

ESTATOE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XVI, No. 4

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Spring 2005

From the President

As we begin a new year of operations, the Association is faced with several challenges. How we meet these challenges will determine our success in preserving our local heritage. Time is not on our side as anyone can easily see the rapid loss of what has made the mountain area special and unique. The mountain culture has always been different enough from, say, "typical southern culture" that it has occupied a special place of its own. "Mountain man" or "mountain people" conjures images of ruggedly independent people who were true to their family and principles. As the landscape evolves with a growing native population and, particularly, an influx of new people, change is inevitable. Without a concerted effort, much of what has made this area special will be lost.

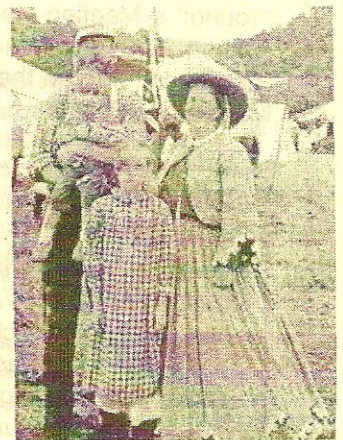
The Board presently consists of six people, four of whom have jobs or businesses. We cannot do it all. Progress is being made; for example, the 1860's vintage smokehouse has been dismantled, moved, and reassembled on the museum grounds. At present the roof is awaiting a shake single covering. The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) did the work on the smokehouse. While we appreciate their efforts, we, as the Yancey History Association (YCH), cannot always be dependent on such good graces. We must supply manpower and money to accomplish tasks. The Association has been given a log cabin dating to the 1860's. The SCV does not have the resources to move this potential treasure and I don't know whom in the Association I can call upon to help in such matters. When these structures are gone, they are lost. Lost with them is the concrete example of workmanship and spirit that produced them.

The Association has a heavy obligation in selling its book on the McElroy House. Noted local author Michael Hardy and his wife produced the book as a public service to the Association. The Association purchased 5,000 copies of the book to sell. Despite good efforts by some of our members, we've sold less than 200 copies. I urge members to purchase copies of this interesting book for themselves and as gifts. I am open to any marketing ideas. This obligation may have serious consequences for the YHA.

As usual, we need money and time. A YHA yard sale is being held at Dogwood Flats on Lower George's Fork on the 29th and 30th of April. Please donate. We have interesting programs by qualified historians. Typically, seven people attend. Please show your interest in our history by your presence. Let the Association know of any talents, or just a willingness to work on your part. We need you. Start the year off right by attending the commemoration of the "Battle of Burnsville" on the 23rd and 24th of April. Show your pride and interest in our history, be active! Let's look to a good year. *James "Bucky" Cochrane*

Commemoration of the "Battle of Burnsville"

We have worked to expand the event this year, we plan to have a larger encampment on the grounds and have skits as the day goes along both inside the house and on the grounds. There are tentative plans for a period worship service at 11 am on Sunday the 24th. The two day event will begin at 9 am on April 23 and 24 and conclude each day at 5 pm. The War Between the States was made up of both Confederates and Unionist from our mountains. Kirks Raider's as well a other small bands of men that came together for which ever cause they believed in. Therefore, the need for the local Home Guard headquartered in the McElroy House under the command of Gen. John W. McElroy was established. Come and learn more of our local history during these war years.



