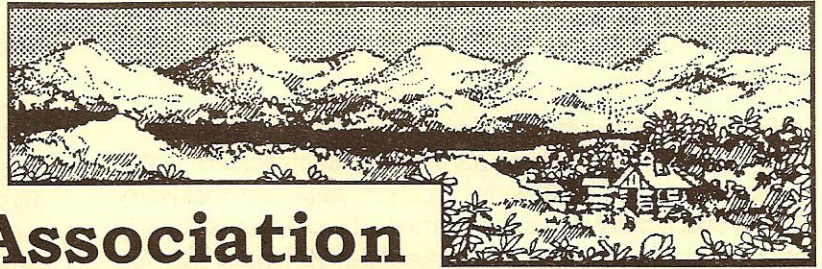


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Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XVI, No. 3

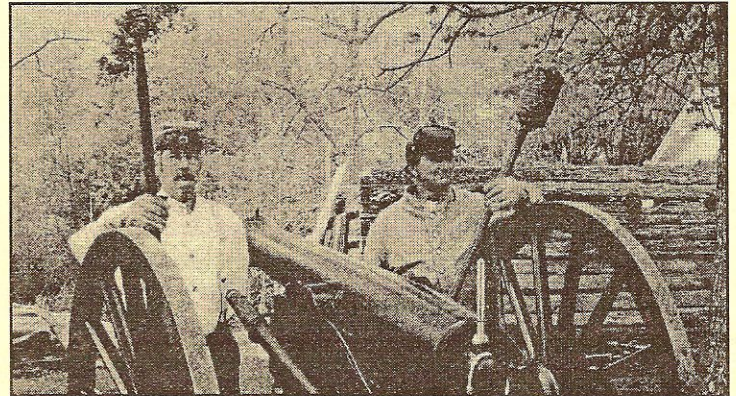
Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Fall 2004

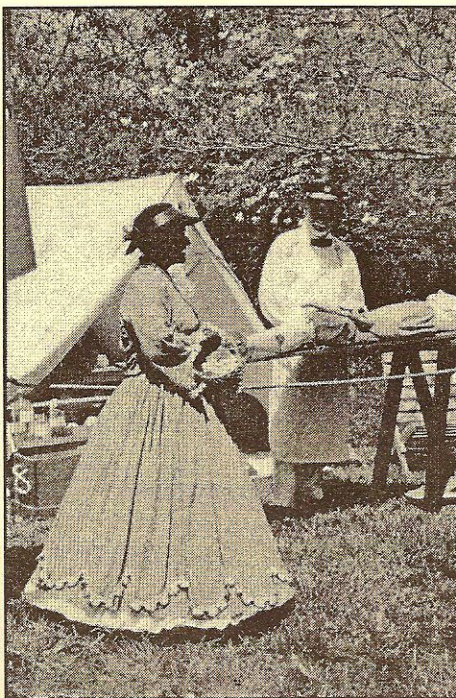
Family Heritage Day Saturday, September 25, 2004

As we took a step back in time for a day...

Life in the mountains of Yancey County holds a lot of stories that may differ from the stories shared by those of you growing up in cities. While talking with one of our association members the other day she commented that the things that in years gone by were every day necessities and now many of these chores have simply become known as crafts. Basket making, chair bottom caning, sewing, weaving, making soap with lye or wood ash just to get you started thinking.



But many of us can recall much more like making hominy from the field corn, making pickled beans and corn, drying fruit on a rack above the wood cook stove. What about robbing bees for honey, hog killing time in the late fall? You could also wash your clothes in a pot over an open fire as well as wear your knuckles out over the washboard. With no refrigeration in earlier times green beans were strung onto strings or placed on wire racks and dried by the cook stove. Of course there were simple daily chores that even the children had to help with like gathering eggs, milking the cows, slopping the hogs (they once let them graze in chestnut groves in order to fatten them up just before killing time), chopping firewood, keeping the wood box full and carrying water from the spring house.



The house known as the McElroy House museum has stood strong through many generations and it seems so fitting for our preservation efforts to include more of these customs and traditions in our yearly events calendar.



We hope you were able to mark your calendar and come join us at the museum for a day of local history including genealogy, heritage craft demonstrations, interpretive history from the Civil War Union and Confederate Re-enactors on the grounds for the day. They shared the stories and histories of brother against brother and much more. Speakers talking about customs, traditions, history of some of our mountain music along with live music, refreshments and much more.

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

By Frances Higgins

A Follow up From the Summer Newsletter Edition...

The mystery of Berry's parents is complicated. After evaluating all the available information, it appears that Berry Banks was actually the son of Timothy Duck and that shortly after Berry was born Timothy died and Berry's mother married a Banks (given name unknown) and Berry assumed the Banks name. In 1822 Berry Banks appears on two Rutherfordton Co. land grants. In 1829 he appears in Buncombe Co. court records. According to the 1850 census records he was living in Yancey County.

Family History Fall Newsletter Edition...

