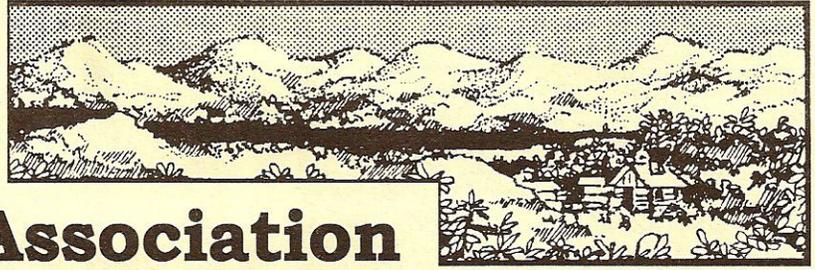


ESTATOE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XIV, No. 2 & 3

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Summer/Fall 2000

Politics, Leadership and History

One of the first rules of Museum Management is, never get involved in politics. The reason is simple, the elected official you support today may not be in power tomorrow making future funding requests awkward, if not impossible. A second reason for historians to take great care in approaching the topic of politics involves the time line separation between history and current events. The outcome of an election instantly becomes a part of history, while the outcome of a political action may take decades or perhaps centuries of debate to determine the historical impact of the action.

History teaches valuable lessons about politics. History assesses current events and then separates Politicians from Leaders.

We often hear our politicians make reference to the great wisdom of our nation's Founding Fathers. During the political season some candidates make it quite clear that his or her opponent does not measure up to the level of integrity of the Founders. A fair question might be which, if any, of the candidates can measure up to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence?

Who were the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? They were well-educated and affluent men who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to the American Revolution. They each knew the penalties they risked for signing that piece of paper and many did indeed pay a heavy price for their conviction.

The British captured 5 of the Signers and charged them with treason, they died in chains. Another 9 died as the result of their military service during the Revolution. Several of the Signers lost sons in battle and one lost his wife who died in an enemy jail. At least 8 had their properties looted and another 7 lost their homes to confiscation or destruction.

During the Battle of Yorktown British General Cornwallis set up headquarters in the home of 1 Signer who urged General Washington to open fire on his own home. The reward on this selfless act left this man to die bankrupt and in poverty along with at least 5 other Signers.

These men, with the support of their wives and families, gave us the freedom and independence we now enjoy. Far too often we take these liberties for granted. Far too often we allow the politicians to lead us to believe that they are the equals of the Signers. They could be. They should be. They will be, only when the people require them to lead rather than run for office.

Museum Report

As any one who has ever started a new business knows the second year is usually the most difficult. However the second year of a new enterprise can also be most rewarding. Our Museum's second Season has been indeed been both difficult and rewarding.

This has been the fifth attempt, in as many months, to produce the *Estatoee*. The increase in activity and the decrease in available time have created the difficulty. The steady increase in interest in Yancey County's Historic Preservation is the reward.

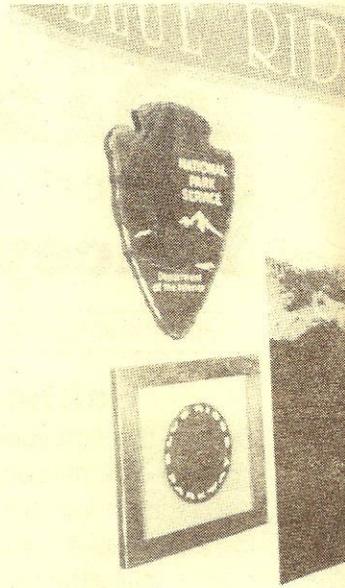
With so much going on it is nearly impossible to relate all the activity in words alone. So please accept the notion that a picture is worth a thousand words. As you look through your *Estatoee* take pride in knowing that you have made all this possible and your donations will continue the work.

The next edition will spotlight this year's contributors and their contributions.

There will be a Yancey History Association meeting and program on Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 PM at the Library Annex. Bill Carson, from the Orchard at Altapass and Y.H.A.'s own Margaret Griffith will present "The Revolutionary War and its Connection to the Toe River Valley".



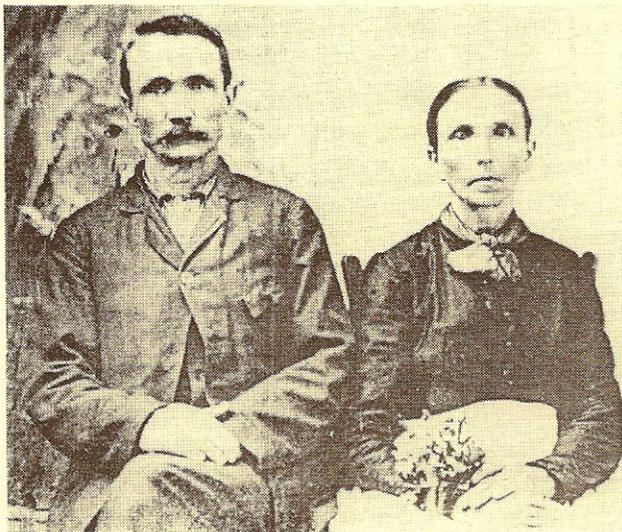
Living Historians - N.C. 58th Troop Encampment



Appalachian Co...



Living Historians - Lady's Day at the Museum



Exhibits - Our People - Our Heritage - Our Pride



ortium Exhibit



Traditional Music

Bruce Green
Red Wilson
Rob Levin



4-H Middle School Students
East Yancey & Cane River



Craft Demonstrations

Milidene Baker-Wilson

ESTATOOE

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

Newsletter Editors:

Lloyd Bailey, Jim Priesmeyer

Officers of the Association

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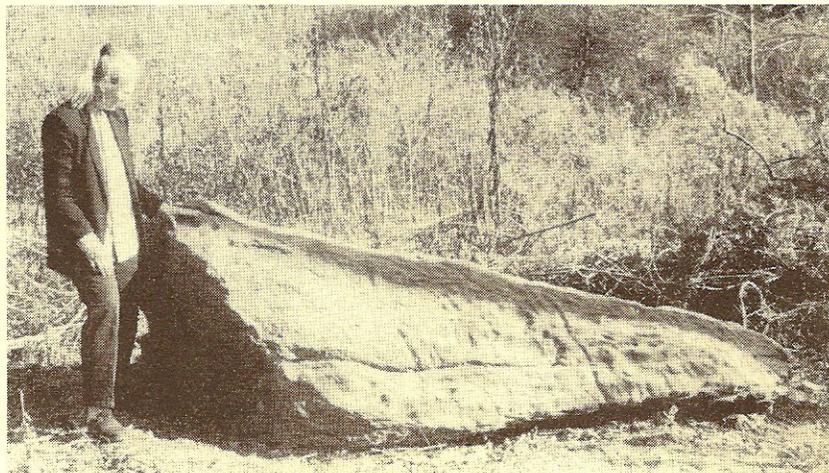
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Steering: John Doyle, Tim Babb

Executive Director: Jim Priesmeyer



Preservation

YHA Volunteer surveys petroglyph



Yancey History Association

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Our thanks to Cablevision Online for sponsoring this issue of Estatoee.

The Yancey History Association is seeking sponsors for this early 1920's Dodge Roadster that will be the center piece of the new Transportation Exhibit. The permanent exhibit will be housed in a glass enclosure located at the front of the Visitor Center. This is an opportunity to invest in Yancey County's History while receiving permanent recognition for you or your business. Y.H.A. is seeking \$500 and \$1000 sponsors for this \$10,000 tax deductible campaign. For details call Jim Priesmeyer at (828) 682-3671.

