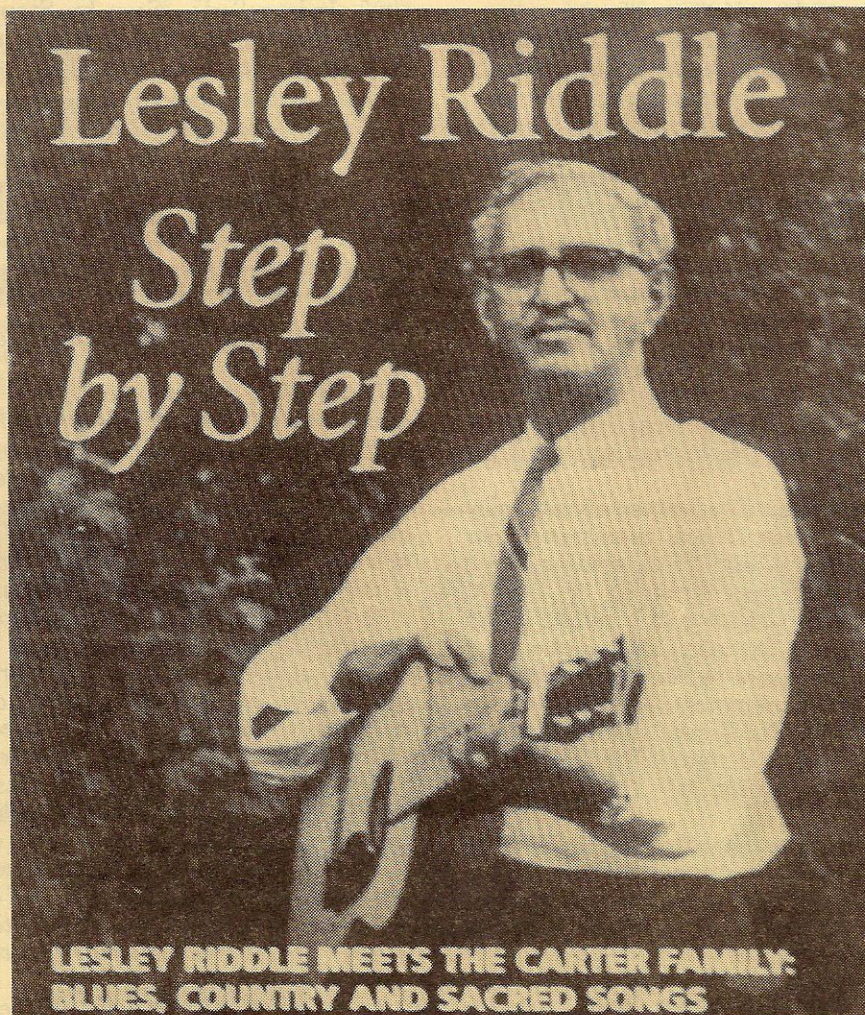
His sister, Selelia, says that he was always called "Esley," and the name Wesley was something he acquired after he got into the music business. "I think it was the Carter Family that started calling him Wesley," she said.

It was the move to Tennessee that led Riddle to get involved in the music business and eventually hook up with the Carter Family.

At around the age of 15, while working at a cement plant, Riddle lost his leg just below the knee in an accident. He had also lost the two middle fingers of his right hand in an argument over a shotgun.

The injuries gave him the time to practice his music, and he soon began hanging out with a crowd of musicians in Kingsport. Some, like Brownie McGee, Steve Tarter, Sonny Terry

continued on next page



Mike Seeger, nephew of legendary folk musician Pete Seeger, learned of Lesley Riddle from Maybelle Carter in the mid-1960s and encouraged him to perform again. The result was this collection of songs and a history about the Burnsville man released by Rounder Records in 1993.

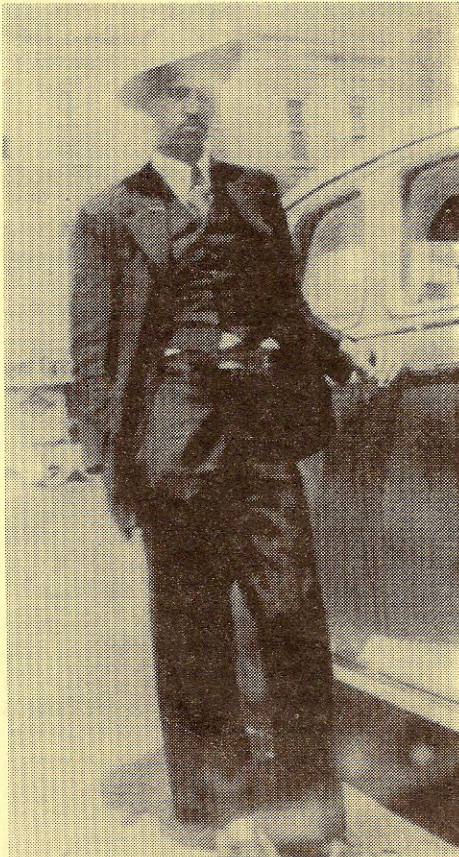
continued from page 1

and John Henry Lyons, went on to greater fame as black southern Appalachian blues musicians.

