

# ESTATOOEE

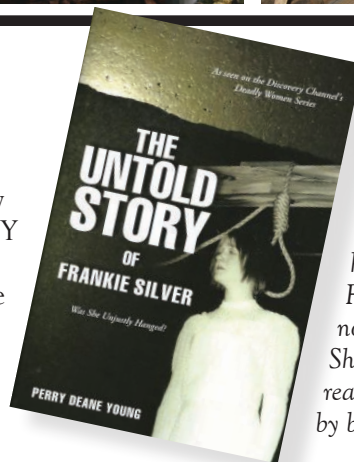
PRESERVING OUR APPALACHIAN HERITAGE

## THE YEAR IN PICTURES



### PERRY DEANE YOUNG THE UNTOLD STORY

We are pleased to announce a **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** by the Yancey History Association in conjunction with the AMY Libraries. **Perry Deane Young**, journalist, author, playwright and historian will give a presentation at the Yancey Library in Burnsville at 2pm on March the 21st entitled "*Frankie, the true story of Frankie Silver*"



Three days before Christmas in 1831, Frankie Silver killed her husband, Charles Silver, with an axe and burned his body in the fireplace. Author Perry Deane Young, whose ancestors were involved in the case, began collecting material about it as a teenager. As a college student, he was astounded to learn that most of what he had been told was actually false. Abused by her husband, Frankie killed in self defense. The laws of that time would not allow her to take the stand and explain what happened. She was unjustly hanged in July of 1833. Young proves the real crime is the way this poor woman has been misrepresented by balladeers and historians all these years.



# CELEBRATING THE PASSING OF THREE WONDERFUL MEMBERS

## VIRGINIA WILSON BOONE

Virginia Wilson Boone, 94, of Eskota, in the Pensacola community, went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, November ,18, 2012. She had been residing in Mountain Manor Assisted Living. A native and great historian of Yancey County. She was a daughter of the late Ewart and Essie Ray Wilson, and a great-granddaughter of Big Tom Wilson. Virginia was the wife of Brooks D. Boone, who died in 2000. She was preceded in death by a son, Steve Boone, and brother, Tom Wilson. She was a long time member of Laurel Branch Baptist Church.

Surviving family are a son; David Boone and wife, Elaine, of Pensacola; a daughter; Linda Ogle and husband, Billy, of Swannanoa; a brother; Ned Wilson and wife, Marjorie, of Pensacola; grandchildren: Tommy and Scott Ogle, Christy Edwards, Dr. Bradley Boone and Daniel Boone; 7 great grandchildren; Seth, Trey, Gabe, Sydney, Reagan, Wilson and Cheney.

Funeral services were held in the Chapel of Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home. Dr. Bradley Boone and Rev. Ray Strickland officiated. Burial was in the Academy Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Yancey County, 856 Georges Fork Road, Burnsville, NC 28714; Concord Baptist Church, Building Fund, P. O. Box 716, Burnsville, NC 28714 or Laurel Branch Baptist Church, c/o of Joe Capps, 201 South Face Lane, Burnsville, NC28714.

## CHARLOTTE RAY DERROUGH

The daughter of the late Winnie Lou Higgins Ray and Samuel Troy Ray, passed away peacefully in her home on January, 11, 2013. Winnie and her husband had been the last owners of the YHA museum's McElroy House. Charlotte had been a great supporter of the museum or as she referred to it as "Mama's House", often bringing family and friends to visit either the grounds, tour the house or for special events. She attended the June Bridal Tea and Fashion show with her daughter Patricia. She leaves five children, Roger Derrough, Jr.; Julia Derrough Rome; Carol Derrough Neely, Patricia Derrough; and David Derrough along with a number of grandchildren. A memorial service was held on January 20th, at Central United Methodist Church and was assisted by the Center for End of Life Transition, for allowing her to receive friends following her passing for a two day viewing in the peacefulness of her own home.

