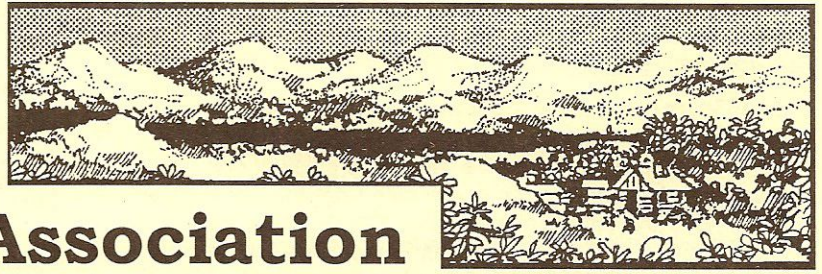


ESTATOEE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XVI, No. 7

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Winter 2006

Commemoration of the "Battle of Burnsville"



The event is expanding and has outgrown the grounds of the McElroy House. We are very happy that it has because that allows us to sponsor a real re-enactment of the period. The 8th NC Regiment (Burke County Home Guard) is a nonprofit re-enactment unit incorporated to educate the public on lives of soldiers on the home front in North Carolina during the Civil War. They try to work within a 150 mile radius of Morganton. They do a Federal impression as the 3rd NC US Mounted Infantry (Kirk's Raiders). Therefore whichever impression they portray they are honoring NC Fighting men.

They will be joined by the 2nd U.S. Dragoons/4th N.C. Cavalry pictured above. The Dragoons were the "special forces" of the time period. Who were taught to fight from horseback with sword and pistol and on foot as infantry. They would ride into battle dismount, form battle lines and then at a moments notice

remount and ride to another area to fight from the back of their horses, move on to the next hotspot to renew their battle. In 1848 Secretary of War Jeff Davis commissioned the 2nd U.S. Dragoons to serve in the western frontier of the United States to protect the settlers from Indians. Known as "Jeff's Own" the Dragoons officers were some of the finest officers in the army including Johnston. These men served in New Mexico, Arizona, Western Texas, Kansas and Utah, until the outbreak of the civil war. The Dragoons had 16 of their officers serve as generals during the war both North and South,

Who were the the 4th North Carolina Cavalry? In 1861 at the outbreak of the civil war North Carolina formed several cavalry companies one was the 4th North Carolina cavalry. These men came from the piedmont of the state and were supplied by the state of North Carolina with horses and arms. North Carolina was the only state in the South that supplied the horses for their troopers.

The cavalrymen of N.C. used single shot pistols, revolvers and swords. The troopers also carried rifles, carbines and shotguns during this time period. These men fought in many famous battles. Brandy's Station (the largest cavalry charge on American soil) and Gettysburg were two of these famous battles. The group owns a mountain howitzer and a 24lb mortar that we fire at events. Several of the members own horses that are used in presentations. Uniforms and weapons are owned by the individual members and are period correct and made from materials that reflect the era, which they portray. Ladies can dress as civilian or in uniform which ever they prefer.

(continued on page 2)

From the President

On February 1, 2006, the Yancey History Association (YHA) was the recipient of the building that housed the Mission Children's Clinic of Yancey. It will be the "Lloyd Bailey Annex of the Yancey History Association." A formal dedication will be announced. Carolyn Cort demonstrated her generosity and commitment to local history by this gift which is unprecedented by a private donation. The YHA has gained a quantum leap in its ability to present local history with this acquisition. It provides dedicated display areas, a convenient and secure library area, meeting rooms, an office, and a lobby for the best use of the YHA. There is also rental space available to help defray operating costs. We are discussing the specific use of the building and how such use best fits in the YHA's limited budget. It is a good problem to grapple with. I would be amiss in my duties as President if I did not call upon other Yancey families to come forward and demonstrate their interest in preserving our history by helping in any way possible with this fantastic opportunity: anything from donations of historic items for display to donations

for the naming of certain display areas or rooms—or of a complete endowment!! As the euphoria wears off we realize that much work needs to be done, and we must depend largely on volunteers. If the YHA issues a call and you can assist, please do so.

The YHA also is very grateful to the Chamber of Commerce for agreeing to pay for signs that will put the McElroy House on the Civil War Trail in Western North Carolina. Signs from the Parkway and I-26 will direct people to the house where additional educational placards will elaborate on its historical significance. This should present opportunities for local businesses as well as serving an educational purpose. The YHA thanks the Chamber and the Nine State Civil War Trails Program.

The "Battle of Burnsville" this year on the 22nd and 23rd of April will be the largest yet. Re-enactors will be at the McElroy House grounds and the grassy area behind Carolina Mountain Realty. Over 60 participants and a couple of cannons have committed to be on site. We look forward to waking up the town.