It was on Lyon's front porch one Sunday morning in 1927 that Esley met A.P. Carter. Carter was hunting songs for an upcoming recording session. Lyons had early established his virtuoso guitar playing among white as well as black musicians, and this was not Carter's first visit to Lyons' front porch. It was his first meeting with Riddle.

The meeting began an important collaboration between Riddle, A.P., Sara, and Maybelle Carter that went on for several years. During this time, Riddle lived, on and off, at the Carter family home in Poor's Valley, Virginia. Riddle taught the Carters many songs, some of which they recorded. He also traveled with A.P. on many of his forays around the south in search of new material.

The collaboration provides us with direct evidence of one of the innumerable exchanges among black and white musicians that contributed to the emergence of a richness and variety in American music: blues, country, jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues, rock, and folk.



Lesley Riddle (Photo from his sister, Rosa Lee Riddle Edmund)

Through the Carters, Lesley Riddle helped shape the basic song and musical repertoire of the then just emerging white country music tradition. Maybelle Carter, whose guitar style has influenced several generations of country music guitarists, credited Lesley with teaching her the guitar technique she used on many songs.

In 1937, Lesley Riddle got married, then moved north in 1942 in search of better and more stable work than was available to black men in the South at that time. He sold his guitar in 1945 because he couldn't find anyone to play music with and had decided he really wasn't interested in playing any more.

It was Mike Seeger's 1963 exchange in California with Mother Maybelle that led him to seek out Lesley Riddle and persuade him to play again, first privately and at a few festivals. The few recordings of Riddle performing are from that period and were recorded and edited by Mike Seeger from 1965 to 1978. The recording, with extensive liner notes explaining Riddle's influence on today's music,



Lesley Riddle (left) with blues musician Brownie McGhee. (Photo from Blue Ridge Heritage Archive/Kip Lornell)

was released by Rounder Records in 1993. It is called, "Step by Step - Lesley Riddle Meets the Carter Family: Blues, Country and Sacred Songs."

High School Principal Larry Howell Presents Program On Lesley Riddle

Yancey educator Larry Howell has always been interested in history. That was his major in college. He is particularly interested in local history, genealogy, and traditional Appalachian music.

Howell said he learned about Lesley Riddle, the black musician from Yancey County, while driving home from Tennessee one night.

"I was listening to a public radio station in Johnson City and they were playing songs by the Carter Family. Then the announcer played some songs by Lesley Riddle and said Riddle had helped the Carters develop their style of music in the late 1920s," Howell said.

"What really caught my attention was when the announcer said Riddle had lived most of his life in Kingsport, Tennessee, but was a native of Burnsville."

Howell said he had always been interested in this type of music — the traditional forerunner to country and folk music. He called the announcer, Jack Tuttle, who works at the Center for Appalachian Studies in Johnson

City and is, himself, a bluegrass musician.

Tuttle gave Howell the names of some contacts around Kingsport who might know more about Riddle and how he came to be so closely associated with the famous Carter Family. That was the beginning of Larry Howell's two year pursuit of information and music by a local man whose influence in the national music culture is almost unknown in his native county.

The Yancey History Association program to be presented by Howell on April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Yancey Library annex is the result of his quest to learn more about this local musician whose was so influential on this style of music, and on the Carters in particular. The program will include recordings by Lesley Riddle, as well as the Carter Family doing some of the songs they learned from the Yancey County native.

Larry Howell has served in the local school system for the past 31 years as a teacher and administrator. For the past seven years he has been principal at Mountain Heritage High School.

Lloyd Bailey Preparing Second Heritage Volume

Persons who have seen The Heritage of the Toe River Valley (Vol. I, 1995) will be aware of what a precious collection of family and local history it is. It is hoped by the Editor that you will rejoice in the fact that Vol. II is now in preparation and that you can contribute articles to it.

All families with current residence, former residence, seasonal residence, or ancestral roots in the Valley are invited to submit their stories, which will be published in 1996/97.

All stories will be included, free of charge, as long as space permits. You may write as many stories as you like. Each story should be typed if possible, double-spaced (best of all would be on a computer using Word Perfect 5.1, or in an ASCII format). Hand-written stories will be accepted, but please write as clearly as possible. Give each story a brief title. Write in complete sentences where possible. Your last paragraph should be a brief list of the sources of your information (for example, family Bible, a will or other legal document, tombstone data, census, personal knowledge). Finally, list your name, address, and telephone number, so that readers who desire to exchange information or to "claim kin" with you can easily find you. Then, attach an extra page(s) in the form of an index: list each person whom you have mentioned, giving (first) the family name and (then) the given name, followed by a comma, space, and asterisk. Thus, a sentence in your text that said, "Sam Jones married Sarah Ledford in 1852," would be indexed as:

Jones, Sam, *
Ledford, Sarah (Jones), *

Family stories should be one of two general types, or a mixture of the two.

1. A personal article, concentrating upon yourself and immediate family (making mention, of course, of parents, more remote ancestors, and descendants). You might include dates and places of birth and marriage; mention places of residence, employment and education; list Church membership, military and community services, and hobbies; and include any other interesting information or stories that you prefer. Such articles can also be written about one's parents, grandparents, other relatives, or more remote ancestors.