## DOROTHY RAY

Dorothy, a retired teacher, was preceded in death by her husband, Mack Ray. She leaves behind one daughter, Dr. Carolyn Ray Cort with her husband, Dr. David Cort and their children's families. In the 1950's, Dorothy and Mack had constructed the building we now know as the home of the Yancey History Association [the Lloyd Bailey Annex]. They had owned the building, which their daughter donated to YHA a few years ago. They had both been very active in the community and the Methodist church. Some of our members were first introduced to Dorothy and Mack as we have displayed both her 1940's wedding gown and his white grooms suit worn by the happy couple so many years ago. Their daughter Dr. Carolyn Cort had carried on a tradition by wearing her mother's wedding gown in her own wedding.

## ESTATOE (es-to-toe-e)

*Estatowie 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

The McElroy House will be reopening on April 20th.

## YANCEY COUNTY GENEALOGY RESEARCH GET TOGETHER



*Cynthia McCurry Putman asking questions about her kin to Michael Hardy and Mike Ledford.*

The 2nd annual Yancey County, NC, Genealogy Research Get Together, took place on Saturday, July, 28th, at the Yancey County Public Library. The library was packed with people interested in family genealogy. They brought photos and family histories for sharing. As the library has Wi-Fi, many brought their laptops. Representative were on hand assisting with questions and research about their Civil War ancestors.

## FACEBOOK PAGE GAINS POPULARITY

Our Facebook page is being well read with up to 400 visits in one week. Local articles, contributions and information from members like Mark Huber and Claudette Childs are making our site really interesting. We are also trying to showcase the events and activities of our friends in Avery and Mitchell.



*Big Tom Wilson's sons attended the Mt. Mitchell tower dedication ceremony, June 17th, 1927. From left to right: Sam, Joe, Wood, Dolph, and Rich. Elisha Mitchell's grave is on the left side, behind the wrought iron fence. Supplied by Mark Huber*

# FEBRUARY –BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By: Elaine McAlister Dellinger

Photo: Elaine Dellinger

Finding ones roots is not always easy especially if ones ancestor was a slave. Yancey County's 1850 Slave Inhabitants listed some 400 men, women and children owned by seventy slave owners. The owner's names include: Penland, McElroy, Edney, Ray, Young, Carter, Radford, Ponder, Anderson, Roberts, Rice, Ramsey, Bailey, Keith, Fleming, Williams, Sims, Shepherd, Piercy, Wilson, Garland, Broyles, Silvers, McDowell, Dellinger, Wilhite, Griffith, Rowland, Roberson, Byrd, Deyton, Burleson, Pitman, McBrayer, Wilson, Pearson, Avery, Oakes, Carpenter, Childs, Proffitt, Standly, Garland and Horton.

In the mountains the land owners who had slaves likely designated a small graveyard to bury their dead. Often these were away from the family cemeteries and isolated to sometimes the highest hilltop. It is no surprise that over the decades some of these early resting places have been destroyed or lost back to an overgrowth of forest. A few however have survived a near total loss by land development here in our county. These have been only by many hours devoted to researching a burial site or abandoned graveyard by local historians willing to go to the grand jury in their effort to save a sites total destruction.

A few of the African American Cemeteries are indeed preserved and in good con-

dition such as the Horton Hill Cemetery off Hwy. 19 E near Mountain Heritage. There we find some of the oldest ancestors of some family lines such as Marcus Young one of the few Black Confederate soldiers in the county. He was the servant of an officer, Wesley Young, and after the war, was recognized for his service in a pension application approved around the date of the old Veterans death. Others buried there who were born into slavery include Irvine Horton, J.W. Wilson, Hannah Moore, Aunt Lucendia Griffith, Alf Bowditch,



*Pictured here are Willie Horton on the left with his family holding a segment of their ancestral headstone as mentioned in the article.*

Cornelius Young and possibly others whose graves are unmarked.

Noteworthy, is Willie Horton, the famous baseball player who is a direct descendant of Irvine Young. While many families of our community are descendants of Aunt Cindy Griffith (like ballplayer George Lee Griffith and musician Lesley Riddle)

along with those above mentioned, play a vital role in their ancestry and in our community still.

In present day some two dozen or less such graveyards, are all that have been identified and recorded on the county maps and in written published records.

Please, if you know of unrecorded burial sites of suspected slaves please contact the office or contact: Elaine Dellinger or Gwen Bodford directly.

## THE TIPTON FAMILY ASSOCIATION

The Tipton Family of America will hold its 2013 meeting on the 12th of October, here in Burnsville, at the Public Library. The meeting is a one day event.

