



ESTATOOEE

PRESERVING OUR APPALACHIAN HERITAGE

The April 20th, 2013, Commemoration of the War Between the States paid tribute to the memory of the galant young men who fought and died for the rights of our Southland.

The following story tells of one such soldier from Brush Creek who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

**PVT. JACOB ROBINSON,
COMPANY C 16TH NC
[THE BLACK MOUNTAIN BOYS]**
BY: ELAINE MCALISTER DELLINGER

Jacob was one of nine children born in 1842 to Thomas and Nancy Silvers Roberson/Robertson [Robinson].

His siblings were Margaret, Sarah, Rachel, Samuel, William Riley, Thomas, George and Marion. They lived in the Brush Creek-Roses Branch area of Yancey County near Pleasant Gap Church.

Jacob got married in the later part of 1859. He and his new wife Sarah, were neighbors of Aaron Thomas and Greenberry Woody.

Then came the War of Northern



APRIL OPENING



Aggression. Lincoln was making plans to restore the Union while men in Yancey County were already forming the first Confederate unit to be known throughout history as *The Black Mountain Boys*. Men from each township organized weeks before the order from Gov. Vance came to do just that.

Jacob, along with one of his older brothers, William Riley, joined the unit at the onset on May 1, 1861. Jacob and William Riley; probably felt comfort being together at the beginning, however, this was to be short lived. The boys seemed to have a musical talent since William Riley became a Fifer. Then Samuel, their oldest brother, joined them and the Confederate cause in September of '61 and was promoted to Drummer. On or about May 31, 1862, while in a fight at Seven Pines, Va., he was wounded in the side and was apparently sent to the hospital for a number of months through Feb. of 1863.

At the first of May he returned to duty.

His brother, William Riley, was also wounded and sent to the hospital in Richmond. Back in Yancey County the family would receive word of their wounds and felt very helpless knowing they could not be at their sides to help bring healing, as only family can. Jacob rejoined in time to fight for the cause at Chancellorsville, Virginia, where he was wounded in the leg and/or both thighs. Jacob was sent to the hospital in Richmond where he succumb to his wounds and died on June 12, 1863.

His brother, William Riley, was promoted to Fifer and was also wounded in 1862 and hospitalized at Richmond.

He returned to duty and was accounted for until Oct 1864. No further record after that.

Samuel was wounded and captured at North Anna River in May, 1864 and taken to a union prison at Point Lookout Mountain, Maryland, where he died of his wounds.

Jacob's wife and his mother had much to be sad about knowing they had lost Jacob. Before another year passed, brother Samuel would have been taken prisoner and died of his wounds. And sadly for his mother to know that William Riley had been wounded bad enough to be sent to the hospital in Richmond that he too might not be coming home. This may have played a role in what happened to him since he was unaccounted for by October, 1864.

MOTHER'S TEA AND CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW

Yancey History Association plans a Mother's Tea in June at the McElroy House. As a special treat for mothers and daughters, YHA will be hosting a crême tea to honor all of our mothers, past and present. In addition to a delicious tea, very special entertainment is being planned for the event. Tickets (\$15.00) will be available, by mail, or at the Association's office at 3 Academy Street, on Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. Please purchase your tickets prior to the event. In addition to a reservation, YHA would like each of you to share, in writing your mother's favorite recipe.

For more information contact the Yancey History Association at 678-9587.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

MAY -

25th - Confederation Memorial Day
“Hometown Heroes”
Union Memorial Day
New Display on Show “A Mothers touch and a Fathers firm hand”

JUNE -

Mother’s Tea and Children’s Fashion Show

JULY -

Veteran’s Exhibit

AUGUST -

2nd & 3rd - Mount Mitchell Craft Fair - YHA Booth on Square (two day event)
Homecoming Dinner and Ice Cream Social

SEPTEMBER -

Quilt Exhibition
Farm Equipment and Tools
28th - Old Timey Fall Festival - 10am to 4pm Town Square

OCTOBER -

Harvest Time “with Living History each Saturday”

NOVEMBER -

Thanksgiving Tea

*There are numerous special events in the planning stage and they will be added shortly.
Firm dates and an expansion on details to all events are being finalized.*

RUSH WRAY PORTRAITS COME HOME

The exhibition of portraits of Rush Wray, can be viewed at the Herring-Kivette Art Gallery in the Burnsville Library. The Library Gallery offers a climate control, security storage room which is important to the survival of these portraits.

