

ESTATOOEE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Volume I, Number 4
September, 1986

ESTATOOEE (ěs-tä-tō-ē): Also spelled Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee Indian place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah, from which the 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 Summer Meeting of the Association was held on June 15, 1986, at the Library in Burnsville. Because of complexities of the speaker's schedule, no business meeting was held. The program topic, presented by Lloyd Bailey, was "19th Century Presidential Campaigns: Evidence from Yancey." In addition to illustrations (slides), the program features recordings of period campaign songs (1840-1884), provided by the Smithsonian Institution. The Newsletter (Estatoee, I, no. 3) supplied election returns from Yancey and surrounding areas (1836-1900), sources of local information, a handbill from the local 1865 campaign, and information on local polling places, beginning with 1799.

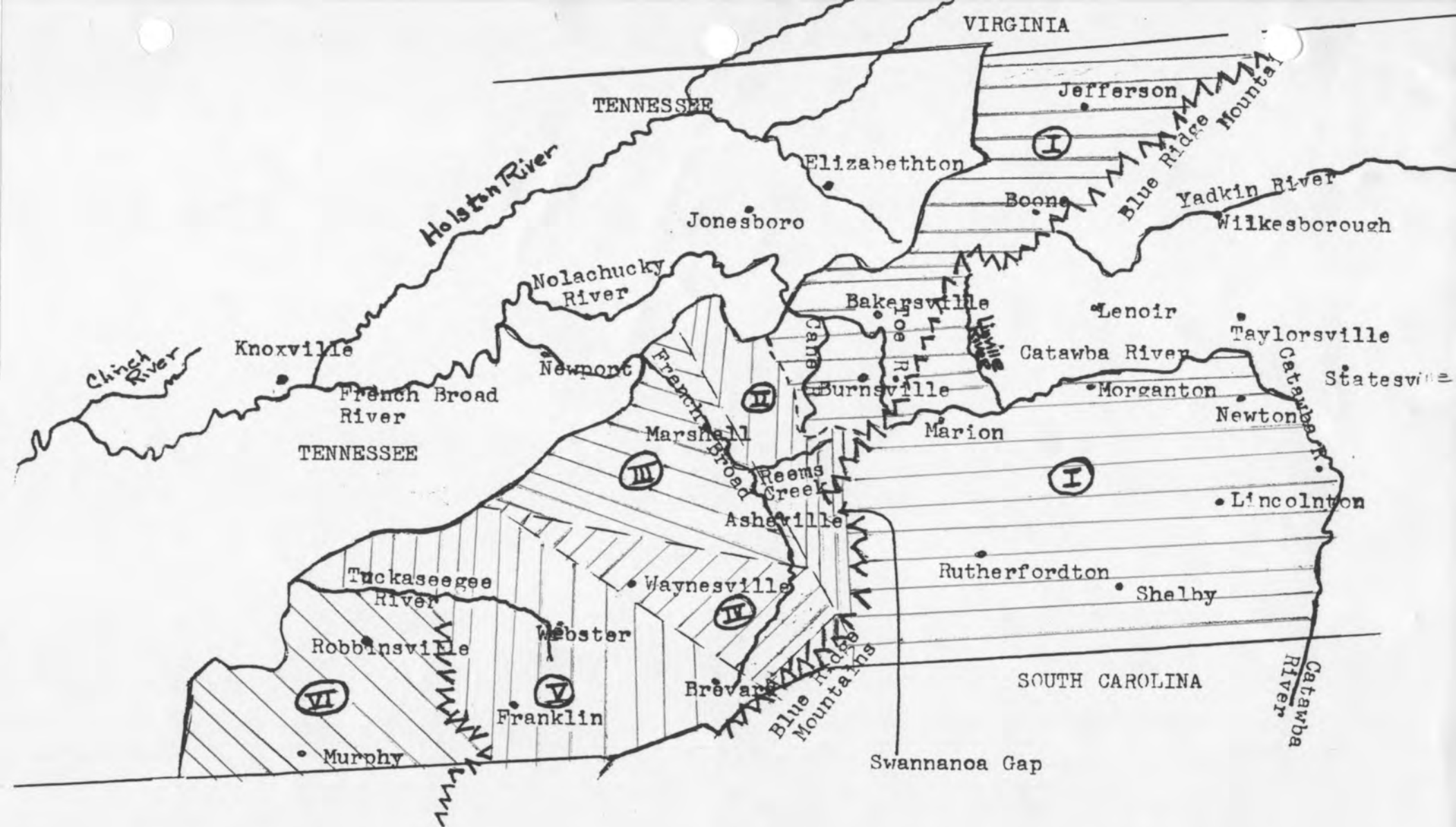
The Fall Meeting of the Association was announced for September 14, 1986, at the Library in Burnsville. (This is one week earlier than the regular schedule.) The program is to be presented by Mr. David Moore (assisted by John Young, one of our Directors). Mr. Moore is a Staff Archaeologist with the Western Office, N.C. Division of Archives and History, and his topic will be Native Americans in W.N.C. and in the Yancey County area in particular.

