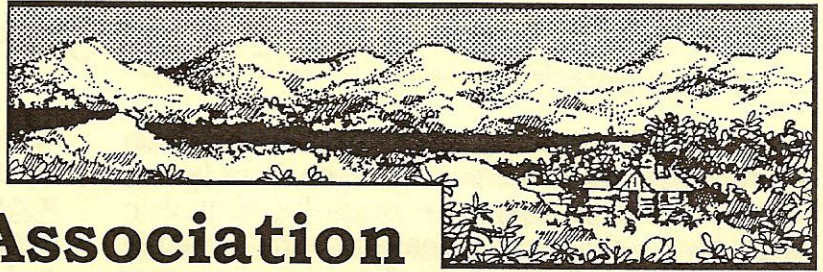


# ESTATOREE

Quarterly Newsletter

## Yancey History Association

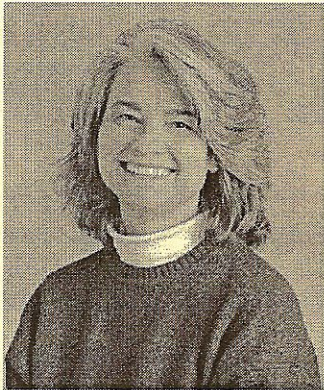


Volume XVI, No. 6

*Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage*

Fall 2005

### **Sheila Kay Adams, Guest Speaker at the 25th Annual Meeting, October 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in the Burnsville Town Center**



Sheila comes from a small mountain community in western North Carolina. For seven generations her family has maintained the tradition of passing down the English, Scottish, and Irish ballads that came over with her ancestors in the late 1700's. Sheila learned these ballads from her relatives, primarily from her

great-aunt, Dellie Chandler Norton.

She also grew up listening to great storytellers. Stories from them, and about them, and her own growing up years in the little community of Sodom have formed the nucleus of her performances and writing. A gifted and talented performer on the clawhammer banjo, Sheila captivates audiences with her playing, singing, and stories.

Her new recording brings you the music that weaves its way through the pages of Sheila's novel, "My Old True Love". Traditional love songs, hymns, and fiddle tunes are all represented in a CD that's the perfect complement to the book. As Sheila says in the introduction to the liner notes:

"Voices from my childhood are just as liable to be singing as talking. As a girl, I would close my eyes and rock back and forth, listening to the words and imagining myself there, having a part in whatever drama was taking place. I guess that's why the songs sort of slipped naturally into the book. When the first song rolled out of my head and onto the pages, I was certain my editor would cut it. She didn't. Whole songs are there, weaving and stitching the story and the people together from the first to the very last page. I reckon it fit because it was such a part of who I was and who they were. Though I never heard any of them sing a word or play a single tune, I know they were musicians and singers because I was told they were. And, they would've sung the same songs I grew up listening to: Soldier Traveling From the North, Pretty Saro, Pretty Peggy-o, My Dearest Dear. Mamma and

Daddy's cousin, Cas Wallin, would pitch every song that came out of his mouth, "Do, Mi, Sol," beating out time as he went. He was a master of the shaped note singing of the old hymns... I remember sitting in my Uncle Byard Ray's lap as he noted the fiddle with his left hand and let me pull the bow across the strings... "Cumberland Gap ain't my home and I'm gonna leave ole Cumberland alone." So, how could I write a book without the songs and music? I just couldn't. In the book, the main character, Arty Norton, says, "It made me feel funny to think of singing songs that had been tucked away in people's hearts that had come all the way across the ocean." Me too, Arty, but I'm so glad they carried them here to this place I love. I can't imagine a single day without this music and the people that kept it. Here it is, straight from the novel and from their heart and mine. I hope you enjoy it."

Also appearing on "All The Other Fine Things" are James Leva, Josh Goforth, and Bruce Greene, all on fiddle; Carl Jones on guitar; John Doyle on guitar & bazouki; Jim Taylor, vocal & guitar; and the Christian Harmony Singers of western North Carolina.

### **From the President**

We have reached a milestone as this is our 25th year as the Yancey History Association. Plans are set for two anniversary celebrations including the upcoming annual meeting and gala at the Christmas Open House in December. The Association is continuing to work toward its immediate goals of installing the Winnie Lou memorial garden, finish the smoke house, and gain enough support to order a reprint of "Images of Yancey". It appears that all of the above goals will be nearly completed by the end of September. I would like to thank all of the volunteers and those who have supported us through contributions. We will be hosting a genealogy desk with "old timey" displays during "Old Timey Days" on September 24. Again, thanks to all who support us; we need it. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting will be at the Burnsville Town Center and Sheila Kay Adams will present the program. Light refreshments will be served.

