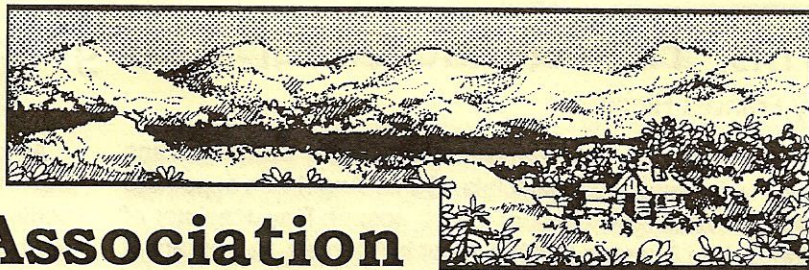


ESTATOE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XVII, No. 12

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Summer 2007

A Message from your President —

Words of Farewell

As a native of Yancey County I have devoted more than 35 years of my life to the research of local history, genealogy and cemetery surveys. From recording that one "lone" grave at the top of the ridge on Jacks Creek to the depths of the McElroy well out behind the museum, to the genealogical records and inquiries at the library, chamber or annex, the many oral histories and courthouse records. It has been a wonderful opportunity of which I have been allowed to help further the documentation and preservation of our local history through my involvement with YHA. I first served on the board as secretary, then as Vice-President and finally as President for the past 8 months. I hope you will understand that after 5 years on the board it is time to step down due to my health status. Officially my last day was May 15th; I have helped to make the transition as smooth as possible. Bob Wilson is now serving as the interim President and I feel sure he will do a fine job. He will need your support and assistance in the coming months.

Much effort has been made to improve the business operations of the association by developing and implementing a policy and procedures book with more than forty policies already in place. Together we have had two grants during this time, and now the "house painting" project has begun. The front parlor restoration is underway slowly and most importantly we have worked hard to assess the by-laws and develop the proposal you saw in the last newsletter. In making several professional consultations regarding the board and by-laws everyone has agreed with the proposal and need to expand.

I am continuing to be involved in the association by volunteering along with Howard Smith to undertake the inventory and collections project. This project will allow the museum to be accountable for all items donated or loaned to the association. An ascension number is being assigned to each piece, a description form and history of the item is written along with a digital photograph. These are then placed in a clear page protector and filed in a permanent notebook and on a computer database file.

It will likely take us two or more years to complete the project but will bring the museum to a higher professional standard by which to continue on.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the weeks and months ahead at different association events and functions.

My best to you all... *Elaine Dellinger, Past President YHA*



YHA Young History Volunteer —

My name is Lance Morsell, I am 10-years-old and I am a new volunteer at the history museum. I love being a volunteer. I love history! I also like playing with my dog Flint, reading, playing outside, and playing on my Game Cube. I am going to be home schooled for the first time this year.

I was born in Atlanta, GA, and lived in Middlesex, NC for 6 years and now I live in Burnsville off Coxes Creek Road. I live there with my Mom and Dad, our 4 dogs, and 8 Pygmy goats.

Lance Morsell

Note from the Manager

Lance has been a wonderful junior volunteer for the YHA since he started April 11, 2007. He and I participated in the Chamber Business Showcase at the Town Center on June 2nd. We had our book sales, information on what the museum and YHA is about, along with our new full Mannequin in ca. 1860's mourning dress. Lance has been successful in getting new membership and learning what it takes to run a museum, office and library. He is very courteous with our visitors and has given tours by himself. I truly believe Lance will be an asset for any museum in the future or a knowledgeable history teacher.

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

By Frances Higgins

A meeting was held in the home of Fuller Sams at Cane River to appoint county officials. Daniel Angel was appointed Sheriff; Amos Ray, Clerk of Court; Joseph Ray, Register of Deeds, and Burgess Gaither, County Attorney. In January of the same year the first Civil Court was held and the first act of the court was to grant licenses to William Carson and David Baker to sell whiskey. Rueben Keith and Samuel Byrd were fined one gallon of cider each. The offence was not listed.

