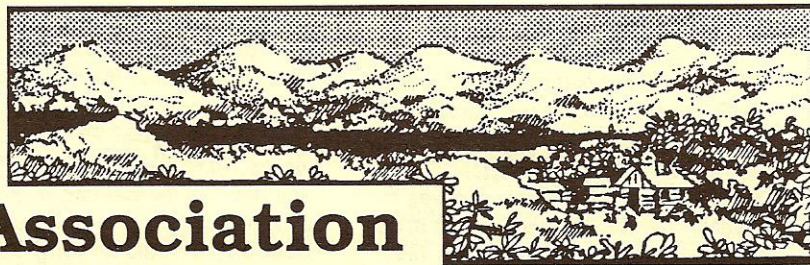


# ESTATOE

Quarterly Newsletter

## Yancey History Association



Volume XII, No. 2

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

July 1998

### Summer Program Series Continues

"Editors and Authors" at the Yancey County Library Annex

Following the brief membership meeting the History Association will present the second of a four part program series. All members are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. Voices from Cemetery Hill that was canceled due to illness will be rescheduled in September. The date and details will be in the next Estatoe.

Robert S. Brunk May We All Remember Well, Vol. 1

Thursday, July 23rd at 7:30. This first in a series of publications exploring the decorative arts, archaeology, folk art, architecture, photography and other aspects of European, Native American and African-American cultures of Western North Carolina. Mr. Brunk will discuss highlights of the 18 articles he has included in this book. As the owner of his own fine antiques and estate auction company he has seen rare items, many with local significance, each with a story to be told. The stories are beautifully told and the book is visually stunning.

Charles F. Price Hiwassee

Thursday, August 20th at 7:30. Mr. Price is a North Carolina native and a resident of Yancey County. Hiwassee is a story based upon his family's experiences in the western part of our state during the Civil War. This novel is the first in a trilogy with the second book due out next year. Mr. Price will talk about Hiwassee, as well as the second book which is set during the post War period of reconstruction. Watch for details in the Times Journal.

### Museum Report

Some of our steps are big - some are small, but they all move us forward. The "Trash and Treasure" sale was a big success netting the Association \$525.00. In addition to the income, nearly fifty people toured the McElroy House. We also were presented a check for \$200.00 by Association members Denise and Tina Matelski. The Matelski's shop "Something Special" has been running a Beanie Baby fund-raiser with the McElroy House as a recipient. In other news, the Town and County have voted to contribute \$2,500 each to the History Association operating budget. Finally, Jim has filed for back sales tax refunds from 1994 and 95 that will return over \$2,600 to the History Association.

**Volunteer Highlight** Among the most valuable volunteers any organization can have is the sort of person who sees the need for action, coordinates that action with the staff and then makes it happen. Our thanks to Neva Renaldo for her efforts in the "Trash and Treasure" Sale.

### Membership Meeting

May 16, 1998

The meeting held in the Annex of Yancey County Public Library in Burnsville, NC on Saturday evening, May 16, 1998, was called to order at 7:30 p.m., with 24 members and guests attending.

As the meeting began, a motion for approval of the previous Membership Meeting, held on November 18, 1997, was requested. The motion was made, seconded and received unanimous approval.

Presentation of the Treasurer's Report revealed a balance of \$3,001.77 in the Operating Fund and \$23.45 in the Steering Fund. Jim Priesmeyer announced that he had requested joint operational funding for Yancey History Association from the County and the Town in the amount of \$1,000/mo. for a period of 12 months, beginning July 1, 1998. He said he should soon learn if his request will be honored. Interim funding of \$2,500 has been allowed, he said.

A motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report and the annual budget as presented was given, which was seconded, and approval was unanimous.

The meeting continued with presentation of the Executive Director's Report by Jim Priesmeyer. For the benefit of those in attendance who were not familiar with the progress made with the projects undertaken by the YHA since Jim became Executive Director, he gave a review - as follows:

1. A new parking area was built on the Academy Hill Street side of the Museum building, which will provide parking and a second means of access to the Museum by visitors. Mission+St. Joseph's Health System rents some of the parking spaces from YHA for use by the Yancey Community Medical Center - Pediatrics, which is located on the south side of the parking area, and operated under the auspices of Mission+ St. Joseph's Health System.
2. The parking lot was landscaped and new plantings were done. The Boy Scouts provided volunteer labor for the plantings, which was supervised by YHA Steering Committee members. Plants were donated by Mission + St. Joseph's Health System.