*Bucky Cochrane*



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

By Frances Higgins

The Yancey County Rathbone's are descended from a John Rathbone born around 1760 on Block Island, Rhode Island. In his early years he settled in Connecticut. After leaving Connecticut he settled in Montgomery County, VA. He was listed being the owner of 120 acres of land near Bull Run (Manassas) at New River, and 45 acres on the West side of New River. By the late 1700's he had moved into North Carolina, purchasing 200 acres in Buncombe Co. (now Haywood). In 1803 he had moved into Burke Co. (now Yancey) purchasing 200 acres lying from the Pine Swamp branch east to the Cane River. (I have a copy of the deed.) John Rathbone appears among heads of households in the federal census records of 1800, but not in 1850. His widow Sarah is living in the household of Nancy Fergerson age 46. The names of John and Sarah's children were: Andrew Russell Parnell, Jacob Daniel Wesley and Christifer, 2 daughters Nancy and

Alice (Nancy married Jeremiah Fergerson [Source: My Uncle Commodore Rathbone.]

*A side note: The Lincoln Connection...The midwife who presided at Lincoln's birth later married a Rathbone, and was known as Granny Rathbone until her death. Lincoln had a childhood sweetheart who married a Rathbone and that girl's father helped him obtain his first job when he left home. In Springfield where he lived for many years, Lincoln's neighbor and close friend was a Rathbone. To top off the strange series of family connections, when Lincoln was assassinated, his companion in the Presidential box at Ford's theater was Army Major Henry Reed Rathbone, the last man to speak with Lincoln. (According to the stories).*

If you have other questions or inquiries please contact Frances Higgins at 682-3892.

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## Curator's Report

A Pictorial Exhibition of Yancey County Treasures

Back when Pollard's Drug Store, just off the square in Burnsville, was closing for good, Jonathan Hillyer decided that he would try to capture Yancey County around this moment in time - near the turn of the millennium - to help preserve its memories and heritage. He photographed Pollard's on its last day and has been photographing Yancey County's treasures, its people, landmarks and landscapes ever since. Jonathan's hope is that, with his photographs, he can give us even more of an appreciation for the people and places in Yancey County and thereby help to preserve it's landmarks and landscapes before they vanish forever.

Jonathan Hillyer is an Atlanta-based advertising photographer specializing in architecture and portraiture. His wife, Julie Hillyer attended school at Arthur Morgan School and the Hillyer's have called Yancey County their beloved retreat for the last 27 years. A listing of some of the people in the exhibit include: Daniel Boone, Troy McCurry, Red Wilson, Bruce Green and Rob Levin, Bob and Dot Barrus, RL MacIntosh, Frances Higgins, Virginia Boone, Don & Elizabeth Westall, Charlotte Barnette, Milidene Baker Wilson, Margaret Tyner, Annice Maney, Luther Thomas, Sarah Profitt, Wes Hoilman, Virginia and Bill Banks.

Mr. Hillyer, who has personally funded this exhibition, wishes to dedicate this exhibit to "those people who are featured in this show but have passed away since

I began this project: Red Wilson, Ernest Morgan, Charles Hyatt, Bobbie Fox, Lydia Deyton and Ben Wilson."

I personally think this is an immensely important collection that captures an incredible representation of a genuine cross section of Yancey County people and places. There is currently a multi-organizational effort to secure funding for this collection, insuring that it will have a permanent home in our county."

Jim Priesmeyer, Curator

## The Board has begun to expand...

Three people have come forward and volunteered to chair three of the four standing committees set up in the last bylaws revision in 2004. More information on them will be forthcoming at the annual meeting.

## Daffodil Planting Party

Come join us at the Winnie Lou Garden on the Hill and get dirt under your fingernails.

We will be planting 1,000 daffodils. All volunteers will be welcomed. If we run out of bulbs, we will introduce you to our Nemesis Crabgrass and let you get down upon your hands and knees and do a bit of weeding. Surprise gifts will be given to the first ten volunteers arriving.

Come meet the volunteer staff, we have asked Winnie's daughter Charlotte to be there ~ Gossip about old times.... *Grant Ward*

*Date for planting will be announced later this fall!!!!*



## Calendar of Upcoming Events for the End of the 2005 Season \_\_\_\_\_

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup> - Family Heritage Day at the Museum** The focus of this event will be to bring your old photographs where you have not been able to identify the person or place. Local historians will be available to help you try and solve the mystery.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker Sheila Kay Adams** To be held at the NEW! Burnsville Town Center at 2:00 p.m.