The first court house of brick was built on the town square in late 1836. It was replaced in 1908 by one of concrete blocks, which is now the town hall.

Among the second movement of settlers into the county were the Briggs, Rolanos, Wilsons, and Garlands. These settlers too, like the earlier ones, found many hardships. The nearest market was at Charleston, South Carolina; they also went to Baltimore, Maryland and Saltville, Virginia by oxcarts and wagon trains, the nearest mill was in Burke County.

In 1863 J.L. Hyatt was appointed the first Postmaster. Eventually Burnsville became the trading center of Yancey County. In 1851 Madison was taken from Yancey, Mitchell in 1861, and Avery in 1911.

Manager's Report

The History Association has had a very busy season so far. April 21st & 22nd was the annual commemoration of the Battle of Burnsville. Although every project, program and event has its ups and downs, the Battle turned out successful again this year. With two of our important volunteers Howard "Smitty" Smith and Lance Morsell running the YHA booth at the battlefield, they sold several of our local history books, which helps fund the museum.

The YHA provided lunch and a tour of the museum to the Friends of Mountain History - Museums in Partnership on May 17th. We also took a nice historic walk around the town of Burnsville and Academy Street cemetery. We had close to 30 members of the Friends of Mountain History to attend including a couple of our own members. This past year we have displayed a mourning exhibit called "Oh, Lord, Remember Me" in the lobby of the Lloyd Bailey Annex, and in August of this year our exhibit will change, along with the other museums participating in the Museums in Partnership, and the theme will be genealogy.

The spring and fall yard sales have always been our biggest fundraiser for the past three years. The spring yard sale was on June 2nd from 7 am - 2 pm. We raised more than \$400, and \$407.00 of the cash money was deposited. The

designation of the fundraiser was for the painting of the McElroy House, but had to be spent on annual bills since we had no money budgeted for the project. This was a disappointing situation since the house is in desperate need of painting and replacement of weather damaged siding.

The Yancey History Association appreciates all the local businesses and members that attended our hosted "Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours Event" on June 21st. We served spaghetti, salad and desert and were very pleased with the turnout of some 30 or more in attendance. Following the supper, tours were given at the museum. Everyone seemed interested and enjoyed the evening.

NEW! Lloyd Bailey's -

Toe River Heritage Valley Volume VI has been released and is available in limited supply in the annex (of the same name) gift shop. In stock you will also find Volumes III and V, the prices vary from \$39.95 to \$80 plus tax. Many other local titles and authors are available as well.

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: _____

Calendar of Events 2007



- July:** Come see, *The Annual Veteran's Exhibit* provided to us by Bob Wilson.
- August:** **25th Gospel Pig Picking 6:30 Town Center Flower Garden Stone Marker Dedication (dates will be announced)**
- September:** **Antique Quilt Show**
- October 6th:** **Annual Meeting (new date on Saturday)!**
-

Quarterly Board/Membership Meeting Dates

Our next open membership meeting will be on Tuesday, July 31, at 7 pm in the conference room on the upper level of the annex (south side of building).

Wish to thank the following sponsors and contributors for their generous donations for 2007:

Lloyd Bailey
Dennis & Tina Matelski – Something Special Gift Shop
Scott & Judy Lackey – Burnsville Pharmacy
A Touch of Cass
Tyner's Construction
Harold H. Jr. & Jean B. Kolb
Erwin G. Burhoe – In Remembrance of William Banks
Marion L. Jr. & Dalena J. Nichols
Jake & Cynthia Blood
L.J. & C.M. Means
Polly Doyle
Iris A. Meyer
Blanche A. McKay
Bill & Martha Duboce
Barbara Macdonell
Jane Metcalf Realty
Thomas & Norma Dellinger
MSGT. James D. Silver USAF Ret.
John & Christina Bryans
Robert & Barbara Branch
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
Charles & Sandra Helton
Solon F. Jr. & Sherrill B. O'Neal
Yancey Graphics
Trillium Place Guesthouse
Tracy Cox – Concrete Down Under
Charlotte Derrough
Charles Dellinger

Special thanks to our members for their continuing support and for those we may have overlooked, please accept our sincere apology. We are very appreciative of everyone who supports our heritage, history and restoration of the McElroy House and contributes to the Lloyd Bailey Annex.

