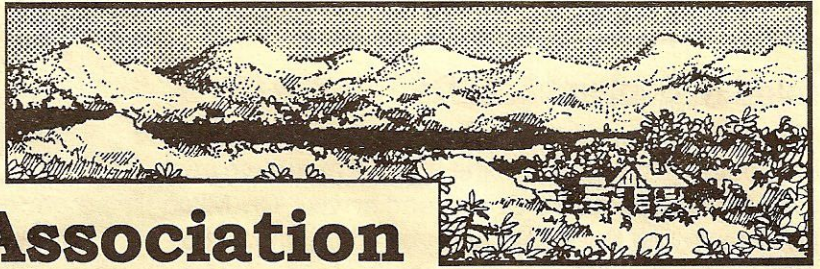


ESTATOEE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XV, No. 2

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Summer 2003

The History Museum Nears Completion

The restoration of the Historic McElroy House came one step closer to completion with the reconstructed Greece Revival Federal style front porch and the topped up chimneys.

This phase of the restoration also included replacing the upstairs porch entry door with a six light over six light window, which has brought a whole new dimension to the upstairs hall with its grand view of Main Street and the abundance of interior natural light.

The Yancey History Association is most grateful to the JANIRVE Foundation of Asheville for funding this important portion of our restoration project.



Sheila Kay Adams Returns

During the McElroy House first phase opening, in 1999, Sheila Kay introduced us to a few of the interesting characters she calls family "bless their hearts."

Thanks to the combined efforts of Y.H.A., the Toe River Arts Council and the event sponsor, the Asheville Art Museum, Sheila Kay returned to give us a most entertaining update on the goings on in the Sodom Laurel Community where she grew up and still calls home.

The crowd of about 100 visitors, who for the most part were first time visitors to the museum, enjoyed what was our most successful traditional entertainment event to date.

UPCOMING HISTORY MUSEUM EVENTS

Sunday, September 7 - Dr. Timothy Silver

In 1857, eminent geologist Dr. Elisha Mitchell fell to his death on the slopes of the highest mountain east of the Mississippi River. On an earlier visit Dr. Mitchell had measured the peak, and visited again in 1857 in order to back up his claim. Mitchell's death was tragic, and in honor of his accomplishments, the name of the highest peak was changed to Mount Mitchell. In 1915, a bill was introduced that established Mount Mitchell as North Carolina's first state park.

Dr. Timothy Silver, a history professor at Appalachian State University, has recently authored a book on the area, entitled *Mount Mitchell and the Black Mountains: An Environmental History of the Highest Peaks in Eastern America* (Chapel Hill, 2003). Drawing on a wealth of sources, including his own experiences, Dr. Silver has woven together a masterful history of the Black Mountains and the impact that humans and nature have had on the highest peaks in the east.

At 2 p.m., on Sunday, September 7, 2003, Dr. Silver, a native of the area, will be presenting a program on Mt. Mitchell and the Black Mountains.

Saturday, October 4 - Family Heritage Day

A wide range of Yancey County Family Historians will be on hand to share information with visitors who are in search of their families past. Last year Y.H.A. members Margaret Griffith, Frances Higgins, Elaine Dellinger and Gwen Bodford brought a mountain of knowledge to this event. We invite all Y.H.A. members to contact the museum if they would like to come out and share their family history information. We are also inviting a large array of family historians from surrounding counties to this year's event.

Sunday, October 5 - Sharyn McCrumb

In 1861 the Civil War reached the mountain South—where the enemy was your neighbor, the victims were your friends, and the wrong army was whichever one you joined. When Malinda Blalock's husband, Keith, joined the army, she dressed as a boy and went with him. They spent the war close to home in the North Carolina mountains, acting as Union guerrilla fighters, raiding the farms of the Confederate sympathizers, and making as much trouble as they could locally. As hard-riding, deadly outlaws, Keith and Malinda avenged Confederate raids on their kin and neighbors. McCrumb also brings into her story the larger-than-life narrative of the historical political figure Zebulon Vance, a self-made man and Confederate governor, who was from the mountains and fought for the interests of Appalachia within the hierarchy of the Confederacy.

