

ESTATOEE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Volume I, Number 3 June, 1986

ESTATOEE (ěs-tā-tō-ě): Also spelled Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee Indian place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the name Toe/Towe River is derived.

Officers of the Association (1986):

President: Kenneth Nelson
Vice President: Lloyd Bailey
Treasurer: Paul Kardulis
Secretary: Theresa Blankenship
Directors: Robert Oldham (ex officio), Bill Young (Parliamentarian), John Young

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The spring meeting of the Association was held on April 20, 1986, at the library in Burnsville. The primary item of the business agenda concerned acquisition of facilities (land and structure) whereby the historical records and artifacts of Yancey history might be preserved. Two possibilities are currently under discussion, and reports were given concerning conversations with the County Commissioners. It was recommended that those conversations continue, with a specific proposal in mind (too preliminary to articulate here).

The program for the occasion was a slide presentation by Lloyd Bailey, entitled "The Kirk-Holden War of 1870." Reinlistment of George W. Kirk's old command (the 2nd and 3rd N.C. Mounted Infantry, Union Army), at the request of N.C.'s Governor W.W. Holden in order to deal with Ku Klux Klan "insurrection" in the counties of Alamance and Caswell, subsequently led to the Governor's removal from office.

A large number of troops from the Toe River Valley participated in that campaign. Documentation includes: troop-rosters (partial), pay-master's receipts, official correspondence, and personal letters. A number of such items was reproduced in the Association's newsletter (I, no. 2). In addition, the testimony of Yancey's Representative Creed F. Young (at the court of impeachments) and of Solicitor Virgil S. Lusk (before the U.S. Senate Committee) was reproduced.

Also included in the newsletter was a fifty-five item bibliography of Yancey County, to which additional items are invited.

Contents of the present issue:

1. Presidential elections in Yancey County: pp. 2-3
2. Presidential Campaign Songs (words transcribed from tapes in the Smithsonian Institution): pp. 4-8.
3. Sources of local news: pp. 9-10.
4. A "broadside" from the 1865 state senatorial campaign: p. 12.
5. A local cemetery--information needed: p. 13.

Correspondence with the Association:

108 Town Square, Burnsville, N.C. 28714

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN YANCEY

| <u>year</u> | <u>candidates and party (winners above)</u> | <u>Yancey vote</u> | <u>Buncombe vote for contrast</u> | <u>Yancey's Rep. to State Legislature</u> |
|-------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1836 | Martin Van Buren (Dem) and Richard Mentor Johnson Hugh White (Whig) and R. J. | 267 138 | 350 724 | Samuel Byrd (Dem) |
| 1840 | William Henry Harrison (Whig) and John Tyler Martin Van Buren (Dem) and Rich. Johnson (Independ.) | 415 290 | 1436 354 | Samuel Fleming (Dem) |
| 1844 | James Knox Polk (Dem) and George Dallas Henry Clay (Whig) and Theodore Frelinghuysen | 427 338 | 412 961 | Samuel Fleming (Dem) |
| 1848 | Zachary Taylor (Whig) and Millard Filmore Lewis M. Cass (Dem. "Hunkers") and William O. Butler Martin Van Buren (Dem. "Barnburners") and Henry Dodge | won by 31 votes | 996 434 | Samuel Fleming (Dem) |
| 1852 | Franklin Pierce (Dem) and William R. King Winfield Scott (Whig) and Wm. Alexander Graham | 357 237 | 376 557 | Cornelius Byrd (Dem) |
| 1856 | James Buchanan (Dem) and John Breckinridge Millard Filmore (Native Amer.)* Andrew Jackson Donelson John C. Fremont (Rep) ^B and Wm. Lewis Dayton | 616 208 ? ? | 778 731 | Isaac Pearson (Dem) |
| 1860 | Abraham Lincoln (Rep) and Hannibal Hamlin Stephen Douglas (N. Dem) and Herschel V. Johnson John Breckinridge (So. Dem) and Joseph Lane John Bell (Constitutional Union) ^d and Edward Everett | ? 4 500 275 | ? 49 662 705 | Jacob W. Bowman (Whig) |
| 1864 | Abraham Lincoln (Ntnl. Union) and Andrew Johnson [a Dem.] George McClellan (Dem) and George Hunt Pendleton | N.C. now a part of C.S.A. | | David M. Young (Dem) |
| 1868 | Ulysses S. Grant (Rep) and Schuyler Colfax Horatio Seymour (Dem) and Francis P. Blair, Jr. | 266 435 | 1035 1090 | David Proffitt (Dem) |

*also known as the "Know Nothing" Party.

^dmostly Whigs/"Know Nothings"

^Bmade up of "Conscience" Whigs, anti-slavery Democrats, and Free-Soilers.

| | | | | |
|------|--|------|------|----------------------|
| 1872 | Ulysses S. Grant (Rep) and Henry Wilson | 307 | 970 | Cornelius Byrd (Dem) |
| | Horace Greeley (Liberal Rep) and B. Gratz Brown (Dems. endorse Greeley) | 344 | 1109 | |
| 1876 | Rutherford B. Hayes (Rep) and William A. Wheeler | 335 | 1186 | W.W. Proffitt (Dem) |
| | Samuel J. Tilden (Dem) and Thomas A. Hendricks | 746 | 1991 | |
| 1880 | James A. Garfield (Rep) and Chester A. Arthur | 443 | 1591 | William Austin (Dem) |
| | Winfield S. Hancock (Dem) and William H. English | 712 | 1995 | |
| | James B. Weaver (Greenback) and B.J. Chambers | ? | | |
| 1884 | Grover Cleveland (Dem) and Thomas A. Hendricks | 743 | 2694 | L. Whittington (Dem) |
| | James G. Blaine (Rep) and John A. Logan | 658 | 2007 | |
| 1888 | Benjamin Harrison (Rep) and Levi P. Morton | 805 | 2873 | W.P. Whittington (De |
| | Grover Cleveland (Dem) and Allen G. Thurman | 929 | 2956 | |
| 1892 | Grover Cleveland (Dem) and Adlai E. Stevenson | 927 | 3588 | James F. Byrd (Dem) |
| | Benjamin Harrison (Rep) and Whitelaw Reid | 651 | 3125 | |
| | James Weaver (Populist) | ? | | |
| 1896 | William B. McKinley (Rep) and Garret A. Hobart | 982 | 4611 | Charles McPeters (De |
| | William Jennings Bryan (Dem) and Arthur Sewall (Populists endorse Bryan) | 1056 | 4098 | |
| 1900 | William McKinley (Rep) and Theodore Roosevelt | 1082 | 4140 | W.M. McIntosh (Dem) |
| | William Jennings Bryan (Dem) and Adlai E. Stevenson | 954 | 3724 | |

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN SONGS

1840: Harrison ("Tippecanoe")-Tyler

Come ye, who whatever betide her,
to freedom have sworn to be true!
Prime-up with a cup of hard cider,
and drink to old Tippecanoe!

--- by the cask as good, Sir,
as men from the tap ever drew;
no poison to gut(?) up your blood, Sir,
but liquor as pure as the dew!

