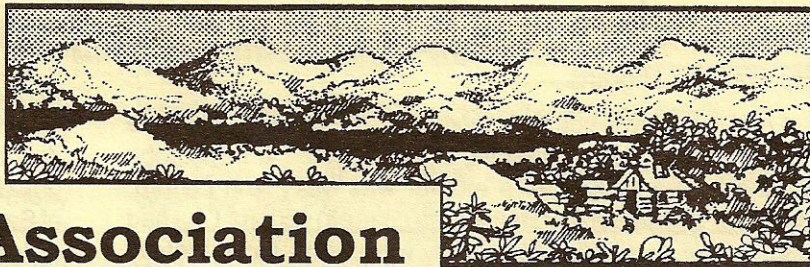


ESTATOEE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XVI, No. 9

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Summer 2006

From the President

This will be my last column as president of the YHA since I have now served my limit of two years (plus a few months). I want to acknowledge the hard work done by board members, staff and a few volunteers. The Winnie Lou Garden is now a reality, and we had a successful dedication in April. The Battle of Burnsville commemoration this year saw the first Civil War re-enactment in the town. Attendance was good despite the hard rains during the weekend. Interesting programs have been presented, if not well attended. The generosity of Carolyn Cort has given the Association a new building for use in preserving Yancey County history. Much effort has been expended in moving from the old office 40 steps above the old library to the new office in the new building. A genealogical library has been created and meetings are regularly held on the subject. The building, named the Lloyd Bailey Annex of the Yancey History Association, was officially dedicated on June 25th. The dedication was followed by a piano concert performed by Lily Chou in the First Baptist Church. We wish to thank all the friends of Dr. Bailey and the Association for their generous donations during the dedication ceremonies. We have a limited supply of volume III and V of Dr. Bailey's definitive Toe River Valley series on local history. At present, a very interesting quilt display is on exhibit, courtesy of the Asheville Quilting Guild. We are actively planning for exciting use of our new facility. This new facility will also allow more appropriate displays in the McElroy House, current home of the Rush Wray Museum of Yancey County History. Interest seems to be gaining momentum as we are getting new volunteers for work in the office and other Association issues. We need office volunteers so that our manager will be free to conduct tours and maintain the McElroy house while keeping the office open. As historical displays are presented also in the Lloyd Bailey Annex, this need becomes critical. We seem on the edge of being able to accomplish great things for Yancey County historical preservation and education.

Nevertheless, we are on an edge and can go either way. I cannot sugar-coat our financial situation. The Board previous to me committed the Association to a \$20,000+ debt in publishing 5000 copies of a paperback book on the McElroy House. This was done as a fund-raiser. In June 2007, when the final bill is due, we will still owe about \$14,000 by my

best guess. I appreciate all the people who have purchased this book, and especially Mountain Air's purchase of 300 books. To sell any of the books, we had to reduce the price from the initial \$12.95 to \$7.95. They simply have not sold and it is not from lack of effort. The Association is simply not equipped to handle on-line sales or credit card sales. This has perhaps impeded our efforts somewhat, but the bottom line is that we have not been able to sell the book.

We have received a very devastating blow in that the county was not able to fund many of the non-profits outside of vital health and emergency agencies this year and likely next year as well. We have counted on the \$6,000 we received from them each year to pay for museum staff and curator. The town was again able to fund the \$1,000, same as they funded last year and for that we are very thankful. However it will not be enough to meet expenses on it's own. At present, we have only the rent from the Chamber of Commerce Building (\$800/month) as a source of income. Thanks to hard work, we did do well on sales of "Images of Yancey". We also had a successful yard sale. Without continued fundraising efforts, we cannot meet operating expenses, let alone the book debt. With fundraising efforts, we must get one dollar in public donations for each two raised or lose our tax-exempt status. Losing that status would be the death of the Association (my opinion). We need some sort of corporate sponsorship for at least a portion of our operating expenses which are about \$23,000/year. An endowment of \$500,000 would allow us to live on the interest for a long while, but that is not likely.

Of course, member contributions can make a large difference. Two hundred members donating \$50 gives us \$10,000, enough to get by with the rental income. The board and staff have worked hard and given the association many hours. It is now your turn to get involved. With the financial support of our members we can not only survive but grow as we have these past two years. It has been an honor to serve with the dedicated core of people that have made the Yancey History Association successful. It is a simple fact that this core of people willing to work and/or contribute must expand. I have confidence that the people of Yancey County will do what is necessary to see that the association and museum become stable once again. *Bucky Cochrane*

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

By Frances Higgins

Levi Metcalf was born in Buncombe County, NC in 1821. He was the son of James Metcalf, Jr., who settled in Buncombe County about 1790. Levi's mother was Mary Ann Oxford, daughter of Samuel and Bathsheba (Barrett) Oxford. Levi had one brother and eight sisters, they were: Rev. Jacob Metcalf married (m) Elizabeth Buckner; Nancy married John Buckner; Sally (m) Larkin Chandler; Lucinda (m) Martin Chandler; Eadie (m) Robert Crawford; Rebecca (m) Haley Buckner; (m) Ransom Merrill; Matilda (m) Jackson Ingle; Cecelia (m) Washington Burlison.

