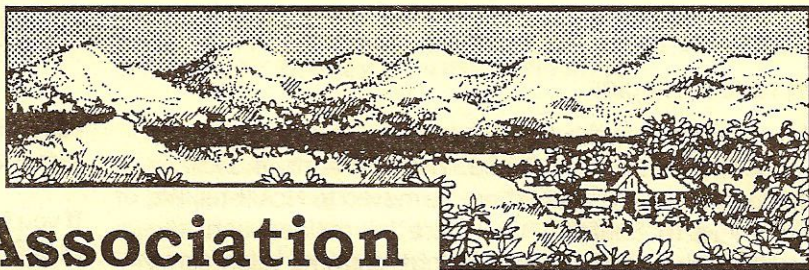


# ESTATOREE



## Quarterly Newsletter Yancey History Association

Volume XVI, No. 5

*Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage*

Summer 2005

### From the President

In the last newsletter I asked for more volunteers to aid the Association. We had an offer from the Arthur Morgan School to help chink the smokehouse. Unfortunately, the combination of weather and my schedule did not permit the activity before the school year was completed. Grant Ward and Sara Cochrane have been working at least two days per week for the past six weeks on landscaping the Museum grounds. Howard Smith, Judy Lackey, and Elaine Dellinger have also assisted in the project. The Association expresses its thanks for all those who have worked or asked to help. We still need the volunteer services of our members.

If anyone has any carpentry or roofing skills, please call the museum and volunteer to help install a cedar shake roof and gable ends on the smokehouse. Tell Colette or Howard the days you can be available and we will work out a schedule. We are also in need of 2 locust poles about 8 feet long and 6-10 inches in diameter to support the overhang. In addition, when work on the "Winnie Lou Garden" is finished, we plan to install a period-correct picket fence along the front of the museum as a barrier to the steep hill. We need contributions of materials and labor. All help is greatly appreciated.

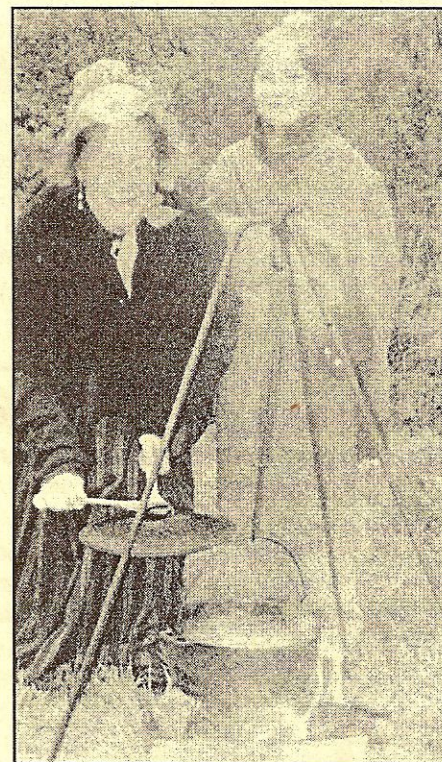
Howard Smith has agreed to perform as Museum Manager while Colette is on maternity leave. We all wish Colette well and appreciate "Smitty's" service.

To try and boost the sales of the book on the MeElroy House, the price has been reduced to \$7.95. Buy a few! Due to popular request, we are trying to have a reprint of "Images of Yancey". To do this we must have 200 prepaid orders by August 15. The cost is \$50.00. This is a hardback, quality, book and in these limited quantities, it is expensive to print. Visit the museum to place your order or mail your check to the museum.

*James "Bucky" Cochrane*

### PRE-PUBLISHING ORDERS FOR "IMAGES OF YANCEY" DEADLINE AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> reprint

PLEASE SEND A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50.00 MADE OUT TO: Yancey History Association before August 15<sup>th</sup>. As a bonus you will receive a free one year membership to YHA. If you're already a member you may have it sent as a gift membership to someone else. Be sure to include the membership information (name, address, phone and email for the gift). The published price will be higher, and in the event we do not reach the required number of pre-published copies your money will be refunded.



### Commemoration of the "Battle of Burnsville"

As in the winter's of 1861-65 snows came early in the western mountains. So it was on the weekend of our annual *Battle of Burnsville Commemoration* in April 2005. The Sunday worship service was cancelled, but the folks that did bundle up and come out on Saturday seemed to enjoy taking a step back in time to reflect on daily life during the War Between the States. Scott and Judy Lackey set up a camp on the grounds and folks were treated to supper cooked over the campfire by Judy on Saturday evening.

Doc Halliday a re-enactor of Weaverville had his field hospital tent set up, while the snow and cold brought him into the old McElroy house for the night. We hope the weather will cooperate better next year!