Program at 2:00 p.m.

Refreshments at 3:15-3:30 p.m. - Meeting to follow  
We are also planning to mark this event with a celebration of the 25th Anniversary Year of the founding of the Yancey History Association. Mark your calendar for this event.

**October 8<sup>th</sup> - Tour to the "Gardner Rock Petroglyph"**, conducted by James Byrd. The Tour group should plan to meet at the museum parking lot at 9:30 am to carpool to the site.

**October 14<sup>th</sup> - Student Day at the Museum in connection with the NC Archaeological Society.** Elaine Dellinger will be presenting a hands-on Indian artifact lecture for local school students. Call for an appointment for your class. Each session concludes with a tour of the museum.

**October 15<sup>th</sup> - Alternate day for James Byrd**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Perry Deane Young has just released his latest book entitled: "Hanged By A Dream"** He will have a program and book signing at 2 pm in the library annex.

**Late October or Early November** we will announce a date for the final planting of 1,000 daffodil bulbs in the Winnie Lou Garden. We hope that some of the family members of Mrs. Winnie Lou Ray will be able to join us for this event. A Garden Dedication is planned for the Spring of 2006.

**December is the time of the traditional Christmas Open House and Candlelight Tours.**

This is a great time to come out and support the museum's year long efforts and celebrate a new tradition with your family, as we share a cup of cider and ginger snaps. Decorated in the setting of an 1860's yuletide mountain home, please drop in from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday evening December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. The History Association is also planning to have a float this year in the Burnsville Christmas Parade scheduled for the morning of December 3<sup>rd</sup> in connection with the Burnsville Winter Fest Days.

## BOOKS...BOOKS...BOOKS!!!! AND MORE... \_\_\_\_\_

*"Images of Yancey"* pre-published sales have been very good. The official order will be placed in the near future. The books should be received by late November, just in time for Christmas gift giving. Watch for a delivery date in the local paper and on the radio.

*"A Glimpse of Yancey County, McElroy House ca 1840,"* books are in great supply and we have reduced the price to \$7.95 per individual purchase or \$6.00 per book with wholesale purchases for resale in lots of 6 or more books. They too, will make a great little Christmas gift and are available at many locations in Burnsville and Spruce Pine in addition to being in stock at the museum.

YHA Posters, postcards and some tee shirts are also in stock if you need a special or unique gift idea. Phone 682-3671 or email [yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us](mailto:yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us)

## Winnie Lou Garden Project \_\_\_\_\_

"What's doing on the Hill? (News from the Winnie Lou Ray Garden at the Rush Wray Museum/McElroy House). "The old man took out a couple shrubs; trimmed up-close-an overgrown Privet -- Heh! Beginning to look neat. Do you recall what a jungle it was three months ago?!"

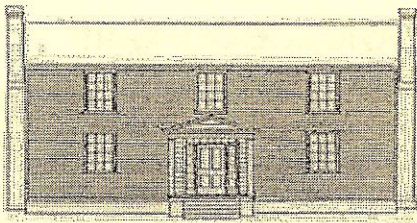
"Old man layed off bed for planting about 75 feet long 7 feet wide -- Is holding plants to plant about 1/2 of total needed... Word is my 'Amazon's' were there with me and we planted along the west side on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Do you recall what a thicket that was? Whow! Come see now! Sad Report: Crabgrass is about to get ahead of us -- we need folks to weed -- at least three hours per week. All volunteers welcomed and needed." *Grant Ward*

We are in need of plants that may have been handed down from your grandmother such as old purple phlox, August lilies, fall mums, old varieties, especially old moss roses, etc. If you would like to have them live on in our garden for the whole area and tourists to enjoy, please contact the museum about sharing a few plants or cuttings with us.

### 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**

**October**

10-4 Friday and Saturday

The museum will close for the season the last day of October, with the exception of the Christmas Candlelight tours.

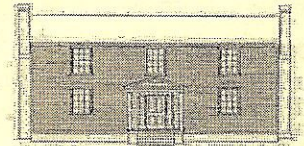
**May through September**

Wednesday-Saturday

10-4 each day

**Contact: 828-682-3671**

**email: [yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us](mailto:yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us)**



## 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 Estatooe/Estatoah, from which the name Towe or Toe River is derived.

**Officers & Staff Directory:**

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*Contributing Editor:* Dr. Lloyd Bailey

*President:* Bucky Cochrane

*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