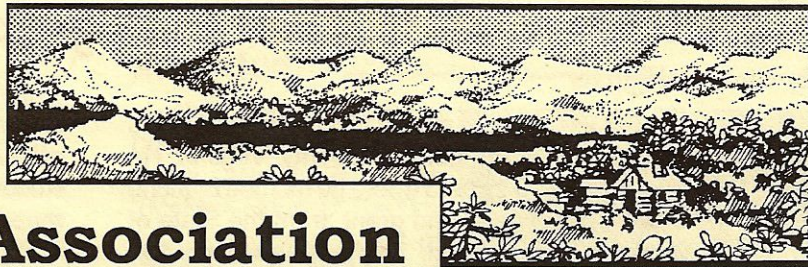


# ESTATOEE

Quarterly Newsletter

## Yancey History Association



Volume XVI, No. 8

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Spring 2006

### Editor's Note:

The Rush Wray Museum of Yancey County History (Complex) is open for the summer season. Our new hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10-4 p.m. Some of you have experienced problems reaching the office at 682-3671, until we get settled into the new Lloyd Bailey Annex please call 208-3671 this is the cell number and is not long distance. Again we need volunteers to answer the phone during open hours. If you can give a few hours each week please help!

Our membership list is continually being revised. We find mailing addresses that are no longer correct. If you know of someone that has moved please remind them to let us know their new address as soon as possible.

The books sales for Images of Yancey 3<sup>rd</sup> Reprint has been

great, we still have about 30 copies left at the price of \$59.95 which includes tax but not shipping if indicated. Call today to reserve a copy while they last!

The Fund Raiser book "Glimpses of Yancey" at \$7.95 plus tax will make a great inexpensive gift for family members and friends or even a new neighbor. We have a very tight budget this year and need for these sales to increase! The balance of the cost of publishing this book is due in full June of 2007. Please HELP today!

Mr. Grant Ward needs your help in weeding the flower and herb garden a couple of hours each week!

Finally as you can see we desperately need volunteers!!!! So please call today to volunteer.

Elaine Dellinger

### From the President

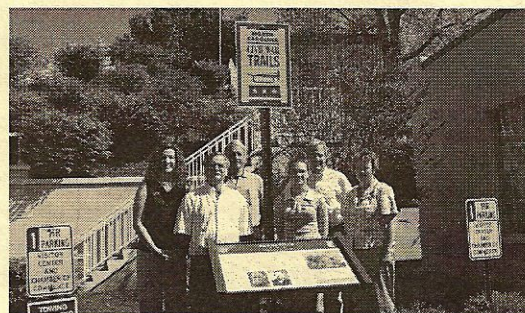
The Association has been very busy at the beginning of this 2006 season to maximize the use of the newly acquired "Lloyd Bailey Annex", the old children's doctor building donated to the YHA by Carolyn Cort. On April 1, the dedication of the Winnie Lou Ray Garden took place among several Winnie Lou descendents and a glorious display of daffodils. In addition, we held the annual "Battle of Burnsville" commemoration in late April. Rain kept attendance down of both participants and spectators, but a good show was presented, nevertheless. A crowd of certainly over 100 each day watched Burnsville's first "battle" within its city limits in 142 years. We thank the re-enactors who braved the elements and operated a period military camp as well as portrayal of a Civil War battle complete with small field artillery. The participants were shocked and grieved to learn that one of their members, Barry Walker, passed away Saturday night at his home in Valdese after participating in Saturday's program. Knowing Barry's enthusiasm for the educational benefit of re-enacting, the participants paid him a tribute of musket and cannon volleys in a memorial service held on the Museum grounds on Sunday morning and completed their planned program.

