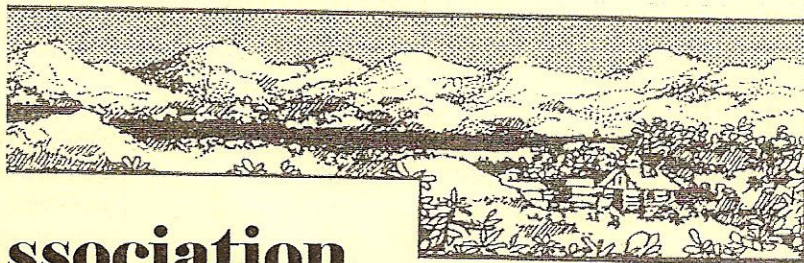


# ESTATOOEE

## Quarterly Newsletter



# Yancey History Association

Volume XIX. No. 3

*Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage*

Late Summer/Fall 2010



## North Carolina State Archives

The Traveling Archivist Program visited the YHA facilities in March of 2010. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, Harry Kenner, PhD, Consulting Archivist and Historian met with Elaine Dellinger and Howard Smith to visit and assess the facilities owned and operated by the Association. Findings of the visit concluded that:

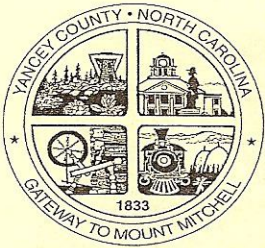
...Over the past thirty years the Association has struggled to restore and furnish the McElroy House and the Rush Wray Museum as a local history museum. With the help of gifts and grants progress has been made, but much work remains. The greatest challenge is raising funds to install a modern HVAC system. Without heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer (and the associated lack of humidity control), the collection of furniture, textiles, photographs, paper and other organically based materials are subject to accelerated deterioration. Fluctuation upward and downward in temperature create mechanical stress as objects expand and contract...

...In summary, the McElroy House is both a blessing and a curse to the Yancey History Association. The building is an important example of early nineteenth century architecture and its large rooms provide excellent exhibition space. The house is beautifully sited above Burnsville's commercial district surrounded by an open area of great potential as gardens and the future site of the (Proffitt-Cousins), 1860s log cabin which is being moved from its present location on Jacks Creek. McElroy House, in its current state, absorbs all the Association's available resources simply to maintain the physical integrity of the house with little hope for long term capital improvements...

At the suggestion of the archivist, the association is also looking into placing UV protective coverings for all of the windows of McElroy House and the greater annex building. This is to be done in the very near future.

With the emptying of one of the apartments in the annex, the archives and collections will be moving to the second floor of the annex and expanding the capabilities for proper storage of those historic materials which are being donated to the association.

*(Speaking of sharing...do you have something you might wish to share? There are several ways in which you can do just that. One is an out and out donation, in which you turn over the articles to the association to be used in a manner they deem appropriate, and also receive a tax credit as YHA is a non-profit organization. You can also donate by specifying you wish the article to be on permanent loan. You can also loan an article on a short term. It all depends on you (and your heirs). Further information regarding this possibility can be obtained by contacting the association's office.)*



## LOCAL WRITERS SEEK YANCEY PHOTOS FOR HISTORICAL BOOK

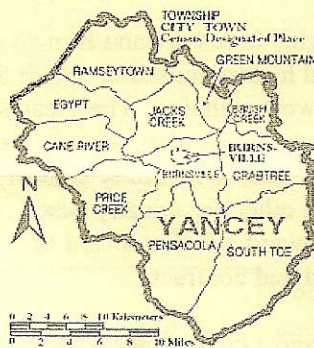
Arcadia Publishing has chosen Yancey County as the featured site for the next book in the

*Images of America* series. This book will be distributed across the country, and will feature up to 200 photos of historical interest in Yancey. The authors, Elaine McAlister Dellinger and Kiesa Kay, will be on the lookout for significant photos of longtime families and features of this area. To make an appointment to share photos and anecdotes for this project, please call 828 284 5003 or email [yanceybook@yahoo.com](mailto:yanceybook@yahoo.com). Elaine and Kiesa will be available on Wednesday afternoons upstairs from the Yancey Historical Association office, and you're welcome to drop in then or set aside a time that works for you.

Elaine is a longtime resident of Yancey County and secretary of the Yancey Historical Association. She has been the force behind many projects of local interest, and has several cemetery books to her credit. Kiesa is the editor of two educational anthologies and the author of a historical play performed at Rocky Mountain National Park.