No foreign vocation we puff, Sir,
in free land the apple tree grew;
Its juice is exactly the stuff, Sir,
to quaff(?) the great Tippecanoe!

Ye log cabin monarchs who reign o'er
the West in your hunting-shirts blue!
Up-river you surely can drain to
your neighbor of Tippecanoe!

2. 1840: Harrison-Tyler (vs. M. Van Buren)

Oh, what has caused this great commotion:
motion, motion--our country through?
It is the ball that's rolling on,
For Tippecanoe and Tyler, too,
For Tippecanoe and Tyler, too;

And with them we'll beat little Van,
Van, Van, Van:

Oh, he's a used-up man!
And with them we'll beat little Van!

Oh, now you hear the Vans a-talking,
talking, talking;
things look quite blue!

For all the world seems turning round,

For Tippecanoe and Tyler, too,
For Tippecanoe and Tyler, too;

And with them we'll beat little Van,
Van, Van, Van:

Oh, he's a used-up man!
And with them we'll beat little Van!

(3 repetitions)

1844: Clay and Frelinghuysen

A first-rate rhyme was made of late,
by Engling(?) from the Buckeye State;
It goes to that familiar song
that old Dan Tucker passed along!

CHORUS

Then it's Hurrah! the country's 'risin'
For Henry Clay and Frelinghuysen,
Hurrah! Hurrah! the country's 'risin'
For Henry Clay and Frelinghuysen!

There's no two names that can be found
although you search the country 'round,
More terror to that clan comprisin'
than Henry Clay and Frelinghuysen!

CHORUS

4. 1844: Clay and Frelinghuysen

We will not mourn for errors past,
nor cast, my boys, the ship away;
But nail our colors to the mast,
and strive for home and Henry Clay!

CHORUS

Huzzah! then, for Harry,
for Harry we go!
We'll charge the Locos
until they can't crow!
Our ballots, our bullets,
to the polls we will fly!
With a Kentucky rifle
we'll conquer or die!

From him no treason may be feared,
our cause he never will betray;
What name to free men so endeared,
as that of home and Henry Clay!

CHORUS

1844: Clay (against Tyler)

Away with traitor-Tyler!
Down with the veto-king!
(He's our party's base reviler!)
While the people merrily sing!
Hurrah!

Oh, for years of sorrow!
We've cured that traitor's crime!
Yet we 'wait our glorious morrow,
and sternly, sternly bide our time!
Hurrah!

1844: Clay (against Tyler, called "Old Veto")

With veto and with tip-toe,
you'll trouble us no more!
For now we have a man
who will abridge that fatal power!

CHORUS
That man is Henry Clay,
Our gallant Henry Clay!
The people have elected him,
John Tyler, clear the way!
You tried to join the Locos,
they would not coalesce;
Though after, they seduced you, Sir,
most clearly, I confess!

CHORUS
To Polk and bankrupt Texas,
the people shouted "No!"
For Clay and the United States,
they all preferred to go!

CHORUS

1860: Lincoln

Old Abe Lincoln
came out of the wilderness,
out of the wilderness,
out of the wilderness,
Old Abe Lincoln
came out of the wilderness,
down in Illinois!

1860: Lincoln and Breck
Abe's a comi

7. 18--:

Come, voters, come! ----- drum(?)
Morning is breaking, freedom awaking
Hark, hark, the sound, echoes around;
Come, come away,
and give your vote to liberty!

Rise, voters, rise! Lift to the skies
O'er earthly sadness,
songs of your gladness!
Then as they go(?), quick to the polls
Haste, haste away,
and give your vote to liberty!

8. 1860: Lincoln

The people had five candidates,
they put upon the course!
They also had five running-mates,
some riding a wooley horse!

CHORUS
There was Bell, and Breck,
and Doug, and Sam,
And Lincoln the just and true!
Poor Bell, poor Breck, poor Doug
the giant, and Sam of Texas, too!

Now, Bell pushed Douglas,
and Breck kicked Houston,
and Lane smashed Johnson,
and Doug poked Hammond,
But Lincoln he beat them through!
Now, was not this a medley crew,
As ever a mortal knew!
Now, was not this a medley crew,
As ever a mortal knew!

But Lincoln led, and run them blind:
that's Breck, and Doug, and Bell;
And even Sam was out of sight,
Abe ran so mighty well!

CHORUS

9. 1860: Lincoln and Hamlin

There's a sound like the surge of the ocean,
or waves sweeping forest and lee (?);
It comes from the nation in motion,
from the millions who've sworn to be free!
There are thoughts beyond words which impress me,
as they shout with enraptured applause:
Here's to Lincoln and Hamlin, God bless them!
And bless, too, our country and cause!

1. 1860(?): Lincoln

Hurrah! Hurrah! Did you hear the news?
At Baltimore they got the blues!
Because our leader is the best,
And tallest man in all the West!

Dance, free men, dance!
Oh, dance, free men, dance!
We'll dance all night,
'till broad daylight,
To the polls, 'till I vote in the morning!

Hi, ho, ol' Abe shall win!
Split the rails, and fetch them in!
Hi, ho, ol' Abe shall win!
Split the rails, and fetch them in!
Split the rails, and fetch them in!

2. 1860(?): Lincoln

The Democratic log is laid
for Lincoln's wedge to split it!
See how the opening rive was made,
the moment Abram hit it!

Then drive the wedge, my jolly boys!
We'll split the log, by thunder!
Let's cheer old Abe with heart and soul,
Till Democrats give under!

See how the Democrats assist
great Lincoln in his splitting!
And wide the rent is riving,
to join't were useless striving!

Then let Republicans unite,
With vigorous blows to drive it!
Democracy's the log in sight,
Now Lincoln's wedge will rive it!

3. 1868(?): Grant

Oh, Maine to California,
sends a welcome, welcome word!
And northward rolling, to the South,
the swelling sound is heard!
And then the very ancient race
has caught(?) the florious shout:
Hurrah! Hurrah! for General Grant,
and fling his banner out!

CHORUS

Hurrah! Hurrah!
For General Grant, Hurrah!
Hurrah for the Union Flag,
With every Southern star!

12. 1864(?): Lincoln and Johnson

Ye who know and do the right,
Ye who cherish honor bright,
Ye who worship love and light,
choose your side today!

Succor freedom, now you can,
Voting for an honest man,
--- slavery's blight and th
on your ballot lay!

Boast your vote no higher aim(?),
Than between two blots of shame?
That would --- our country's fame
just to choose the least!

Let it sternly answer "No!"
Let it straight for freedom go!
Let it swell the winds that blow
from the North and East!

14. 1868: Grant

Now, boys, I've got a song for you
I think you'd like to hear;
It's all about a little man,
who never knew a fear!
From California up to Maine,
he has a record fair;
And General Grant's our candidate
to hold the White House chair!

Oh, U.S. Grant's our candidate,
U.S. Grant's our candidate!
Hip, hip, hip, for Gen'l Grant,
my boys!
Hip, hip, hip, for Gen'l Grant,
my boys!
U.S. Grant's our candidate,
U.S. Grant's our candidate!
So we'll fight it out on this line
if it takes us all the year!

