

# E S T A T O E E

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
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ESTATOE (es-ta-to-e): Also spelled Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee Indian place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the Toe/Towe River designation may be derived.

## Officers of the Association (1991-1992):

President: Frances Higgins  
Vice-President and Editor of  
Estatoe: Lloyd Bailey  
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Vice-President and Editor: 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, N.C., 27707.

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Spring meeting of the Association was held at the Yancey County Library in Burnsville on Saturday, April 25, 1992, at 7:30 p.m. After a brief business meeting, an informative and interesting program was presented by Michael and Ruth Joslin, residents of Buladean and authors of Mountain People,

Places, and Ways (Johnson City: The Overmountain Press, 1991; 282 pp.). They spoke of their love for the area, the goals and methods of producing the volume, and some of the interesting episodes involved in the project. The volume is hereby highly recommended for members of the Association who have not yet obtained a copy.

## Publications of Note:

Mitchell County WPA Cemetery Listings (\$13.00); 1870 Federal Census for Mitchell County, N.C. (\$12.00). Both are available from the Toe Valley Genealogical Society (c/o Rhonda Gunter, 491 Beaver Creek Road, Spruce Pine, N.C., 28777). Membership in the Society is well worth obtaining (annual dues are \$10.00, payable to same address). The next meeting is Monday, June 22, at Mayland Community College. Lloyd Bailey will continue his series on recovering vital statistics in the Toe River Valley prior to the Legislative requirement of 1913.

## The Current Program:

Kenneth Nelson, a member of the staff at Mayland Community College, who has done extensive work on regional history (e.g., mining and migration patterns) will present the program.

Bibliography of Articles Concerning Yancey County  
 (or which are relevant for local history)  
 [Assembled by Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deepwood Circle,  
 Durham, N.C., 27707]

- Ammons, John. Outlines of History of French Broad Association and Mars Hill College. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1907. Ammons served as pastor of the Baptist Church in Burnsville and as President of Burnsville Academy. Events relating to both appointments are mentioned, as well as denominational history in general.
- Arthur, John Preston. Western North Carolina: A History. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1914. A respected and original work; Yancey is mentioned in sustained sections at pp. 178-181, 603-605. The former concerns the memories of "Grandma Gardner."
- Bailey, Lloyd R. News From Yancey: Articles From Area Newspapers, 1840-1900. Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1983. Pp. 83.
- Bailey, Lloyd R. A History of the Methodist Church in the Toe River Valley. Celo (N.C.): Celo Press, 1986. Pp. 386.
- Bailey, Lloyd R. A series of articles in area newspapers (Yancey Journal, Common Times, Mitchell News-Journal), beginning 7/21/1983 and totaling 138 by 1/15/1992.
- Battle, Kemp Plummer. Memories of an Old-Time Tar Heel. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1945. Chapter X (pp. 87-95) relates a visit to Burnsville in 1848, when this future president of UNC stayed at Milton Penland's hotel (forerunner of the present Nu-Wray Inn).
- Beach, John. "To Kona and Back on the Yancey [Railroad]." In Short and Narrow Rails, 1984. Mr. Beach, of Massillon, Ohio, is preparing a history of the Black Mountain Railway.
- Branson's N.C. Business Directory. Lists, by counties, the various local officials (political, business, religious, educational). Series begins in the 1860's. Around 1900, it is succeeded by the North Carolina Year Book.
- Brown, Henry S. Guide for Geologic Field Trip in Yancey County for Earth Science. Raleigh (?): N.C. Academy of Sciences, 1950.
- Bulletin of the North Carolina Board of Health. Contains sections on "Conditions of Jails and County Homes," by counties; "Review of Diseases" by counties; "Mortuary Reports," etc. In 1913, the name was changed to The Health Bulletin.