In 1847 Levi married Drucilla Hunt, daughter of Henry Hunt of Ivy Hill section of Buncombe County. The Hunts came into NC from Augusta, GA. Drucilla had three sisters; Matilda (m) Jim Whitt; Cynthia (m) (?) Myers; and Ludinda.

Levi and Drucilla had four children: Mary, born about 1848; Julia, in 1869, married North Bend McLean, who was born in Yancey County, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Clubb) McClean; James Henery, married Mary Margaret Ramsey; Robert, born about 1853, moved to KY.

Levi died in 1859. The inventory of his estate lists numerous people indebted to him. In her later years, Drucilla married John Ramsey. In 1900 she is listed as a widow living with her son James Henery. She lived to be nearly 100 years old and is buried at Gabriels Creek in Madison County. Levi's burial place is unknown.

Rev. Jacob Metcalf is my great-great-great grandfather. His daughter Lucretia married Mitchell Alexander Wilson, my great grandfather. Rev. Metcalf married Elizabeth Buckner, daughter of Samuel Oxford and Bathsheba Barrett. She was the daughter of Jonathon Barrett (born early 1700's) and the first permanent white settler in the area now Alexander County. He married JarFly Jarmin (Catawba Indian), she had died by 1760. They had three children: Bathsheba; Abel (he was dark skinned like the Indians), he went with them when they left the Catawba River area of NC. Elizabeth married John King; Jonathon married and had two children: Jonathon and Jerusa.

Inquiries may be made to 682-3892.

Good News...

New fall and winter hours will allow the association to continue hosting the genealogical society monthly meetings all year. These are on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10 am. The public is welcome to attend; you do not need to be a member of the association to join the society and/or use the library. Donations of family history and old pictures are encouraged. If you would like to further our efforts but do not have materials to share, consider making a monetary donation to our newly created Genealogical Record Acquisition Fund.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Lloyd Bailey Annex Was A Big Success...

Sunday, June 25th at 1:30 we will began with a short reception followed then by the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at 2:00 pm to a crowd of 75-100 guests. The celebration continued to the concert at First Baptist Church at 3:00 pm. Dr. Carolyn Ray Cort, her husband David, her mother Mrs. Dorothy Ray, Dr. Lloyd Bailey his wife Judith and other family and friends were among our honored guests. We are most thankful to Dr. Bailey and Dr. Chou for making the concert possible. The benefit concert brought in approximately \$1,530 to be designated for expenses in connection with the annex building.



(Pictured L-R) Colette Blankenship, Dr. Lloyd Bailey, Dr. Carolyn Ray Cort, her mother Mrs. (Mack) Dorothy Ray and Sara Cochrane board member.

Genealogy Library and Society Report from Mike Shelton:

First of all I would like to thank everyone that has donated books and family histories to the library. Also thanks to the people that have donated their time and equipment for use in the library. We are slowly increasing the volume of information we have to offer, but still need everyone's assistance to make the library a success.

If anyone would like to have a topic discussed at the next meeting or help with their research, please contact me at 828-659-1379 or e-mail at copmedic@verizon.net

The Genealogical Society meets the third Friday of each month at 10 am in the upstairs conference room of the annex.

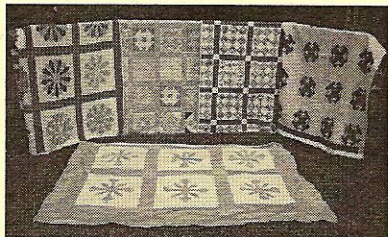


Winnie Lou Garden and the Jim Ray Herb Garden needs volunteers for weeding the beds! Please come by and donate a couple of hours each week or occasionally which ever works for you.

Calendar of Upcoming Events for the Late Summer and Fall Season: _____

Sunday August 6th Lowell Presnell, presented a very interesting and informative program on Minerals and Mining in the Area. Like how there was once a gold mine in the Ramseytown area, how mica is used along with so many other minerals we take for granted. He also signed some of his new books. "I think he could make a story about dirt interesting and really fun, he is a gifted speaker". EMD

August and September The Asheville Quilt Guild will be sponsoring the **Quilt Exhibit** in the museum with the theme of **"A Stitch In Time!"** Admission for this special event is \$3.00 and will cover the cost of the tour.