"We plan to feature each of the townships of Yancey County in separate chapters, creating a book that can offer pleasure and information about our fine region for many generations to come," Kiesa said.

Elaine and Kiesa hope that many folks in Yancey County will contact them with photos and anecdotes to share.



**MUSEUM HOURS**  
Wednesday through Saturday  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

*(Holiday & Special Events  
to be announced)*  
828-678-9587

## WAZUP?...

As members of the Yancey History Association we hope you drop by every now and then and feel the pride our hard working volunteers, staff and board members feel. This summer a truly amazing group of people has come together to work and polish the various areas associated with the association. There are still a number of 'old-timers' who are the backbone of the organization and added to them have been some outstanding volunteers who have pitched in and brought a great deal of talent to our crew. This issue will feature those folks and perhaps give inspiration to other members to become more involved in the many activities.

The parking lot is a good area to start the survey of the museum complex. Notice anything about the McElroy House? Does it look refreshed, perhaps even sparkling? We can thank Sara Cochrane, Phyllis Duenas, Larry Parker, Milo & Hannah Karpisek and our tireless President, Bob Wilson for that look. Sara, Phyllis and Larry have been hard at work sprucing up the landscaping, pulling weeds, trimming shrubbery and attacking the dread *KUDZU* that has overtaken many areas of the yard. Add to that the talents of Milo & Hannah, and their past experience with Habitat for Humanity, and they continue to apply fresh coats of paint to the outside as well as the inside of the house. Larry Parker, with his experience as a contractor, and Bob Wilson will be taking the task of completing the removal of the log cabin out on Jack's Creek, so the early 1860s structure can be resurrected on the grounds and become part of a great complex of buildings representing early Yancey County. (Help with this project will be greatly appreciated – please call the office for information regarding this – and to sign up.) See also the report about the Traveling Archivist on pg. 9 of this issue

Returning to the office in the Annex, we have some wonderful office helpers in the persons of Marilyn Oakley and Vickie Fortune. They along with Larry Parker have been made available to us through various work grants – Work Force and State of Franklin. They have been busy making order out of mild chaos and we are so grateful for their presence.

As some of you may be aware, the organization has renters in the upstairs facilities and with the loss of one of these, the organization will be using the vacated rooms to enlarge the museum's archives and storage facilities once the rooms have been brought up to archive standards.

Our genealogy library continues to expand and serve the needs of those wishing to research the early settlers into our area as Elaine Dellinger searches for additional materials for the collection. The Ce-Nan Gift Shop, located in the front area of the office complex continues to add new materials that might be of interest to the many visitors & shoppers we have experienced this summer.

Finally, on your way out of the museum complex, notice the mural that is being painted on outside of the annex's north wall, by our local artist, Rhea Ormond. It is going to cover a large area of the wall and depicts the history of Yancey County through the eyes of a modern day hiker with his cell phone & iPod going through history with Confederate soldiers, settlers and Indians.

**Museum Volunteers needed...**

- Provide tours during operating hours
- Dress in Period clothing for events
- Grounds & building maintenance
- Maintain displays
- Assist office staff
- Work in Genealogy library
- Assist with fund raising and/or grant writing



Please call 678-9587 and let us know your area of interest.

**2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE SOON**

We trust you will be renewing your membership dues very soon. The membership period is for the calendar year. January to January. Simply complete the enclosed form and return it along with your check payable to:

**Yancey History Association  
3 Academy St.  
Burnsville, North Carolina 28714**

**YHA Calendar of Events for 2010**



**September 15, Wednesday 12:00 noon** - Picnic luncheon for staff, board and volunteers. A thank you for all the work being done and planning sessions for the October Yard Sale and Holiday Displays at both the McElroy House and the Annex.

**September 16, Thursday, 12:00 noon** - Board Meeting with planning session for the October Annual meeting of members. All participants are asked to have their various reports and the budget ready to present.



**October 2nd, Saturday at 12:00 noon**— Annual Meeting - all members invited as our guests for a luncheon meeting. Our speaker for the event will be announced shortly. Members will be called or should call the annex office with their RSVPs.



**October 8th & 9th, Friday and Saturday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.** Yard Sale to be held in the upstairs area of the Annex. Funds gathered from this event will be used to continue the updating of the various museum materials as discussed on the report by the State Archivist on page 9 of this issue.