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

By Frances Higgins

Strawbridge Young born March 4, 1772; Died December 16, 1834 (Birth date found in the Bible of his daughter, Nellie Young), which is owned by Dr. Miles Wyatt. (Death date found in the bible of his son, George Young, which is owned by Hettie Young). Strawbridge Young was the progenitor of all Youngs in Yancey County. One legend about his name is that he was born on a ship after the family had escaped capture by some group of people. In order for the family to escape without arousing the townspeople, they put straw on the bridge. So that their horses would make little noise. Another legend is that he was born on a covered bridge located on the border of Northern Ireland. This legend also indicates that the family was being pursued by Catholics (It is not known whether Roman or Angelian.) Other descendants say that he was given the name in early manhood, after escaping lawmen by putting straw on a bridge. In that the Young family was closely related with the Methodist Church. Strawbridge Young was evidently named for Robert Strawbridge, first Methodist minister in Colonial America.. Robert Strawbridge was born in Drummersnave. County Loitrim, Ireland. He was one of two sons of Robert Strawbridge. He emigrated to Maryland and settled on Sam's Creek, Frederick County. He preached in Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Francis Asbury resented him greatly and commented in his journal that the death of Robert Strawbridge helped the growth of the Methodist Church tremendously. Robert Strawbridge died in August, 1781. Most of the early families of Burke and Yancey Counties came from this same area in Maryland. The ancestors of Strawbridge Young evidently came from there. Several deeds registered in the Yancey County Court House just a few months before Strawbridge Young's death convey his property to his sons. His home was located just below the graveyard where he and most of his sons are buried. This graveyard, called the "Mammy Young Cemetery" is located in the Newdale Community off the Spruce Pine Road to the left of Rice Road. Older living descendants have identified the stone of Strawbridge Young as the tallest one on the crest of the hill. The first meeting house of the Methodist Church in Yancey County was the home of Strawbridge Young. The church was later moved to a new location and the name changed from "Young; s Meeting House" to Martin's Chapel Methodist Church. The new name was taken from a Rev. Martin an early circuit rider in the area. Strawbridge Young married, Martha ".Pattie" Wilson. Born February 8, 1771; Died April

14, 1866. (Dates from the same source as Strawbridge Young.) She is buried beside her husband at Newdale.

Issue of Strawbridge and Martha Wilson Young :

1. THOMAS YOUNG M SARAH HORTON, 1815
2. MARY POLLY YOUNG M NATHAN HORTON May 29, 1817
3. JOSHUA YOUNG M MARGARET BARNARD
4. GEORGE YOUNG M ELIZABE'I'H WHITE LLOYD, May 9 1 1822
5. JESSEE YOUNG M TE'MPERANCE BIRCHFIELD, Oct. 1, 1824
6. WESLEY YOUNG M ELIZABETH WILSON, Oct. 11, 18)1
7. SETH YOUNG M SARAH RANDALL
8. NAOMI YOUNG M BILLEY WILSON
9. JOSIAH A. YOUNG M FRANCES RAY
10. JOHN HAGON YOUNG M PERLINA
11. ELLEN "NELLIE" YOUNG M never married.

AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS ~ESTABLISHED February 8, 1842

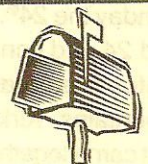
DISTRICT	NAME	ENROLLMENT
1	Burnsvil1e	111
2	Youngs	80
3	South Toe	56
4	Pensacola	67
5	Hinton Creek	126
6	Bald Mountain	112
7	Egypt	98
8	D. Carter	75
9	Upper & Middle Paint Fork	87
10	West Fork of Ivy	72
11	Bull Creek	105
12	Walnut Creek	76
13	Upper Laurel	36
14	Laurel	33
15	Shelton Laurel	81
16	Bakers Meeting	144
17	Buchanan	66
18	Garland	61
19	Big Rock Creek	73
20	Brunmets Creek	101
21	Wiseman	56
22	Mount Pisgah	47
23	Old Field of Toe	50
24	Rebblers Creek	73
25	Bear Creek	62
26	Beaver Creek	57
27	Grassy Creek	87
28	Lewis Briggs	87
29	Ramseytown	70
30	Jacks Creek	69
31	Deatons Creek	60
32	Pigpen	67
33	(No name listed)	90
		Total Enrollment 2,537

(Spelling as appeared on the original document above).

APRIL PROGRAM AND MONTHLY MEETING

Sunday, April 3rd at 2 PM Michael C. Hardy will be presenting a program/book signing on the museum book entitled: "The McElroy House ca 1840 A Glimpse of Yancey County's History" Michael has written other books about the area and is a past board member. Due to the cool weather this meeting will be held in the Library Annex instead of the museum, please make a note of this. Our April board meeting will immediately follow.