The association was formed in 1987 in Johnson City, TN. Major Jonathan Tipton, [1750-1833], a Revolutionary War veteran, was an early settler in North Carolina, moving then to Washington County, Tn.; remember our borders overlapped in the past. Many of his descendants remain in our area today.

Anyone wishing to receive their newsletter can subscribe by emailing John Parrish, Pres. at parrish968@aol.com All Tipton descendants or interested persons are invited to attend.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the YHA,

### Members will receive the following:

- Quarterly newsletters of the ESTATOEE
- 10% discount\* at our gift shop (Ce-Nan)
- Free Museum Admission
- Free use of Genealogy library
- Annual meeting and programs

### Other membership gifts:

- With Donation of \$250 - Free copy of McElroy House by Michael Hardy
- Gold Business membership includes a free advert in the YHA quarterly newsletter

Donations above the membership subscriptions are most welcome.

\* Some recent publications may not apply

**Membership:** (tick one box)

- Individual \$20
- Family (2+persons) \$40
- Senior (60+) \$15
- Senior Family (60+) \$30
- Silver Business \$100
- Gold Business \$250

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

Cash  Check  Paypal on the website

Send cash or check to: Treasurer, Yancey History Association, 3 Academy Street, Burnsville, North Carolina 28714

The YHA website [www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org) will keep you up to date with activities. The newsletter ESTATOEE will be delivered via email, please ensure we have this information. If you have no email, a copy will be mailed to your address above.

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



**March**

**21st**  
Perry Deane Young, journalist, author, playwright and historian will give a presentation at the Yancey Library in Burnsville at 2pm on March the 21st entitled "Frankie, the true story of Frankie Silver"

**Last Weekend in March**

"A Stroll through the Garden", a chance to see the grounds of McElroy House covered with Daffodils.

**April**

**20th**  
Opening Ceremony and Commemoration Weekend  
Theme: "Faith during the War 1861-65"

*The provisional calendar of events for 2013 can be seen on the website. When finalized the updated list will appear in the next newsletter, in the local papers, on facebook and on the website [www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org).*

**May**

**18th**  
Mother's Day Tea  
New display: "A mother's Touch and a Father's firm hand"  
Confederate Memorial Day and Union Memorial Day with the lowering of Flags to Half Staff

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE ANNUAL SPRING HOUSE CLEANING!**

Anyone who can volunteer a day to help do the spring cleaning in both the museum and annex needs to report to the association office Wed-Saturday during the week of March 6th through the 9th.

Then the following two weeks from Monday, March 18th through Saturday, March 30th will be devoted to the collections department setting up the displays with some new changes. And will also include a notebook in each room detailing the rooms' contents. This is part of the docent training and will prove to be very useful to any and all docents.

**HAVE YOU GOT IT, WELL WE NEED IT!**

*As we continue to grow in our museum pieces each year we still have a list of particular items we need as follows:*

- 3 - Chamber pots
- 2 - Wash bowl and pitcher
- 1 - Hall tree for the foyer
- 1 - Hallway runner style oriental rug (6-10 ft in length for the foyer)
- 3 - Area oriental or hooked rugs from (2ft by 3ft) or larger
- 3 - Room size (5ft by 7 ft) or (9 ft by 11ft) oriental or hooked rug
- 1 - Rustic era china cupboard
- 1 - Wash board and tub

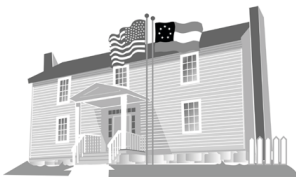
Please consider donating one or more of these items in memory of your loved one for our Yancey County museum.

**New!**

**Volunteer Orientation and Update for Current Volunteers/Board Members:**

We are continually in need of volunteers for the office, to serve as docents, to work in the garden and yard. Consider volunteering today! Call 678-9587 to sign up for the Wednesday, March 27th Orientation Session scheduled from 12 noon until 4 pm.

Contact person: Elaine Dellinger  
678-9587 on Wednesday's or 682-7524 after hours.



**ESTATOOE**

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association  
3 Academy Street  
Burnsville  
NC 28714

[www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org)

