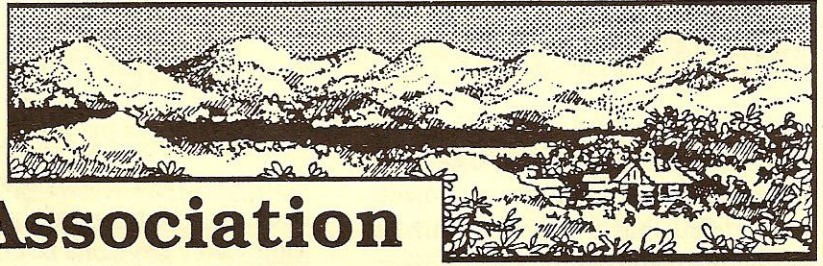


ESTATOE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume X, No. 4

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

October 1996

History Association Now Has An Executive Director

The Yancey History Association is proud to announce the appointment of Jim Priesmeyer as their Executive Director. According to John Young, President, many excellent candidates responded, making the decision challenging. Jim began his duties September 16, 1996. He will employ his extensive background and experience in business management to promote membership and coordinate other Association activities.

The Yancey History Association has always been blessed with an outstanding group of talented and dedicated volunteers. During the past ten years our growth has changed us from a membership oriented organization into a historical asset management organization. The

creation of this new position will enable the Association to move forward with ongoing projects with a new level of coordination.

Of equal importance to current and future restoration projects, the Executive Director's position will reinvigorate our membership base. Buildings are a tangible reflection of the people who designed, built and occupied them. But only people themselves can tell the tales that transform history into heritage.

A previous commitment to directing the Burnsville Little Theatre's production of "My Three Angels" will unfortunately prevent Jim from attending our October meeting, but all are invited to call on him at our new Office.

Minutes of August History Association Meeting

The summer meeting of the Yancey History Association was held on Saturday, August 17, 1996, in the Annex of the Yancey County Public Library. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the President, John Young. 26 people attended the meeting.

Acting secretary, Theresa Coletta, read the minutes of the April meeting which were approved as read. Motion for approval was made by Lloyd Bailey and was second by Sarah Proffitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Milidene Laws presented the treasurer's report which included the 1996 Budget and a financial statement through August 15, 1996. After a brief discussion, James Byrd made a motion for approval which was second by Sarah Proffitt. Motion carried unanimously.

John Young gave a Museum report and highlighted the 6:30 p.m. tour of the restoration work on the McElroy House which was given by himself and building contractor Tom Jobin. The tour's highlight was the lighting of the 100-year of cooking fireplace by Theresa Coletta. A reception also was held for those attending the tour. John invited the members to drop by the house for a tour, and he complemented Roger Bard and John Doyle for their hard work on the project.

The next item of business was the employment of a part-time Executive Director for the Yancey History

continued on page 2

Important Notice

Members and prospective members are invited to visit their new office, located on the third floor above the library on Town Square. The office will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. We recommend calling first since business may pull Jim out of the office from time to time, and it is somewhat of a climb. Please call 682-3671.

McKinney To Discuss School Construction

The History Association is pleased to announce that our guest for the October meeting will be Janice (Mrs. Norbert) McKinney, an instructor in the county's public school system. She will discuss the construction of the five former high schools which were erected by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930's.

Janice has noticed that the exterior rock construction varies from school to school, reflecting the individuality of the crews who worked at Bald

continued on page 2

Minutes continued from page 1

Association, who will be very instrumental in promoting the Association and the museum project. John stated that a decision will be forthcoming on this within the next couple of weeks.

The meeting was turned over to the Program Chairman, Dr. Lloyd Bailey, who introduced former Yancey County Sheriff Terry Hall. Lloyd explained that Terry Hall, along with Seul Anglin, are considered two of Yancey County's best in law enforcement. Terry Hall was elected Sheriff in 1950 and thoroughly entertained the audience with his common sense approach to law enforcement and "moonshine days" in Yancey County.

After the program, Theresa Coletta presented a request from the Nu-Wray Inn that we endorse their National Register listing, which will help them to obtain a tax deduction. A sample letter on this request was presented for the membership to review. A motion was made by Lloyd Bailey which was second by Roy Hensley that such action be taken. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item of business was the election of Norma Westall to serve as Secretary for the Association which was unanimous. There being no further business, the members were reminded of the October meeting before the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

School Construction

continued from page 1

Creek, Bee Log, Burnsville, Clearmont and Micaville.

The meeting will be held at the Annex to the Library in Burnsville, on Saturday, October 19th, at 7:30 p.m.

Heritage Volume I Is Ready!

Those of you who did not obtain a copy of Lloyd Bailey's outstanding book, The Heritage of the Toe River Valley now have one last opportunity to own it. Walsworth Publishing Company and Don Mills, Inc., announces that a limited number of copies of a reprint are now ready for shipment. It is available at the same cost of the first edition, \$68.00, which includes sales tax, packing, and shipping.

