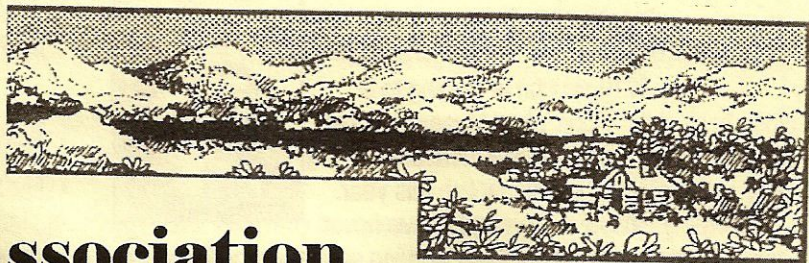


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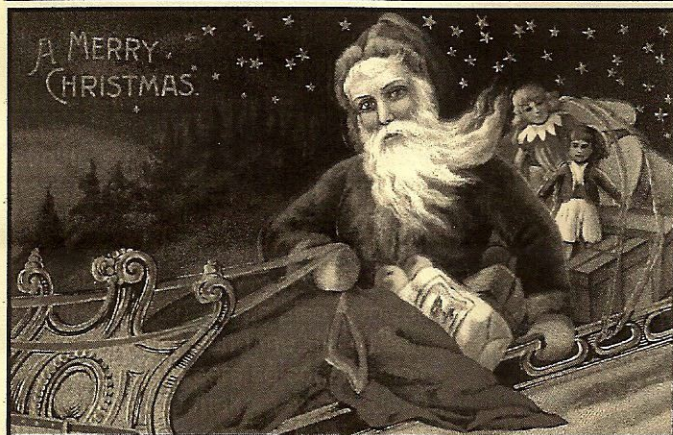
Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XIX, No. 4

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage Fall & Winter 2010



MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE FILLED WITH PEACE AND JOY!

The members of the Board of Yancey History Association wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This has been an outstanding year at the association - even with the economic situation and each of us having to be a bit more careful how our money is spent. Our loyal members contributed their dues but several have generously given larger amounts to help expand the work the association is doing. The Town of Burnsville and Yancey County agreed to further fund our group and the we have accepted for assistance by the Yancey County United Fund.

YHA has been fortunate in working with the State of Franklin who has supplied us with three part-time paid employees who make it possible to staff the office Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 4. For the first time, ever, we hope to have the office open during the winter months when Marilyn Oakley, Vickie Fortune and Larry Parker will be work to bringing the archives, facilities and files into shape for the 2011 season.

With the help of Milo and Hannah Karpesik, McElroy House sports a fresh coat of paint outside as well as many rooms within the house. Sara Cochrane and Phyllis Duenas spent hours of blood, sweat, and no doubt a few tears, in bringing the yard and gardens into outstanding beauty. Our loyal President, Bob Wilson was always available for direction and assistance with the work that was accomplished during these activities.

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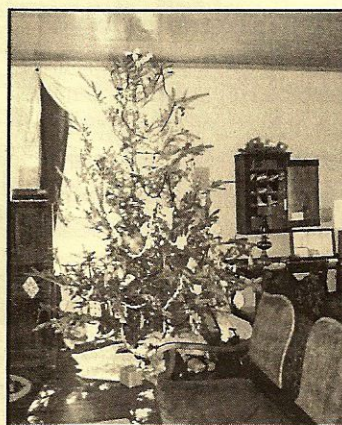
If you were fortunate to take a tour of the house/ museum this past summer you would have heard the lilt-ing voice of our resident story teller, Maggie Cann. Maggie was born in Ireland, raised in Scotland and she and her husband have finally settled in our area for their retirement. Her talents are a great asset to our tours.

Chris and Jim Carter were also new to our organization and as 'professional' Civil War re-enactors they are excited to be working with plans for next year - the 150th commemoration of the Civil War. Chris was also involved in the beautiful Christmas decorations and the High Tea.

We always need more volunteers so consider joining this outstanding crew, where you make new friends and learn more about this special place we call YHA

2010 Christmas Tours and High Tea A Huge Success

This photo can't begin to tell the beauty that was brought to the McElroy House this holiday season.



Many hours of work were put into the event where guests remarked this was "the prettiest the house had ever looked." Candlelight tours began on Friday, November 5th at 4:00 p.m when members of volunteers and staff were available to conduct the program dressed in period costume.

The original date for the high tea was scheduled for November 6, early this year in order to take advantage of the warmer weather and more visitors to the area. Wouldn't you know the event had to be postponed because of promised snow showers? It finally took place on the following Saturday, November 13th, when tea-drinkers were treated to luscious food, a talented singer, Larry Parker, and a house filled with memories of the past. Especially lovely was the large dining room filled with attractive tea tables and period toys supplied by Dixie Styles and Bob Wilson, among others.