The Gallery is opening on Sunday, May 5th, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Mary Louise Wray Conner at 2:30pm.

They will have on exhibit, these portraits along with her father’s portrait. However, the portrait will be returned to her once the exhibit closes at the end of May.

Mary Louise is working on getting a photo of her father to hang in the Rush Wray Museum. In addition, there is a picture of Theresa Coletta and Mary Louise, taken on the day we opened the Museum, which is being framed at present and will be given to the Museum.

The ceremony is free and open to the public.

ESTATOE (es-to-toe-e)

Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the name Towe of Toe River is derived.

Officers and Staff

Elaine Boone - President
Elaine Dellinger - Vice President
Chris Carter - Secretary protem
Vivianne Bradley - Treasurer
Sybil Chapman - Historian

Board Members:

John Elsegood
Linda Elsegood
Judy Fuqua
Dixie Styles

Bob Wilson - Past President
Jake Blood - Past President

Staff Members:

Marilyn Oakley
Suzanne Jones

Winter Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday
10am - 4pm

YHA 5-DAY KID’S SUMMER CAMP

Something New for the Kids to do this Summer. Storytelling and activities with Sherry Lovett.

Let’s go mining ... history mining that is.

Discover one of the treasures of Yancey County - The Yancey History Association (YHA), and the Rush Wray Museum through a five-day summer camp offered by the YHA for 8 to 12 year olds.

Together we will mine history through stories, arts and crafts, food, and games to bring the mysteries, ghosts, passions, and battles of our history to life.

One day we will go with a young Cherokee hunter on a great quest, make a bow and arrow, eat corn cakes, and play a type of lacrosse. On another day we will take a walk with Jack and do battle with robbers, do some whittling, eat some apples and play marbles.

COME JOIN US!!!

June 24th thru 28th, 2013. From 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Each child will need to bring their own lunch and YHA will provide the drinks. Cost will be \$50 per child for the whole event. Space will be limited.

Application and release forms are available at the YHA office, on the website www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org and thru Sherry Lovett.

For further details please contact Sherry Lovett at 1-828-467-9955
Email: thelovetts3@gmail.com

THE YHA TO HONORS LOCAL WW II HERO

The Yancey History Association will honor World War Two veteran Rose O Miller with a ceremony on the town square during the celebration of "Heros Day" **May 30th**. Rose is the son of the late George and Rulie Miller and was born and raised in the Pensacola Community. He was inducted into the army in 1943 and trained for service in the European campaign but found himself on a ship headed for India where he was trained for jungle warfare with the 5307th composite unit, more commonly known as "Merrill's



Marauders". His unit was trained for long range penetration of Japanese lines through some of the harshest jungle terrain on the planet. In recognition of their incredible feat his unit received a Distinguished Unit Citation and every member was awarded the Bronz Star. Rose was also awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received during the Burma Campaign. We hope all of

you will come out to help honor one of our truly hometown heros.

A SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank Yancey Funeral Services - Mr Mark Grandstaff for the loan of the casket.

We further would like to thank the Company B 22NC Reenactment unit, Bucky Cochrane members of the **XXX** SCV Camp, Gene Adkins and who helped share the stories and history behind some of both our Confederate and Union ancestors on April 20th.

PLAYHOUSE PRESENTATION



Parkway Playhouse's 2013 season opened May 4 with "Spirited Recollections: A Personal History of Burnsville," narrated by the ghost of Rush Wray, colorful proprietor of the Nu-Wray Inn.

Call for reservations/tickets 682-4285 or visit parkwayplayhouse.com. Tickets also available at the door. Presented for three weeks.

MEET A NEW VOLUNTEER:



We welcome this year Bill Bache (above) of Prices Creek to our list of volunteers. Bill is a blacksmith interpreter for both colonial through the 1800's iron works. Bill a retired law enforcement officer and wife Barbara attend Mt Pleasant Baptist where they are both very active. Also pictured (below) is volunteer Victor Miller posed with a photograph of his great great grandfather Pvt Daniel Miller, CSA.