Membership Renewal Time



Remember to renew your membership (January 1 through December 31 each year). Plus become active in the association if at all possible because we need both your gifts and talents.

Curator's Report

Spring is just around the corner and for the History Association that means the Museum will soon be open. This year promises to be another fine one. Before we look ahead let us take a moment to glance back at the progress and events of the past few months.

During the Fall and Winter the Sons of Confederate Veterans completed the walls, roof rafters and dried in the hand hewed log smokehouse with an extended well protection overhang. The S.C.V. took on this project because we believe the structure was built by a Confederate Veteran. There will be pictures and more details in the next Estatoee.

The second part of this project was the well excavation by the Museum Manager Colette Blankenship and myself lead by board member and archeology student Elaine Dellinger. The purpose of the project is to get the closest possible look at the people who lived in the McElroy house by examining what they threw down the well once it was abandoned and converted into a trash pit in the early 1900's.

As you may know, as the result of a freak accident, Elaine gave a very close examination to the bottom of the 45 foot deep well. She was probably the first to see the bottom in more than 150 years. What you are likely unaware of is that Elaine is still undergoing extensive physical therapy as a result of the unexpected 40 foot fall. Your thoughts and prayers for the complete recovery of this dedicated and wonderful person would be greatly appreciated.

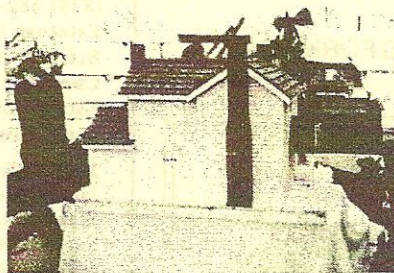
In other news, the annual meeting last October marked the end of a two year transition period. This transition has developed a stronger more engaged board of directors. A board that is ready to and needs to grow. An intricate part of this development has been the Museum Assessment Program that is being funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. This Federal Government program was created through a partnership with the American Association of Museums (A.A.M.).

The board with the assistance of museum staff and volunteers Howard and Susan Smith have completed the self study portion of the assessment. Which will lead to a field visit by a A.A.M. field assessor followed by an in depth report with recommendations that will help in planning the future of our museum.

Thanks for your continued support. Jim

1st Annual YHA Christmas Parade

As the holiday season rapidly approached, the board began to come up with ideas for a float and in keeping with the chambers theme. Mr. Morris McIntosh father of museum manager, Colette Blankenship volunteered to build us



a replica dollhouse of the McElroy House. The float consisted of a parlor scene during the Christmas season with ladies and children in period 1860's attire sitting around a table which held the dollhouse. Mr. McIntosh a local builder donated his time and the board approved the cost of the major supplies. Pictured here with the float being assembled is Mr. McIntosh. If you failed to see the parade and would like to see his masterful handiwork the doll house is on display in the commons room of the museum. We know you will enjoy seeing it.



Winnie Lou Flower Garden Project

"My best memory of my mother was her working in her flower garden."

The YHA would like to thank those of the Charlotte Derrough family for their generous donation to the museum. Charlotte Derrough celebrated her eightieth birthday 12-12-1904 and the money she would have received for this occasion was donated to the museum in honor of her mother, Winnie Lou Ray that lived in the McElroy House during the 1950's. Charlotte stated, "My best memory of my mother was her working in her flower garden." Total amount received was \$820.00, which will be used for what we now call the Winnie Lou flower garden project which will include other areas of the yard as well.