Fall Fund Raising will also take place when the 'van Bourgondien' fall bulbs will once again be available through the association's office, Board members and volunteers. Call the office for further information regarding this event.



**November 5th, 6th, 12th & 13th.** The first candlelight tour will be held on the Friday the 5th beginning at 4:00 and lasting until 7:00. A High Tea will be held on Saturday, the 6th, beginning at 2:00 pm and lasting until 4:00 pm. Candlelight tours will commence after this until 7:00 pm. A final candlelight tour will be held on the 12th, beginning at 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Weather date for the High Tea will be Saturday, Dec. 13th.

**Yancey History Association, Membership Application - 3 Academy Street, Burnsville, NC 28714 - 828-678-9587**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

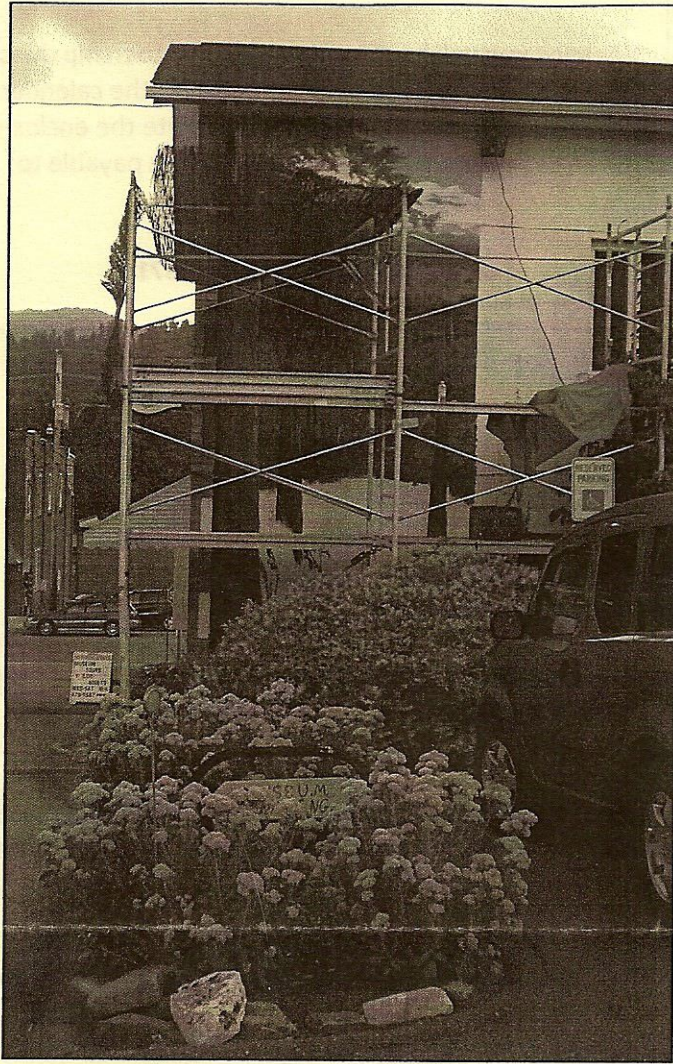
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR FAMILY: (example: Bailey) More? Please add a sheet. LOCATIONS: (example: South Toe)

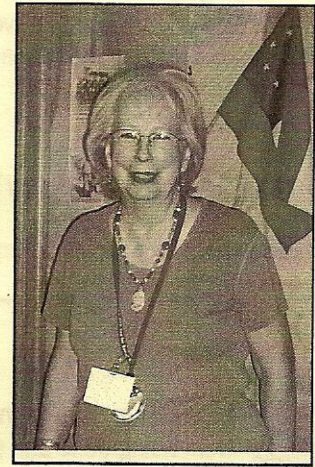
Check here if you do not want your information to be used in the YHA Family Database.

Dues for 2011  (check here) or (if multiple years list) 2010 to \_\_\_\_\_

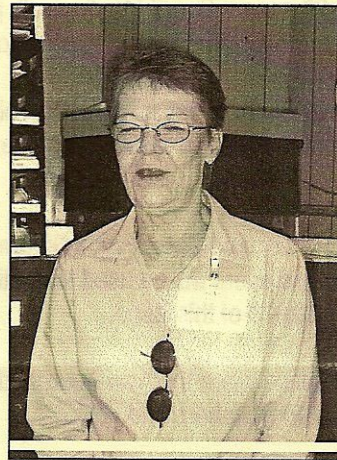
Become part of the Rush Wray Museum and Yancey County history today! Volunteers are needed in the office to answer phones & assist visitors; the genealogy library and to serve as docents (guides) for touring the McElroy House; work in the Heritage Herb Garden; help with various events and living history - dressing in period costumes. Something for everyone and membership offers discounts and admissions to all venues associated with the organization.



