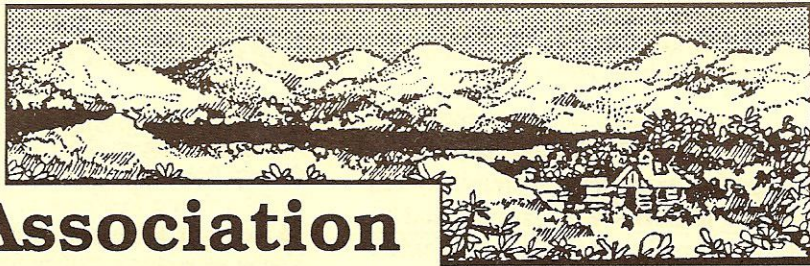


# ESTATOE

Quarterly Newsletter

## Yancey History Association



Volume XI, No. 2

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

June 1997

### THE CONFEDERATE HOME GUARD

By Lloyd Bailey

During the Civil War period, Yancey County was "picked clean" (as one resident put it) of able bodied men. Initially, they volunteered for service, and when that did not produce sufficient numbers a conscription law was enacted. Numerous men sought to avoid the "draft" either by hiding out in the woods or by joining the Union Army. Others, having become disenchanted with the rigors of the war, deserted and returned home, only to be arrested if they could be found.

It was a time, therefore, when little security was available for the wives and children of the area. Hungry neighbors, "draft dodgers", Union sympathizers, and general ne'er-do-

wells stole everything in sight (including food, clothing, and animals). Sometimes this was done by individuals under cover of darkness, and sometimes by armed groups in "broad daylight."

In order to provide some measure of security, the states established what was generally called "The Home Guard," composed of persons who were too young, too old, or physically incapable of enduring the rigors of full military service. The Guard, in addition to arresting deserters, often indulged in pitched battles with several dozen members of "outlaw" groups. In such engagements, members of the Guard were often wounded or killed.

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### June Meeting & Program

We need your help. As part of our effort to make this the "Year of the Museum" we are building our programs around the needs of the Museum. For this reason our June program and meeting will be held at the Museum.

The program will be an interactive project. Two walls in the kitchen area are going to be recovered with newspaper. One section has been covered with plexiglass to protect the original old newspaper, but the remaining areas were beyond salvage.

We need your old newspapers. Although we would prefer local area papers it is not essential. The newspapers that were covering the walls also came from New York and Cincinnati to name a few. The papers should be either old or historically significant. Examples of what we have received include: a 1939 Yancey Record with the announcement of the State Representative David Bucks passing and a 1972 Yancey Journal History Edition. Contributors will be given recognition as part of this display.

Newspapers can be dropped off at Bakers A to Z or you can call Jim at 682-3671 to make needed arrangements. So clean out that attic or basement and let's paper the kitchen.

The membership meeting will include a report on the knowledge and information gained by John Doyle and Jim Priesmeyer during the Southeastern Museums Conference that they attended last month. Following this report an open discussion will be held to determine the best use for what has been learned.

This will be a very important event for the future of our Museum. It is now time to formulate a use plan for the entire Museum. All individuals wishing to share their thoughts and offer their support in making these decisions will want to attend.

The meeting will be held on June 21st, at 7:30. Please bring a folding chair.



*Rolling back the clock...  
on the Home Guard Headquarters*



## THE CONFEDERATE

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It is fairly well known that the headquarters of the 111th Regiment of the Guard (covering several counties) was located in Burnsville, commanded by Brigadier-General John Wesley McElroy (one of only two officers in North Carolina to hold that rank). Who, however, were his subordinates in Yancey? While the membership of regular Confederate regiments is fairly well attested (e.g., in North Carolina Troops, A Roster, a multi-volume work which is available in the local library), lists of those who served in the Guard are much more difficult to assemble. Nonetheless, the following list has been assembled from the Adjutant-General's roster (by Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., North Carolina Confederate Militia Officers Roster). Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1992: I have corrected several spellings, and note that the list is far from complete.)

Lieut. Colonels: Leander Ray (resigned), William W. Proffitt, John Balus Gardner, and Creed Fulton Young (resigned).