(continued on page 2)

(Membership Meeting continued)

3. The Town did its part by building a Public Restrooms Area adjacent to the Visitor Center. The Town also arranges for service and upkeep of this area.
4. Renovation of the Museum building included; replacing the floor system in the kitchen and Living History area, flooring replaced with poplar flooring, new cedar shakes roof installed, exterior of structure fully refinished, and kitchen and kitchen walls prepared with old newspapers, some dated in the 1890s (donated by John Young, YHA Vice President).
5. Interior of the Living History area of the Museum building was painted, much of which was done by YHA Management and helpers.
6. The N.C. Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) sponsored construction of a stairway up the hill from the Visitor Center to the Museum building.

Jim spoke of the goals for further renovation of the Museum building as being replacing with poplar the rest of the old oak flooring, and of replacing the present front porch. He said the new porch will be constructed as near to the style of the original front porch as possible.

He said collection of items for display in the Museum when it opens is in the plans, and that papers are already being accepted. Acceptance of items of furniture, etc. will be delayed, he said, until a suitable, secure temporary storage place is found. He said that the upstairs of the old jail building had been suggested, but that repairs need to be made to the old building, including the leaky roof, before it would be suitable for storage of items.

He went on to say that the expense involved in needed repairs has to be considered. One suggestion for raising the funds needed for repairs, he said, was to apply for inclusion of the old jail building in the Register of Historic Places, in order to make it eligible for a grant to effect the repairs. Jim said the County Commissioners wouldn't go along with that, however. They said any money spent on making repairs to the old jail building would be wasted, as it will probably have to be torn down, he explained.

Jim returned to positive aspects in his report. He mentioned that the last audited review of Yancey History Association's records showed them to be in full compliance with State and Federal requirements, with the exception of minor clauses. He added that YHA membership has increase from 28 to 116 since he has been the Executive Director.

Four Estatoee Newsletters have been compiled and published each year, he added. He spoke of the grants he has applied for to various foundations, giving the names of each foundation, the amount of each grant, and which have been approved of those he has written.

He went on to tell of the first program which took place at the Museum, and of the interest those in attendance showed in what has already been done by way of renovation to the building and future plans for the Museum when it opens. All seemed to enjoy the "talking-walking" tours of the building he gave, he said.

Jim told of the fundraiser dinner which was held, which would normally turned out positively. He said, however, that it proved only to be a break-even event, which he would not recommend repeating in the future.

He announced that Neva Renaldo is planning a "Trash To Treasures" sale at the Museum building, the proceeds of which will go toward YHA expenses for further goals, date to be announced.

Jim also mentioned YHA's appreciation to the Mountain Air Resort in Yancey County for the display in its main lobby regarding Yancey History Association and the Museum.

He mentioned the meetings he has attended with representatives of the State in order for more outreach to take place with regard to securing funding from the State. Jim mentioned Betty Ray McCain as having been of valuable assistance toward this goal. He said that some funding may be possible in the short session of Legislature.

After Jim finished presentation of his report, the slate of new YHA officers was presented, as follows: John Doyle, President; Lloyd Bailey, Vice-President; Tim Babb, Treasurer; Milidene Laws, Director; Larry Howell, Director; and Norma Westall to remain Secretary. A motion was made to accept the slate of officers as given, which was seconded, and the officers as named for the positions given were considered approved by unanimous decision.

The floor was then given to Lloyd Bailey, YHA President, for his presentation of the program for the evening. Lloyd's subject was his newly-published second volume of the set of historical books entitled The Heritage Of The Toe River Valley - Avery, Mitchell And Yancey Counties, NC, of which he is author of many of the articles within the volumes, as well as Compiler and Editor.

Lloyd told of the wars which have taken place: French and Indian, Revolutionary, The War With Mexico, Civil War, and smaller confrontations, such as the Battle of Little Big Horn and others; and how each of them (whether one made the connection), as having each been a part in making the Toe River Valley and its residents what we and they are, and how we conduct our present-day lives.

Lloyd brought these battles home to his listeners by mentioning names of men who were members of families whose names are still familiar to us. He mentioned "he" who survived, unbelievably, the horror of war and lived to return home to this mountain area from which "he" left.

Those who attended the meeting at which Lloyd spoke will long remember hearing for the first time that there were survivors of

Custor's group, who lived to bury those killed by the Indians, and that the survivors came from this area.