With the new building, new opportunities are given to the YHA. A genealogy library is now in operation and being expanded as opportunity permits. I call upon any members with family tree documentation to contact the YHA office to have the material copied or donated to the library. The library resources are open to anyone doing genealogical research. We are working toward our goal of having the McElroy House be mostly a "house" with other exhibits displayed in the Lloyd Bailey Annex. This is a daunting task for the few of us involved. We need volunteers!! We are always looking for display items, particularly the hard to find items of the mid to late 1800's. Please contact us for a tax deductible gift or a loan.

The official dedication of the Lloyd Bailey Annex will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. Please plan to attend the dedication of this building in honor of Yancey County's leading historian. Please see the Calendar of Events and newspaper announcements for details.

There will be refreshments and a piano concert following the dedication. The concert will be at the First Baptist Church and be given by internationally renowned pianist Lily Chou. There is no charge for admission, but donations are, of course, welcome. All donations go to the YHA. Please plan to attend this important event to show your pride in your town and its history.

Bucky Cochrane



Pictured (L-R) Back Row: Bucky Cochrane, Mitch Bowman  
Front Row: Miki Pontonno, Jim Priesmeyer, Colette Blankenship and Shirley Bryant

On May 4th, board members and staff were present for the placement of the new Civil War Trails Marker. We are very pleased that Jim Priesmeyer took the lead on this project and we are very appreciative for his efforts in making the request, the necessary research and application's approval for becoming a part of the trails program in North Carolina. We hope everyone will come by and take a moment to view the sign, which is placed to the left of the Chamber of Commerce directly in front of the McElroy house, part of the Rush Wray Museum Complex. Again we thank the chamber for sponsoring the cost of the sign. We were briefly mentioned on the local news by WLOS that same evening.

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

By Frances Higgins

Stephen McMahan was born about (1780 in some records editor's note) or 1805 in Montgomery County, Virginia. He came to Burke County around 1825 where he married Blanche Ridley. In 1834 he received a land grant from the State of North Carolina for 50 acres of land. This land was located on the Sanford Ridge in the Pensacola section of Yancey County.

He and his wife both died in the early 1860's. The inventory of his effects taken on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August of 1862 totaled \$396.97. Recorded Jan 29, 1863 by E.D. Brendle, Clerk of Court. Sell recorded by W.H. Buchanan.

Inquiries may be made to 682-3892.

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## Pianist Of International Renown To Give Benefit Concert In Burnsville



The Rev. Dr. Lily Chou, an internationally acclaimed pianist, hopes to fill the First Baptist Church in Burnsville with lovers of classical music on Sunday, June 25, at 3 p.m.

There is no cost of admission to the performance. However, an offering will be taken for the benefit of the Rush Wray Museum of Yancey County History, the Yancey History Association, and especially for the recently acquired Annex that has been named in honor of Lloyd Bailey. Dedication of the Annex will be held at 2 p.m., just prior to the concert. The public is invited to both events.

Although this will be a "Mostly Mozart Program," it will also feature beautiful and moving selections from J.S. Bach, Joseph Haydn, Sergi Rachmaninoff, Frederick Chopin, and Franz Liszt.

Chou gives an explanation of each selection before she plays it so that the listener can be aware of the circumstances under which it was written. As a result, the audience will understand and appreciate the mood of the composer.

Dr. Chou believes that the event will be a "wonderful opportunity" to expose children to music. "Music is the food of the soul," she has said. "We need to take care of our body, but very often we starve our soul."

Lily Chou was born in Shanghai, China, and began to study piano when she was five years old. By age nine, she was playing difficult pieces by Mozart and Beethoven. At age nineteen, she came to the United States, earned an MS degree from Juilliard and then a DMA in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California.

She has toured Russia four times and China seventeen times. On one occasion her television audience in China has been estimated at three hundred million. She has given performances in twenty-one states in the U.S. and in major cities in Southeast Asia, Austria, and Guyana. More than forty of her students have earned their MM or DMA degrees from prestigious music institutions in this country such as Juilliard and Curtis.