Captains: James Bradshaw, William Robinson, David Hall, Pinckney Hampton, William Byrd, Hyatt Robinson, Suel B. Briggs, Nathan Ray, James Blankenship, Berry Creasman, James Bradshaw, Thomas Bailey, Nathan Day, Swinfield D. Howell, Logan Dellinger, John B. Gibbs, James R. Neill, Samuel T. Proffitt, Benjamin B. Whittington, William Howell, James W. Gardner, John M. Burgin, David Woody, David Tipton, Robert B. Edwards, Archibald B. McMahan, Jonathan Tipton, Nicholas W. McElroy, Israel J. Shepherd, Daniel R. McIntosh, Calvin Duncan, Malcom Bennett, and William Bennett.

2nd Lieutenants: Jackson Hensley, James Hensley, Leander Simmons, William Collis, Thompson Johnson, Malcom McCurry, Jesse Bailey, Stephen Phillips, James N. Edwards, William Rowland, Samuel B. (P.) Ray, Robert Maney, Allen Miller, Charles Byrd (Jr.), Jesse W. Duyck, James M. Fox, Benjamin J. Moss, Berry Stuart, William F. Duncan, Peter Howell, William J. Jones, and Charles F. Gibbs.

## Minutes of Annual Membership Meeting

April 26, 1997

The meeting in the Annex of Yancey County Public Library was called to order by John Young, President, at 7:30 p.m. with 25 members and guests in attendance. Mr. Young requested a motion for approval of the Minutes of the previous Membership Meeting, held in October, 1996. Sarah Proffitt, YHA members, reported a needed correction. The October 1996 Minutes gave her as having been a teacher at the Burnsville School. She said although she had been a student at Burnsville School, she taught at Bald Creek School later on.

Dr. Lloyd Bailey, Vice-President/Program Director, made a motion that the October 1996 Minutes, as corrected, be approved. His motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Presentation of the Treasurer's Report, prepared by Milidene Laws, Treasurer, with copies to members, was next on the agenda. John Young called for a motion to approve the report as presented; Art Brintnall seconded the motion brought forward by another member, and the Treasurer's Report

received unanimous approval.

John Young called on Jim Priesmeyer, Executive Director, to give his report. Mr. Priesmeyer announced gains made toward the Association's annual goal of \$40,000 via grants and donations; receipt of grants of \$10,000 and \$25,000 from the Hanes and Cannon Foundations, respectively, plus one donation of \$1500 for purchase of plants for the Museum grounds. The planting was done by volunteer Boy Scouts, with assistance from John Young, John Doyle and Jim Priesmeyer.

Mr. Priesmeyer reported that the spring cycle for receipt of grants was at an end, and the time had come for Association members to concentrate on fund-raising efforts. He stressed the importance of fund-raising in serving dual purposes of gaining financial aid and making a favorable impression on potential grantor organizations. He went on to announce the fund-raising dinner scheduled at the Garden Deli in Burnsville on Saturday, May 17, at 6:30

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### From the desk of the Executive Director

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to drive by the Museum lately. Have you seen the fine job of landscaping done by the Boy Scouts under the direction of our volunteer leaders John Doyle and John Young? Perhaps the new cedar shingle roof caught your eye. Maybe you noticed the porch roof has been removed, a window gone, other windows replaced and a new coat of trim paint. I know you've noticed the new restroom facility under construction next to the Visitor Center. You know, I would bet this is "The Year of the Museum".

I hope you had the pleasure of attending the Benefit Dinner. Our sixty-five guests enjoyed an excellent meal with fine entertainment. With their help, we raised more than \$500.00 for the History Association. Hard work deserves reward. The Annual Benefit Dinner gives us the opportunity to combine fund-raising and reward our supporters with a pleasant evening out.

The Museum Conference we attended will be discussed at length at our June meeting, but let me share two important tidbits of information with you now. We learned that the reason people go to Museums is because they can believe in what they find there. And Museums and Historic Sites are the third most popular travel destination in this country. This is "The Year of the Museum".