Our organization is so fortunate to have so many willing participants - staff, volunteers and guests.

President's Report

The 2010 season is coming to a close here at the Rush Wray Museum. Looking back I think we can feel a measure of pride in what we have accomplished this year. The McElroy House and grounds have never looked better thanks to our hard working staff and wonderful volunteers, without whom it would not have been possible. All this hard work has given the museum a more inviting look. We have also endeavored this year to offer a variety of events that would attract new visitors to our facilities. The barbecue lunch to honor Vietnam veterans; "Miss Maggie's" Irish storytelling for children; our living history series with a World War II pilot and a vintage wedding gown exhibit are a few examples of this effort. I am happy to report that all this hard work by everyone has paid off and we have had an increase in the number of visitors to our museum this year. There are still many projects inside and out that need to be completed and with you, our staff and volunteers all working together we can accomplish these in the coming new year. It is the goal of The Yancey County Historical Association to make The Rush Wray Museum something the whole county can be proud of.

With best wishes, *Bob Wilson*

Bob Wilson has been a faithful servant for the Yancey History Association. Members should be very grateful for such a loyal officer and we are indeed indebted to him and his last three years as President.

Bob's last official act was to preside over the Annual Meeting of the Members' of YHA held on the evening of October 14th in the Community Room of the Blue Ridge Fitness Center. There was standing room only as members and their guests came to hear reports from the past year's YHA activities and plans for the future. An elections was held and those newly elected officers will be introduced in another section of this issue.

A special treat was provided by local author and mineralogist, Lowell Presnell and his presentation about the mines, mining and minerals of the western North Carolina region. He brought a number of specimen found in the area and had interesting tales from his experiences with them and the area. Members were disappointed when we were unable to ask further questions at the end of his presentation, but we hope to ask him back for further discussions at a later date. (There was a time deadline for vacating the building.)



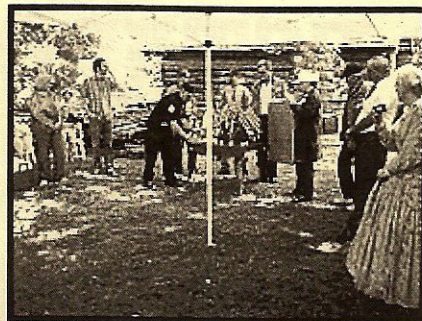
Further reports from Bob continue on the following column.



BBQ Lunch Honoring Vietnam Veterans

The Yancey County History Association hosted a barbecue lunch for local Vietnam veterans and their

guests on Saturday July 10th. The purpose for the event was to honor the men and women who honorably during the Vietnam war era. The lunch was held on the grounds of the Rush Wray Museum. The program featured Walter Savage as our guest speaker; special music by Don Harmon and Colette Blankenship; photo exhibits and a special candle lighting ceremony to honor their fallen comrades. Volunteers and YHA staff were on hand in period dress to provide guided tours of the museum, to assist with the activities, and to serve lunch. The event was a great success with over fifty people in attendance. Many of the veterans expressed their gratitude to the History Association for remembering their service. It was a day of camaraderie, sharing memories and having fun that we will long remember. Our only question was why did we wait so long to honor these special members of our community? Last but not least we owe a debt of gratitude to John Brown for his delicious barbecue. Thanks also to our staff and volunteers for making this a very special day.



BOOK SIGNING PROGRAM AT RUSH WRAY MUSEUM.

On Thursday September 9th The Yancey County Historical Association kicked off the Mountain Literary Festival with a program featuring Edward F Logan, Jr. author of *Jump, Damn It, Jump* - a memoir of a downed B-17 pilot in World War II. The program was held in the Living History Room of the Rush Wray Museum. Mr. Logan's presentation detailed his Army Air Force career. The main focus of his talk was his 34th combat mission of March 15th, 1945. During the operation to bomb Graz, Austria his B-17m bomber sustained severe damage. He and his crew were forced to bail out over enemy territory. Mr. Logan told of his rescue by Slovenian partisans who helped him evade the German troops looking for him and helped return him safely to his base. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, refreshments, and a book signing. This was the second program in our living history series and everyone in attendance agreed it was a most informative and entertaining. Copies of Mr. Logan's book are available at the YHA gift shop located in the Lloyd Bailey Annex.

MUSEUM HOURS

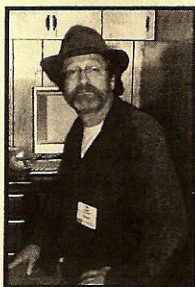
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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

Email: yhmuseum@frontier.com

NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TAKE THE HELM!