The volume, a copy of which can be seen at the Yancey County Public Library, is of large size (9 X 12 inches)

and contains 747 articles (547 pages) of articles on local history and families in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties, most with a photograph. It is fully indexed by first and family name (the index alone covers nearly 60 pages).

Order with pre-payment of \$68.00 from Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deep Wood Circle, Durham, NC 27707. Be sure to include the address to which you wish it shipped.

Less than one hundred copies of the reprint remain unsold, so do not delay!

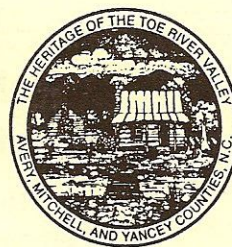
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"The Heritage Of The Toe River Valley" Volume I

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- 747 articles on local history and Families in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties
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When Yancey Was Part Of Buncombe

by Lloyd Bailey

Continued from the previous issue. After a break at July, 1812, the Minutes resume in 1822.

January, 1822:

Hiram Ray is on grand jury.

Justices include Jonathan Tipton, Joseph Rhea [Ray], Zephaniah Horton.

Jurors include Peter Honeycutt [son of pioneer Moses], Hiram Rhea [Ray].

John Bailey vs Thomas Thompson: case continued.

Hiram Ray vs Thomas Thompson. [Since Hiram Ray was "Yellow Jacket" John Bailey's father-in-law, these two are likely indicated here.]

July, 1822:

Peter Honeycutt charges John Edwards with petit larceny; witnesses are Zephaniah Horton, Malcolm Horton, James Poteet. Found not guilty; Honeycutt to pay costs.

October, 1822:

Joseph Shepherd, Ephraim Piercy, and Barbee Carroll to serve as Patrol in Capt. Radford's company [purpose was to spot slaves who were off their property without permission. Shepherd is likely the later operator of an inn in Burnsville].

January, 1823:

Justices include Joseph Ray.

Jury includes Nathan Deaton, Samuel Byrd [of Jacks Creek, son of pioneer George].

March, 1823:

Samuel Byrd vs John Edwards Sr. and Nathan Honeycutt: indebtedness. Edwards pays costs. [Honeycutt is the son of pioneer Moses.]

Justices include Joseph Rhea [Ray].

Tax Listers include: Jonathan Tipton in Capt. Hunnicutt's [Honeycutt's] company; Joseph Rhea [Ray] in Capt. Radford's company. [Tipton's family name survives as the place name Tipton Hill in Mitchell Co.]

July, 1823:

Jurors include Samuel Byrd.

James Edwards vs Peter Honeycutt: in-

debtedness; Honeycutt to pay \$10.45 and costs.

Thomas Rhea [Ray] vs John Griffith and John Edwards.

John Howell to receive 39 lashes at the public whipping post for petit larceny. [I'm not sure if he is of the Yancey clan.]

January, 1824:

Jury list includes Ezekiel Hampton.

April, 1824:

Nathan Deaton vs John Bennett: partition of land; committee to make division includes Samuel Byrd.

Tax Listers: John McElroy in Capt. Radford's company. [McElroy, who owned a store at Cane river, is the father of John W. McElroy whose house still survives in Burnsville.]

June, 1824:

Jurors include Thomas Rhea [Ray].

Moses Honeycutt vs John Hardy: default; Honeycutt is awarded \$35.00 plus costs.

Inspectors for elections: Allen Bailey [son of Levi] at Warm Springs; Nathan Horton and Joseph Shepherd at Caney River.

END OF BOOK

Book VI Begins:

January, 1832:

Amos L. Ray is Justice of the Peace.

Jacob Honeycutt [son of pioneer Moses] is a juror.

Daniel Angel is appointed Constable, with Samuel Byrd as security. [This is Daniel, Sr., Yancey Sheriff in 1833; his wife and Byrd's are sisters, family name Briggs.]

Road work from Blake Piercy's to the ford of Caney River is mentioned; B.S. Smith is to replace E.H. McClure as overseer.

April, 1832:

Absent jurors include: Ezekiel Hampton, Jacob Honeycutt. They later appeared, made their excuses, and were not fined.

James Edwards is dead; committee to help settle his estate consists of Zephaniah Horton and Berry Hensley. [See Lusk

Edwards' article in the Yancey newspaper about how Jacks Creek got its name, in which he mentions James Edwards as an early resident of Jacks Creek.]

Janie, 6 year old daughter of Mira Honeycutt, is bound to Noblett Johnson. [This likely signals either that Mira is a widow or that Janie is illegitimate.]

Samuel Byrd vs John Edwards Jr., John Edwards Sr., and Nathan Honeycutt [nature of the case is not clear].

Jury list includes Malcolm McCourry.

Justices of the Peace: A.L. Ray [Amos Lafayette] in Capt. Edwards' company; William Deyton in Capt. Briggs' company [possibly Louis Briggs of Jacks Creek]; Berry Hensley in Capt. Wheeler's company.