Connie Brown, Our Event Coordinator with the Asheville Guild states, "Quilts are a glimpse into the homes of our ancestors, they are a link to our heritage. Quilts are

records of fashions and styles from years gone by, some quilts are records of events. Often quilts were made to commemorate historical events like elections, world fairs, centennials, even wars."

Quilts in this exhibit date from the 1800's to 1940, the designs range from traditional patchwork and appliqué to signature quilts and a nursery rhyme quilt. **COME AND SEE!**

September 9, 2006 (Saturday) 1 p m Dr. Lloyd Bailey will be in the annex telling about men from our area serving in the War of 1812

September 15 and 16 Carolina Mountains Literary Festival visit <http://cmliffest.com>

A look into the story telling session of Jim Priesmeyer, just one of many performers and writers taking part in the festival. The McElroy House and Annex will also host Perry Deane Young, Michael Hardy, Elizabeth Hardy, Dr. Lloyd

Bailey and Jacque RedLeaf over the two day event.

Our Own Literary Festival Storyteller: "War Within a War" by Jim Priesmeyer

Using excerpts from two of his one man - one act plays, Gen. John Wesley McElroy in "A Final Farewell" and Montraville Ray in "Skedaddle", Jim Priesmeyer will present a clear picture of the internal conflict on the home front in Yancey County during the War Between the States. Mr. Priesmeyer intertwines the perspectives of these two adversarial historical figures in an informative and entertaining presentation.

As the Home Guard General charged with keeping a fragile, if not impossible, peace McElroy carried the weight of the world on his shoulders. Ray on the other hand served his one year enlistment in the Confederate Army and returned home labeled a deserter and traitor for refusing to continue fight for a cause he did not support. The conflict between these two men, both from prominent and powerful local families, came to a head in April of 1864 when Ray's Renegades captured the Town of Burnsville.

Which of these opposing forces will prevail? Following the two sketches Jim will entertain questions and provide the broad picture of the war within the war.

October 1, 2006 Sunday [Annual Meeting of the Yancey History Association] preceded by a 2 pm program provided by a speaker from Vance Birth Place in Weaverville on **"Governor Vance and his War Years"!**

Note: I have enjoyed serving as both your program chairperson and newsletter editor for the past 3½ years. It is now time to pass the position on to someone else. I am sure we can look forward to a great coming year of activities.

With my best regards, Elaine Dellinger, Vice President YHA

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

DON'T MISS OUT...2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES... are delinquent and this will be your last issue of the newsletter unless you renew today. 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! If you received the newsletter as a part of the pre-published Images book purchase. This is also your last issue of the newsletter. We began your subscription with the Fall 2005 Newsletter. Since these are published 4 times per year this is your forth and final issue. We hope you have found it of value and will consider renewing your membership [January 1st for 2007].

In an effort to reduce our expenses we have revised our membership list over the past few months. Many of you have not renewed in one or more years. We must make budget cuts, so your membership will have expired if not renewed on or by August 30th.

Please use the enclosed renewal form to submit your dues as soon as possible. Forms are only being sent out to those with 12/05 on the mailing label. If your label has 12/06 listed on it your in good standing with your dues. Thank you!

Again dues are only \$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, PO Box 1088, Burnsville, NC 28714 or call 208-3671 if you have questions regarding your status. We value your membership and contributions.

Annual Meeting and Proposed By-laws changes

As the association grows, we have to be better prepared to meet the changing needs of our twofold task; the museum and the history association. Over the past few months we have begun the development of operating policies and procedures to help us as we continue into the 21st century "here in our little neck of the woods". We have better book keeping for both entities, a guidebook for volunteers and a way of tracking their volunteer hours as well as monetary contributions. In putting some of these tools in place we realize the need for some new provisions in the existing by-laws. The following changes are to be considered [recommendation of the board of directors] for approval at the upcoming annual meeting in October.

Proposal Additions:

Section I: Purpose

To reinstate the wording as addressed in the 1979 original bylaws as follows:

Paragraph one: ... preserving, exhibiting and interpreting those collections, records including **genealogical record**, artifacts or structures which relate to the settlement and development of Yancey County, North Carolina.

Under Section II: Organization; Paragraph 3.