Museum Restoration Project

Great news! If you have driven by the McElroy House in the last few weeks you have seen the exterior painting project in the early stages. At this point the damaged wood areas have been identified and a base coat and primer applied. Earlier, we had asked for contributions toward the project and have fallen short of our goal. So please consider making a contribution of \$50, \$100 or \$500 toward the work now being done.

Thanks to the goodness of a local professional painter and neighbor Joe Giardina who has agreed to begin the project in good faith that we will eventually come up with the labor cost. He has submitted an estimate of \$2,800 for the painting. While Curtis Allen a local carpenter has begun to work on the wood repair and replacement and is willing to complete the restoration of the front parlor. The special cut wall boards and flooring is being completed by a restoration woodworker. The Saunders Foundation was happy to extend our grant completion date to accommodate our situation, for this we are most grateful.

On a similar note "Smitty" Howard Smith and Elaine Dellinger have begun the collections and inventory project for the museum. Look for more about the project in the coming months.

Update on the Preservation of our Cemeteries and Abandoned Grave Sites

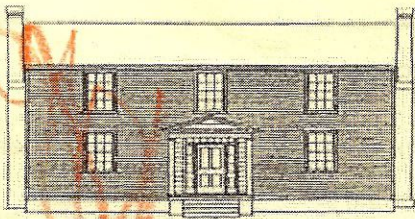
The Cemetery Committee, part of the Yancey County Historic Preservation Commission would like your assistance in locating old and abandoned cemeteries. If you know of any such sites, please contact one of the committee volunteers: Elaine Dellinger 682-7524 or Gwen Bodford 682-6972.

Currently the committee has added approximately 350 GPS readings to the Yancey County Mapping system located in the courthouse. Soon they will be adding another 125 sites bringing the total grave sites or cemeteries locatable on county maps to 525. Prior the establishment of this committee there were some 50 sites on official record. Our newest volunteer is Jake Blood also an active member of YHA.

If you are looking for a specific grave we will be happy to help you find it. The cemeteries are listed on the internet under the "Yancey Archives" and www.usgenweb.com click on NC then click on Yancey County.

New Web Page is being developed

Under the leadership and skills of volunteer Jake Blood, we are eagerly looking forward to being able in the coming months to give you our new web site name. The account has already been established with the local server for the site and our pages are being designed at this time. We hope to have more for you soon.



Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714

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

MUSEUM HOURS

2007 Schedule

Lloyd Bailey Annex:

January - February

Friday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March - December

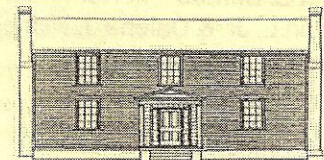
Wednesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Week Closed

Museum Season:

April 1st - October 31st

Wednesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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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.*

Officers & Staff Directory:

Editor: Barbara Branch

Assistant Editor: Colette Blankenship

Contributing Editor: Dr. Lloyd Bailey

President: Bob Wilson

Vice-President: Bob Wilson, Interim

Treasurer: Scott Lackey

Secretary: Jodie Tipton

Director: Virginia Ray

Director: Tracy Cox

Museum Manager: Colette Blankenship

email: yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us

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Yancey Graphics PRINTING

607 West US Hwy. 19E Bypass
Burnsville, NC 28714

Phone (828) 682-6620

Fax (828) 682-6818

yanceygraphics@trccomputing.com