As mentioned in the previous article, one of the duties of members, when they attend the Annual Members' Meeting is to elect a slate of officers, approached and nominated by a nominating committee. Dixie Styles and daughter Stacy Laughrun gracefully agreed to take the task. (They also provided delicious refreshments, along with others, for the meeting and YHA is so grateful for their assistance with this.) The following are those elected:



Jake Blood

Jake Blood, who has served as a Member of the Board, for a number of years, agreed to be the **President**. He is a 29-year Air Force veteran where he served as an intelligence officer in a number of positions, including the Chief of Intelligence for Special Operations Command in Korea and Professor of Strategy and Intelligence with the National Defense Intelligence College in Washington, DC. He grew up in rural Northern Idaho and was naturally drawn to the mountains of Western North Carolina when it came time to retire. He, his wife Cynthia, a 21-year Army veteran, and their dog Tigger Rex, have built a home just outside of Burnsville. Jake is active in the community as a board member of the Yancey County Cultural Resources Commission; the Traditional Voice Group, Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina; is chair of the Burnsville Main Street Advisory Board and is a founding member of the North Carolina High Peaks Trail Association.

He also volunteers with Healthy Yancey; works with the county on the Yancey Transportation Task Force and the town on the Small Town Economic Prosperity (STEP) Program. He is also an avid hiker (maintaining a portion of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail from Mt Mitchell to Higgins Bald for the Carolina Mountain Club) and collector of books about the Black Mountains and the Toe River region of Western North Carolina.

Sandy Whitehouse is new to our Board and was elected as **Vice-President**. She moved to Yancey County full time 5 1/2 years ago. She has owned property in the county for many years. Sandy is "semi-retired" and works as a Real Estate Broker with Carolina Mountain Realty. She was secretary of the Edgefield County Historical Society (in South Carolina) and worked on many projects there including starting up the Olde Edgefield Pottery and won an award for her "Concerts in Historical Places" program. She lives with husband, Dr. John C. Whitehouse, in the Pensacola area.



Sandy White-

Also elected that evening were **Elaine Boone** whose ancestors have called Yancey County for many generations. She is **Director at Large** along with **Ruth Banks** another descendant of early pioneers.

Jeanne Miller, a grade school teacher, has agreed to become our **Historian**. More information on these ladies will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.

Top 10 indicators that you've become a geneaholic

10. You introduce your daughter as your descendent
9. You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to, even though you're related
8. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name
7. You have more photographs of dead people than of living ones
6. You've even taken a tape recorder and/or notebook to a family reunion
5. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but you also understand it
4. The local genealogy society borrows books from you
3. The only film you've seen in the last year was the 1880 census index
2. More than half of your CD collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees
1. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more places than Elvis!

ASAFOETIDA, ANYONE?

By Lloyd Bailey

My blessed old grandmother, Lillie Bailey, was born on Jacks Creek in 1886 and spent her entire life there. She would sometimes tell me of the fearful epidemics that plagued the area and the desperate remedies that were applied, often in the absence of medical attention, to combat them.

There was, for example, a "pig plaster" (pig manure) applied to the jaws to alleviate the pain and duration of mumps (an especially dangerous affliction for adult males).

There was "sheep tea" (made by dissolving sheep manure in warm water), to be consumed in order help the measles "break out." (This disease killed more soldiers than bullets during the Civil War.)

For the never ending scourge of scabies ("the itch") there was a liberal application of sulphur and lard (the smell of which announced your affliction for some distance) or a hot bath containing the extract of the root of the poke-plant (so painful that a second treatment was seldom desired!).

My grandmother did not mention this one, but for tuberculosis ("consumption") there was rattlesnake meat pickled in "white lightning." Sam Cresawn, who lived below Little Switzerland, was so well known for gathering the serpentine ingredient for this remedy that he was known as "the snake doctor." (See CABINS IN THE LAUREL, 1991 Edition, p. 187, or much better, the 1935 Edition, facing p. 161.)

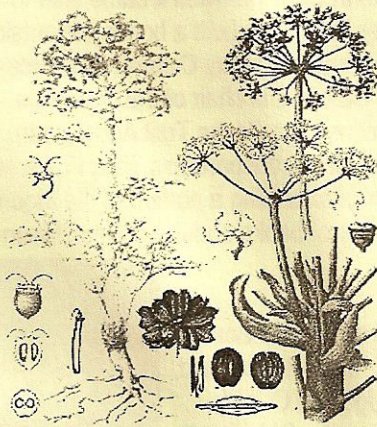
This brings us to the subject of asafoetida which, said my grandmother, was placed in a small cloth bag and worn around the neck in order to ward off diseases. Recently I talked to an elderly resident of Bee Log who could distinctly remember this not-so-pleasant experience.