2. A wide coverage of a particular ancestral family, beginning with the remotest known person of the line and tracing downward as space allows (perhaps limited to the direct line that leads to the author of the article). You might write about when and how the family came to America, where they lived before settling in the Toe River Valley, stories of their pioneer life, something about their personality and values, tell where they are buried, list their children (and spouses), mention interesting descendants and contributions to life in the Valley, and so on.

Articles about local churches, denominations, historic businesses, civic and military organizations, schools, professions (e.g., medicine), historic buildings, and interesting events are extremely important and will be welcomed.

In order to enable the articles to be prepared for publication, it is suggested they be submitted alphabetically in accordance with the following schedule. Of course, articles can always be submitted earlier or later than this suggestion, but it would

be an act of kindness to your overworked old Editor to keep it in mind!

Articles A-D by Sept. 1, 1995. (This would include, for example, articles entitled "William Davis, Veteran of the Revolution" or "Deyton Bend Methodist Church.")

Articles E-G by Oct. 1, 1995.

Articles H-J by Nov. 1, 1995.

Articles K-O by Dec. 1, 1995.

Articles P-S by Jan. 1, 1996.

Articles T-Z by Feb. 1, 1996.

Since "a picture is worth a thousand words," include one or more with each article if possible. One single-column width photo may be included free with each article and additional ones at \$ ____ each. Double-column width photos are more suitable for depicting a group of people (\$ for a single one; \$ for additional ones). Black and white prints are preferable, but quality color can be used (do not submit xerox copies or faded polaroid prints). Please identify each photo by attaching a label or writing lightly on the back in pencil, giving your name and address, then the identification of the persons (left to right) in the photo (including date, if known). Or, you may use a separate sheet of paper if necessary. Please have photos copied by a local photographer since the publisher cannot be responsible for lost or damaged originals! Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope only if you want your photos returned; otherwise, they will not be. Include the payment stated above when you submit your material. Mail articles to Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deep Wood Circle, Durham, N.C., 27707.

ESTATOEE

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Burnsville, North Carolina 28714

Estatoee (es-to-toe-e) Also spelled

Estootowie in early records. A

Cherokee place name, shortened to

Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the

name Towe or Toe River is derived.

Newsletter Editors:

Lloyd Bailey & Jody Higgins

Program Committee: Lloyd Bailey,

John Doyle, James Byrd

Officers of the Association (1994):

President: Theresa Coletta

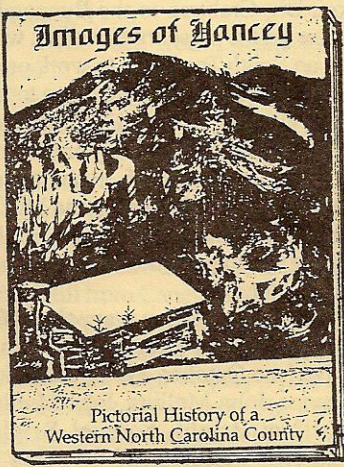
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When Yancey Was Part Of Burke County

By Lloyd Bailey

As I reminded readers in a previous article, prior to 1791 the entirety of our area of Western North Carolina was in the County of Burke and part of it remained there until 1833. In 1791, the County of Buncombe was taken from Burke, with the boundary coming up Toe River, then up Little Crabtree Creek and along the Black Mountain range. Thus that part of future Yancey that lay east of Micaville remained in Burke, while that to the west was part of the new county of Buncombe.

Some brief account of happenings in the Burke sector may be found in the Minutes of the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions during the period 1791-1798. (A microfilm copy may be found in the State Archives as County Record CR.014.301.) I have taken the following notes from the Minutes, limiting them to entries which I perceive to pertain to the Toe River Valley. (Items in brackets are clarifications that I have added, and the numbers at left are for my reference only. Those who desire a full abstract of the Minutes should consult Daniel D. Swink, Abstracts of the Minutes of the Court..., in two Parts, 1986).

1. October, 1791:

Thomas Ray, Constable, granted pay for collecting taxes in Capt. Shoa's [militia] Company. [This company is thereafter in Buncombe suggests that it is located in present Yancey. Ray lived near the present Cane River Baptist Church.]

Isaac Burleson attests that he bit off the left ear of Charles Phillips. [Biting and eye-gouging were standard fare in the fisticuffs of this time period, as is well attested.]

2. January, 1792:

Hickman Hensley is to be allowed payment (20 shillings) for his services as tax collector in the Cane River area. [He is in the early Buncombe minutes as well, and likely is the veteran of the Revolution by this name.] A similar payment is authorized for Capt. McKinney [Is he in the Mitchell Co. area, while Hensley is clearly in Yancey?]

Ordered that Henry Gillespie oversee the road from Wofford's house to Turkey Cove over the mountain to Grassy. [Wofford's "fort" (house) sat near Woodlawn in present McDowell County, where the road turns to Little Switzerland. Henry Gillespie lived where the road turns up to Gillespie Gap. A long article about him and his family may be found in the forthcoming Heritage of the Toe River Valley. "Grassy" is Grassy Creek in present Mitchell County.]