He went on to tell how education began and how it survived in schools such as the Yancey Collegiate Institute and Stanley McCormick School (which became Carolina New College). We were introduced to the dedicated teachers who taught at these and other schools in the area, and how their examples and teaching made better citizens of those who would have otherwise gone astray.

Lloyd told how religion and the churches in the Toe River Valley were an important, if not the most important, part of our heritage (meaning the churches as people rather than just buildings).

We learned from Lloyd's program that had we not had ancestors who thought of, and took time to, record the means of our heritage and those who brought it about, as through faithfulness and diligence to the causes that made the Toe Valley, and our whole country; had these stories of the brave and the true, of the caring and considerate in our mountain area not been passed on by word of mouth and by those who had learned to write, along with the knowledge of the horror that went on in murders, robberies and of destruction that also took place, our Toe River Valley heritage would have been lost to us.

**If you have old letters or books dating from the mid to late 1800's or that are otherwise significant to the history of Yancey County, the History Association is offering a home for the safe keeping of these items.**

## **ESTATOOE**

*Published Quarterly by the  
Yancey History Association*

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:** John Doyle

**Vice-President:** Lloyd Bailey

**Treasurer:** Tim Babb

**Secretary:** Norma Westall

**Directors:** Miladene Laws, Larry Howell

**Steering Committee Members:** John Young,

John Doyle

**Executive Director:** Jim Priesmeyer

# CAPTAIN WILLIAM ("Bill") MOORE

By Lloyd Bailey

William Martin Van Buren Moore (6/20/1834 - 5/1/1899), commonly called "Bill" or "Captain Moore," was one of Yancey County's best known citizens during his lifetime. The title "Captain" derived from his service in the Civil War. Memory of him is kept alive, not merely by his descendants and by his home in Burnsville ("The Captain Moore house," now being renovated for the county museum of history), but by a curious and misunderstood tombstone for his second wife (more on this below).

He was born near Washington College-Limestone, TN, the son of John ("Jackie") Moore and his wife Sarah Hundley/Huntly/Hunly. Family tradition (related to me by his descendant, Luster Gold Smith) has it that John had lived earlier in Virginia, moved to Maryville, TN, then to the Washington College area.

Family tradition (related to me by my grandfather Willard Ray) has it that Sarah Hundley was an orphan from New Orleans, of French descent, whose family had come there from the "India Islands" (= the West Indies, where the only French-speaking islands are Haiti, Martinique, and Guadeloupe; Captain Moore, he said could speak some French, and would do so when drunk). However census data (1850, 1880) states that Sarah was born in Tennessee. Likely, therefore, the "India Islands" ancestry is a generation back (?).

John Moore, aged 30, is shown in the 1850 TN census (Washington Co., #697, 4th Subdiv., East Dist.), farmer, b. in VA, cannot read); wife Sarah, 43, b. in TN, cannot read); and various children (excluding William M., who was living with his brother David at the time). John and Sarah are in the 1860 Wash. Co. census (#589, Dist. 5, p. 172), By 1870 (#115, Dist. 5, p. 222), John is living alone (Sarah apparently having died). In 1880 (Dist. #5, #245) John is shown as aged 87, living next door to his son Taylor.

John and Sarah reportedly are buried in the "Macarthy Cemetery near Washington College" (said my grandfather), which I take to be the McCarty Methodist Church Cemetery (on Highway 11-E, three miles from Jonesboro toward Knoxville). I visited the site around 1991, found some Moores buried there, but no marker for John or Sarah (presumably their graves are marked with fieldstones).

The will of John Moore (Wash. Co. Book No. ?, p. 424) is dated 1/23/1880 and probated at the July Term of County Court, 1881. His children (named) are to receive \$1.00 each, save for son Taylor who is to receive "all the rest residue and

remainder of my real and personal estate...in consideration for the care and kindness he has shown me in the last eleven years past."

The children of John ("Jackie") Moore and wife Sarah are as follows:

I. Mary ("Polly") Ann (1826-??), married William C. Husk on 8/28/1847. Shown in the Wash. Co. census in 1850 (#2090).

II. John Simeon (12/?/1827-19??), who married Susan Clark (1831-19??), on 8/15/1848. Lived near Limestone, TN, and had a large family (at least 11 children).

III. David Stephen (1829-??), married Isabella Rogers, on 10/5/1848. Shown in the Wash. Co. census (#826). He was a tailor by profession; "went west" after the Civil War.