Contents of the present issue:

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The Heritage of Old Buncombe, Vol. II

The deadline for receiving articles originally set for March 1, 1986, has now been extended to Jan., 1987. The total received, at the first deadline, was about 250, and it is now about 350. The total desired is about 500-plus. (For details, and an order form, see Estatoee, I, No. 2, p. 6. See Vol. I in the regional libraries for format.) Please see that Yancey is well represented!



GEORGIA

Cessions of land in WNC by the Cherokee Indians.
 Adapted from a map in Annual Report of the Bureau of
 Ethnology (Washington: Govt. Printing Office, 1887),
 Fifth Report, 1883-1884, J.W. Powell, Director.
 (Redrawn and adapted by Lloyd Bailey, 1985.)

Stages of Cession of land in WNC by the Cherokee Indians.

- I. Treaty of July 20, 1777. The boundary follows the Catawba River upstream to its Linville tributary in the vicinity of the present Lake James; thence up the Linville to the crest of the mountains; thence up the crest to the state line with Virginia; westward with the line to the present Tennessee line; SW with that line past the crossing of the Nolachucky River; down the ridge which separates the waters of Cane River from those of the French Broad (that is: from Ivy, Reems, and Gap Creeks: roughly, the present Yancey Co. boundary); thence down the Blue Ridge to the S.C. line. (Concluded between Commissioners of N.C. and Va., and the Cherokee, *at the Long Island of the Holston River in Tenn.*)
- II. Treaty of Nov. 28, 1765 (between U.S. and Cherokee at Hopewell, S.C., on the Keowee River). In addition to the land in WNC, it included a crescent-shaped parcel along the Cumberland River around Nashville, Tenn. The WNC parcel involved extending the line westward, roughly paralleling the flow of the French Broad River. Any settlers beyond this line were to "forefeit the protection of the United States, and the Indians to punish them or not, as they please," with "the hatchet to be forever buried between the United States and Cherokees" (quoted from the summary in the Fifth Report of the Bureau of Ethnology). The Blue Ridge was thus removed as boundary for settlement for the southern part of the State.
- III. Treaty of July 2, 1791 (concluded on the banks of the Holston, near the mouth of the French Broad, between the U.S. and the Cherokee). The N.C. section is merely the tip of a vast area extending into Tenn. The SW boundary is sometimes known as the Pickens Line. The U.S. "solemnly guarantee to the Cherokee all their lands not herein ceded" (from summary in Fifth Report). The line now includes the city of Asheville, and extends west to the vicinity of Mt. Pisgah.
- IV. Treaty of Oct. 2, 1798 (concluded near Tellico, Tenn.). The SW boundary is sometimes known as Meigs' Line (actually surveyed in 1802). By including the upper reaches of the French Broad, hundreds of (illegal) white settlers were now legitimized.
- V. Treaty of Feb. 27, 1819 (concluded in Washington, D.C.). This agreement took place after considerable pressure had been brought to bear for Indians to emigrate west of the Mississippi (and many had done so after an 1817 treaty which affected land outside N.C.).
- VI. Treaty of Dec. 29, 1835 (concluded at New Echota, Ga.). The last remaining N.C. land was part of a much larger parcel (in Ga. and Ala.) that was ceded at this time. No further territory east of the Mississippi remained in Cherokee hands. The purchase-price was five million dollars. A year's subsistence for each family was promised after their removal (or, \$33 per head) plus \$20 per head in moving expenses. Those who desire to remain, subject to becoming U.S. citizens, may purchase 160 acres (including their present "improvement") at a minimum price to be established by the government. Removal to the west, for the remainder, shall take place within two years. A supplementary treaty, concluded at New Echota on March 1, 1836, withdrew the possibility of citizenship and acquiring of the 160 acre home-place.