3. April, 1792:

William McKinney is to oversee the new road as lately marked from the forks of the road at Grassy Creek to his rock creek... all hands on the north side of Toe River as far up as James Taylor's are to work under him. [This is a clear indication that not all McKinneys are descended from "Forty Charlie" McKinney. The road likely forked in the vicinity of the present Spruce Pine, with one prong following the Indian trail to the area of Cane River and the other going up the river toward the Yellow Mountain trail.]

4. July, 1792:

The following persons are included on a road committee for Pope's Creek: William Wiseman, Sam Bright, Thomas Wiseman, Davenport Wiseman, William Bright, William Davenport, Thomas davenport (Sr.), John Brown, Martin Browning, Joseph Jones, Thomas Davenport, James Taylor, John Browning, and Martin Davenport. [Many of these persons lived in the vicinity of the present Ingalls in Avery County.]

5. January, 1793:

Road to be marked and laid out from Grassy Creek to the Limestone Cove in Washington Co. in the "Western Territory" [= Tennessee; specifics on this route may be found in the Minutes for October, 1794.]

6. April, 1793:

Mention of a militia/tax company as that of Capt. Young, lying west of the Blue Ridge.

7. October, 1793:

Will Sharpe vs David Baker; court finds for Sharpe and sets his award/damages at 25 pounds, 17 shillings, and six pence (plus costs. [This likely is the David Baker, soldier in the Revolution, who lived at the present Bakersville.]

8. January, 1794:

Mention of the road from Wofford's house [see January, 1792] up the North Cove and Linville Mountain. [This could lead one into the Toe River Valley either through McKinney Gap (Altapass) or into Three Mile Creek.]

There are several mentions of Thomas Young, whose descendants came over the mountain to Windom in Yancey.

Michael Grindstaff (Sr.) makes bond of 500 pounds that he will provide a deed to Joshua Perkins. [Grindstaff's descendants settled in the Toe River Valley. For other suits concerning him, see January and April, 1796; April, 1797.]

9. April, 1794:

Tax/Militia districts include that of William Davenport [so also July, 1794] and of Thomas White. [White, I believe, in mentioned in Francis Asbury's journal as having made a road across the mountain into the Toe Valley, but I do not have this source at hand to verify. See January, 1796, for evidence of his residence in the Valley.]

10. October, 1794:

Road to be marked and laid off from Grassy Creek to the territorial line and the Limestone Cove, Tenn. Jury to include Charles McKinney, David Baker, John Gouge, William Hill, and Thomas McKinney. [See January, 1793. This apparently refers to the Limestone Cove in present Unicoi Co., Tenn., indicating that the route went through Bakersville, up Big Rock Creek, and across the Iron Mountain Gap. Francois Michaux, son of the more famous Andre, came across this route from Jonesboro to Ingalls about this time: see the article about him in the forthcoming Heritage of the Toe River Valley.]

John Hughes vs John Hensley; nature of case not specified. [These are good Toe River Valley names.]

A road is to be laid off from the North Cove to Joseph Jones' place on Toe River and then on to the Yellow Mountain. [This likely would take one down through Ingalls. The road committee is named, some of which must be residents of the Valley (White, Baker, Rose, Browning, Fox among them).]

11. January, 1795:

Mention of Chisolm Griffith [from whom that clan in Yancey is descended].

John Robertson is to oversee the road from Big Crabtree to the Buncombe County line [at the present Micaville], with all hands on South Toe River to work on it. [This is old pioneer John, who came to the area from Virginia around 1792 with his sons George and Edward. They are the ancestors of the vast clan of Robertsons/Robersons/Robinsons in Yancey and Mitchell Counties. A number of articles in the forthcoming Heritage of the Toe River Valley deal with them.]

A new committee is appointed for the road from Grassy Creek to the Limestone Cove [see October, 1794], including James Taylor, John Mullins, John Mullins (Jr.), William Bright, Samuel Bright, Swinfield Hill [ancestor of that clan in Mitchell Co.], William Hill, Lazarus Tilley, John Rose (Jr.), William Ingram, Moses Young, James Buchanan, William McKinney, Thomas McKinney, Samuel McKinney, David Baker, and Peter Hughes.

continued

12. April, 1795:

Mention of John McElroy's deed from William Green [McElroy may be the person who moved to Cane River and entered the merchandize business with Bacchus J. Smith, exporting vast amounts of ginseng.]

END OF BOOK I

13. July, 1795:

Strawbridge Young is excused from attendance as juror. [He is the ancestor of the Yancey clan, although it is not clear where he lived at this time.]

Waightstill Avery's deed for 200 acres to John Robertson is acknowledged in court and ordered be registered.