Patrol in the Caney River district are John W. McElroy, Joseph Shepherd, William Hensley.

Constables: Joseph L. Ray (Thomas Ray, Jr., as security); John Wheeler (Solomon Ray, Hiram Ray, and Joseph Ray as security).

P. 53: "Ordered by court that Nathan Boon, a minor orphan of the age of three years the 20th day of August, 1831, be bound to Thomas Ray, Sr., until he attain the age of twenty-one years. The said Ray is to give the boy one year and six months schooling between the age of ten and twenty; and to give him a horse, bridle, and saddle worth fifty dollars; and two suits of home-spun clothing." [Nathan is the illegitimate son of William ("Billy") Ray and Susannah Anderson/Boon, and Thomas is thus his grandfather.]

William C. Bailey is to list taxes in Capt. [Levi?] Bailey's company.

July, 1832:

Jurors include John Bailey, Malcolm McCourry, Thomas Rhea [Ray].

Smith and McElroy are allowed to sell liquor "by the small drink" at their store on Cane River; also M. Horton is allowed to do so. [John McElroy's partner is Bacchus J. Smith, first owner of what is now the Nu-Wray Inn; he later moved to Asheville.]

John Bailey vs James Patton; wins \$20.62 in damages.

To superintend elections (precinct name not given, but clearly in Yancey): for Sen-

continued on page 4

Buncombe

continued from page 3

ate: John McElroy and J.B. Ray; for the House: Joseph Shepherd and William Lewis; for Sheriff: John Edwards and Nathan Horton.

Ramsour Poor [Poer] vs David Honeycutt [son of pioneer Moses]; case dismissed.

October, 1832:

Samuel Byrd is a Deputy Sheriff [background for his being the first elected Sheriff of Yancey County in 1834].

Zephaniah Horton is Patrol in Capt. Wheeler's company; Thomas Deaton [Deyton] are Patrol in Capt. Briggs' company.

END OF BOOK

Book E Begins

January, 1833:

Jury list includes: Elisha Honeycutt [Bailey Branch of Jacks Creek], Zephaniah McCourry is excused [Jacks Creek].

Justices of Peace include: Amos L. Ray, Zephaniah Horton.

Constable: Joseph Rhea [Ray].

John Bailey is excused from jury.

The will of Nathan Deyton is proved by the oath of [The Rev.?] Stephen Morgan; Eldridge Deyton and Thomas Deyton are Executors.

April, 1833:

Committee appointed to settle with John George and Daniel Carter, guardians of James Jennings, "a lunatic." [Jennings is a veteran of the Revolution, who lived on California Creek in present Madison Co. He is the father-in-law of "Billy" Ray of Cane River. See Yancey Co. Wills, I-II, p. 32.]

Thomas Ray vs Zephaniah Horton and Blake Piercy; mentions Samuel Byrd as Deputy Sheriff.

Jurors include Jacob Honeycutt [son of pioneer Moses], Alfred Hampton [Jacks Creek].

Inventory of the estate of Nathan Deaton [Deyton; see also pp. 39 and 83 of the Minutes].

July, 1833:

Jurors include Alfred Hampton.

State vs Samuel Byrd: assault and battery; found guilty and fined \$1.00.

Daniel Angel found guilty of assault and battery; fined \$10.00 and ordered into custody until paid. [See January, 1832, for the relationship between Byrd and Angel. However, this could be Daniel, Jr. who was later hanged for murder in Yancey.]

Samuel Byrd "confesses fine against himself."

Justices who will list taxes: W.C. Bailey [Wiley, son of Levi] in Capt. Holcombe's company; A.L. Ray in Capt. Edwards' company; S. Hunter in Capt. Briggs' company; Z. Horton in Capt. Whitaker's company.

To superintend elections on Cane River: for Congress, Joseph B. Ray and John McElroy; for State Legislature, Edward Wilson and Thomas Gardner; for Clerk [of court], Joseph Shepherd and Henry Rowland.

Report by the Guardians of James Jennings [see April, 1833]; they are paid expenses of \$106.55.

April, 1833:

John Bailey vs John Lewis; Bailey is awarded damages of \$13.44.

Samuel Byrd, Deputy Sheriff, reports the insolvent polls in his district (p. 82).

The formation of Yancey County now takes place (and thus we will not pursue Buncombe Court Minutes any farther).

ESTATOOE

Published Quarterly by the
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Estatooe (es-to-toe-e)
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, Jim Priesmeyer
Program Committee: Lloyd Bailey,
John Doyle, James Byrd

Officers of the Association

President: John Young
Vice-President: Lloyd Bailey
Treasurer: Miladene Laws
Secretary: Norma Westall

Directors: John Doyle, James Byrd
Steering Committee Members: John Young,
John Doyle

Executive Director: Jim Priesmeyer

Let's Make History In Yancey County

Enclosed is \$5 for a one-year membership to Yancey History Association (Members will receive Estatoe, 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 _____

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Yancey History Association

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