Levi Metcalf was born in Buncombe Co., NC, in 1821. He was the son of James Metcalf, Jr., who settled in Buncombe County about 1790. Levi's mother was Mary Ann Oxford, daughter of Samuel and Bathsheba (Barrett) Oxford. Levi had one brother and 8 sisters. They were: Rev. Jacob Metcalf, married Elizabeth Buckner; Nancy married John Buckner; Sally M. Larkin Chandler; Lucinda M. Martin Chandler; Eadie M. Robert Crawford; Rebecca M. Haley Buckner; Anna M. Ranson Merril; Matilda M. Jackson Ingle; Cecelia M. Washington Burlison.

In 1847 Levi married Drucilla Hunt, daughter of Henry Hunt of the Ivy Hill section of Buncombe County. The Hunts came into NC from Augusta, Ga. Drucilla had three sisters: Matilda

M. Jim Whitt; Cynthia M. (?) Myers; Ludina.

Levi and Drucilla had four children: Mary, born about 1848; Julia, in 1869, married North Bend McLean, who was born in Yancey Co., the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Clubb) McLean; James Henery, married Mary Margaret Ramsey; Robert, born about 1853, moved to Kentucky.

Levi died in 1859. The inventory of his estate lists numerous people indebted to him. In her later years Drucilla married John Ramsey. In 1900 she is listed as a widow living with her son James Henery. She lived to be nearly 100 years old and is buried at Gabriels Creek in Madison County. Levi's burial place is unknown.

Rev. Jacob Metcalf is my great-great-great grandfather. His daughter Lucretia married Mitchell Alexander Wilson, my great grandfather. Rev. Jacob Metcalf married Elizabeth Buckner, daughter of Samuel Oxford and Bathsheba Barrett. She was the daughter of Jonathan Barrett (born early 1700s) and the first permanent white settler in area now Alexander County. He married Jarely Jarmin. (Catawba Indian, she had died by 1760). They had three children: Bathsheba.; Abel (he was dark skinned like the Indians, went with them when they left the Catawba River area of NC); Elizabeth, married John King. Jonathan remarried and had two children, Jonathan and Jerusa.

A LONG OVER DUE THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING

We have had a very successful season and wish to extend a special note of thanks to the following for helping to make it all possible.

Members and friends that have given donations and gifts to the association over the past year...

Col. & Mrs. Walter Savage, William Baker, Margaret Harlem, Perry Deane Young, Lloyd Bailey, John Ehle, James Edwards, William Baker, Judy Lackey

Various history based organizations from the area that have helped in special period dress events including:

Col. John B. Palmer Camp 1946, Sons of Confederate Veterans; Martha Reid Silver Chapter 31, Order Confederate Rose; The McDowell Men, Camp #379, Sons of Confederate Veterans; Emma Rankin Chapter 32, Order Confederate Rose; Capt. Julius Welsh Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans; Mountain Rose Chapter, Order Confederate Rose; Black Mtn. Camp SCV & OCR; Santee Light Artillery Unit from Charleston, South Carolina; Doc Halliday, Re-enactor/ Interpretive Civil War history medical unit from Weaverville

Special thanks goes to the Col. John B. Palmer Camp, SCV who helped to locate, worked to dismantle and reconstruct the log smoke house which is now underway on the museum grounds. These men have already begun the dismantling of a log cabin and it will also be moved to the grounds in the near future. Our hats are off to you sirs!

OTHERS...

Jim Priesmeyer, Michael Ledford, James Woody, Jesse Woody, Elaine Dellinger and Dr. Anne Rogers, WCU Archaeologist for volunteering their time in the first phase of the excavation of the well.

To our speakers...

Dr. Lloyd Bailey, Dr. Robert Dellinger, Dr. David Moore, Jacque Redleaf, Perry Deane Young, Scott Ashcraft

Members of the Martha Reid Silver, OCR and Colette for helping plant flowers on the grounds.

Again Thank You.

We apologize if we've left anyone out.

Tentative Calendar of Events for 2005

April	Commemoration of the BATTLE OF BURNSVILLE
May	Monthly Program
May	Memorial Day Weekend
June	Monthly Program
July 4th	Celebration and Tribute to Veterans
August	Monthly Program Craft Fair Weekend
September	Family Heritage Day
October	Annual Meeting and Program
December	Christmas Holiday Candle Light Tours

Preserving our Appalachian Heritage

Comments and Requests from the Curator

Since tendering my resignation a year ago I have done my best to remain supportive without interfering in the transitional growth of our fledgling History Museum. I am so pleased with the stability of the current board of directors and the progress they have made during the past six months. They have:

- Hired Colette Blankenship as the Museum Manager and I have heard nothing but positive feedback from Museum visitors.
- Maintained Museum operating hours and programs.
- Continued to produce the Estatoee.
- Taken control of the operations of the History Association.
- Perpetuated the History Association's pursuit of it's Mission to preserve Yancey County's History and Heritage.