### Volunteer Highlight

All successful volunteer based organizations have individuals that keep it moving and ours is no exception. It would be difficult to name one individual who has done more than any other over the course of this Association's history. Even picking the one individual that has been most helpful during my short tenure is difficult. That having been said I would like to thank Norma Westall for the commitment and energy she has given to the History Association. Norma attends all meetings and has provided refreshments at membership meetings as well as the wonderful assortment she prepared for the Museum Hospitality prior to the Benefit Dinner. But most importantly she has loaned us the computer that allows me to write grants and this newsletter.

Be sure to thank Norma Westall the next time you see her.

Sincerely;  
Jim Priesmeyer



## Minutes *continued from page 2*

p.m.. - tickets on sale for \$25 per person. Jim said that the evening would begin with the Museum being open from 5 to 6 p.m. for the dinner guests, after which they would move on to the nearby Garden Deli for a delicious barbeque sampler meal and entertainment by renowned dulcimer player Don Pedi. He mentioned another highlight of the evening - each dinner guest would be given either an attractive poster or a set of scenic post cards.

Jim Priesmeyer ended his report by announcing the need to increase the membership, which now stands at a total of less than 50 members. He challenged members to work towards this by inviting others to attend meetings and become members of the Association.

John Young then called on John Doyle, Director, to give a progress report on the renovation work going on at the Museum building. He complimented John on his hard work and dedication to the project, and said that because of the faithfulness he had shown, the Museum would be open to the public later this year.

John Doyle began his report by stating that the \$35,000 will be spent on renovation of the kitchen area, roofing the building with cedar shingles and installing new poplar flooring in the kitchen area.

He mentioned that an off-white shade of paint is being used for the building's exterior, with brilliant white for window trim, and that of the three entrances, one is for handicapped visitors, complete with wheelchair ramp.

Mr. Doyle announced that the Town of Burnsville would begin construction on public restrooms in the area next to the Visitor Center on Monday, April 28, and that a 99-year lease on the restroom area has been signed. The project is being done under the guidance of Archives and History.

At the end of his report, John Doyle announced that he and Jim Priesmeyer would be attending a jump-start seminar in Columbia, SC, where they will learn the best way to open the Museum to the public and carry on its "living history" theme.

John Young reported changes needed in the YHA bylaws, which would require approval by members, and he asked Jim Priesmeyer to explain these needed changes to the members. Following Mr. Priesmeyer's explanation of these changes, which had been mailed to the members, John Doyle made a motion that the four changes in the bylaws be approved. The motion was seconded and received unanimous approval.

John Young then called Dr. Lloyd Bailey to present a slate of nominees to serve as

officers of YHA for the next term. Mr. Young explained that the nomination of someone for President would be made separately. Dr. Bailey named the following offices and nominee for each:

*Vice-President/Program Chairman:*

John Young

*Secretary:* Norma Westall

*Treasurer:* Milidene Laws

*Steering Committee:*

John Doyle, John Young

*Directors:* James Byrd, John Doyle

The motion for nomination of the members on the slate was made by James Byrd and seconded by John Doyle. John Young requested that a separate nomination be made for the office of President, and Hope Bailey nominated Dr. Lloyd Bailey, which was seconded by Norma Westall. The election of the slated nominees, and for the election of Dr. Lloyd Bailey for President, was made by a unanimous show of hands by members present, as requested by John Young. He also requested a show of hands of those in opposition to the election of these individuals, as a matter of form, with no one being in opposition.

John Young brought up the subject of Internet and available web sites, one of which, he said, had been created for non-profit organizations through the joint efforts of fourteen North Carolina counties. Dr. Lloyd Bailey named another site as being called "Alta Vista," and a short discussion on these web sites took place.

John Young asked if there was any other business for consideration before he turned the meeting over to program chair Dr. Bailey. Jim Priesmeyer requested a motion for the acceptance of the annual budget that had been mailed to the members. The motion was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Dr. Bailey then introduced the guest speaker Perry Deane Young, descendant of early Yancey County settler Strawbridge Young, and grandson of former Burnsville residents, Thomas and Virginia Dellinger Young, who once lived with their family in the McElroy/Ray house which is now being renovated by Yancey History Association.