14. October, 1795:

Petition for a road from Grassy Creek to the settlement on Cane Creek [present Mitchell Co.; see January, 1796], to include the following persons on the committee: John Mullins, William Hill, Booker Mullins, Lazarus Tilley, Nathan Daton, John Goungs [Goins?], William Ingram, Nathaniel Armstrong, William McKinney, Charles McKinney, Thomas McKinney, and Alexander Young. [Nathan Deyton, ancestor of this clan in the Toe Valley, was the son of William of Chatham Co. who had been killed at the Battle of Cane Creek, Chatham Co., in 1781, during the Revolution as Tory in Col. Fannin's Company. Mullins and Goins are Melungeon names. A John Mullins, who claimed to have been born in what is now Yancey Co. in 1765 and who served in the Revolution, moved to Virginia in 1829: see Heritage of the Toe River Valley. On the Melungeons, who claim to be of Portuguese descent and here long before the English, see Rhonda Gunter's article in the Toe Valley Genealogical Newsletter for April, 1994.]

15. January, 1796:

The road from Grassy Creek to Crabtree is to be under the supervision of John Mullins [see October, 1795] who replaces James Carson.

A road is to be marked out from Grassy Creek to David Baker's on Cane Creek [see October, 1795 for initial order]; Baker is to oversee it from [Nathan] Deyton's cabin onward to Cane Creek, and William Hill from Caney River [mistake for Toe River?] to the cabin. [See July, 1797.]

A committee is authorized to lay off a road from John Wagley's past James Leatherwood's to Toe River. The members include Martin Davenport, John Browning, and Davenport Wiseman [which may indicate that this is not the Grassy Creek route but rather across McKinney Gap (Altapass) or down Three Mile Creek to Ingalls. See April, 1797 for further reference.]

Deed from Solomon Wright to Samuel Brown for 50 acres.

Deed from David Baker to Thomas White [for whom see April, 1794].

Deed from James Taylor to John Mullins [see January, 1795, for their residence in the Valley].

16. April, 1796:

There is mention of a Henry Masters [if this is the same as the Toe Valley pioneer, he does not yet live there but rather east of Morganton].

Charles Hopper [Hoppes?] is appointed overseer of the road from Thomas Young's old mill [present McDowell Co., near Marion; see July, 1797] up Whitener's Spur to the Blue Ridge, with hands in the Turkey Cove and North Cove to work. [Whether this road went up the Turkey Cove toward Little Switzerland, or up the North Cove, I do not know].

17. October, 1796:

David Baker registers his stockmark: crop and slit in the right ear; under K in the left; brand "B" on the flank and "D" on the shoulder. [Such "marks" were necessary in the absence of a fencing law, and thus cattle were allowed to range free.]

Jury includes Peter Ledford.

Deed from Reuben White to Lazarus Phillips [for whom see April, 1797].

18. January, 1797:

David Baker takes the oath necessary for the office of Justice of the Peace.

19. April, 1797:

Solomon Right [Wright], five year old male child, is bound out to Samuel Brown until the age of 21. [See January, 1796, for an older Solomon Wright.]

Committee appointed to mark and lay off a road from Joseph Jones' on Toe River to the Tennessee line, to consist of (among others) Joseph Jones, Robert Cook, Edward Curry, Joseph Grayer [Greer?], Thomas Wiseman, William Wiseman, Davenport Wiseman, John Browning, Martin Davenport, Thomas Davenport, Benjamin White, Lazarus Phillips, and John Mullins. [May be the same route as January, 1796. See also July, 1797.]

List of Militia/Tax Companies includes that of Capt. Lain [Lane?; that this is in the Toe Valley is suggested by July, 1797.]

20. July, 1797:

Simon Ramsey is to oversee the road from Nathan Deyton's to Cane Creek in place of David Baker. [See January, 1796.]

Nathan Deyton to oversee the road from Cane River to Deyton's place, replacing William Hill.

Isaac Cox is to oversee the road from [Thomas] Young's old mill [see April, 1796] to the top of the Blue Ridge, replac-

ing Thomas Hopper [Hoppes?]. [See also July, 1798].

State vs Strawbridge Young. Notation that jury found the defendant guilty has been crossed through and then one reads: "miss tryal by consent."

Road from Joseph Jones' to Tennessee line [same as in April, 1797] is to be worked by men in Capt. Lain's [Militia/Tax] Company "west of the ridge." [See also October, 1798/]

Deed from David Baker to Philip Guyer; witnessed by William White.

21. October, 1797:

Thomas McEntire summoned to answer charge that he is the father of Margaret McKinney's child and she due support from him; William White to appear with evidence.

Samuel Bright sells to Waightstill Avery two tracts of land near "the yallow topt mountains...on Toe River." [This is the person for whom Bright's Trace across the Yellow Bald is named. See sketch in Heritage of the Toe River Valley.]

22. January, 1798:

Jumima [Jemima] Hyatt, "orphan" of Seth Hyatt (decd.), chooses Joseph Young as her Guardian (Hezekiah Hyatt and John Young are security). [This likely is the same family as the Hyatts of Yancey County.] A later entry states that Greenberry Wilson, Guardian, has mismanaged her property and that she subsequently was allowed to choose Joseph Young (security now includes Thomas Young).

David Baker is security on Henry Kearly's bond of 50 pounds, wherein Kearly is accused of being the father of a child by Elizabeth Burchfield. [See Burke County Bastardy Bonds for two entries under Elizabeth Burchfield.]

Samuel Bright deeds 100 acres to Samuel Spencer. [For Bright, see October, 1797.]