- Canon, William S. "The South Toe Rambler." Trains (Aug., 1974), pp. 36-40. A history of the Yancey Railroad.
- Colton, Henry E. Mountain Scenery. Raleigh: W.L. Pomeroy, 1859. See Chapter X: "The Black Mountains"; Chapter XI: "The Roan Mountain"; and Chapter XIII: "Pleasant Country Stopping-Places." In the last of these sections, he describes the hotel of R.B. Penland ("Flat Rock House") at what is now Penland, N.C.
- Dawley, Thomas Robinson, Jr. The Child That Toileth Not. New York: Garcia, 1913 (2nd ed.). Advances the thesis that children who worked long hours in the cotton mills (around the turn of the century) were better off than many children at home in rural WNC. To make his point, he visited impoverished families, conducted interviews, and took photographs. Materials about Yancey may be found in Chapters XXVII ("Egypt") and XVII ("Reports of the Families Gone to the Mills").
- DePriest, Paula Teresa. The Macrolichen Flora of Unaka Mountain, Unicoi County, Tennessee-Yancey County, North Carolina. M.S. Thesis, Univ. of Tenn. (Knoxville), 1983.
- Deyton, Jason Basil. "The Toe River Valley to 1865." M.A. Thesis at UNC; published in The North Carolina Historical Review, XXIV, No. 4 (Oct., 1947), pp. 423-466. Although much of the material has been gleaned from the Minutes of the County Court, its reports on conversations with persons who lived during the Civil War Period are irreplaceable.
- Duls, Louisa DeSaussure. The Story of Little Switzerland. Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1982. Contains numerous references to Yancey and Burnsville concerning matters of the arts, music, etc. (See Index.)
- Durham, Robert Lee. Since I War Born. 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.]

- Estatooe. 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.
- 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.
- 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 "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.

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.

Merrimon, Augustus S. (Judge). "The A.S. Merrimon Journal, 1853-1854," The North Carolina Historical Review, VIII (1931), at pp. 327-330. Interesting events from the Yancey Court sessions.

Morley, Margaret. The Carolina Mountains. See esp. Chapter XXIX:

"The Forks of the River Toe." Several Photos. An interesting book from beginning to end.

Neuhauser, Kenneth Reed. A Structural and Petrographic Analysis of the Bank's Creek Serpentine. M.S. Thesis, Univ. of So. Carolina, 1971.

North Carolina Government, 1584-1974. Raleigh: \_\_\_\_\_. Gives election returns by county for presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial elections. Also lists members of the State Assembly (Legislature) by counties. A massive, well indexed volume.

North Carolina Manual. A year-book of the State Legislature, giving sketches of the various members. Issued for each session.

Olmstead, Frederick Law. A Journey in the Back Country. New York: Mason Brothers, 1863. Pp. 266-269 relates his trip through Yancey and Mitchell Counties (in the 1840's?), including a funny story about Bakersville.

Parker, Francis H. "The Yancey RR. Layout," Model Railroader (Aug., 1974, pp. 33-39). Concerns the operation of the Yancey Line, with notes on building an operating a model railroad.

Pratt, Joseph Hyde. The Mining Industry in N.C. during 1911 and 1912. N.C. Geological Survey, Economic Papers #34. Raleigh, 1914 (pp. 218-219 concern Toe River Valley).

Reid, H. Clinchfield's Old No. 5--Now No. 1 Attraction. Richmond: Old Dominion Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, 1972. Pp. 33. On the rebuilding of one of Yancey's Black Mountain engines.

Ross, Malcolm. "My Neighbors Hold to Mountain Ways." National Geographic Magazine, CXIII (June, 1958), pp. 856-880. Interesting text and fine photos. An article which aroused mixed feelings locally.

Schenck, David (Judge). A typescript of the diary of this Circuit Court Judge is preserved in the Southern Historical Collection (Wilson Library, UNC-CH). See Vol. VIII, pp. 21-37 (for Oct. 12, 1879-Nov. 7, 1879) for the Yancey Court. Quite colorful, with mention of several local citizens who were in deep legal troubles.

Schwarzkopf, S. Kent. A History of Mt. Mitchell and the Black Mountains. Raleigh: N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, 1985. Pp. 117, with maps and photos. An interesting and well researched volume, but with the maddening habit of not giving its sources.

Sharp, Cecil J. English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians. London: Oxford University Press, 1932. 2 Vols. Contain numerous songs (words and music) collected in Yancey County, between 1910 and 1920. These have been gathered together in Estatooee, Vol. V, no. 2 (June, 1990).

Sheppard, Muriel E. Cabins in the Laurel. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1935 (reprint, 1991). A wonderful and invaluable book that aroused considerable opposition locally (since it depicted the "old times" rather than the more "progressive" present). Events related to its publication are chronicled by Charles Alan Watkins, "Merchandizing the Mountaineer," Appalaj, Spring, 1985, pp. 215-238. [This journal is issued by Appalachian State University.]

Sheppard, Muriel E. "The Forgotten Valley." South Atlantic Quarterly, XXXIII (1934), pp. 63-82. Contains supplements to interviews in her Cabins in the Laurel, plus new ones (one of the most interesting being with a woman of white, negro, and indian ancestry).

Southern Regional Council, Report L-27 (Oct. 5, 1961). Concerns integration of the public schools in Yancey. [Item Cp 379.4 Y21s in the Carolina Room, Wilson Library, UNC-CH.]