IV. William Martin (1834-1899), the subject of the current sketch, on which see more below.

V. James M. (1837-??), married Augusta A. Phillips (sister of his brother William's wife). Lived at Washington College, TN; shown in the 1850 census in his father's household (as "James D."); in 1860 (#1051) and 1880 (3rd Dist., #167).

VI. Alexander Doak ("Alec"; 4/28/1839-12/22/1908), married (1st) Nancy Phillips (sister of brother James and William's wives) on 1/10/1858. Lived at Limestone/Broylesville, TN, on farm next to brother Simeon; buried on the family farm (no trace remains of grave). Shown in 1860 Wash. Co. census (#567, in Dist. #5); 1870 (#37 in Dist. #3); 1880 (#245, 3rd Dist.); 1900 (#86, 3rd Dist.). He was a basket maker, with a beautiful surviving example of his craft.

Nancey had formerly been married to John C. Brown and had children.

Alec married (2nd) Mary Maupin (d. 12/10/1907 in 1900 (no children).

Among his children was Julia (Ann? 1858-1946), who went to Texas (where her half-brother, Tom Brown, worked on the Goodnight-Adair Ranch, now the J.A. Ranch, one of the largest in the U.S., near Amarillo). She married there Leonidas Charles Beverly. She was a talented person: refined, educated, did paintings, played violin and piano; liked to talk to her children about life in Tennessee; had unusual premonitions of deaths in the family which came true.

VII. Elizabeth Jane ("Lizzy"; ca. 1839/40?-??) married John Lovegrove on 6/16/1859. Shown in the 1850 Wash. Co. census (p. 114); 1870 (3rd Dist., p. 202).

VIII. Ebenezer M.L. ("Ebb"; 1844-??), who may have "gone west" after the Civil War.

IX. Landon Taylor (5/11/1847-11/8/1898). Married Mary Elizabeth Loegrove (1847-1912), on 2/6/1868. Lived at the parental home; County Commissioner; was in the Union Army, but because of his young age, he was assigned to haul freight on the Mississippi River. Buried at Paynetown (near Telford, TN). Shown in the Wash. Co. census: 1870 (Dist. 5, #110); 1880 (Dist. 5, #246); 1900 (Dist. 5, #6); 1910 (Dist. 5, #110); he raised a large family (13 children), many of whose descendants still reside in TN.

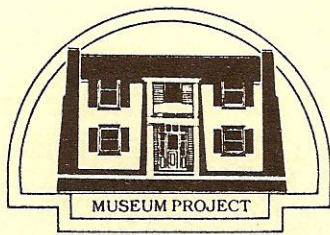
William M. Moore (#IV) was born in Blount Co., TN. His middle name was Martin, and he was generally known as Martin Moore as he grew up. For some reason, he apparently did not like this name, and after he moved to NC changed it to Milton (it is reflected, e.g., in his obituary, and some of his descendants were named William Milton). He was a tailor, apprenticed to his brother David, and I have the massive, long and narrow iron he used during this period of time. He was also employed as a brick-maker, working on the first building erected at Washington College.

He married Timandre Phillips (6/28/1835-1/12/1887), in Nov. of 1853 (license issued in Wash. Co. on 10/24/1853). She was the daughter of John and Sarah (Honeycutt) Phillips of TN (but, according to census, born in NC). Two of her sisters married her husband's brothers. Her obituary ("Memoir"), written by Burnsville's Methodist pastor W.B. Baldwin, states that she joined the Methodist Church at the age of 13, and describes her as "gentle, confiding and amiable, (possessing) a sweet loving nature that shone out in a beautiful life, a life of tender kindness..." It describes how she kissed the face of the small dead daughter, Martha, pointed with her head toward heaven, and said, "Farewell, thou sweet one, till I meet you up yonder."

This couple remained in Washington Co. until after their first child, Laura Alice, was born in 1854. Thereafter, they moved to Burnsville in Yancey Co., NC, where the next child, Sarah Elizabeth, was born in 1856. They are shown there in the 1860 census (#4, apparently in the town of Burnsville); William M. Moore, 25 (tailor, born in TN); Timander, 23 (b. in TN); Laura A., 5 b. in TN); Sarah, 3 (b. NC); Mary, 1 (b. in NC).

When the Civil broke out, he enlisted (volunteered) in the Confederate Army, NC Regiment 16-C. His service record

(continued on page 4)



## Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088  
Burnsville, NC 28714

*"Preserving Our Mountain Heritage"*

*(Captain William ("Bill") Moore continued)*

shows that he enrolled on May 1, 1861 in Burnsville; reported sick in Bonner Hospital in Aug. of that same year; discharged at Richmond, VA, in Dec. because of "general debility."