23. April, 1798:

Bounty for wolf scalps is 20 shillings each; that for panthers is 25 shillings each. A later entry reveals that the tax to support these bounties is at the rate of 1¢/100 acres of land.

Samuel Bright vs William Mays: indebtedness. 100 acres of Mays' land on Brushy Creek of Toe River (near John Browning) is to be sold to pay the debt.

24. July, 1798:

David Baker is one of the presiding Magistrates [also at the October session].

25. July, 1798:

Joseph Wilson replaces Isaac Cox as road overseer [see July, 1797, for route].

Stephen Hardon [Hardin] replaces David Gillespie as road overseer of road

continued

from Turkey Cove to top of the Blue Ridge. [See January of 1792 for this route. David is the son of old pioneer Henry.]

26. October, 1798:

Joseph Greer is to oversee the road from Joseph Jones' on Toe River to the Tennessee line on the Yellow Mountain. [See April and July, 1797, for this route.] All hands up Toe River from Samuel Spencer's

are to work on the road.

William McKinney is to oversee the road from Nathan Deyton's to Cane Creek, replacing Simon Ramsey. [See January, 1796 and July, 1797 for this route.]

William Wiseman (Jr.) replaces John Browning as road overseer for the road from the Blue Ridge to Joseph Jones' on Toe River. [Possibly the same route as October, 1794.]

Martin Davenport is one of the Wardens of the Poor.

Deeds from Thomas Young to Joshua Young (150 acres, witnessed by William Davenport) and Strawbridge Young (145 acres, witnessed by William Davenport).

Deed from Charles Baker to Thomas Wiseman (50 acres, witnessed by William Davenport).

Visitor Center/Museum Work Progressing Quickly With Receipt Of Additional Grant

Work on the Museum/Visitor Center Project is progressing quickly, thanks to hard work by the dedicated members of the Joint Steering Committee made up of representatives from the Yancey History Association, Chamber of Commerce and local government.

The two properties have been designated as one of nine Regional History Sites in the state. The museum will serve as the cornerstone for collecting and preserving Yancey's rich history and culture and will be enjoyed by many future generations. Work on the project is being completed under the direction of consultants with the Western Office of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

A master plan for development of the project was drawn up by the steering committee and work is proceeding on sched-

ule. The project got a boost with the receipt of a \$25,000 grant from the Janirve Foundation that was matched with funds from the county, town and Yancey History Association. The History Association also received a \$50,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. These grants have made it possible to start the work on the project as outlined by the steering committee. Additional grants have been applied for and prospects look good at this point for receiving additional funding. Local fundraising projects are also being planned.

The most noticeable change since work began in January is on the old gas station, which will serve as office space for the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce.

Stabilization work has been completed

on the museum house in preparation for restoration work to begin.

The work that began on the gas station was the first phase of actual construction work on the project and make it suitable for use as a visitor center. Competition of this phase should give the project a good visible boost in the community.

Work on the gas station has included removal of all interior frame walls which were rotten from long term leaking of the roof. Interior door openings have been made to blue print specifications. All rotten wood in the roof was also replaced. The roof was dried in and the new roof has been installed. All fascia boards have been replaced with new lumber as necessary.

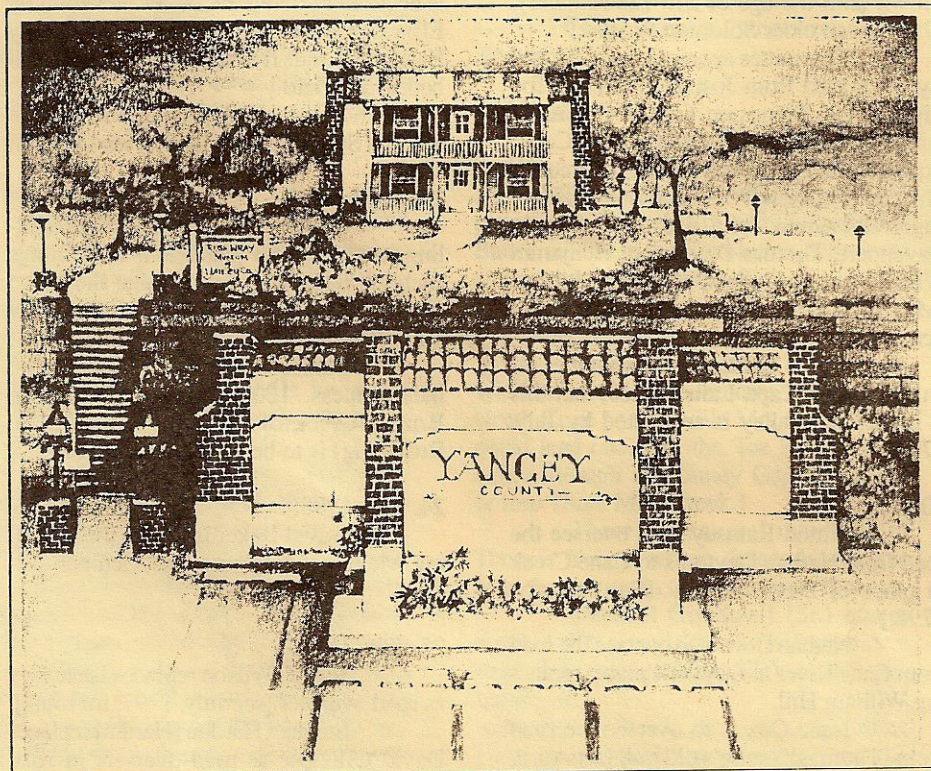
All old, deteriorated and unusable plumbing has been replaced. The existing water and sewer lines have been determined to be usable. All obsolete and unsafe electrical wiring has been removed. The car lift and associated hardware has been removed and some parts recycled back into the restoration process. The old existing pit, used for working on cars, has been filled.