Linking the forces of historical unrest with the present-day stories of mountain wisefolk Rattler and Nora Bonesteel, McCrumb weaves two over-lapping narratives. It is up to Nora Bonesteel and Rattler to calm the Civil War ghosts who are still wandering the mountains, and prevent a clash between the living and the dead.

Critically-acclaimed New York Times author Sharyn McCrumb, a descendant of the McCurry's and Arrowood's of western North Carolina, will be reading and signing from her latest masterpiece, *Ghost Riders*, at 2:00 p.m., at the Parkway Playhouse. Proceeds from this event benefit the Yancey History Association and the Museum of Yancey County History.

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 28 & 29, Dec. 5 & 6 McElroy Holiday House

Plans are under way for the expansion of this popular event to two weeks this year. The museum has already received commitments from several local interior designers to decorate the house. Y.H.A. is looking for volunteers to help with this year's gala. Call Jim Priesmeyer if you would like to join the fun.

Saturday, December 6 - Charles Price

Award-winning Yancey County writer Charles F. Price, author of the acclaimed *Hiwassee* series of historical novels about 19th-century Southern Appalachian life, will sign his new book *Where the Water-Dogs Laughed* during the McElroy Holiday House celebration.

Where the Water-Dogs Laughed (High Country Publishers, 2003), recently released, has already been hailed by Appalachian writer and storyteller Gary Carden as "a drama of epic proportions" marked by "faultless research", "sparkling with wit, anecdotes and folklore" and "bristling with buffoons, villains, pining lovers and obsessed folks – obsessed with greed, vengeance and dreams".

His works include *Hiwassee: A Novel of the Civil War* (Academy Chicago, 1996), now acknowledged as a mainstay of American Civil War fiction; *Freedom's Altar* (John F. Blair, 1999), winner of the Sir Walter Raleigh Award as the best fiction of the year written by a North Carolina author; and *The Cock's Spur* (Blair, 2000), which *Independent Publisher* chose as one of the Ten Outstanding Books of the Year published in the United States. The same magazine also named Price Story Teller of the Year. *The Cock's Spur* went on to garner the Clark Cox Historical Fiction Award of the North Carolina Society of Historians.



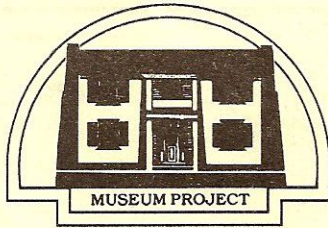
Jennie Johnson (on left) and Charlotte Derrough, who donated the dress form for the display, (on right) and Hope Bailey (not pictured) were instrumental in the acquisition of the favorite concert gown of world renowned pianist Lili Kraus. Receiving the dress on behalf of the museum is President Keith Johnson from Ms. Kraus's daughter Ruth Pope.



Sarah Proffitt, long time Y.H.A. supporter and retired school teacher, is one of many subjects of Jonathan Hillyer's outstanding Living Photo Exhibit on loan to the museum through October.



The Broeder Collection: Henry was a cobbler and a farmer. Crescentia was the Mayors daughter. Her father did not approve of her marriage and as was the custom of the day in that circumstance he gave her a trousseau (hope chest) filled with the items a new bride would need to set up house keeping: clothing, linen, china, silverware, cookware and the usual household furnishings. The gifts filled seven trunks which the newly weds would surely need since the gift was also accompanied by two one way tickets to the United States. The Broeders land fall to their new country occurred in the form of a shipwreck. The six other families that made the Atlantic crossing lost all their possessions while the seven Broeder trunks some how made it to shore. It seems Crescentia found some meaning in seven families and seven trunks because she divided the possession, giving one trunk full to each of the families that had endured the same trauma that she and Henry had survived. That gift of sharing has created the Broeder collection at the museum through the kindness of Sue Broeder Paris. Most of the furniture (including the victrola above) on display in the museum is on loan from this collection. "Thank you Aunt Sue" from the curator, Jim Priesmeyer.



Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714

The Museum of Yancey County History

Located in the McElroy House

11 Academy Street
Burnsville, NC 28714
(828) 682-3671

Admission \$1.00

Museum Hours

April & October

Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May - September

Wednesday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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ESTATOOE

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Estatoe (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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