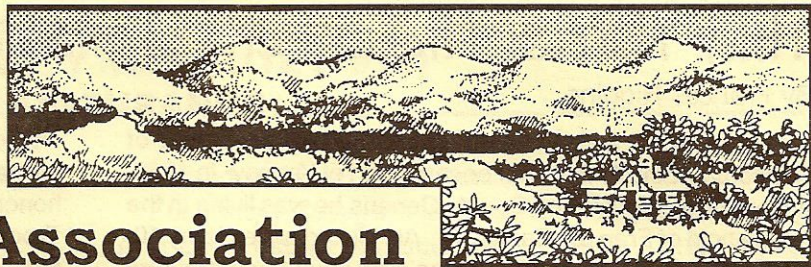


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Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XVI, No. 2

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

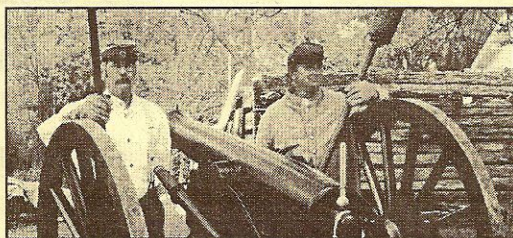
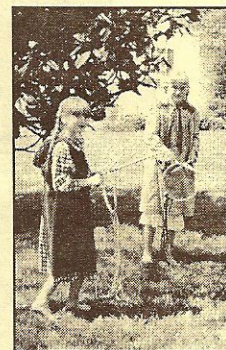
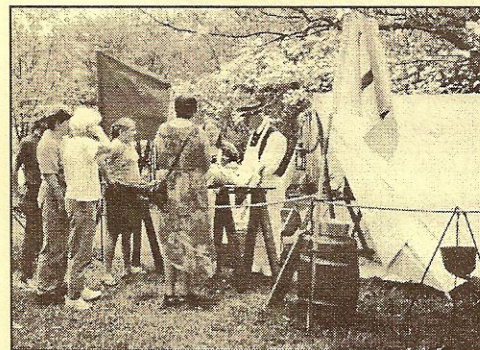
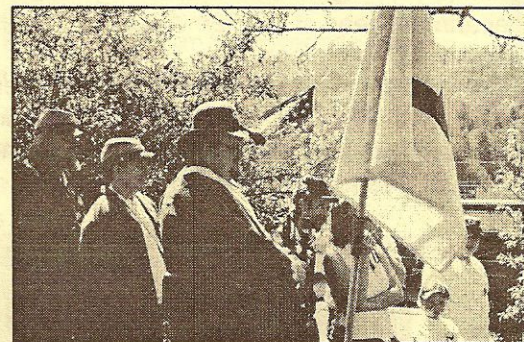
Summer 2004

The Sounds Of War On The Homefront

For the first time in some 140 years the sounds of cannon fire echoed through the streets of Burnsville on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25 of 2004. Fortunately we were not engaged in the war between the states, only commemorating the event of long ago. Giving us just a glimpse of what the local band of men led by Montreval Ray would have faced if they had not vacated the town prior to the arrival of Col. John B. Palmer with his Confederate Regulars and Homeguard from Asheville. We still can not begin to feel the tension, the hatred, the loss, the sadness, the hardship and stress of that day, knowing how the women and children had been suffering from all the hardship of war as the troops on both sides confiscated food and livestock all around the county. North Carolina was next to the last state to leave the union. But once committed furnished 1/5 of the soldiers of the Confederate Army suffering over 43,000 casualties more than double any other Confederate State, with 5,000 to spare. In comparison there was only 58,800 men lost in the Vietnam.

"God Bless those Tar Hill Boys" Gen. Robert E. Lee

Many local residents were caught by surprise even though the announcement was in the local paper, on some websites and on the radio prior to the event. The museum event attracted 100-150 people, making it one of if not the largest turnout so far. We appreciate the patience of the folks in the neighborhood that heard the percussion of the gun close at hand. As the old saying goes "A picture is worth a thousand words". The following photographs tell a much better story...



This, That & The Other...our new genealogy and history corner

By Frances Higgins

Berry Banks was born June 27, 1827 in a section of Buncombe County that later became part of Yancey. In 1850, according to the Yancey County Census he was living in the household of Frances Banks, 48. Also listed were Henry 10, William 16 and Matilda 17. These may have been brothers and sisters of Berry.