16. 1872: Greeley and Brown

There is a chap in Chappaqua,
who lives upon his farm;
And raises beets and cabbages,
to keep his soul from harm!
He feeds on mush, and milk, and sich
and never takes a dram;
But strange to say, he keeps himself
as happy as a clam!

CHORUS

Oh, White Hat Greeley is his name!
White Hat Greeley is his name!
A farmer he, without disguise,
He chops up wood for exercise!
Oh, White Hat Greeley is his name!
White Hat Greeley is his name!
Always ready for to tell, my boys,
Everybody what he knows!

1876: Tilden

CHORUS

The great reformer Tilden's name
Rings grandly through the land;
And thieves and rascals shivering stand,
For Tilden takes command!

He represents the good and true,
our glory and our fame;
And we will march to victory,
led by his noble name!
led by his noble name!

CHORUS

The night of gloom is gliding out,
for breaks the rosey (?) day;
And Tilden is the sun of hope,
that lights the nation's way!

The Empire State will lead the van,
to clear the dismal storm;
For through the length(?) of our command,
comes Tilden and reform!
comes Tilden and reform!

CHORUS

1884: Blaine and Logan

At our national convention,
we met with firm intention;
To choose a man stood outside
the ring, ring, ring.
And we've been so very lucky,
we can't help feeling happy,
To speak of Blaine and Logan
makes us sing, boys, sing!

CHORUS

We will sing for Blaine and Logan!
We will work for Blaine and Logan!
We will vote for Blaine and Logan,
when the time comes round!
We will sing for Blaine and Logan,
We will shout for Blaine and Logan,
With Hurrahs! for Blaine and Logan
shall the air resound!

1876: Hayes and Wheeler

From Ohio's fertile regions,
and the Empire State so grand;
Hail the champions of freedom,
who shall rule and bless the land

Hayes and Wheeler!

Hayes and Wheeler are our leaders
in the nation's time of need!
They are heroes tried and proven,
and to victory will lead!

CHORUS

Then Hurrah! Hurrah!
for Hayes and Wheeler!
They're brave, they're honest,
and true!
Then Hurrah! yes Hurrah,
then, the Union forever:
Three cheers for the red,
white, and blue!

From the ocean to the ocean,
now the struggle is begun!
In the stern and bitter contest,
all ye free men, work as one!
Hip! ye free men,
Hip! ye --- shall follow!
and prosperity prevail!
Then Hurrah! for Hayes and Wheeler
give the shout to every hail!

CHORUS

20. 1884: Blaine and Logan

From the lumber camps of Maine,
to the ship yards on the shore,
which have waited for the hammer's ring in vain;
First there came a pleading voice,
which has now become a roar,
"Give us our wisest leader, James G. Blaine!"

CHORUS

Hark! Hark! Hark! the voices swelling,
From the seaboard, over mountains, and o'er plain;
We have waited long enough, and our temper's getting rough;
We want our brilliant statesman, James G. Blaine!

Thus from Northeast, South, and West,
all the poor and the oppressed,
throughout this glorious, broad, and fair domain;
Feel their hearts within them rise,
and hope bounds (?) upon their eyes,
for they love their trusted leader, James G. Blaine!

CHORUS

Hark! Hark! Hark! the chorus swelling,
From the seaboard, over mountains, and o'er plain;
The people can't be wrong, for they all join in one song:
Hurrah! for our next President, James G. Blaine!

21. 1884: Blaine and Logan

We are marching on to victory,
a million voters strong;
While the country joins our strength and height (?),
the city swells the throng!

CHORUS

Then Hurrah! for James G. Blaine, of Maine,
And for John A. Logan, too!
"We'll run 'em in! We'll run 'em in!"
Shout the loyal and the true.
"We'll run 'em in! We'll run 'em in!"
Shout, shout, the loyal and the true!

They boys and blue and gray will now unite,
as loyal gents and --- should;
And place their ballots where they'll do
the toiling millions good!

CHORUS

POLITICS IN YANCEY COUNTY: SOURCES
(1833-1900)

1. Newspaper articles (mostly Asheville). The following have been reproduced in Lloyd Bailey, News From Yancey (Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1983).
 - 1844: speech in Burnsville by Democratic candidate (p. 6)
 - 1847: article by Representative Samuel Fleming of Yancey (p. 11)
 - 1847: Whig constituency of Yancey's troops to Mexican War (p. 12)
 - 1852: debate in Burnsville: Caldwell (Whig) vs. Coleman (Dem.) [p. 15]
 - 1853: anti-Clingman letter (p. 16)
 - 1854: precinct returns (p. 18)
 - 1855: pro-Clingman statement (p. 22)
 - 1855: "Know Nothing" (Native American) Party in Yancey (p. 23)
 - 1858: resolutions of local Democratic Party (p. 30)
 - 1858: announcement of candidates (p. 31)
 - 1858: election returns (p. 32)
 - 1868: Republican Committeemen (p. 42)
 - 1870: report on meeting of Conservatives (Democrats) [p. 43]
 - 1876: advertisement by Republican candidates (p. 49)
 - 1877: election of Majestrates by township (p. 52)
 - 1890: speech in Burnsville (p. 55)
 - 1890: report on local Democratic convention (p. 56)
 - 1892: report on Democratic party in Yancey (p. 58)
 - 1892: report on Democratic party in Yancey (p. 59)
 - 1892: schedule of speeches, plus report about Cleveland (p. 60)
 - 1892: projection on how vote will go (p. 61)
 - 1894: several articles (p. 63)
 - 1898: speech in Yancey, for Congress (p. 73)
 - 1898: nominations locally (p. 74)
2. North Carolina Government, 1585-1974 (Raleigh: 19). Gives election returns by county for presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial elections. Also lists members of the State Assembly (Legislature) by years, and by counties. A massive volume, well indexed.
3. North Carolina Manual. A year-book of the State Legislature, it gives sketches of the various members. Issued for each session.
4. Branson's N.C. Business Directory. Lists, by counties, the various local officials (political, business, religious, educational). Begins in 1860's. Around 1900, its successor becomes The North Carolina Year Book.
5. Letters by contemporaries. The following may be found in The Bailey Family of Yancey County, N.C. (by Lloyd Bailey; xeroxed; copies in Tri-County Libraries).
 - 1860: speeches on secession from Union (III, p. 1122, I)
 - 1860: speeches by local Whigs, Chandler and Whittington (III, p. 1122, N)
 - 1872: on local representatives to state assembly (III, p. 1122, S)
 - 1867: representative to constitutional convention (III, p. 1169, B)



FOR PRESIDENT—
Rutherford B. Hayes
 OF OHIO.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT—
William A. Wheeler,
 OF NEW YORK.

ELECTORS FOR THE STATE AT LARGE.
 OLIVER H. DOCKERY,
 DANIEL L. RUSSELL,

State Republican Ticket.



FOR GOVERNOR:
THOMAS SETTLE,
 of Guilford

FOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR:
WILLIAM A. SMITH,
 of Johnston.

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE:
JOHNATHAN W. ALBERTSON,
 of Perquimans.

FOR TREASURER:
WILLIAM H. WHEELER,
 of Forsythe.

FOR AUDITOR:
JOHN REILLY,
 of Cumberland.

FOR Supt. PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:
JOHN C. CARSON,
 of Henderson.