His "debility" disappeared, however, and he recruited a company of local soldiers for the Union Army. This automatically entitled him to the rank of "Captain," when he enrolled at Knoxville, TN, on 3/13/1865, in the 3rd NC Mounted Infantry, Co. G. Kirk. This was a smart move on Moore's part, since the War was then almost over, and he would be eligible for a pension). His pension file mentions an "injury of left ankle and right elbow," which he received while "erecting a fort or stockade, at Boone, Watauga Co., N.C., April, 1865." He says that this has produced rheumatism in his arm and shoulder (1890) and that he suffers from "affliction of the heart and nerves and general debility" (1896). Subsequent pension request were files by his 3rd wife after his death.

Apparently just after the War, he sold his house in Burnsville for \$900.00 to J.L. Hyatt. The property is described (in a Superior Court case at the Spring Term of 1873) as "a house and lot of land in the town of Burnsville adjoining the lands of M.P. Penland and others, and there known as the (Jacob) Straley property and now known by the name of the Hyatt house." Apparently, Hyatt had not been making payments on the note in a timely fashion. Moore presumably now lived elsewhere in town.

After the War he became interested in law, and studies with a local attorney, Don Wilson. Descendants have vague memory of hearing that he rode on horseback to study at U.N.C. in Chapel Hill. He was

admitted to the bar in 1868, encouraged, I suspect, by the so-called "Twenty Dollar Lawyer Act" of that year (Public Laws of N.C., 1868-69, Chapter XLV) whereby anyone of good character could be licensed to practice law upon the payment of a \$20 fee, with no requirement of training or examination.

In that same year (1868), he was elected (Republican) State Senator (serving 1868-1871). This election took place under so-called "reconstruction" when the South was under military rule, resulting in the so-called "Carpet-bagger Legislature." In any case, this legislature produced a much-needed new constitution for North Carolina that was to serve for the next century.

Captain Moore, an intelligent and industrious student, attained a considerable measure of proficiency and respect in the legal profession. County and Superior Court records show that he was involved in many major civil and criminal cases. Toward the end of his life, he was nominated for a Superior Court Judgeship, with the support of a number of attorneys from the area.

At the Fall term of Superior Court, 1869, he was tried for breaking open "the door of a certain store house of one A.J. (Andrew Jackson) Brown and J.L. Hyatt (James Jervis is mentioned later in the document as "clerk")...and with a strong hand enter the said house..." Apparently, the issue was the settlement of Moore's store account (mostly his liquor bill), and whether an amount had been credited. The document does not indicate the disposition of the case. At the Fall Term of Superior Court, 1870, the jurors (Grand Jury?) "on oath present Wm. M. Moore for an assault on Urving Ray with a knife."

In 1870, he was still living in Burnsville

(household #8 in the census of that Township). In December of that year, he wrote to his oldest daughter, Laura Alice, and her husband Sylvanus Hill Gold, then residents of Washington Co., TN. He reports, in part: "Alice, we have had a very fine (revival) meeting here, even in Burnsville! Our cousin, John Boring, was here (as the preacher). There were 23 (who) joined the Church and 23 professed religion. Three of them were (your sister) Sallie, (your sister) Mary, and your Paw. The meeting lasted 10 days." He then goes on to report some hold-outs to conversion (Hyatt, Robert (s?), and Jn. Knupp), and others who were converted (John Woodfin, James McCanless, and Dr. Houston).

The Rev. John Boring was a well known Methodist clergyman in the Holston Conference. This is rather interesting, in view of the fact that the Captain reportedly later attributed his conversion to his second wife (a member of the church if the Brethren), and in view of the fact that he was a charter member of the Burnsville Presbyterian Church in 1896!

From the year 1873 there survives the ledger of his store account, apparently at J.L. Hyatt's store. (Another document speaks of the store of A.J. Brown and J.L. Hyatt, and I know that the former had a store on what is now Green Mountain Street, about where Yancey Graphics now sits.) Conspicuous among the items charged (to list a few instances) are: one quart brandy (\$1.00), 6 drinks, 2 drinks brandy, ½ pint brandy, 1 drink brandy (10 cents), etc. (Apparently he stopped in regularly and had one for the road"!)

*(The next section of this article will be continued in the next ESTATOEE newsletter).*