In preparation for a second career, Dr. Chou earned the degree Master of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School in 1999. She is currently the pastor of two United Methodist churches, Smith Chapel and Brownings, near Mount Olive, N.C.

The First Baptist Church is located on Burnsville's Town Square. The Museum Annex is located one block west of the church on Academy Street which exits from main street at the center of the town.

Questions concerning these events may be directed to Lloyd Bailey at [lloyd@duke.edu](mailto:lloyd@duke.edu) or 919-489-8731. Lloyd would like everyone who appreciates his two decades of untiring work for the preservation of the heritage of our area to attend this wonderful benefit concert.

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## Curator's Report

There have been many changes since my last report. As you may recall the history museum had just received the completed museum assessment that was preformed by Mr. Bill Moore retired executive director of the History Museum of Greensboro, NC.

One of the areas discussed in the report addressed the future use of the newly acquired Lloyd Bailey Annex that has been so graciously donated by Carolyn Cort. Our current YHA board of directors has taken full control and responsibility for the development of this wonderful asset.

A second portion of the report recommended that with the availability of new space, for collections, the museum would be advised to separate the displays and collections into two groups. Items that have a direct tie to the McElroy House and its owners and place in history will stay in the current museum. All other parts of our county's fascinating culture and development will find a new home in the annex.

This new expansion creates both opportunities and challenges. The history museum will now be able to accept items and collections that were previously not possible due to space limitations. I hope the good people of Yancey County will give serious thought to contacting the museum manager, Colette, and offering donations to the new collection.

The real challenge over the years has been how to furnish the McElroy house with the period appropriate furniture. With that thought in mind and with the assistance of a dedicated museum supporter (and my aunt) Sue Paris a collection has been built that can accomplish two goals. First, furnish the museum and second, raise funds for the museum's operations. Before the end of this years museum season this collection of beautiful Empire Furniture will be displayed at the museum and offered at a silent auction. This will allow museum supporters the opportunity to purchase pieces for donation to the museum and receive a tax deduction at the much higher appraised value.

It is my sincere hope that this will be a great success as it will truly move our nice, but rather eclectic museum to a new level of grace and refinement.

Thank you for your continued support. Jim Priesmeyer

## Calendar of Upcoming Events for the Late Spring and Summer Season: \_\_\_\_\_

June 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday at 2 pm - Annex Conference Room, Perry Deane Young. "With Murder Mysteries"

Bestselling author and playwright Perry Deane Young will be at the Lloyd Bailey Annex of the Yancey County History Museum in Burnsville, N.C., from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 4th, to discuss "the murders of Yancey County" and to sign copies of three of his books: "*The Untold Story of Frankie Silver*," "*Hanged by a Dream*," and "*Our Young Family*."

Born March 27, 1941 on a farm in Woodfin, near Asheville, N.C., Young worked on newspapers in Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, and Chapel Hill, N.C. He also worked for United Press International in Raleigh in 1963 and in New York in 1967. In January, 1968, he went to Vietnam on assignment for UPI, arriving in Saigon the night the Tet Offensive began. In 1970, he worked for the New York Post in New York and in Beirut and Cairo.

Since 1970, Young has published articles in numerous national magazines and newspapers. These include The New York Times, The Washington Post, Newsday, Harper's, Ms., Rolling Stone, Penthouse, Cosmopolitan, The Advocate, Washingtonian, Saturday Review, The Chicago Journalism Review, The Quill. A columnist for the Chapel Hill Herald from 1996-2003, his articles now appear in *The Independent* and can be found in the archives at [indyweek.com/durham/authors/perrydeaneyoung.html](http://indyweek.com/durham/authors/perrydeaneyoung.html).

June 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday at 8 AM until ??? for the ONE DAY ONLY Annual Yard Sale

June 25<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - Dedication of the Lloyd Bailey Annex and Lily Chou Benefit Concert

July - All month the Annual Veteran's Exhibit which keeps on growing will be on display - come see!