A Madison County marriage bond for Berry Banks is dated January 18, 1885. When he married Lousia Phenix, at the home of Thomas Shephard Deaver, a local justice of the peace. (Lousia was the daughter of John Phenix). Berry and Lousia had six children: Ellen, Goldman, Gaither, Samantha (died young), and Ragan Decatur. Over the years Berry and his family lived in the Big Ivy, Paint Fork, and Democrat communities near Barnardsville. Berry was a farmer and also

worked as a carpenter, making beds. In 1865 at age 38 he joined the Union Army as a volunteer. He was granted an honorable discharge after serving with Co. K. 3rd Reg. of NC Troops. He died on October 28, 1902 and is buried in the Maney Cemetery in Barnardsville, his wife Lousia is buried beside him.

The mystery of Berry's parents is complicated.

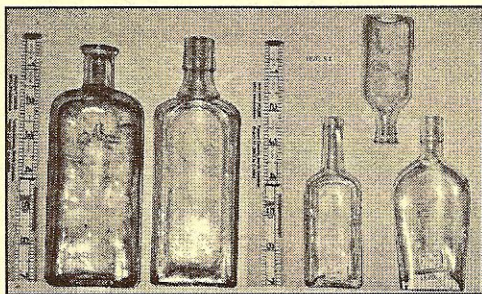
Inquiries Welcome call: Frances at 682-3892

Editors Note: We would appreciate your input regarding the addition of this section. The museum receives a lot of inquiries regarding local and family history each season. We hope this column be an avenue in which you will be able to be more involved in the sharing and recording of these and other histories.

McElroy House "Well" Excavation Artifacts now on display!

In late fall, the well excavation was begun by Elaine McAlister Dellinger. Elaine is a member of the board of directors and also enrolled in the Archaeological Technician Program (2 yr.) in Virginia. Dr. Anne Rogers, Archaeologist and department head at Western Carolina University is working with her as the professional.

Pictured are just some of the artifacts recovered so far from the site. We hope you will take the time to come by and see other artifacts from the well that are now on display in the museum.



2004 Membership Renewal Due

Time to renew your membership. The membership period is for the calendar year. Simply complete the enclosed form and return it along with your check payable to:

**Yancey History Association
Box 1088
Burnsville, North Carolina 28714**



Note to members: In an effort to reach more of our members, please let us know of other programs or ideas that would better interest you.

Also the museum still has Yancey History Association posters available for purchase at \$10.00 each along with postcards.

Annual Calendar of Events

- July 4th Weekend** On the Grounds and on the Square
"Family Heritage Day" (call for information)
- August** Dr. Robert Dellinger, author "Mitchell's Peak"
Program and Book Signing
- September 5th** Jacque Redleaf, Program on the American Indian
- October 3rd** YHA Annual Meeting
Election of New Officers
Program: Scott Ashcraft, NFS Archaeologist
"Indian Petroglyphs in and around Yancey County and WNC"
- Nov. and Dec.** "Holiday Tours" to be announced

Watch the newspaper for other special events at the museum.

Article from Lloyd Bailey's Upcoming book...

445. FIRE DESTROYS PART OF YANCEY INSTITUTE (1918)

LOSS ABOUT \$30 ,000 WITH LITTLE INSURANCE

Babtist Plan to Replace Structure Lost Monday Night at Burnsville Trustees to Meet Today

Dr. A.E. Brown, superintendent of Babtist mountain schools, received news yesterday of the burning Monday night of the administration building of Yancey Collegiate Institute at Burnsville. The structure was a large one and loss is about \$20, 000, with small insurance.

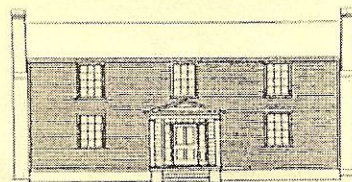
The origin of the fire is a mystery. School assembled on Monday as usual, but adjourned for the day when the peace of news reached the town, in the evening there was a thanksgiving service at the Babtist church and later Professor Huff, of the institute, in making his usual rounds discovered the fire. Owing to a lack of a fire fighting facilities it was impossible to save the furniture or the library.