Mr. Young's subject was the true story of Frankie Silver, who lived in the part of Burke County, Kona Community, which is now Mitchell County. She was the first white woman hanged in North Carolina for a capital crime, and died in infamy for the axe decapitation murder of her husband, Charles Silver, in 1831. Mr. Young's presentation, backed by copies of original documents, challenged much of the "traditional" version of this well-known story. Following the meeting many members

stayed to view "The Ballad of Frankie Silver," a newly released video tape which Mr. Young provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

*Norma Westall, Secretary*

## Museum Report

The current progress is best described as: minor delays offset by major gains.

The delays (supply side): the truck carrying our roof shingles mis-read a hairpin curve sign and did not defy gravity as it careened down an unblazed trail to the bottom of a ravine (no casualties reported); the custom miller of our poplar flooring thought he sent enough, but didn't, and will get us some more real soon. This is not made up!

The gains (all sides): The Town of Burnsville began the public restrooms adjacent to the Visitor Center. Careful design and planning by the Town guarantees the success of this joint venture for the Visitor Center / Museum Project.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded a \$25,000 grant for the construction of an ADA approved stair and walkway connecting the Visitor Center to the Museum. Most of the credit for the grant goes to Phil Trew and the staff at Region D Council of Government. This is a 80% matching grant which will require \$5,000 contribution from local sources.

Representative Bob Hunter has introduced a bill that includes a \$50,000 expenditure for the Museum into the 1998 State Budget. While we can not count on state funds until approved, it is good to know that our Rep. Hunter is at work for us.

Due to the incomplete flooring the Museum was not open, as planned, on May 24th, but we still hope to be open for the June 14th Clogging Festival.



# BECOME PART OF YANCEY COUNTY'S HISTORY

## Join the Yancey History Association!

### Members

|                   |                              |                            |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anna Horton Adams | Walter and Joann Peake       | Sharon Herring             |
| Timothy Babb      | James and Sarah Proffitt     | Devole Hollifield          |
| Dr. Lloyd Bailey  | April Riddle                 | Evelyn Howell              |
| Martha Bradshaw   | Aaron Smith                  | Tarleton Jones             |
| James Byrd        | Roger Tipton                 | Will Kleinwacter           |
| Theresa Coletta   | Robert Wolf                  | Herbert & Lelia Lorenzo    |
| Annie Mae Conley  | Dr. and Mrs. Garland Wampler | Linda McIntosh             |
| David Duncan      | John Ayers                   | Martha Priesmeyer          |
| Roy Hensley       | Evelyn Hope Bailey           | Betty Race                 |
| Dean Higgins      | Roger and Beverly Bard       | Cathy Sherman              |
| Dennis Howell     | Calvin Buchanan              | Jeffrie Standen            |
| Helen Hunnicutt   | Robert Cole                  | Martin and Barbara Webster |
| Louis King        | Brenda Collins               | Sharon Pate Wylie          |
| Milidene Laws     | Marie Davidson               |                            |
| Ray McCourry      | R.L. Haynes                  |                            |

### Donors

|                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Art and Gladys Brintnall            | Constance and Bradford Butler |
| Roger Derrough                      | John Doyle                    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gillespie, Jr. | Mary Phillips                 |
| William and Doris Victor            | Norma Westall                 |

### Sponsors

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carolyn Ray Cort, M.D.     | Tom Jobin Construction    |
| Dr. and Mrs. David Johnson | Theresa McClellan         |
| Sue Paris                  | Mack Ray                  |
| Neva Renaldo               | Walter and Ann Savage     |
| John and Denise Young      | Memorial Mission Hospital |

## Membership Drive Update

1996 Membership Total 51  
1997 Membership total 74

Please notify Jim Priesmeyer at 682-3671 if you find any error in the listing. If you do not see your name your membership has expired.

## ESTATOEE

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P.O. Box 1088  
Burnsville, NC 28714

**Estatoee (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:* Lloyd Bailey  
*Vice-President:* John Young  
*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

### MEMBER APPLICATION

#### Contributions Categories

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Member (\$10.00) Donor (\$25.00) Sponsor (\$50.00)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Any contribution large or small is welcome.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in contributing materials for the Yancey Museum project.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in providing work hours for the Museum project.

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

#### Yancey History Association

P.O. Box 1088  
Burnsville, NC 28714

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_