*Mural being painted on the north wall of the Annex by local artist Rhea Ormond*

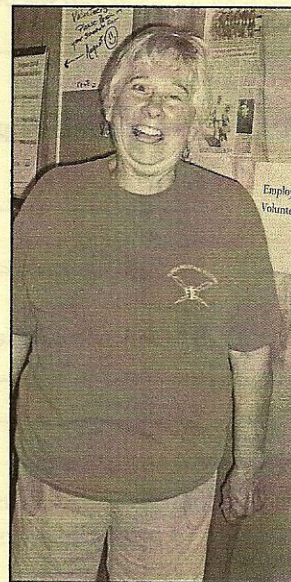
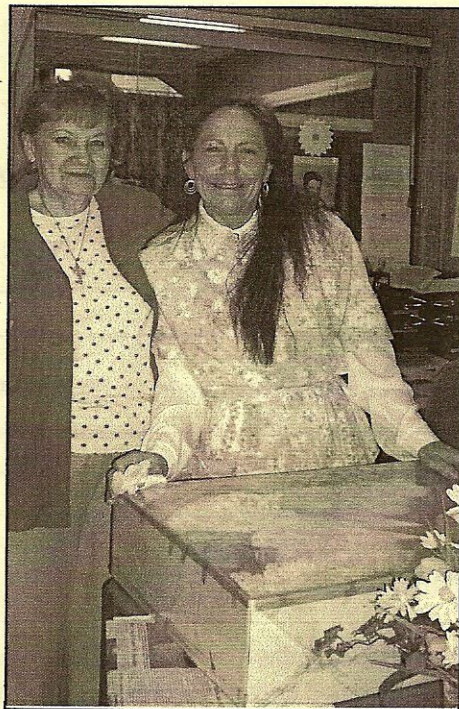


*The glue that holds our organization together, Elaine Dellinger, Secretary to the Board.*



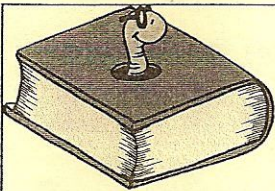
*Vickie Fortune comes to us through the auspices of State of Franklin grant and is the Administrative Assistant.*

*Admiring a new acquisition (a wedding gown) donated by volunteer, Sara Cochrane, is, left, Sue Lynch, newest of our volunteers. Marilyn Daneen Oakley, at the right, comes to us as our Receptionist/Clerk through the assistance of the Work First Program.*



*Phyllis Duenas, this happy lady, came as volunteer this spring and has been working hard to make the garden a spectacular space. She and Sara Cochrane have worked tirelessly, and it shows!*

*More pictures of 'helpers' - God bless them - next issue.*



### Thoughts from the Library

If you are looking for that special Christmas gift consider giving a book. The costs of these mentioned are slightly more than they were when first released due to their being rare.

We also have several volumes of Lloyd Bailey's Toe River Valley Heritage Books Volumes 3, 7, 8 and 9. Call soon to reserve your copy at: 828-678-9578.

The association has obtained a few limited copies of some very much in demand yet out of print publications including: *Cabin in the Laurel*; *State Troops and Volunteers Vol. 1*; *Mountain Myths*; and *The Flood of 1977*. Copies have been added to the genealogy library as well as having a couple of copies for sell in our gift shop.

### IMAGES OF YANCEY! Starting Bid will be \$100.00

We have two copies which we will be auctioning by Christmas. Please watch the local paper for dates and times. A second copy will be auctioned during our Christmas Candle Light Tours or Tea held in early November this year! Also one rare copy of *Volume Two of The Toe River Valley Heritage Books* will be auctioned during the Annual Meeting in October the starting bid price will be \$200.00.