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL,
TAZEWELL L. HARGROVE,
 of Granville.

FOR STATE SENATORS,
ED. WILLIAMS,
 of Yancey *
W. F. CRAIG
 of McDowell.

We are requested to state that the Republicans of Yancey, will meet at Jack's Creek the first Saturday night in Oct., for the purpose of organizing for the coming contest. Republicans of Mitchell are respectfully invited to attend.

↑
 ← **Roan Mountain Republican,**
 Sept. 23, 1876

Local Ripples.

Farmers are busy sowing wheat.

There has been a frost every night this week.

The proprietor is in Tenn., attending to Washington county fair.

Glem and Stewart have each gone South with a drove of cattle.

A Hayes and Settle club has been organized on Jacks Creek in Yancey county.

The Hayes and Settle Club of Linville Township numbers sixty members.

Ice has frozen one inch thick during the past week right here in Bakersville.

Gen. Wilder of Chattanooga will address the Hayes and Settle club of Bakersville this Saturday evening.

Col. Ike Baily and Sidney Preswood, of our town have gone to the Centennial.

Every one who has not registered should do so before the day of Election. The law is plain on this subject.

J. K. Irby as Administrator of E. B. Clapp dec'd, sold the Mica adver-

tised in this paper to J. L. Rorison for \$1200.00.

Mrs. Bacchos Griffin, of Red Hill sold to Young, Bailey & Co., 27 pairs of socks all knit by hand during the past summer.

A Hayes and Settle Club will be organized at Yellow Mountain church on Saturday night, the 21st inst. J. C. Pritchard and others, will address the meeting.

General E. R. Hampton, Republican candidate for Congress, will address his fellow citizens at the following times and places viz:

Col. Nathan Young's Rutherford county, Thursday, October 3d.

Richard Whitesides', Polk Wednesday October 4th.

Columbus, Polk, Thursday, October, 5th.

Brevard, Transylvania, Friday October, 6th.

Hendersonville, Henderson, Saturday October 7th.

Marshall, Madison county, Monday, October 9th.

Ivy, Madison county, Tuesday, October, 10th.

Burnsville, Yancey county, Wednesday, October 11th.

Bakersville, Mitchell county, Thursday, October, 12th

Marion McDowell county, Friday, October 13th.

Roan Mountain Republican, Oct. 7, 1876

from News From Yancey (Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1983)

TO THE VOTERS
OF THE

SENATORIAL DISTRICT,

Composed of the Counties of Transylvania, Henderson,
Buncombe, Madison, Yancy and Mitchell.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens:

At the urgent solicitation of many friends in all parts of the District, I come before you as a candidate to represent you in the Senatorial branch of the next General Assembly of North Carolina. In doing this, fellow-citizens, I am not unmindful of the great responsibility resting on those who are to fill our legislative halls. I come before you and ask your suffrages with little or no political record;—no political sins to answer for, and no political virtues to be rewarded. I seek to begin my political career with the beginning of the new political era.

I come before you, fellow-citizens, with the consciousness that I have never deceived or misled you, in the great struggle through which we have just passed. While I remained in the country I did all in my power to calm the public mind; and while in the Federal lines I availed myself of every opportunity to petition in behalf of North Carolina, and did all I could to stay the hand of desolating war from your mountain homes; and had it not been for the selfishness of your commanders, the struggle would have passed away and western North Carolina have never felt the realities of the war.

The long and bloody struggle through which our country has just passed, has brought its hardships, its trials, its afflictions, and its agonies to every section; indeed we might say that its calamities have reached every fireside in our whole

condition of our country, I see no cause for despondency and idleness. I have great confidence in the recuperative energies of our people, and am full of hope that we are destined to become the leading Nation of the earth. Our country, like the fabled phoenix, springing from the ashes of its own dissolution, will rise in most potent grandeur and magnificence. The military is fast giving way to the power of civil law, and as our country, will again cement us, strengthened and purified by the afflictions through which we have passed. The only thing necessary for us to do to become the happiest people on earth, is to unite among ourselves, forget the past, and in the future stand

side, as one common country. As I view upon the leading topics of the Administration of President Johnson, and believe it is right to protect and punish the leaders.

I endorse the action of the Convention, in declaring null and void the acts of secession; also the prohibiting of slavery in North Carolina.

As to the negro question, which is one of vital importance to the country, and to answer the many inquiries made, What shall be done with the negro, now that he is free among us? I for one believe this to be a white man's government, and his only; and that it would be dangerous to the white race and the country, to elevate the freedman to be his political equal; and that the former slaves, as they now stand, are strangers and aliens to this government, and have no safety to the country enfranchise him in his ignorant and degraded condition. Our friends at the North have refused him this privilege. They give us the

example. But still this does not settle the question, What must be done with the negro? The elephant has been drawn, and nobody wants him.

The best thing for the freedman and the whites, is to colonize him, or at least a part of the race, at the earliest opportunity. This may be done in a greater degree by inviting immigration in the country, those who will bring capital and enterprise among us, who will speedily develop the inherent wealth of our country; and as white immigration comes in, the colored population will naturally recede before it, which will continue until an outlet will be in absolute necessity, and the idea of colonization will be renewed, until the energies of the whole nation will direct and control the movement.

The question may here be asked, Where shall the negro be sent? The colony of Liberia still stands as a beacon light, the lamp of hope, for the full redemption of Africa. Thither the ransomed slaves have returned, and thither they may continue to return, carrying to the land of their fathers both civilization and christianity, until a Continent may be redeemed and the race saved through the agency of the emancipated slaves.

The war debt, created for the purpose of aiding the rebellion, I am opposed to the State assuming, or any part of it, as I do not believe there is any legal or moral obligation binding the State to pay it. In fact I believe it would be

of said debt. It will not be an act of repudiation on the part of the State, but simply a non-assumption. The ablest lawyers and Judges in the State all agree that the State is in no wise responsible for any debt created to aid in the prosecution of the war. The State can with honor pay her old debt, and this is all she can do, without grinding her people down with taxation. The State is now a financial wreck, and to restore her to her dying energies. This can never be done by assuming millions of dollars that she is under no legal obligations to pay. It will only be a debt upon debt, until the State will be buried in irretrievable ruin.

If speculators and capitalists invested their money on the issues of the war, they certainly have cause to blame if they lose it. Better, better, to incur the indignation of a few speculators, than to crush down the mass of the people, and oppress the poor and orphan, already in want. No, fellow-citizens, if we apply the money to the various uses to pay this enormous debt to internal improvements, in less than two years the iron horse would be a welcome visitor to our mountain villages, and who dare say but it would be more honorable than paying a debt created without the consent of the people, and for the purpose of destroying the Government we now ask protection from? We must have railroads, and our chief is to get them now. We have the best country in the world, and all we need an outlet. If we only had a railroad this country would be the garden of the State, Switzerland of the Nation. We are ended on every side by stupendous mountains, towering amid the very heaves imparting life

and health to all. The poet might truly say of the mountains of Western North Carolina:

"They bask in wintry grandeur towers,
And whiten with eternal snow,
While summer in a vale of flowers,
Is sleeping at thy feet."