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

By Frances Higgins

John Edwards was the first Edwards to come into Yancey County then known as Burke. He was born in 1750 in Baltimore, Maryland. From there he moved to McAllister, PA. From there to Bedford, VA where he resided until the Revolutionary War. His pension records show he volunteered and served several hitches in the army before coming to Jonesboro, TN. His sister Mary had married Christopher Taylor, and they ran a boarding house in Jonesboro. One of their boarders was Andrew Jackson. Due to his stay there, the Taylor house in Jonesboro has been preserved. In 1776 John Edwards married Ruth Crabtree from Bedford County, Va. She had a brother living in Burke County (now Yancey), I suppose that was the reason John and Ruth moved to Yancey, settling in the area now known as Crabtree, which was named for her brother. Two years later John and Ruth applied for a divorce. Deeds show John got all the lands consisting of several hundred acre's Ruth received only a roam mare and a feather bed. Of the eight recorded children they were: William, Sally,

Meredith, James, John Jr., Steven, Anna and Edmond. John, James and Edmond fought in the War of 1812.

If you have other inquires please feel free to contact Frances at 682-3892.

Frances is also a poet in her own right, below is one example of her work...

## Spring Artistry

Spring has painted the mountains  
In varied shades of green  
Delicate touches of dogwood white make  
A delightful eye pleasing scene.  
The colorful wild wood flowers announce  
The spring time season is here and  
Spring time in the mountains is a  
Special time of year.

-Frances Wilson Higgins

## Winnie Lou Flower Garden Project

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



Grant Ward one of the founding members of the Yancey History Association and instrumental in the acquisition of the McElroy House has volunteered to spear head the garden

restoration. Mr. Ward, a somewhat avid self taught botanist read the article about the proposed Winnie Lou Garden in the last newsletter and contacted one of the board members to say he recalled what plants she had on the grounds at the time she lived there and was interested in helping.

As reported by the president several members have volunteered to help and a great deal of progress has already been made. We have also had some hired labor and earth moving equipment to get the tough spots out.

Mr. Ward has developed a design to return the garden to a 19<sup>th</sup> century period garden. So we are only using plants that were native to our area and yards in the 1800's. He would

like to ask if any of you have old heritage flowers or plants which have been handed down through your family that you consider sharing a plant or two with us. We want the garden to be a showcase of what gardens in our area were like in those early days. Drop by and see first hand the progress they have made.



Please contact the museum to arrange for the plants to be picked up or dropped off. We also have spring bulbs for sale in an effort to raise money for the Garden Project, so please order now.

Thank you,  
*The Winnie Lou Garden Project Volunteers*

## New Collection of Genealogy Reference

**Books:** The museum recently received a wonderful private collection of 138 books from the collection of Mrs. Henrietta Ray Walker who has roots to Yancey County. These books are available for use in the commons area of the museum only, they may not be checked out. They include many county records from SC, NC, TN, VA and Maryland; along with DAR Index Books and much more. We are very grateful for the new addition to our existing reference library.

We are also in need of a small sofa size table for folks to use in the genealogy area of the museum. If you have one that you would like to donate please contact us.

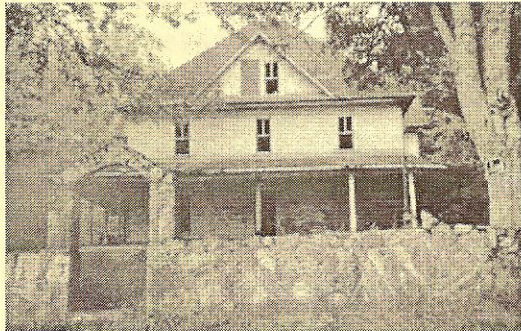
## FUNDRAISING EVENT

### 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL YHAYARD SALE

THE YARD SALE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, THANKS GOES ESPECIALLY TO BUCKY AND SARA COCHRANE AND COLETTE BLANKENSHIP FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK. AS WELL, AS A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR ALL THOSE WHO DONATED ITEMS FOR SALE. WE MADE \$1,130 DURING THE TWO DAY EVENT.

## Tentative Program/Events Schedule for 2005

- July 2<sup>nd</sup> Booth on the square and plant sale!
- July Veteran's Exhibit  
Booth on the Square  
No monthly program
- August 7<sup>th</sup> Fred Buck (grandson of Mr. Dave Buck)  
The Buck House a very important part of history in the Bee Log Community in the early 1900's.  
Location: Library Annex