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

By Frances Higgins

In 1834 as required by the legislative act creating the county, the commissioners bought 100 acres for a county seat. The act specified that it be within five miles of one James Greenlee's residence and a mile from the Cane River Church. The first county officials were Daniel Angel, sheriff pro-tem; Amos L. Ray, clerk; Joseph B. Ray, Register of Deeds; Burgess S. Gaither, solicitor. The first act of the court was to grant a license to sell whiskey to raise funds for the new county and a fine of a gallon of cider each was levied on Reuben Keither and S. Byrd - their offense not specified.

During the same year, 1834, the first local road act for Yancey County was passed by the State legislature to open up connections with the east and west. The Town itself was named

Burnsville in honor of Captain Otway Burns, hero of the War of 1812 and commander of the privateer Snapdragon. Captain Burns was a member of the North Carolina legislature which created Yancey County (the custom apparently being to honor fellow legislators in the naming of new entities).

The statue of Captain Burns which stands at the center of the square in Burnsville was given to the county on July 5, 1909 by Walter Francis Burns, his grandson. According to the dedication address, the statue was the first to be erected in North Carolina outside of Raleigh. Captain Burns namesake, his four-year old grandson Otway Burns IV, pulled the cord to unveil the statue.

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

Commemoration (continued from page 1)

Schedule of events: Saturday, April 22 at 2 p.m. they will portray Kirk's Raiders

Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m. they will portray the Home Guard

The event will be open from 9:00 am until 4 pm each day. The camp will be set up in the field just above McDonalds on the By-Pass, where the re-enactment will also take place. In the real battle, the cannon was set up on the ridge where Bi-Lo's parking lot now stands. Activities will be underway in period dress at the battle site, in the encampment as well as at the museum and grounds. After all, the museum was the Headquarters of the WNC Home Guard during that time.

ALSO - Saturday April 22 at 11 am

Dedication of the "Smokehouse" on the west side of the McElroy House.

The Col. John B. Palmer Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, were responsible for undertaking the project begun in 2002. They dismantled the smokehouse located on Gilder's Creek off Jack's Creek Rd. and moved the logs to the museum grounds. Over the next two seasons they have reconstructed the smokehouse to what you see today. We are grateful to Steve Williams for his purchase and donation of the structure to the YHA. Members of the SCV, the Williams family, the public and members of the association are cordially invited to the ceremony.

Saturday April 22 at 5:00 pm

In appreciation for all of those who will help make this day possible, a hotdog supper will be provided by the museum. The meal will be served in the meeting room on the second floor of the Lloyd Bailey Annex. The invited guests include the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Williams family and all re-enactors.

The 2006 Season Opening and you're invited to ...

The Dedication of the "Winnie Lou Memorial Garden"
April 1st at 11 AM



Front lawn of the McElroy House
Family, friends and Association Members
are cordially invited

Refreshments will be served following the ceremony in the upper level of the Lloyd Bailey Annex.

Curator's Report

This past Fall the YHA hosted a visit by Mr. Bill Moore, recently retired Executive Director of the History Museum of Greensboro, NC. Moore was the first full-time employee of that museum and spent his entire 40 plus year career building and developing that facility. This fine museum now employs more than a dozen full time staff members. In addition to presenting the broad scope of Greensboro's history, it houses the most extensive collection of Confederates of America firearms in the U.S. of A.

The October visit by Moore began the final phase of 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 (AAM).

Although the population base is different, there are many similarities between the Greensboro History Museum's development and the projected growth of Yancey's history museum. We are very fortunate to have been selected for this assessment process and even more fortunate to receive the expertise of Bill Moore. I look forward to sharing the results and recommendations in our next newsletter.

Thanks for your continued support.

Jim



Fundraising

YARD SALE!

**Saturday, June 1st 8-3 pm Yancey History
Association parking lot off Academy Street.**

BOOK SALE!

**Glimpses of Yancey County, NC The McElroy
House on sale for \$7.95 plus tax and shipping
GIFT SHOP to open in the near future.**

We have books, posters, tee shirts, CD's etc available
come browse!

NEW OFFICE HOURS: To be Announced.

Calendar of Events 2006

April 1 11 am Dedication of the "Winnie Lou Garden"

April 22 11 am Dedication of the Smoke House

April 22 and 23 - Battle of Burnsville Re-enactment (actual battle re-enactment will be at 2 pm each day. The camps and McElroy House will have living historians portraying life during the war throughout both days. Cost of museum tours are \$2.00 for adults.

May - Date To Be Announced - Quilt Exhibit and program

May - Date To Be Announced - Open Board meeting in the Lloyd Bailey Annex meeting room.

June 1 8-3 - The Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser. If you have items to donate, please call 208-3671 or 682-9712. Delivery or pickup can be arranged.

June 4 2 pm - Perry Dean Young will be presenting a "Murder Mystery Program" at the New Annex

To Be Announced In June - Dedication of the Lloyd Bailey

Annex of the Yancey History Association, possible though the most generous gift of a deed to the former Cort Medical Building by member Dr. Carolyn Ray Cort. A General Board meeting is scheduled to follow in which all members are invited to attend.