Indeed we might truly boast that we have the finest and grandest country on earth. Our whole country is one grand panorama of mountains, hills, valleys and rivers, of which we are all proud. It has often been said that Western Carolina has the loftiest mountains, purest air, and the prettiest ladies in the world.

But, fellow-citizens, to make our country what we all should desire it to be, we must bury the past in the grave of oblivion, and look to the future; and if your neighbor has done wrong forgive him. Remember, the promises are only to those who possess a forgiving spirit; and that the rejoicing is only over those who repent, &c. If your friend has been led astray, and falls, don't push him farther down, but help him to rise again. Mercy is truly for those who have mercy.

But, fellow-citizens, I am not before you to tell of wrongs and injuries that have been done, but to tell you, in the language of one of North Carolina's noblest sons, "we are all going home."—We shall soon be back to the old homestead, and under the parental roof and protection, (the Constitution of the United States) from which we were driven. Let nothing hinder us on our journey.

ly waiting to welcome us back; already the fattest calf has been slain for the "prodigal son."

To tell you, in short, fellow-citizens, what I am for: I am for a free white government; I am in favor of the colonization of the freed blacks; I am in favor of passing such laws as will force the freedman to make good his contracts and agreements with the whites, and that will keep him from roving in idle bands about the towns and villages; I am in favor of the Legislature making such appropriations as will complete the W. N. C. Railroad to Asheville at the earliest day. And if elected, shall support all measures of State policy which will in my judgment best advance the interests of the country.

As to the caucus held in this place on the 21st instant, I will only say, I was not put in the field by one, neither will I be pushed off the track by one. I am your candidate, fellow-citizens;—came out at your request, and in your decision will most cheerfully acquiesce. I assure you I have no higher political ambition than to see once more our dear old ship of State safely launched on the ocean of freedom, and outriding the storms of disunion and party strife, once more triumphantly moor in the peaceful harbor of liberty, contentment, prosperity and union, now and forever.

I am, very respectfully,
Your ob't ser'vt,
W. WALLACE ROLLINS.
Asheville, Oct. 28, 1865.

a rare instance of the political "commercial" of the time, to be posted at mills, militia mustering-grounds, and other public places.

(A handbill/broadside from the collection at Duke University)

POLLING PLACES IN THE TOE RIVER VALLEY
(from Minutes of the Buncombe/Yancey Court)

- July, 1799: Zephaniah Horton (and others) named to superintend elections (later, at least, he lived near where Burnsville now stands).
- July, 1800: Hickman Hensley (and others) named to superintend election of members of the State Assembly, to be held at Ivey River.
- July, 1802: Zephaniah Horton (and others) to superintend the elections at Ivey Station.
- July, 1803: Horton (and others) to superintend election for (U.S.?) Congress, at Ivey. Others named to superintend election to (State?) House.
- July, 1811: Jese Harris, Luke Barnard, and George Wilson to oversee the elections at Caney River (apparently, a new polling place, as Civilization moves toward present Yancey).
- June, 1824: inspectors for the elections are named, among them Nathan Horton and Joseph Sheppard at Caney River.
- July, 1832: election officials named, according to office: John McElroy and J.B. Ray (for Senate race), Joseph Sheppard and Wm. Lewis (for House race), and John Edwards and Nathan Horton (for Sheriff contest).
- April, 1833: election officials named for Cane River polling-place: Joseph Ray and John McElroy (Congress), Edward Wilson and Thomas Gardner (State Legislature), Joseph Sheppard and Henry Rowlin (Clerk).

- 1835: James Howell's residence is a polling-place (Bandana?).
- Fall, 1839: precinct formerly at James Howell's to be moved to James Wilson's, on Snow Creek.
- July, 1846: to oversee the elections on Jacks Creek: C.R. Byrd, Samuel Byrd, M. McCourry.
on South Toe: to include Jesse Bailey.
- Oct., 1848: precinct established at "Old Fields of Toe River," where Levi Chandler lives (Newland, N.C.?).
- July, 1849: election-judges on Jacks Creek are C.R. Byrd and John Ledford.
- Spring, 1850: election-officials include James Bailey (Laurel), Henry and William Ray (Caney River), Charles and S. Byrd, Malcomb McCourry (Jacks Creek), James Bailey (Rock Creek), and Jesse Bailey (South Toe River).
- July, 1851: appointed inspector of congressional elections at Jacks Creek is Alfred Hampton.
- July, 1853: to superintend elections: Thos. Gibbs and Jesse Bailey (S. Toe), S.D. Byrd and Wilson Webb (Jacks Creek).
- July, 1858: election judges include James Bailey (Rock Creek) and Jesse Bailey (South Toe).
- June, 1859: to superintend elections: Wm. Ray (Cane River), James Bailey (Rock Creek), Leander Ray (Pensacola).
- July, 1860: to judge elections on Jacks Creek--Wade Hampton.
- Jan., 1861: voting-place on Jacks Creek moved to Laws' store.
- July, 1861: voting-place to be moved to school house at mouth of Bald Creek (i.e., Cane River precinct).

NOTE: This information is far from complete, since my note-taking was not for this purpose and was highly selective.

Cemetery in the vicinity of Mountain Heritage High School
source of info.: Edgar Hunter, Jr. (Supt. of Schools) [1981]

When the football stadium was being constructed, evidence of an old cemetery was discovered in the vicinity of where the concession stand now is. Rocks had fallen down, evidently once head-stones for graves. Legal steps were taken to examine the area, and to move whatever remains might be found. A bull-dozer removed soil, about 1" at a time, until skeletons were found, and then digging was done by hand. The following remains were uncovered:

- 1. one person, buried about 8' deep.
- 2. one person buried on a sand-ledge, about 2' deep.
- 3. one person with a broken arm.
- 4. one very tall person.
- 5. one person buried face-down.
- 6. one young person (teen-aged).
- 7. one person with a (bullet?) hole in the forehead.
- 8. one other person.

The remains were moved a small distance and reinterred on a ridge.

Mrs. George Green, who grew up nearby, could remember that there was a cemetery there when she was a child (about 80 years ago, i.e., around 1900).

I have checked the 1939-41 Cemetery Survey, to see if this site is mentioned. One possibility is: "Stonewall J. Brown Cemetery, about 1/2 mile south of Pine Swamp Branch Road, leave highway 19E a little west of the western corporate limits of Burnsville. No Marked graves before 1914."

ANYONE WITH FURTHER INFORMATION about this cemetery may send it to Lloyd Bailey, 4122 Deepwood Circle, Durham, N.C., 27707.

Yancey History Association
6/15/1986

19th Century Presidential Campaigns:

Evidence from Yancey
By Lloyd Bailey

One of the least interesting subjects, for children in the public school, is that of history...and American history in particular. At least, it was for me...and seemingly for most of my class-mates. The text-books were "dry as dust"...and the events were always things that happened far-away. One read about Federalists...and Whigs...and the Bull Moose Party...without ever once realizing that the issues were debated in Burnsville...as well as in Washington! The ancestors of my class-mates argued passionately ^{back in 1840} for "Old Tippecanoe" or ^{for} "Little Van" ~~back in 1840~~, just we do for candidates in the present.