NATIVE AMERICANS
With Emphasis Upon The Toe River Area

Bailey, Lloyd. "An Old Indian Trail in Yancey County," Yancey Journal,

_____. "A Tragic Case of Mistaken Identity," Yancey Journal,
A similar incident (perhaps the same one) is related by Donald L. McCourry in his Biography of Ed Barnett (privately printed, 1985; copies in regional libraries), pp. 82, 139, 176.

_____. Native Americans in Yancey County (tentative title, in process). It will contain information about excavations, burials, stories, petroglyphs, trails, military service against (1838), and a list of persons who claim Indian descent (and many do!).

Edwards, Virgil Lusk. "The Battle of Flint Creek," in his The Appalachian Mountain Log Book. (Burnsville: Edwards Printing Co., 1955), pp. 1-4. Discusses a battle in East Tenn. in 1789, whose survivors may have fled into the Nolachucky Gorge and who may be related to the Indian Grave Gap (near Poplar, N.C.). He also relates the story of ghosts of Indians on Mine Fork Creek, in relation to a trail that passed through there.

Lee, E. Lawrence. Indian Wars in North Carolina, 1663-1763 (Raleigh: Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, 1963; reprinted by State Dept. of Archives and History, 1968; 94pp.).

Perdue, Theda. Native Carolinians: The Indians of North Carolina (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1985; 73pp.). A summary of culture from the earliest times to the present, with a number of illustrations and photos.

South, Stanley A. Indians in North Carolina (Raleigh: Dept. of Archives and History, 2nd printing, 1962; 69pp.). Focuses upon the history of various groups (e.g., Algonquins, Tuscarora) more than upon culture (for which see Purdue).

Spindel, Donna. Introductory Guide to Indian-Related Records (to 1876) in the N.C. State Archives (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 2nd printing, 1979; 33pp.).

Tennent, Gail. The Indian Path in Buncombe County (Stephens Press, Asheville, N.C., nd.; 8pp.; pamphlet in the Duke University Collection (No. 2630); stamped on the copy is: Dr. Gaillard S. Tennent, Box 843, Asheville, N.C.; catalogued 1951?). Has a nice map of the old trail, stretching from Biltmore to the American Enka Plant; states that some sections are still visible.

Sheppard, Muriel E. "The Forgotten Valley." South Atlantic Quarterly, XXXIII (1934), pp. 63-82. Contains an interesting interview with a woman in Yancey, of Negro and Indian ancestry.

YANCEY COUNTY: A BIBLIOGRAPHY
(Continued from Vol. I, Numb. 2)

- Gasque, Jim. Hunting and Fishing in the Great Smokies. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1948. See Chapter XVII for discussion of the Wilson family of Pensacola as famous bear hunters.
- Kaplan, Berton H. Blue Ridge: An Appalachian Community in Transition. Morgantown: Univ. of W. Va. (Univ. Bulletin), Jan., 1971; 171pp. A study of the socio-economic development and attitudes of South Toe/Celo Community. (No more specific location is given for "Blue Ridge" than that it is in the Toe River Valley.) For similar studies of the same area, see G. Hicks (in previous bibliography) and Stephenson (below). Quotes J.B. Deyton's MA Thesis.
- Stephenson, John B. Shiloh: A Mountain Community. Lexington: Univ. of Ky. Press, 1968; 232pp. A socio-economic study, it refers to the South Toe area by such pseudonyms as "Centerville" (the county seat, Burnsville), "Yellowjacket" (Whiteoak Creek, where a 220 acre park is located: apparently Thomas Byrd's property, now owned by his daughter Mary Lou Cowan), "Upper and Lower Silver Creek" (Browns Creek), "Spartown" (Micaville?), etc. The author, in an article published elsewhere, says that this community is the same as that studied by Hicks in his Appalachian Valley (Celo, N.C., as it turns out).
- Wilson, Charles Morrow. Backwoods America. Chapel Hill: U.N.C. Press, 1935. Although the text is about the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas, the photos were taken in the Toe River Valley and in East Tenn. The photographer was Bayard Wooten (whose photos appeared in Sheppard's Cabins in the Laurel).

The Heritage of Burke County
More Articles that Touch on the Present Yancey County
(Continued from Vol. I, Numb. 2)

- No. 142: Alney Burgin
- No. 211: Capt. Joseph Dobson, Jr. (owned much land in Yancey)
- No. 280: Burgess S. Gaither (Whig State Senator; defeated Thos. Baker)
- No. 368: Thomas Hudson (likely a relative of Mrs. George Byrd, Sr.; owned land on Jacks Creek; Hutson's Hole, in Cane River, likely named for him)