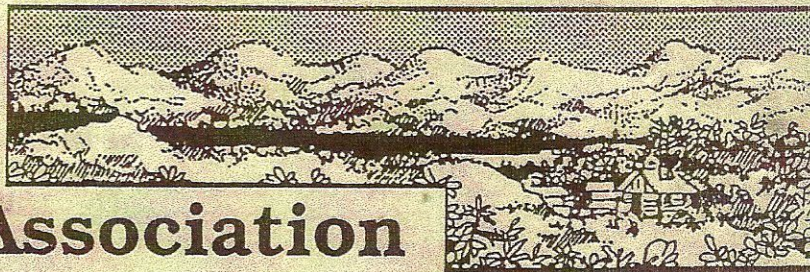


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Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XIII, No.3

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

September 1999

Thank You Contributors

The first phase opening of the Rush Wray Museum of Yancey County History would have been hollow without the generous Gifts and Loans from the following individuals. These items are currently on display and only represent a partial list of donations received.

Deeded Gift

- Lloyd Bailey - Still confiscated by Sheriff Terry Hall, 1952
Barbara & Doug Brown - NuWray Inn Guest Registers , 1920-90
Charlotte Derrough - Black Bonnet & Shawl, circa 1880's
- Black Vail, circa 1900
- Two China Sugar Bowls, circa 1900's
John Gunn - Bank Note with Bartlett Yancey on Face, 1856
Francis Higgins - County Documents, 1834 & 1838
W.C. Hyatt - Civil War Era Post Office Box for Burnsville
Mike Ledford - Confederate Bayonet of George W. Byrd
Keith Presnell - Burnsville Academy Friendship Album, 1887-90
Paul Sorrels - WWI Army Uniform of Stacy Sorrels
Alma Sheppard - Stanley McCormick Herald, 1926
Dorothy Westall - Quilt made by Plantation Slaves, circa 1800
- Bedspread with Crochet Fringe, circa 1820
- Lace Trimmed Christening Gown, circa 1900
Robert & Jean Weynand - Diploma from Stanley McCormick Inst.
Robert Wilson - Reproduction Civil War Flag, 6th Reg't N C V
Yancey County Library - Two Children's Books, 1918 & 1926
Perry D. Young - Page from Family Bible signed by J W McElroy

Permanent Loan

- Arlon Harris - Collection of Civil War Bullets & Mini Balls
Rabon Robinson - Soap Stone Bowl Collection, circa 3500 BC - AD 500
- Axe Head and Hand Tools, circa 3500 BC - AD 500
Dorothy Westall - Confederate Civil War Sword of Grandfather S. Carter
Hope Bailey - WWI Summer Naval Uniform of Grady Bailey
John Young - Hattie Ray Whittington Kitchen Table, circa 1850
Bob & Shelba Thomas - WWI Ship Yard Picture of returning Troops

Loan for Display

- Jeffrie Standen - Collection of 1940's Memorabilia
John Young - Arrowhead and Projectile Collection,
circa 12000 BC - AD 1700

We would also like to thank the following for generous contributions -
Something Special - \$600, Erwin Burhoe - \$500, Sue Paris - \$500,
Rush Wray House B & B - \$300, Walter & Ann Savage - \$200, The Cort
Family - \$125, James Floyd - \$100, Shelba Thomas - \$100, Vera
Gregory - \$100, CraftPride Gallery - \$100.

Thank You Volunteer

for working so very hard to make the final preparations to open our County Museum.

The momentum required to complete the work for the Museum opening began when the Higgin Methodist Church Youth Group jumped in to prepare the first room in the McElroy House for paint. The upstairs and downstairs Hall were prepared for paint by Project Challenge.

The definition of the ultimate volunteer is some one who will do what it takes to get the job done. This group did it all, mopping, vacuuming, painting, cleaning windows and display cases, addressing invitations, yard work and so much more. Our thanks to Llewellyn Estep, John Doyle, Jessica Newton, Selba Thomas and an extra big thank you to Keith and Jennie Johnson and Jeffrie Lynn Standen.

One of the finishing touches that gives the Museum warmth are the curtains donated by Renee and Armin Wessell. Our thanks to the Wessells, their daughter Amanda, Becky Gillespie, and Jennifer Rowland who transformed the donated fabric into curtains.

The Grand Opening Celebration was made complete by Charlotte Derrough and her entire family. They provided the beautiful flowers and served the refreshments provided by Roge Derrough and Earth Fare. Thanks to Preston Hinson for providing the sound system.

Finally special thanks to the Yancey Common Times Journal for the interest and support shown in this project.

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Event Schedule for The McElroy House Fall 1999

Home of the Rush Wray Museum of Yancey County History

Interpretive Historic One Act Presentations

Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm

There is no set Admission charge - Donations will be requested and greatly appreciated.

Seating is limited and Reservations are suggested.

" A FINAL FAREWELL "

September 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th

This interpretive historical one act presentation premiered this past June to a full house. By popular request the Yancey History Association has decided to remount this show for a return engagement. The play, set in May of 1865, finds John Wesley McElroy preparing to make his final departure from the home that he built in the early 1840's. Faced with possible retribution for his command as Brigadier General of the N C Home Guard, during a war that he personally opposed, McElroy reflects back on the happy times that included his family and his roll as a prominent founder of Yancey County. This powerful piece of theater has been written by Museum Director Jim Priesmeyer, who also portrays General McElroy under the direction of H.F. Smith.

"FREEDOM'S ALTAR".

September 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th

The Burnsville Little Theater will lend its talent to bring this five character adaption to life. Select portions of "Freedom's Altar", by Charles F. Price, will be performed as a readers theater presentation. If you enjoyed "Love Letters", "Spoon River Anthology" or the old days of Radio you are sure to enjoy this play. "Freedom's Altar" follows the critically acclaimed "Hiwassee" as the second book of a trilogy. This segment of the ongoing story is set during the Civil War reconstruction period. Mr. Price is a native Western North Carolinian who now makes his home in Yancey County.

"A FOND FAREWELL"

October 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th

Written as a companion piece to "A Final Farewell", "A Fond Farewell" continues the story of the McElroy House. William Martin Moore was the second notable owner of the McElroy House. At the beginning of the Civil War Moore served as a private in the Confederate Army. Moore was serving as a Captain in the Union Army at the end of the war and later as a State Senator during the period of Reconstruction. Donn Cook will bring Moore's character to life sharing the story of his colorful life on the last day he spent in the house May 1899.