The issues of ancient campaigns might "come alive" for students... if we could give them a local context: Where did people vote? Who was running, at the local level? Which party carried Yancey County? What were the little jokes, and campaign songs, that gave life to great issues of the day?

Alas, about all this, we know very little. Like much else of our local heritage, it has been lost, almost beyond recovery. Some items were considered of little importance, and were not preserved. Even if they were, the next generation considered them as "old junk," and threw them out. Some families moved away, and took interesting items with them. Still others are secretive about what little has survived, and are not always willing to share it. As a consequence, this county is a pauper with respect to its own identity.

My presentation on this occasion is only a meager beginning. Undoubtedly, it will contain ^{misinformation,} ~~misunderstandings~~, since I am not, by training, a historian of the American scene. Some of you, who teach in this area, will need to overlook my failings. I have had little more than three weeks to prepare it...although I have worked night and day during that short time.

My remarks will be supplemented by three media:

1. Slides, i.e., photographs, of items from the 19th century.
2. Recordings of campaign songs, from the collection in the Smithsonian Institution. *These have been granted for my use on this occasion, and must not otherwise be reproduced.*
3. The current issue of our Newsletter (I, no. 3), which contains the words to the campaign songs...at least, as well as I could recover them from the recordings. *[Follow along as we listen to the recordings.]* It also contains a list of presidential candidates, and their running-mates, from 1836 to 1900...as well as the vote-totals from Yancey. For comparison, I have included the vote-totals from the county of Buncombe. Despite their geographical closeness, the two ^{counties} are quite different in their preferences. E.g., Buncombe (as well as Burke) ^{was} strongly Whig; the Toe ^{was} River Valley is strongly Democratic. What accounts for that? And, on two occasions, Yancey ^{did} voted for a Whig president: 1840 and 1848. What accounts for that? I leave these, and other interesting matters, for ^{you} others to ponder. We need a professionally-done political history of the county.

The Newsletter also contains a brief list of sources for a local political profile; ^{at Real} a hand-bill advertisement for a candidate in 1865; ^{remarks on precinct location,} and so on.

Our survey begins with the year 1836...the earliest for which I could find statistics. At the time of the previous presidential election, 1832, Yancey was still a part of Burke and Buncombe. The County was formed in 1833, during the administration of Andrew Jackson. (He was born in N.C., as you will recall.) He was a notable départure from the previous presidents, in a number of ways.

SLIDE: map showing the shift of population-center of the U.S. by decades, 1790-1940 (from Fremont P. Wirth, The Development of America, p. 328).

(Tenn.)

1. He resided west of the mountains, whereas all his predecessors were from the Atlantic coast. Note how the population-center of the country had made that shift just a short time before (1820). He

thus appealed to the pioneering spirit of those who may have felt

"looked down on", by the so-called "planters" to the east.

SLIDE: Andrew Jackson

2. Jackson believed in "popular democracy"...i.e., in universal manhood sufferage. The older system had placed qualifications on eligibility: property ownership, and in some cases, religious affiliation. Jackson was "for the masses, not the classes," as someone admirably put it. To his opponents, however, he was the advocate of "King Mob." This undoubtedly made him popular in Yancey County, and he likely carried the area both in 1828 and in 1832. He was rather high-handed, which earned him the nick-name "King Andrew." He was fond of defending himself by saying that he was "doing the will of the people." Modern talk of a "Popular mandate"

3. He was not well educated, All these who preceded him, save for G. Washington, were ~~in contrast to the~~ college graduates, ~~who had preceded him.~~ His detractors would sometimes joke about his errors in syntax and spelling. He defended himself as best he could, sometimes with humor. When informed that he had spelled "bird" as b-u-r-d, he replied, "Well, if b-u-r-d doesn't spell "bird," what in hell does it spell?" On another occasion, when it was pointed out that he had spelled the same word in various ways, he remarked that he felt sorry for a person who only knew one way to spell a word! Such limitations probably did not alienate him from people in the mountains. Indeed, his campaign-slogan might well have been, in the a political add words of ~~one~~ from more recent days in N.C., "He's one of us!"

SLIDE: Martin Van Buren

Andy's Vice-President ran in 1836, and was elected. His name was Martin Van Buren, and he carried Yancey County...but not Buncombe. There, the newly organized Whig party was solidly in control.

SLIDE: Campaign Poster for Van Buren

Van Buren, by the way, has given us an expression which everyone knows and uses daily. He was from Kinderhook, N.Y., and was affectionately known to his supporters as "Old Kinderhook," sometimes abbreviated to "O.K." The beginnings of the expression seem to go back to a newspaper article in 1840 (The New Era for April): "We will say to

Martin Van Buren, O.K., you can remain at the White House for another four years." Alas, however, it didn't work out: the next four years went to "Old Tip," and not to "O.K.," and that brings us to the election of 1840, where our campaign music begins.

SLIDE: almanac cover (1841), showing Harrison's success against Van Buren. (From The American Heritage History of the Presidency, p. 143.)

The Whigs, organized by Henry Clay of Ky., decided to beat the Jacksonian Democrats at their own game. Jackson had won because he was a military hero (War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans)...and because of appeal to the frontier west of the mountains.

The Whig nominee was William Henry Harrison, whose military notoriety came from beating-up on a bunch of poor savages, at Tippecanoe Creek, in Indiana. And, he indeed lived in the west...in Ohio. He was depicted as the average frontiersman...a good ol' boy, living in a log cabin and drinking hard-cider.

Here, we see "Little Van," also called "Matty," trying to siphon off Ol' Tip's hard-cider, while ^{former president} Jackson, his supporter, says: "Do so, Matty, for by the Eternal, it's cursed sour!"

Here's what the boys were singing, in torch-light parades at the time, and very likely so in Yancey County:

SONG #1. ("Come ye, who whatever...")

SLIDE: banner of Tippecanoe Club, Greensboro, N.C. (N.C. Illustrated, p.233) As for Van Buren, he was depicted by the Whigs, as past his prime,

effete, aristocratic, and sipping on imported beverage. As a Whig song put it:

Let Van, from his coolers of silver, drink wine,
And lounge on his cushioned settee.
Our man on his buckeye settee can recline;
Content with hard cider is he!

Since Harrison lived in Ohio...known as the Buckeye State...little cabins, made of buckeye-wood, became a campaign symbol. A brisk business was made of selling them for souvenirs, as ^{it was of} ~~well as~~ buckeyes themselves.

SLIDE: Democratic cartoon depicting a Whig cabin as a dead-fall trap (From N.C. Illustrated, 1524-1984, p. 233)

The cartoon appeared in a Fayetteville, N.C. newspaper. In this same year, Asheville got its first newspaper (1840; The Highland Messenger). It is rabidly Whig, which undoubtedly reduced its readership in Yancey.

Note the racoon on the roof...a Whig mascot. I will have occasion to refer to it a bit later.

A Senate supporter of Andrew Jackson had bragged, years before, that he "had put this ball in motion." The Whigs, in 1840, retaliated with huge balls, made of paper, which they rolled along in their campaign rallies. And as they did so

SLIDE: drawing of a Whig rally, 1840 (from American Presidents and the Presidency, p. 153)

SONG #2. ("Oh, what has caused this...")