*The Buck House*

- September 4<sup>th</sup> Dr. Lloyd Bailey Program and Book Signing with his 5<sup>th</sup> Toe Valley Heritage Volume,  
Location: Museum
- September 24<sup>th</sup> Family Heritage Day Genealogy and local customs from the past at the museum
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> Shelia Kaye Adams ANNUAL MEETING with Program on her latest book, *Her Old True Love* and music from her CD of mountain ballads entitled: *All The Other Fine Things*  
Location: We have tentative plans for a meal to be served prior to the program at the new Burnsville Town Center.
- October 7<sup>th</sup> Student Day at Museum Program will allow for a hands on time to look at American Indian Artifacts from the general area, along with a tour of the museum artifacts exhibits.
- October 8<sup>th</sup> James Byrd will lead a tour to the Gardner Rock (Petroglyph) carpooling from the museum at 9:30 am Alternate dates are pre-set in case of bad weather (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>)
- December Holiday Tours and Tea to be announced

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

## Curator's Report

### *A Salute to Yancey County Veterans*

During the month of July the History Museum will feature a very special exhibit honoring the men and women who fought to protect the freedoms we so often take for granted. The exhibit includes donated and on loan items that present a clear picture of the hardship and sacrifice made both at home and abroad. The primary focus of the exhibit is WWI and WWII.

Among of the first donations made to the museum were the WWI uniforms of Stacy Sorrels, infantry, and Grady Bailey, sailor. The museum has since received the WWII uniforms of Charles Hopson, bombardier, and Jeannie Peake, WAC. These uniforms have become the centerpieces of our showcase exhibits.

The History Museum is most fortunate to have on loan the photo and memorabilia displays of Bob Wilson. Mr. Wilson has spent endless hours interviewing veterans and assembling this exhibit. Most of these veterans served in WWII, the WWI Vets. are noted. The individuals included are primarily from Bob's home community of Pensacola and include:

Blake, Clyde, Hobart, Kermit, Lawton and Leonard ALLEN; Tom ATKINS; Kenneth AUTRY; Tom BADEN; Ralph BYRD, Brack DAVIS; Alfred GARDENER; Claude HENSLEY; Wyman HIGGINS; Ed and Jack HOLIFIELD; Frank HUTCHINS; John MACKEY; Champ, Oliver, Rex, Roscoe and Vincent McMAHAN; Carmel, Earl and George McPETERS; Rose MILLER; J.R., Ralph Jr. and Rick MUMPOWER; Earl, Ralph and William OGLE; Bill, Clarence and Ransom PATE; Lloyd, Richard and Woodrow PETERSON; Charles and Lloyd PHILLIPS; Alvin, Daws, Earl, Vernon and William RATHBONE; Arthur, Carson, Charles, H. Daniel, Hobart (WWI), Rex and Vernon Lee RAY; Ado, Bis, E.R., Pearson (WWI), Pearson Jr., Vance and Vernon RIDDLE; C.W. ROBERTSON Jr; Alfonso, Arlon, Brooks, Charles, Cloys, L.B. and Wayne SILVERS; Gay THOMAS; Harley WHITSON; Aleck (WWI), Ben, Charles K., Denver (WWI), Ed, Edwin, J.E., Lawrence, Ralph, Tom Lee and Ward WILSON.

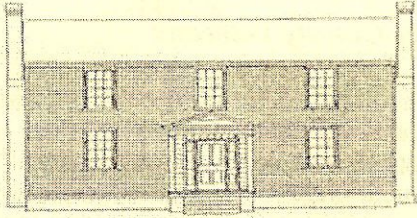
In the case of each of these individuals, or their family, they have shared pictures and souvenirs that reflect an impact and perspective of the experience through their eyes. The History Museum is honored and grateful for these contributions.

This exhibit is repeated during the month of July each year and has grown substantially during the past three years as new photos and material donations are made. We encourage you to support this salute to our veterans and help us honor them by sharing and donating to this project.

Thanks for your continued support. Jim

### YANCEY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Want To Know More  
Call the Museum at 682-3671  
Cemetery Committee 682-7524



## Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088  
Burnsville, NC 28714

### Estatooe Quarterly Newsletter

## MUSEUM HOURS

**Admission \$2.00**  
**April and October**  
Friday and Saturday

**May through September**  
Wednesday–Saturday  
10-4 each day

**Holiday House**  
**Candle Light Tours**  
To Be Announced

**Contact: 828-682-3671**  
**email:**

**yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us**

### Membership Renewal time for those who have not yet done so!

Remember to renew your membership (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 each year). Please become active in the association we need both your gifts and talents. We are always in need of volunteers to help with special events.



## ESTATOOE

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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.*

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*Assistant Editor:* Colette Blankenship

*Contributing Editor:* Dr. Lloyd Bailey

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*Vice-President:* Elaine McAlister Dellinger

*Treasurer:* Sara Cochrane

*Secretary:* Judy R. Lackey

*Director:* Jason Robinson & Nathan Bennett

*Museum Curator:* Jim Priesmeyer

*Museum Manager:* Colette Blankenship