The name "asafoetida" is derived from a plant's name: Persian asa ("gum") and Latin foetida (English: fetid, "stinking"). So powerful and nauseating is the plant's raw extract that it is called, in French, merde du diable ("the Devil's shit"). So pungent and penetrating is its aroma that it needs be sealed in a container that is then placed in a larger one. Nonetheless, when cooked in food, it is alleged to produce a mild desirable onion/leek flavor. Modern chefs in the West use it in soups, stews, and stir-fried vegetables. It is also a common ingredient in Worcestershire Sauce.

The perennial plant, Ferula assafoetida, sometimes known as "giant fennel") is native to Iran and Afghanistan. It was brought to the Mediterranean area by returning Greek armies and then became a great favorite for addition to food by the Romans. In addition, it has been claimed (especially in India) to have curative powers for fighting influenza and asthma, as well as an aid to digestion, as a contraceptive, and for reduction of flatulence. In the Caribbean, it is applied to the head in order to ward off "evil spirits."

It can easily (and cheaply) be ordered on-line for those who wish to enjoy its benefits! My guess is that its value, in epidemics, was no so much curative as it was in keeping people at a respectable distance and thus reducing contagion.

Asafoetida



Ferula scorodosma syn. *assafoetida*

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Asterids
Order:	Apiales
Family:	Apiaceae
Genus:	<i>Ferula</i>
Species:	<i>F. assafoetida</i>

Binomial name

Ferula assafoetida
L.



The commemoration of the 150 year anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War is taking place during this year. YHA has great plans for this event and should you wish to participate, please feel free to get in touch with the office to offer your time and talent.

Y.H.A. Proposed Calendar of Events - 2011

March - Stroll Through the Garden - Daffodil display March 10 - 25th. There is also the possibility of an indoor yard sale.

April - Season Opening - April 1st. - Rush Wray Museum (McElroy House)
Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's (1861) beginning

May - June - May 13th - June 26th - Bridal Gowns through the Ages. There may be a tea and fashion show the middle of June.

July 1 - August 27 - Remembering Our Local Veterans - Veterans' exhibit in the annex and the museum.
New Project. - Recording the faces and stories of our veterans.

September - Quilting, A Stitch in Time - Quilts on display all month in the museum - more than 100 years of quilt making.
Craft Classes - Old - time crafts will be taught in a half day session
Literary Festival Speaker
Genealogy Conference in the Annex - Proposed date - a Saturday early in September

October - November - Childhood Memories - Antiques toys of display covering more than 125 years of history.
Annual Bulb Sale - Fund Raiser.

November - 4th & 5th and 11th & 12th Christmas Candlelight Tours from 4 - 7 PM , the 4th & 5th and the evening of the 11th from 4 - 7 PM.
Christmas Tea on Saturday, November 12th, from 2-3 PM and 3:30 - 4:30 PM. Candlelight tours from 6 until 7 PM that evening.

These dates are subject to change and you are encouraged to watch your local newspaper and to listen to the local radio station for additional information or for latest update in news & activities coming from the Yancey History Association.



Members, please remember that your membership is in effect from December to December and it is now time for you to renew if the date, included on the label on the back of this newsletter shows either Dec. 2009 or Dec. 2010. Please fill out the form below and return to the Yancey History Association's office at the address listed on the form. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Treasurer/Membership Chair - 265 Penwith Lane, Burnsville, NC 28714. Your generosity allows this organization to grow and thrive. Being a member offers special benefits of free tours and gift shop and book discounts Thank you!

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

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
EMAIL: _____ FAX: _____

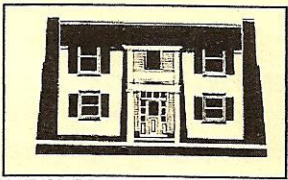
SURNAMES ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR FAMILY: (example: Bailey) More? Please add a sheet. LOCATIONS: (example: South Toe)

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) 2011 to _____

Dues: Individual \$10 _____ Family/Donor \$25 _____ Sponsor/Business \$50 _____

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.

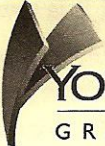


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Check the date!
Is it time to renew
your membership?



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Young and McQueen Grading Company is a regular sponsor of the YHA newsletter - thank you.

Rosemary Banks has been so helpful with financial questions and YHA would like to say a special thanks to her.

Rosemary B. Banks

Certified Public Accountant

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Suite 2
Burnsville, NC 28714

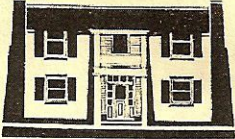
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Estatooe (es-to-toe-e)
Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the name Towe or Toe River is derived.

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Editor & Treasurer: Vivianne Bradley
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Historian: Jeannie Miller/ Nancy Shaw
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