Glass has been removed and restoration begun on existing windows to be used. Window openings determined to be unnecessary have been closed. All windows which have to be replaced have been ordered.

The most noticeable difference is on the outside. The tedious work of removing all loose and broken plaster was completed and replastering of the exterior has been completed.

Current plans are to have a portion of the building occupied by August 1, 1995. Funding is available to start additional stabilization work on the museum by mid-summer.

The Steering Committee reports that work on the project is ahead of schedule and well within budget.



Bibliography Of Articles About Yancey County

(This listing of articles, publications and books relevant for reading and research on local history was assembled by Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, NC 27707. Future issues of Estatoee will contain additional listings.)

Durham, Robert Lee. *Since I War Bcrn*. Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1953. Describes, in one of his chapters, a journey through Yancey in the early 1900's, including conversation with "Mont" Ray and a stay at Johnson's Hotel at Hunt Dale. Describes killing of a convict who worked on the railroad.

Edson, William D. "The Clinchfield Railroad: A Brief Operating History," *Railroad History* (Bulletin 148, pp. 82-87). Includes maps, photos, and bibliography.

Edwards, Virgil Lusk. *The Appalachian Mountain Log book*. Burnsville: Edwards Printing Company, 1955. Contains a variety of articles: Indian battles and legends, dialect of the southern mountaineer, accounts of entertainment, poetry, etc. [Edwards was a resident of the Mine Fork community in Yancey.]

Estatoee. *Quarterly Newsletter of the Yancey History Association*. Begins with Vol. I, No. 1, Jan./ 1986. Includes documents and original that relate to the various programs. The Editor is Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, N.C., 27707.

Ferrel, Dorothy M. *Bear Tales and Panther Tracks*. Book Two. Atlanta: The Appalachian Publisher, 1968. At pp. 32-36 there is a section entitled "Hot Dollars From The Garland Mine," concerning the "lost" silver mine in the Unaka Mountain.

Floods on North Toe River and Beaver and Grassy Creeks. TVA Division of Water Control and Planning. [Item NC 91756 T in the Carolina Room, Wilson Library, UNC-CH.]

Gasque, Jim. *Hunting and Fishing in the Great Smokies*. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1948. See Chapter XVII for discussion of the Wilson family of Pensacola in Yancey as famous bear hunters.

Goforth, James A. *Building the Clinchfield: A Construction History of America's Most Unusual Railroad*. Erwin (Tenn.): Gem Publishers, 1984. Pp. 106.

Guerrant, Edward O. *The Galax Gatherers*. Richmond: Onward Press, 1910. Guerrant was a Presbyterian missionary. There is a section entitled "On The Estatoa" (pp. 19-24) which describes his activities in the Toe River Valley, including the names of Presbyterian workers and their location, persons with whom he stayed, where he preached, etc.

Harshaw, Lou. *Trains, Trestles, and Tunnels*. Asheville: Hexagon Co., 19___. Contains discussion and photos of the Yancey Railway (successor to the old Black Mountain line).

Harper's New Monthly Magazine. No. XC (Nov. 1857), Vol. XV, pp. 721-740: "A Winter in the South." Describes a journey from Jonesboro, Tenn., across Roan Mountain, through Mitchell Co., to Burnsville in Yancey. Contains a number of sketches by the renowned artist David Hunter ("Pencil Box") Strother. Reprinted in *The Old South Illustrated*. Continued in the issue of Dec. 1857-May, 1858 (Vol. XVI, pp. 167-183). The journey continues from Burnsville across Bald Mountain into Tenn.

Higgins, Jody (ed.). *Common Times: Written and Pictorial History of Yancey County*. Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1981 (2nd printing, 1982). Pp. 83.

Higgins, Jody (ed.). *Flood Disaster: November 6, 1977*. Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1977. Approximately 75 pp. of photographs.

Hicks, George L. *Appalachian Valley*. New York: Rinehart and Winston, 1976. Uses pseudonyms for persons and places (e.g., it is set in "Little Laurel Valley" in Kent County, but it is actually a sociological study of South Toe River Township in Yancey in the 1960's). Contains several photos.

History and Geography of Yancey County, Published by the Teacher Training Class of Burnsville, 1930. Reprinted by Yancey Graphics in Burnsville (1980's?). Pp. 59. [Caution: contains some historical errors.]

Hunter, Edgar F. *History of Yancey Collegiate Institute*. M.A. Thesis, Appalachian State University, 1952.

Images of Yancey. Burnsville: Yancey History Association, 1993. Text and photographs covering 176 pp.