It is expected that the building will be replaced at an early date. Dr. Brown leaves today to attend a meeting of the board of trustees in Burnsville. Yesterday Dr. Brown issued the following statement in regard to the school: "This is one of the larger mountain schools supported by the Babtists of the South and one of the Babtists schools of North Carolina among which the million dollars is to be distributed. The school has about 200 students, and while the blow is most serious, school will not be suspended. In fact, it suspended only for a few hours until seating accommodations could be provided. There are three other buildings belonging to the school, and classrooms were arranged for in these buildings.

"Immediate arrangements are being made to rebuild, and perhaps prepare a fireproof structure. Attorney E.F. Watson is president of the board of trustees, and has poured out his life and means upon the school. It has been one of the greatest blessings to the mountain country. A.J. Hutchins of the Asheville High School is a product of this school, also a number of other useful men and women in our city. E.E. Hawkins was formerly principal of the school. The present principal is Rev. E.R. Harris. The students have shown their loyalty by putting up with the inconvenience entailed by the loss of this building, and are doing it cheerfully."

Reproduced from "The Asheville Citizen" for Nov. 16, 1918.

For Yancey Collegiate Institute, see Images of Yancey (Yancey History Association, 1993), Chapter VII ("Education"), esp. pp. 64-66, with photos no. 52-67. For more detail, see Edgar F. Hunter, Jr., A History of Yancey Collegiate Institute (M.A. Thesis, Appalachian State Teachers College, 1952). For A.E. Brown, see Vol. II, Article No. 245. That volume contains numerous articles about the faculty of Y.C.I. For John W. Huff, see Vol. II, Article No. 394. For E.E. Hawkins, see Vol. I, Article No. 387.



Meet our new Museum Manager...

Colette Blankenship from the Riverside area accepted the manager's position March 19, 2004. She is the daughter of Morris and Marketta McIntosh also of Riverside, with a younger brother Cody. She is married to Brian K. Blankenship of Pensacola.

She grew up learning of the Civil War from her Grandpa David "Pete" Allen, her family have taken several trips to Gettysburg where part of the fighting had taken place. She is also the granddaughter of Lonada Allen.

She is the granddaughter of Dwight McIntosh and Virtle English, and the great granddaughter of Grady and Juanita McIntosh. Colette has a high interest in the new position and believes she will greatly enjoy working at the museum.

MUSEUM HOURS

Admission \$1.00

April and October

Friday and Saturday

May through September

Wednesday-Friday

10-4 each day

(Holiday Tours to be announced)

682-3671

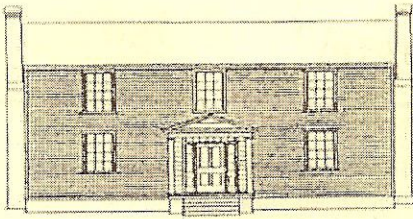
**YANCEY COUNTY HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMISSION**



Want To Know More

Call the Museum
682-3671

Cemetery Committee
682-7524



Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714

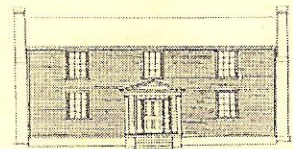
Estatooe Quarterly Newsletter

Museum Book Is Here! "The McElroy House ca. 1840 A Glimpse of Yancey County's History"

If you stand on the front lawn of the McElroy House on a Sunday evening, this time of year, and you close your eyes for a minute or two it's not hard to imagine Burnsville 50 years ago. If you take a deep breath, look straight up to the heavens and open your eyes you will see the same thing that the Cherokee saw 1500 years ago or perhaps even what the Ancient Ones saw thousands of years ago.

Using the site of the McElroy House, situated on its' permanent knoll, Michael C. Hardy has captured the prehistory and early development of Yancey County. Using the House proper Mr. Hardy has opened a window in time for us all to see the growth of our community from the mid 1800's to the mid 1900's when the Home was purchased by it's last private owners, Winnie Lou and Troy Ray.

This interesting and informative new book, with a 10,000 word written and 70 picture history, will be available this coming Summer. All of the members of the Yancey History Association. and Yancey History Museum supporters owe Michael Hardy a heartfelt thank you for his tremendous efforts in compiling this book which will be a major fundraising vehicle for YHA.



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P.O. Box 1088
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(828) 682-3671*

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 & Staff Directory:
Editor: Lloyd Bailey
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Vice-President:
Treasurer: Judy Lackey
Secretary: Elaine Dellinger
Director: Jason Robinson
Museum Curator: Jim Priesmeyer
Museum Manager: Colette Blankenship