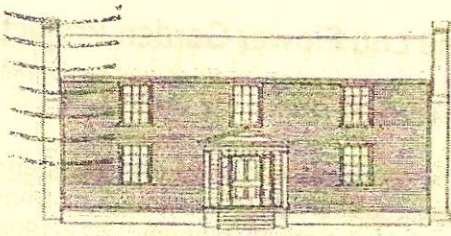
Our thank you goes out to:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Susan M. Snell | 16. Alice Wutschel |
| 2. Robert & Naomi Turk | 17. Martha S. Corwin |
| 3. Dorris L. Sherman | 18. Louis & Maye Damico |
| 4. Robert & Diane Sharp | 19. Ronald & Joan Sussex |
| 5. Janice S. Orson | 20. Gary & Patricia Coleman |
| 6. John & Margriet Charlton | 21. Claude & Martha Drake |
| 7. Jacqueline Kellon Moran | 22. Thomas & Virginia Scott |
| 8. Katherine Armitage & Jack Jones | 23. F. Jack Cole |
| 9. Mr. & Mrs. Bob Williamson | 24. Nancy Neely |
| 10. H. Chandler & Sally Warner | 25. W. Herbert & Alice Smith |
| 11. Anna A. Zillgitt | 26. J. Russell & Marcia Lindstrom |
| 12. Minnie R. Bogue | 27. Evelyn Hope Bailey |
| 13. Bessie Baron | 28. B L Harpe |
| 14. Martha C. Funderburk | 29. Llewellyn Estep |
| 15. Harold & Marjorie Hankin | |

Tentative Program/Events Schedule for 2005

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| <u>April</u> | Michael C. Hardy Presenting a program/book signing entitled: "The McElroy House ca 1840 A Glimpse of Yancey County's History" | |
| | Battle of Burnsville | |
| | Yard Sale Fund Raiser | |
| <u>May</u> | Jason Robinson | More of our local Yancey History |
| <u>June</u> | to be announced | |
| <u>July</u> | Veteran's Exhibit | 4TH |
| | Booth on the Square | |
| | No monthly program | |
| <u>August</u> | Fred Buck | The Buck House ✓ |
| <u>September</u> | Dr. Lloyd Bailey | Program and Book Signing with his 5th Toe Valley-Heritage Volume |
| <u>October</u> | Shelia Kaye Adams | ANNUAL MEETING with Program on her latest book <i>Her Old True Love</i> and music from her CD of mountain ballads entitled: <i>All The Other Fine Things</i> |
| | | SEPT. OCT |
| <u>December</u> | Holiday Tours and Tea | to be announced |

Monthly meetings are general held the first Sunday of each month at 2 pm. Call for other dates and times of other events or watch for media announcements prior to the event. Meeting locations may vary.



Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714

Estateoe Quarterly Newsletter

1 F & SUE SMITH
& CRYSTAL CREEK LANE RR2
GREEN MOUNTAIN NC 28740

FUNDRAISING EVENT - 1ST ANNUAL YHA YARD SALE

CALL FOR DONATIONS

THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION (YHA) IS PLANNING A LATE SPRING YARD SALE TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE HISTORY ASSOCIATION. ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME. LET US HELP YOU WITH ANY "SPRING CLEANING" ITEMS YOU ARE TRYING TO GET RID OF: FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, DISHES, CLOTHES, TOOLS, YARD EQUIPMENT, ETC. CALL 208-3671 OR (828) 682-9712 TO ARRANGE PICK UP OR DROP OFF OF ANY ITEMS, LARGE OR SMALL. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

DATE: APRIL 29-30

LOCATION: DOGWOOD FLATS, LOWER GEORGES FORK ROAD

TIME: 8:00 -5:00

MUSEUM HOURS

Admission \$2.00
April and October
Friday and Saturday

May through September
Wednesday through
Saturday
10-4 each day

Holiday House
Candle Light Tours
To be Announced

Contact: 828-682-3671
email:
yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us



ESTATOOE

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Estateoe (es-to-toe-e)

Estootowie in early records. A
Cherokee place name, shortened to
Estateoe/Estatoah, from which the
name Towe or Toe River is derived.

2005 Officers and Staff

James "Bucky" Cochrane, *President*
Elaine McAlister Dellinger, *Vice-President*
Sara Cochrane, *Treasurer*
Judy R. Lackey, *Secretary*
Jason Robinson, *Director*
Nathan Bennett, *Director*
Colette Blankenship, *Museum Manager*
Jim Priesmeyer, *Curator*
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Elaine Dellinger, *Editor*
Colette Blankenship, *Assistant Editor*
Dr. Lloyd Bailey, *Contributing Editor*