Index to the Reports of the Committees of the Senate of the United States for the First Session of the Forty-Second Congress (1871). See pp. 117ff. for North Carolina: testimony of Virgil S. Lusk (Solicitor) concerning activities of the KKK just after the Civil War.

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

Inventory of Church Archives of North Carolina: Yancey Baptist Association. Raleigh: Historical Records Survey Project, Feb., 1942. Pp. 43 (typescript). [Alas! I have forgotten where I found this; likely in State Archives.]

Jolts and Scrambles, or we Uns and our Duin's. Philadelphia: Times Printing House, 1884. Relates a tour through WNC in 1884, many pages of which are devoted to Mitchell and Yancey Counties. Has numerous photos and drawings. (A rare book, privately printed; easily available through microfilm from the Carolina Room, Wilson Library, UNC-CH).

Kaplan, Berton H. *Blue Ridge: An Appalachian Community in Transition*. Morgantown (W.Va.): Univ. of W. Va. Bulletin, Jan., 1971. Pp. 171. A study of the socio-economic development and attitudes of South Toe/Celo Community in Yancey Co. (although the book itself does not identify the location more specifically than "the Toe River Valley").

Kingsbury, Richard H. *Petrology of an Ultramafic Pluton North of Micaville, Yancey County, North Carolina*. Masters Thesis, Ohio State Univ., 1977.

McBride, H.A. "The Clinchfield Route." *Railroad* (Dec., 1953, pp. 17-33). Describes his ride on the line from Elkhorn City, Ky., to Spartanburg, S.C.; contains many photos of locomotives.

McClelland, Steven W. *The Crystallography and Petrology of Kammererite from the Day Book Body, Yancey County, North Carolina*. M.S. Thesis, Univ. of Iowa, 1973.

(Check with your local public library for these books, publications and articles.)

Future Programs Of Yancey History Association

1. June 17th, 7:30 p.m. Herschel Holcombe and the staff of Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home will discuss how the funeral industry in general and practices in Yancey in particular have changed over the present century.

2. August 19th, 7:30 p.m.: To be announced.

3. October 7, 7:30 p.m. Arnie Pate, Ed Hunter, and Lloyd Bailey will report on WPA construction projects in Yancey (primarily the school buildings at Micaville, Burnsville, Clearmont, Bald Creek, and Bee Log).

WPA To Be Topic Of Future Meeting

The program topic for this meeting will be the construction of the five public schools in Yancey County by the Works Project Administration. These schools are located at Bald Creek, Bee Log, Burnsville, Clearmont, and Micaville. They were constructed in the 1930s as work projects during The Depression.

Anyone with information, photographs, documents, etc. about this topic should write to Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, NC 27707 or call him at 919-489-8731. Who worked at the various sites? Where did the masons get the stone? What sort of equipment was used? What were the wages?

Minutes Of Previous YHA Meeting

President Theresa Coletta opened the October meeting of the Yancey History Association with a reading of the minutes from the last meeting, which were approved by the membership.

The meeting program featured Burnsville resident Selelia Griffith who was instrumental in bringing about the integration of Yancey County's public schools in the 1950s and early 1960s. This very interesting program was well attended and offered a unique perspective into a very turbulent and historic time that changed the lives of black children forever in Yancey County and the rest of the country. Yancey's schools were the first in North Carolina to be integrated by court order, in part because of the efforts of this determined woman and mother, who was introduced as "a tall woman who cast a long shadow." Coincidentally, the integration of Yancey's schools took place 34 years ago on October 17. A special treat for those attending the program was an art display in the Library Annex by Selelia Griffith's granddaughter, Wilma Henson.

The group was reminded that the Yancey History Association has presented approximately 30 programs over the past 10 years, many of which are available on video tape at the library, along with copies of

the newsletter.

In the business session of the meeting, the Yancey History Association board of directors approved a revised lease for the Chamber of Commerce's occupancy of the old gas station as a Visitor Center office. Changes were made to comply with guidelines for the Janirve grant and for future grants the Association might apply for.

The board also reviewed and approved a financial statement presented by Association president Coletta. The board also appointed a nominating committee to prepare a slate of new officers to be elected at the April 1995 meeting. A meeting of the Association's Executive Committee was scheduled for February.

The board set two main goals for 1995 - to work to get the museum project back on track and to build up membership in the association. Museum/Visitor Center Joint Steering Committee member John Doyle reported to the board the project was finally moving with the development of a plan to complete the project in several phases.

Program Chairman Lloyd Bailey discussed future programs for 1995. One will focus on schools built in the county as part of the WPA program. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the final meeting of 1994.

Let's Make History In Yancey County

Enclosed is \$5 for a one-year membership to Yancey History Association (Members will receive *Estatooe*, the quarterly newsletter which contains history & genealogy articles, and information about meetings, publications and projects)

I would like to contribute to making Yancey history come alive with a donation to the museum project. (Includes membership)

\$1000 \$500 \$200 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

I will consider museum project in my will to bequeath real estate, antiques or money to help Yancey History Association preserve our past for the future.

Name _____ Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Mail To: Yancey History Association, PO Box 1088, Burnsville, NC 28714

All Gifts to Yancey History Association are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

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