Of course there have been small problems, but each has been recognized and dealt with in the best fashion that a small volunteer board could possibly do so. That having been said there is still a great deal to be done and that burden should not be placed on a few dedicated workers. For that reason I request:

- If you are asked to serve on the expanded Board of Directors accept the invitation. The current board has accepted the challenge of leadership, now they need your support to move forward. A modest amount of your time will produce great results.
- Buy our new book for everyone you know. This affordable book provides a wonderful opportunity to acquaint your friends and family with our local history and our Museum. Do it today!
- Continue to increase your membership and contributions. This improves our ability to serve the community and also shows the level of importance and commitment our community places upon this project.

The plans we make for the History Museum's future are of great importance, but their level of success will depend on the History Association membership commitment.

My best wishes to one and all.

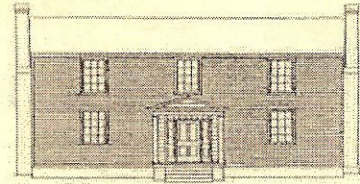
Jim Priesmeyer

MUSEUM HOURS

Admission \$1.00
April and October
Friday and Saturday

May through September
Wednesday through Saturday
10-4 each day

Holiday House Candle Light Tours
Dec. 3-4 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Contact: 682-3671
email: yhmuseum.main.nc.us



Meet our new Board Members...

Judy Lackey, a native of Yancey County, has taken the place of our former treasurer Michael Ledford. Judy is married to Scott Lackey & they have recently opened the Burnsville Pharmacy. She is the daughter of Jean Ray and the late Rex Ray. Jean's birth mother, Bertie Hughes, gave her to Judy's grandparents Robert and Ada Carroll on her death bed when she was only 28 years of age. Bertie's husband Zebadee had three more small children to raise. Her father Rex Clayton Ray was killed in an accident at Glen Raven. Judy has three children - Amy Watson, Katie and Kyle Lackey. Amy is married and lives in Durham, NC. Katie is 8 and Kyle is 2 years old.

Judy graduated from Mountain Heritage High School and attended Mayland Community College for Business Administration.

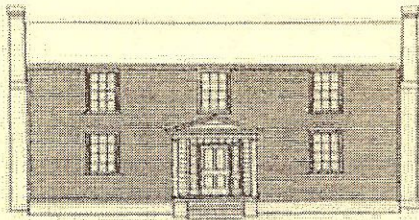
Scott and Judy enjoy doing living history and The War Between the States reenactments. Their children also join them. They have participated in events at Gettysburg, Saltville, Cedar Creek, and local events. They also volunteer to do school presentations. She belongs to the Martha Reid Chapter of the Order of Confederate Rose. Her other interests include crafting and sewing, including making much of Civil War apparel and accessories.

Nathan Bennett joined us this Summer as one of our new directors. He is a native of Yancey County. His family was one of the original families to locate in what is now known as Yancey County. Nathan is married to Katie Bennett and they reside in Burnsville. He is the son of Royce and Janice Bennett and the grandson of Howard Bennett and the late Tilda Bennett and the late John and Eula Lee Fox.

Nathan graduated from Mountain Heritage High School in 1993. He then attended Mars Hill College where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice, with a minor in Appalachian Regional Studies in 1997. He is very interested in local history and is dedicated to preserving the unique culture of the area.

Nathan has worked as a legislative assistant and constituent affairs intern in Governor Jim Hunt's Washington, D.C., and Asheville offices. Nathan returned to work for the Yancey County Board of Commissioners in 1997 as the first County Planner and as an assistant to the County Manager. He was instrumental in obtaining many state and federal grants for Yancey County projects. Nathan is currently employed by the N.C. Division of Community Corrections as a State Probation/Parole Officer assigned to Yancey County.

Nathan Bennett is active in the community serving on the Board of Directors for the Yancey Community Medical Services and Yancey History Association. He is a past board member of Yancey-Mitchell Partnership for Children and the Mountain Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. Nathan is an active member of Mine Fork Baptist Church where he teaches Sunday School.



Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714

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Fundraiser Available for Christmas

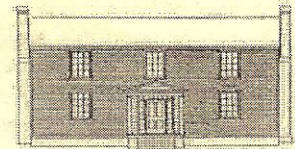


"The McElroy House ca. 1840 A Glimpse of Yancey County's History"

Book price is \$12.00 plus an .84 cent sales tax with an additional \$2.00 for each book for shipping and handling. We encourage each member to purchase a copy.

Last Chance to Renew Your Membership Before the Calendar Year Ends

The Museum will be closed after the month of October
but remember to join us again in April.



ESTATOOE

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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.

Officers & Staff Directory:

Editor: Lloyd Bailey

Interim Co-Editor: Elaine Dellinger

President: Bucky Cochrane

Vice-President:

Treasurer: Judy Lackey

Secretary: Elaine Dellinger

Director: Jason Robinson, Nathan Bennett

Museum Curator: Jim Priesmeyer

Museum Manager: Colette Blankenship