Now, lest one think that all such songs and goings-on were reserved for big cities and had little impact locally, let me cite the fact that Whig newspapers in the state were filled with campaign songs. And, an interesting report may be found concerning a rally in Salisbury. Various counties sent ^odelegations, with floats, banners, etc. Let me read the description of the Iredell delegation...and I'll wager that there were similar rallies in Asheville, if not in Burnsville.



from the Raleigh Register (semi-weekly), July 17, 1840.

In actuality, much of the Whig rhetoric was pure hoopla. Harrison was no simple woodsman: he was a college graduate, and worse still, born in Virginia, and fond of whiskey. And as for log cabins, Van Buren had been born in one! Well, it worked. Harrison was elected, in a massive voter turn-out: 78 percent. It was a percentage not to be matched until 1896, in the McKinley vs. Bryan contest.

The Whigs had bragged:

With Tip and Tyler,
We'll bust Van's biler!

and they did...even winning in Yancey County...~~in strong contrast to Buncombe!~~

Not without truth did Van Buren say, after the results, "I was drunk down, sung down, and lied down!"

One last word about Van Buren and his mentor Jackson: they had a tremendous effect upon the settlement of N.C. It was they...and especially Van Buren...who forced the removal of the Cherokee Indians from the vast territory in the western part of the State. This triggered a round of land speculation and western movement, in which a fair number of people in Yancey participated.

I turn now to the campaign of 1844. The Whigs nominated Henry Clay of Ky., and Theodore Frelinghuysen of N.Y.

SLIDE: Sen. Henry Clay (from

A recent poll of political scientists (1986) ranked Henry Clay as the greatest senator in the history of that institution (followed by Hubert Humphrey). He exercised perhaps ^{more} ~~as much~~ power as the President... an office which he was seeking for the 3rd time.

Here's what his supporters sang, perhaps including the Whig minority in Yancey:

SONG #3. ("A first-rate rhyme...")

SLIDE: Whig political cartoon (from N.C. Illustrated, p. 233).

The Democrats, meanwhile, had decided to nominate James Knox Polk^{of Tenn.} They had asked former "King Andy's" advice, and he had surprised them with this suggestion...the first "dark horse" in American political history. The two were similar in their views, and indeed Polk was sometimes known as "Young Hickory" (following the traditional designation of Jackson as "Old Hickory").

Here, Polk's supporters try to get him up the pole to victory, but the Whigs see Clay as getting there first. Interestingly, three of the figures were born in N.C.: Polk in Mecklenburg, Sen. Benton (of Mo.) in Orange (at right), and Jackson (with cane) in Union. A little pun is being made on "poke" (with the cane) and Polk (the name). (*John C. Calhoun at left*)

Here's another little song:

SONG #4. ("We will not mourn...")

SLIDE: *Whig cartoon - Clay + Frothingham float to victory, while Polk's balloon collapses.*
The choice of Polk was not the only surprise in the nomination

process. President Harrison had died in office, and was succeeded by his V.P., John Tyler. He had formerly been a Democrat, and remained in sympathy with some of their policies. He opposed so many Whig bills... that he was called "Old Veto," and there was a motion to impeach him in 1843. Not surprisingly, then, the party rejected him, and turned to Clay instead.

SLIDE: *John Tyler*
~~As for the Democrats, they were coming to be known as Loco Focos, or just plain "Locos." This strange designation actually comes from a brand of matches. During a convention, the lights had been put out, in order to frustrate the efforts of the radical wing. They were expecting it, however, and lit Loco Foco brand matches.~~

Here is a little song about Tyler: ~~and the Loco Focos.~~

SONG #5. ("Away with traitor Tyler...")

~~**SONG #6.** ("With veto and with...")~~

Tyler was our most prolific president, by the way: he had 14 children, 7 by each of his wives. The first one, who died in the White House, was named Letitia. This did much to popularize the name, and several children in Yancey were soon given it.

Despite his office...and the number of children...he was buried in an unmarked grave in 1862...and so it remained, until well into the present century.

~~THE CHOICE OF POLK~~
The choice of Polk was a fateful one for the country...and a fatal one for many families in the Toe River Valley. He favored expansion into the West, into territory claimed by Mexico. Hence Democratic slogans included, "All of Texas, all of Oregon!" and the better-known one, "54° 40' or fight!" The result was the War With Mexico, in 1848, derisively called, by the Whigs, "Mr. Polk's War." It added a vast amount of territory to the U.S., but about 15 men from the Toe River Valley died before it was over. (This was the subject, you will recall, of one of our previous programs.)

As for Mr. Polk's party, they had come to be called Loco Focos, or just plain Locos. This strange designation actually comes from a brand of matches. During a convention, the lights had been put out, in order to frustrate the plans of the radical wing. They were expecting it, however, and lit the place with their Loco Foco brand matches.

Here is a Whig song, about Tyler's association with the Locos, and about Polk's willingness to pay the indebtedness of the Republic of Texas, should they be annexed to the Union.

SONG #6. ("With Veto and with tip-toe,")

~~Mr. Polk carried the nation...and Yancey County. However, he lost in Buncombe by more than 2-1.~~

~~Curiously, the majority of Yancey's soldiers to the war with Mexico were Whigs, as was their captain, Tilmon Blalock...who actually had~~

SLIDE:

James K. Polk

9

During the campaign, the Democrats had a little fun with the raccoon, as a Whig mascot. ^{A N.C. newspaper} They wanted to know how many poke-berries a coon could eat, before it killed him! The Whigs replied that a coon was too smart to eat poke-berries!

In N.C., where Col. Hoke was running for Governor on the Democratic ticket, the Whigs referred to "Hokery and Polkery." Hoke spoke in Burnsville, as you will see from you list of local sources.

Polk carried the nation...to say nothing of Yancey County! However, he lost Buncombe by a margin of more than 2-1.

Samuel Fleming, a Democrat, is ^{now} repeatedly elected to the State Assembly. The editor of the Asheville newspaper, rabidly Whig, comments upon him in 1847, just as the War is beginning. "That ranting Loco Foco," he says, has remained at home while patriotic Whigs from Yancey have gone off to serve their country!" (Issue of 2/25/1847)

SLIDE: Gen. Zachary Taylor (from Michael V. DiSalle, Second Choice, following p. 160)

From the War, a new military hero emerged, and the Whigs convinced him to run for President in 1848. Splits in the Democratic party (the "Hunkers" vs. the "Barnburners") led to his election. He carried Yancey as well...perhaps because of the returning veterans. Nonetheless, Loco Foco Fleming was elected to the state House.

Taylor was a bit rustic; he grazed his horse on the White House lawn; and his wife, who smoked a corn-cob pipe, spent most of her time out of sight, up-stairs.

During the 1850's, the Democrats swept the national office and carried Yancey as well. It is interesting to note that both Vice Presidential candidates, in 1852, had been born in N.C. King was, by now, a resident of Alabama...but Graham had been Governor of N.C.