TRAVEL TRUNKS FOR THE YHA SCHOOL PROJECT



The association is busy collecting items to complete seven educational trunks with the goal of having these in each of the seven elementary schools in time for the 2014 school year.

The trunks address several historical topics and will include the teachers guide and lesson plan with student handouts. These will include the American Indian in Yancey County, The History of Fiber and Fabric, The War Between the States as seen by Yancey County, The History of Photography from Silhouettes to Digital, Tools from the Farm, Self-Sufficient Mountain People, Toys and Games of the 1700 and 1800's. More topics can be added. The trunks will be placed in each school and rotated between schools as the year continues. Periodically, YHA volunteers will need to check on the contents of each one, replacing any items that have become damaged or torn. At the end of the year, YHA will pick up each trunk and return them to our office for restocking and storage until the next school year begins.

It is critical to find a couple of volunteers who are willing to help by duplicating the lessons and contents of each trunk. It would be ideal to have a couple of retired school teachers and or teachers aids working together to finish up this most important project. We are still seeking out a variety of items to go in several of these trunks and again volunteers are needed in order to complete the project this summer. Interested persons may call the office at 678-9587.

YHA PRODUCES NEW CALENDAR OF OLD IMAGES FOR 2014

The calendars will feature a glimpse of the past with old buildings.

The calendar photographs will be sponsored by local merchants and well known Burnsville personalities and will be on sale at Mount Mitchell Craft Fair, the Old Timey Fall Festival and our offices in Burnsville.

The 15 month Calendars will retail for \$12.50 and will help with needed renovations.

**EVENTS FOR AUGUST THRU NOVEMBER FOR THE
YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION**
KEEP THIS CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS



May

New display: "A mother's Touch and a Father's firm hand"
25th

Confederate Memorial Day and Union Memorial Day with the lowering of Flags to Half Staff
Hometown Heroes - 10am to 4pm
Town Square

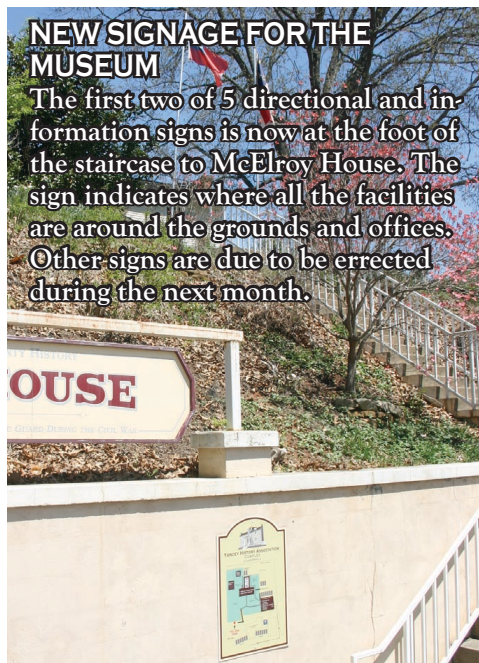
June

Mother's Tea with Children's Fashion Show
24th to 28th

Summer camp - Lets go mining.
5 day kids Summer camp on the ground of the Yancey History Association (information inside Newsletter)
Limited Space Available
To be determined
Combined meeting of Yancey Mitchell and Avery History Associations

July

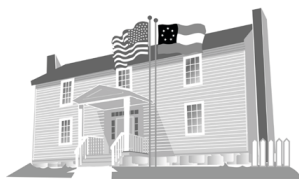
Veterans Exhibit



NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE MUSEUM
The first two of 5 directional and information signs is now at the foot of the staircase to McElroy House. The sign indicates where all the facilities are around the grounds and offices. Other signs are due to be erected during the next month.

Meeting held with Yancey, Mitchell & Avery History Associations

The first in many combined History Association meetings was held over breakfast at the Western Sizzler in Spruce Pine, to put forward ideas that will help all of us as a group move forward. The meeting was well attended. The next meeting planned to take place in Avery County is in June, with a tour of the History Association and Railway Station now located at the back of the museum in Newland.



ESTATOOE
Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association
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Burnsville
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www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org

Stamp