Change the position of Vice-President into:

"1st Vice President will serve as Program Chairperson and will still serve as president-elect"

"2nd Vice-President primary duty will be to serve as the Editor of the Newsletter"

Paragraph 6: Add

"Historian will serve as the keeper of the association's activities and history"

Section II: Standing Committees

Section II: Organization Sub-Section Standing Committees:

Add; paragraph 3

"Audit Committee will include of the president, one other board member and two members of the general membership in good standing. The audit committee will be responsible for an annual financial review/audit to be completed in the 4th quarter of the year and prior to the annual meeting. The report will be presented by the committee chairperson at the annual meeting". An audit tool has already been developed for their use"

Let's Make History In Yancey County

MEMBER APPLICATION

Contributions Categories

\$ _____ I pledge to increase my contribution to the next level of support.

\$ _____ Sponsor (\$50.00) Donor (\$25.00) Member (\$10.00)

\$ _____ Any contribution large or small is welcome.

_____ I am interested in contributing items for use and display in the Museum.

All Gifts to Yancey History Association are tax deductible. Thank You for your support.

Yancey History Association

P.O. Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

BOOKS...BOOKS...BOOKS!!!! AND MORE... _____

Local books available and are great for Christmas Gift Ideas!....

"Images of Yancey" have all sold out! If you are interested in information about a 4th reprint. Watch the local newspaper for more information as it is known. Again if we offer this reprint we must first obtain a pre-published paid orders for 200 copies before we can contract for printing. The cost will still be \$50.00 for pre-published and \$59.95 after that time.

"The Glimpses of Yancey, 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 of 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 and annex gift shop.

Toe Valley Heritage Volume III and V by Dr. Lloyd Bailey are available in the annex gift shop the cost is \$70 each.

YHA Posters, other local books, postcards and some tee shirts are also in stock if you need a special or unique gift idea. Phone 682-3671 or 208-3671 or email yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us

YANCEY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Silent Auction Planned for October has been moved to the Spring of 2007! _____

In the spring the 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*

Note: Watch the next newsletter and local papers for upcoming details.

New Program Suggestions:

Are you interested in our providing monthly programs during the off season months of November, February and March? Please give us some feedback by phone or email! After all the programs are designed and directed toward our membership!

Come to the annex to begin your tour of the complex. Cost of the house tour is \$2.00 each. {Note: Special Events admissions may be slightly higher}. 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.

Committee Reports and other Activities _____

Grants/Endowments/Museum Restoration: this committee is already at work having received the first of what we hope will be many. The Saunders Foundation has granted \$1,000 toward the restoration of the front parlor.

A subcommittee has been formed for **Collections** with the following members they will hold their first meeting in September. Howard Smith, Chr. and American Indian Artifacts; Scott Lackey-Civil War Room; Sara Cochrane-Rocks and Minerals; Elaine Dellinger Furniture and Linens; Mike Shelton Genealogical Records.

Membership Committee: needs volunteers, you may be receiving a call in the near future and asked to serve.

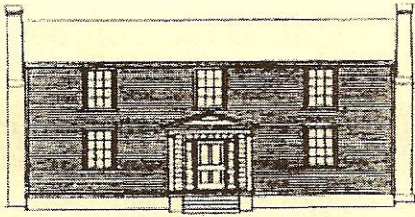
Newsletter and Programs/Events: this committee is basically a PR [Public Relations Committee] And it needs volunteer's. This active has been conducted for 2003-06 by Elaine Dellinger a board member and with the assistance of Colette Blankenship, Museum Manager.

Fundraising and Sales: Needs volunteers Sara Cochrane from the board has been very active in leading fundraising for 2005-06 but she needs helpers.

YARD SALE FUNDRAISER brought in \$1000. We wish to thank everyone who donated items, time and energy to this project it was a great success. We especially wish to thank a Sara Cochrane for her endless hours of organizing and sorting

Nominating Committee: is being set up in August for selection of the proposed 2007 Slate of Officer.

Curator Report: none at this time.



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:

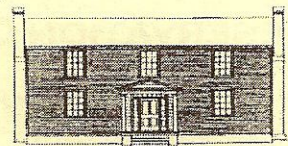
Wednesday – Saturday 10 am til 4 pm each day

Genealogy Library:

Wednesday - Saturday 10 am til 4 pm each day
while staffed by a volunteer

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



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Yancey History Association*

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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.

Officers & Staff Directory:

Editor: Elaine Dellinger

Assistant Editor: Colette Blankenship

Contributing Editor: Dr. Lloyd Bailey

President: James "Bucky" Cochrane

Vice-President: Elaine McAlister Dellinger

Treasurer: Scott Lackey

Secretary: Sara Cochrane

Director at Large: Shirley Wheeler Bryant

Director at Large: Judy Ray Lackey

Museum Curator: Jim Priesmeyer

Museum Manager: Colette Blankenship