SLIDE: Republican cartoon against James Buchanan, 1856 (from The American Heritage History of the Presidency, p. 147)

Buchanan took a tolerant attitude toward the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), which allowed those states to decide the slavery question by popular vote. This caused anti-slavery forces, be they Whigs or Democrats, to form a new party...choosing the name Republican, which went all the way back to the era of Thomas Jefferson. They then nominated John C. Fremont, and their cartoon shows Buchanan weighted down by opposition in northern and mid-western states.

Buchanan's position was not lost on people even in remote Yancey. When the Democrats met in Burnsville, near the end of his term, one of their resolutions read as follows:

Resolved, That the Democracy of Yancey, as one man, heartily approve and support the democratic administration of President Buchanan; and that especially his wise and patriotic position on the Kansas Constitutional question merits ^{the} applause, and should receive the unflinching ^{support} of the undivided South, and of national men everywhere.
(From Asheville newspaper, as reproduced in News From Yancey, p. 30.)

[Cornelius Byrd, of Ramseytown, was party chairman.]

SLIDE: Millard Fillmore

The disintegration of the Whig Party was further continued by the rise of the Native American Party, which nominated former V.P. Millard Fillmore in 1856. This group was bothered by immigrants voting and getting jobs...it was a time of massive Catholic influx...and they wanted to impose a 25-year residency for citizenship. They began as a secret society, then professed to "know nothing" about its origins. Hence they came to be called The Know-Nothing Party, and an attempt was made to organize them in the Toe River Valley. (See the letter in News From Yancey, p. 23.)

SLIDE: Republican cartoon of 1860, showing Lincoln's victory over (l-r) Bell, Douglas, and Breckenridge (from Am. Her. Hist. of the Presidency, p. 148).

In-fighting, and new parties, led to a Republican victory in 1860. Breckenridge carried Yancey, and Bell carried Buncombe. The office of V.P. came very close to home in the person of Joseph Lane of the So. Democratic faction. He was born in Buncombe Co., N.C., and

was now Senator from Oregon. Lane's Pinnacle, in Buncombe County, is named for his family.

I turn now to a variety of pro-Lincoln campaign songs.

- SONG #7 (?). ("Come, voters, come!")
- SONG #8. ("The people had five candidates...")
- SONG #9. ("Old Abe Lincoln...")
- SONG #10. ("There's a sound...")
- SONG #11. ("Hurrah! Hurrah!")
- SONG #12. ("Ye who know...")
- SONG #13. ("The Democratic log...")

SLIDE: campaign poster for Lincoln (Rep.) and Andrew Johnson (Dem.) on the National Union Party of 1864. (From Am. Her. Hist. of the Presidency, p. 149.)

The South is now part of the C.S.A., so obviously we will have no Yancey vote on this ^{election:} issue. Johnson, however, is of some interest. He was born in N.C., but was by now military Governor of Tenn. The house in which he was born yet survives, and has been moved to the campus of N.C. State, where many of you may have seen it.

SLIDE: Andrew Johnson (from DiSalle, Second Choice, following p. 160)

In general, he shared the views of Lincoln on reconstruction, and was a man of immense courage. My admiration for him grows, the more I learn about him.

Asheville newspapers are practically non-existent for the Civil War period, and very little is known about internal politics in Yancey. However, on the slightly earlier issue of secession from the Union, I did an article last year in the Yancey Journal...and one on reconstruction, once the War ended.

In May of 1868, the Republicans nominated Ulysses S. Grant, and soon thereafter campaign songs began flooding the papers and ^{the} breezes.

They were liberally sprinkled with "Hip! Hip! Hurrah's." A letter written from Bald Creek ^{in Yancey} two months later, tells of a rally of Southerners which was interrupted by "Hurrahs for General Grant" (Bailey Genealogy, III, p. 1169-G).

With that in mind, listen to what may have been the very song!

SONG #14. ("Now, boys, I've got a song...")

SLIDE: campaign poster for Grant and Wilson, 1872 (from Am. Her. Hist. of the Presidency, p. 201).

SONG #15. ("Oh, Maine to California...") [May be from 1868 campaign!]

Grant won both times, no thanks to the voters in Yancey. He very nearly carried Buncombe, however, in 1868. Surprisingly, in Yancey, Grant made a race of it in 1872, losing by a mere 37 votes.

His opposition, in 1872, was a liberal Republican named Horace Greeley (He of "Go West, young man!" fame). Here's what the boys were singing.

SLIDE: Horace Greeley

Song #16. ("There is a chap...")

The Democrats did not ^{even} field a candidate on this occasion. Their hope was to take advantage of the Republican split, by supporting Grant's opponent. It was a ploy that failed.

SLIDE: anti-Grant cartoon, showing the greed of his associates.

Concerning the campaign of 1876, we get far more local information than usual. The reason is, that a newspaper was now being published in Bakersville...some 20 years ahead of Yancey...and amazingly, a few issues of it have survived. You will find relevant items in your Newsletter, on p. 10.

SLIDE: Mrs. Hayes goes shopping for an iron
It was Tilden (for the Democrats) vs. Hayes (for the Republicans).

The former had dealt a set-back to ^{the} corrupt machine politics in his native state, and made "reform" part of his slogan.

Here's what the boys were singing, on either side. (Tilden first)

SONG #17. ("The great reformer...")

SONG #18. ("From Ohio's fertile regions...")

The proposed reform failed to carry nationally, but Yancey as well as Buncombe gave overwhelming support to Tilden. There were nearly 400 more ballots cast in Yancey than there were in the previous election. This likely means that many people simply stayed home during the Grant-Greeley struggle of 1872.

restored?
~~SLIDE: cartoon about the disputed Hayes-Tilden vote count (from Am. Her. Hist. of the Presidency, p. 226).~~

Slide: Poster for Cleveland + Hendricks

SLIDE: anti-Cleveland cartoon of 1884, concerning his illegitimate child (from American Presidents and the Presidency, p. 233).

We turn now to the campaign of 1884, which was certainly one of the most colorful in American political history. Democratic candidate Grover Cleveland, a bachelor, was the father of a child. The Republicans, trying to "make hay while the sun shines," paraded through the streets during rallies, chanting:

Ma! Ma! Where's my pa?
 Gone to the White House! Ha, ha, ha!

Cleveland was nonetheless elected, got married, and became the father of a child while in the White House. This child was named Ruth, and she has been immortalized by a product known to every American: the Baby Ruth candy bar.

SLIDE: anti-Blaine cartoon, showing him, while unclothed, to be tattooed with various questionable deals (from Am. Her. Histo. of the Presidency, p. 155).

The Democrats, having secured evidence of opponent Blaine's obscuring the truth, developed a little chant of their own:

Blaine! Blaine! James G. Blaine!
 Monumental liar from the state of Maine!

Here are the last of our 19th century campaign songs, all of them for Blaine and Logan:

SONG #19. ("At our national convention...")

SONG #20. ("From the lumber camps...")

SONG #21. ("We are marching...")

The Democrats were victorious, for the first time in nearly 30 years. They won in Yancey as well, but the margin was less than 100 votes.

We have very few local sources during the 1880's, but there is ^(See Newsletter, p. 9.) a surprising number of them in the 1890's. In terms of results, during that period, you may be astonished to learn that, in 1900, the County voted for the Republican presidential candidate, who was elected, ~~by~~ a majority of 140 votes,