The State Magazine (Raleigh, N.C.) contains many articles, among them:

IV, no. 46 (April 17, 1937): "Taking Timber for a Ride."

IX, no. 6 (July 12, 1941): "Ogle Meadow."

XII, no. 18 (Sept. 30, 1944): "The Cane River Valley."

XII, no. (Dec. 9, 1944): "New Mountain Industry" (a pipe factory: from roots of rhododendrons).

XIII, no. (March 10, 1945): "Where Folks Really Eat" (Nu-Wray Inn).

XIV, no. 16 (Sept. 14, 1946): "He's Far Away From His Customers" (Lusk Edwards).

XV, no. 9 (Aug. 2, 1947): "Nate Dempsey and Tom Wilson."

XVI, no. 50 (May 14, 1949): "Jack Dempsey's Grandfather" [the genealogy here is erroneous!]

XVII, no. 39 (Feb. 25, 1950): "They Helped Build North Carolina" (Rush Wray).

XIX, no. 3 (June 16, 1951): "The Citizens of Lost Cove."

XX, no. 2 (June 14, 1952): "Valley on the Roof of North Carolina." See also "Beneath the Soil: Mica Boom--One of Many--Excites the Toe Valley" (pp. 12-14).

XX, no. 25 (Nov. 22, 1952): "Lost Cove."

XX, no. (Jan. 10, 1953): "The Smithy's House" (Daniel Boone, VI).

XXI, no. 8 (July 25, 1953): "A Trip to Flattop in the Balds."

XXI, no. 48 (May 8, 1954): "Big Bald--the Mountain."

XXVII, no. 25 (May 14, 1960): "From Murphy to Manteo" (notes

on Daniel Boone, VI, and Ewart Wilson).  
XXVIII, no. 9 (Oct. 1, 1960): contains several items on  
Yancey.

\_\_\_\_\_, no. \_\_\_\_ (March 15, 1971): "Epitaph for Lost Cove."

Stephenson, John B. Shiloh: A Mountain Community. Lexington:  
Univ. of Ky. Press, 1968. Pp. 232. A socio-economic study  
which refers to the Toe River Valley by pseudonyms (e.g.,  
"Centerville" is the county-seat, Burnsville; "Yellow Jacket"  
is Whiteoak Creek; "Silver Creek" is Browns Creek; "Spartown"  
apparently is Micaville. The author elsewhere says that the  
area of study is the same as that of Hicks (which see).

Trial of William W. Holden. Raleigh: Sentinel Printing, 1871  
(3 vols.). See Vol. I, pp. 1025ff. for the testimony of Creed  
F. Young of Yancey County concerning conditions in Yancey  
during the Civil War.

Vrona, John Patrick. Structure of the Newdale Ultramafite, Yancey  
County, North Carolina. M.S.Thesis, So. Illinois Univ., 1979.

Warner, Charles Dudley. On Horseback: A Tour in Virginia, North  
Carolina, and Tennessee. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Co.,  
1896. Chapters II and III (pp. 42-110) are about Yancey and  
Mitchell Cos., including a weekend in Burnsville.

Way, William, Jr. The Clinchfield Railroad. Chapel Hill: UNC  
Press, 1931. Pp. 297. Several photos of construction and  
floods. Consult "Yancey County" in the index.

Wheeler, G.A. Pellagra in the Mountains of Yancey County, North  
Carolina. Reprint No. 619 of Public Health Reports, Oct. 22,  
1920 (pp. 2509-2514). Washington: Govt. Printing Office,  
1920.

Wilson, Charles Morrow. Backwoods America. Chapel Hill: UNC  
Press, 1935. Although the text is about the Ozark Mountains  
in Arkansas, the photos reportedly were taken in WNC  
(including the Toe River Valley). The photographer was Bayard  
Wootten (whose photos appeared in Sheppard's Cabins in the  
Laurel (which see).

Works Progress Administration of North Carolina, Bulletin. For  
work in Yancey, including several of the high school buildings  
in the 1930's, see II, no. 2 (July-Aug., 1936); II, no. 8 (2nd  
half, 1938); Jan., 1940. [Duke Univ. Library, Documents,  
Y3.W89/2:70N91c/1]

Young, James Oliver. A Baptist Looks Back. Asheville: Miller  
Printing Co., 1968. Developments in Madison-Mitchell-Yancey  
Cos., 1807-present.



Zeigler, Wilbur G., and Ben S. Grosscup. The Heart of the Alleghanies or Western North Carolina. Raleigh: Alfred Williams and Co., 1883. Pp. 46-47, 114-123, 202-203, 270-277 are about Yancey and Mitchell Cos.