### Don't Miss This Opportunity!

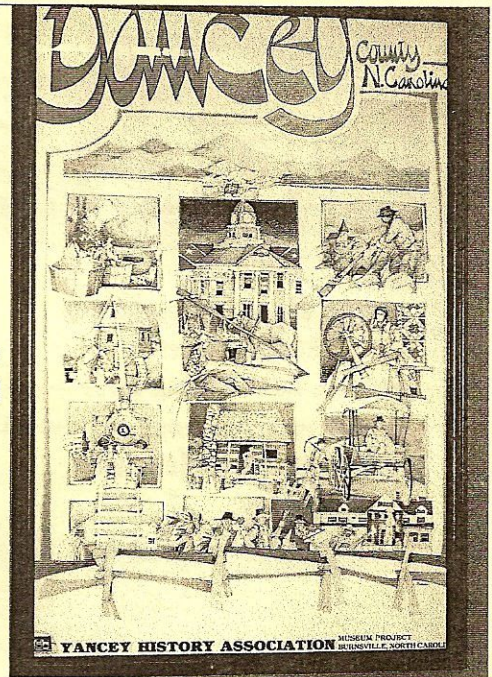
Renowned Artist John Doyle, who chose to make his home in Burnsville in his later years, donated these posters printed from works done in the 1980s. They are being sold by the Yancey History Association and Rush Wray Museum. These are beautiful pastel art posters and depict the early settler's daily life in Yancey County.

There are only a few left, so don't be disappointed.

Signed and numbered posters \$10.00, unsigned \$5.00.

Pick one up at Yancey History Association

Wed-Sat - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



### HISTORIAN REVIEWS NC's CIVIL WAR COUNT – as reported in the Asheville-Citizens Times - August 2010

Josh Howard, a research historian with the Office of Archives and History in Raleigh, has begun a search for the numbers of North Carolina Civil War soldiers who died in that war. He is going, man by man looking for the deaths. According to the Greensboro News & Record of August 9, 2010:

Howard is reviewing the military records of every Tar Heel who served in the 1861-1865 war, as the state prepared to mark its sesquicentennial.

For years, shortly after the war ended, North Carolina has said that it sacrificed more men to the Confederate cause than any other state – 40,175. That is twice the figure for South Carolina where the war's first shots were fired. SC suffered the second highest toll at 17,682.

The figure for the N.C. deaths was attributed to an 1866 Federal study done by General James H. Fry, then U.S. Provost Marshall General. He and his clerks examined Union and captured Confederate muster rolls and regimental reports to determine the toll from fighting, disease, accidents and those who died in prison.

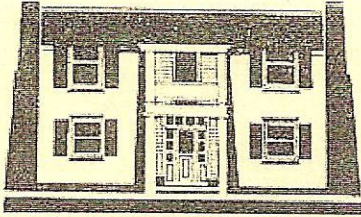
According to Mr. Howard, clerks relied on incomplete records sometimes counted the same case twice, and identified units as being from North Carolina when they were from another state. Additionally, some records were lost and some casualty reports have been exaggerated.

"Officers did that to keep the enemy in the dark," said Howard.

If N.C. numbers are wrong then any number of other states could be wrong, because they all based their numbers on the same resources. The researcher is basing his review on a 17 volume roster of Tar Heels, who served on either side of the conflict. (The roster was begun in the 1960s to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war.) Some units were not included in the series and Howard will also be referring to the National Archives in Washington, DC. The records of 140,000 men are to be examined.

...Many died from battle, but most died from other causes such as: disease, drowning, lightning strikes, suicides, bar fights, train wrecks, riots, execution for desertion, accidental shootings, collapsing buildings, sun stroke, insect and snake bites, falls or being run over by wagons.

The Garner Chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is assisting Howard and is also working on its own study. Once both have completed their research, results will be thoroughly compared and final reports made public.



McElroy House, c. 1840

stamp

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3 Academy Street  
Burnsville, North Carolina 28714

Estatooe Quarterly Newsletter

Check the date!  
Are your dues up to date?

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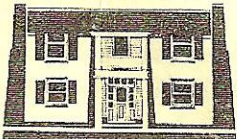
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**ESTATOOE**  
Published Quarterly by the Yancey History Association  
Deadlines—15 January, 15 May, 15 August & 15 October

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.

**Officers and Staff Directory**

Editor: Vivianne Bradley  
Contributing Editor: Elaine Dellinger  
President: Bob Wilson  
Vice-President:  
Treasurer: Vivianne Bradley  
Secretary : Elaine Dellinger  
Historian: Nancy Shaw  
Board of Directors: Jake Blood  
Shirley Bryant

Staff: Vickie Fortune  
Marilyn Oakley  
Larry Parker

Thanks to Joel Robertson for the many services he has provided to the association this year.

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