July 1 2 pm - Margaret Griffith will present a program on "Our Nation's Independence" The YHA will also have a booth on the square during the 4th celebrations plus the usual Veteran's Exhibit.

August 6 2 pm Lowell Presnell will present a program based on his book on **Minerals and Mining in Yancey County.**

Date To Be Announced - General Board meeting will be held in the Lloyd Bailey Annex meeting room.

September 9 1 pm - Dr. Lloyd Bailey will present a program on the local Soldiers in the War of 1812.

Sept 15 and 16 - Carolina Mountains Literacy Festival with local writers (various locations)

October 1 - Planned silent auction items available for furnishing the museum from a privately owned collection made available for exclusive purchase for the museum. Details will be announced.

October 2 - Annual Meeting YHA Program "Gov. Zebulon B. Vance" with Speaker from Vance Birthplace

December 2 2-7 pm Candle Light Tours of the McElroy House (weather permitting)

Membership Renewal Changes

Tired of not knowing when your membership expires? On the mailing label today, you will find a date regarding membership expiration dates. [Example: 12/05 would mean that your membership is current through 2005 and 2006 fees are due. If it reads 12/06, your dues are current until 1/2007.] We hope this change will be helpful.

If you would like to begin receiving the newsletter by email, please notify Colette at yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us. We are continually looking for ways to save on expenses and this would be one way.

YANCEY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Genealogy Corner Special Announcement!!!

Friday, March 3, 2006 at 10 am

A "Genealogy Round Table" will meet in the meeting room at the Lloyd Bailey Annex.

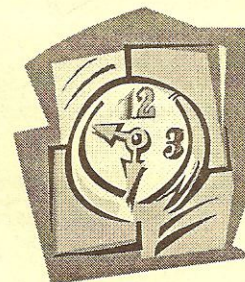
The purpose of this meeting is twofold: first, over the past years the museum has received numerous inquiries regarding contacts for the Genealogical Society. (As you may know the Toe Valley Genealogical Society dissolved about 3 years ago.)

We finally have an ideal setting for such a group in the new facility. And, second, we have been donated approximately 200 books that I would term as ideal reference books for genealogical research.

So at this time we realize the best way to meet the needs of many would be in forming a small cluster group of those interested in genealogy and from that group we hope to see a organized group emerge. I am willing to facilitate the first gathering, but hope someone will step forward to coordinate the group as they organize.

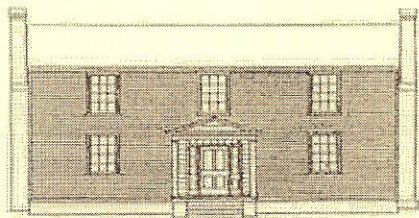
With the combination of the reference library, research area and the meeting space a lot can happen. I have already had two individuals volunteer to staff the library one day per week. In order for the materials to be accessible the YHA will need to rely totally on volunteers to staff it. Presently, hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10-4 p.m. during the months of May-September and Friday-Saturday 10-4 p.m. during April and October. We are now assessing and planning to increase operating year round. Revised schedule will be announced at a later date.

If your interested in attending the round table or volunteering for this project please contact: Elaine McAlister Dellinger 682-7524 or the museum at yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us /682-3671.



Volunteers Needed!!!! With the new building we desperately need association members to volunteer to answer the telephone in the annex or to guide tours at the museum. You may volunteer occasionally, once a week for 4-6 hours or as your schedule allows but please find time to volunteer.

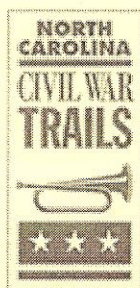
Members if you would like to donate food items for the hot dog supper including: hotdogs, buns, coleslaw, deserts, chips etc your gifts will be appreciated. You may drop them off on Friday or Saturday April 21st or 22nd. Colette will be at the Museum or Annex building both days. Phone today 208-3671.



Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714

Estatoe Quarterly Newsletter



*Our thanks to the Chamber of Commerce
for supporting our effort in getting the
McElroy House on the NC Civil War Trails!*

The House

*The house stands silent and alone,
Seeming to wait without despair,
to be inhabited once again,
by those who lived and sheltered there.*

*The apple trees seem waiting too,
their untrimmed branches hanging low.
Gone are the hands that gathered fruit
and cared for them so long ago.*

— Frances Higgins

MUSEUM HOURS

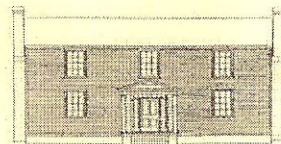
Admission \$2.00

April

10-4 Friday and Saturday

Contact: 828-682-3671

email: yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us



ESTATOE

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Estatoe (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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