**Coming events:** The Asheville Quilt Guild will be sponsoring a **Quilt Exhibit in the museum with the theme of "A Stitch In Time!" during the months of August and September.** Quilts from each decade beginning with 1940's back as far as the American Revolution will be on display. There will be fancy quilts, plain quilts, some history of each. Come and enjoy learning more from the stitches of our past.

August 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday at 2 PM Minerals and Mining by Lowell Presnell

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE SILENT AUCTION IN THE FALL FOR PERIOD FURNISHINGS FOR THE MUSEUM !!

### MEMBERSHIP DUES... MAY BE PAST DUE????

If the mailing address on this newsletter has the date 12/05, your 2006 dues have not been paid. So please remember to mail them. If your address label has 12/06 then you are current with your membership dues! Please use the enclosed re-newal form to submit your dues as soon as possible.

Dues are \$10 for an individual, \$25 for a family, \$50 for a business or sponsor. If you fail to receive a renewal form mail your check made payable to Yancey History Association, P.O. Box 1088, Burnsville, NC 28714 or call 208-3671 if you have questions regarding your status.

## Winnie Lou Garden Dedication well attended... \_\_\_\_\_

News from the Winnie Lou Ray Garden at the Rush Wray museum "(McElroy House)." The Day was a success many of Winnie Lou's family and friends were in attendance for the dedication. Some of the YHA members were in



period dress. Refreshments were enjoyed following the ceremony. Also, we would like to thank the Ruth Davidson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for attending.

(Pictured is the ribbon cutting with Mrs. Charlotte Derrough daughter of Winnie and Troy Ray along with Grant Ward and board members.) The flowers were at their peak! We challenge other businesses and individuals to plant bulbs for next springs show. The history association will have a flower bulb catalog sell and take orders for fall planting, so watch the newspaper for times.

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

"*Images of Yancey*" Some still available - call or come by today!

"*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, some tee shirts and other local books are also in stock if you need a special or unique gift idea.

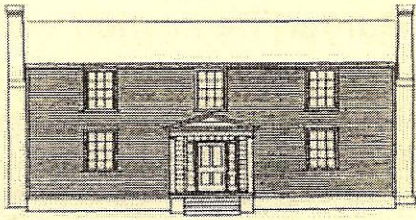
Phone us at 682-3671 or 208-3671 or email us at [yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us](mailto:yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us)

### DEDICATION and RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE LLOYD BAILEY ANNEX OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. we will begin with a short reception (due to the time restraints of the afternoon) followed then by the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at 2:00 at the lower level of the annex. The celebration will continue to the concert at First Baptist Church at 3:00 pm.

### YARD SALE!!!!FUNDRAISER

One day only Saturday, June 10th from  
7 am until... at the Lloyd Bailey Annex 3  
Academy Street.



## Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088  
Burnsville, NC 28714

### Estatooe Quarterly Newsletter



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

## NEW OPERATING HOURS

### Annex Hours:

Wednesday – Saturday 10 am til 4 pm each day

### Museum hours:

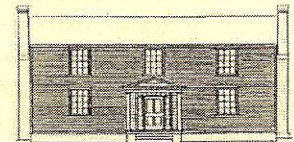
Wednesday – Saturday 10 am til 4 pm each day

### Genealogy Library:

Only while staffed by a genealogy volunteer during  
the hours of 10 am til 4pm each day.

Come to the annex to begin your tour of the complex.  
Cost of the house tour is \$2.00 each. The tours will be  
given every 45 minutes. You may visit the library or  
browse through the books and other displays in the  
annex while you wait. If you would like to volunteer to  
serve as a docent for tours please contact the annex  
at 208-3671.

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



## 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.

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**Secretary:** Sara Cochrane  
**Director at Large:** Shirley Wheeler Bryant  
**Director at Large:** Judy Ray Lackey  
**Museum Curator:** Jim Priesmeyer  
**Museum Manager:** Colette Blankenship