

ESTATOEE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Volume II, Numbers 3-4
October, 1987

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

Officers of the Association (1987):

President: Kenneth Nelson
Vice-President and Program Chair: Lloyd Bailey
Treasurer: Paul Kardulis
Secretary: Theresa Blankenship
Directors: James Byrd
John Young
Parliamentarian: Bill Young

Correspondence with the Association:

Secretary: 108 Town Square,
Burnsville, N.C., 28714
Program Chair: 4122 Deepwood
Circle, Durham, N.C., 27707

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Summer meeting of the Association was held at the Yancey County Library on Sunday, June 21, at 2 p.m. The program, by Paul Kardulis, was a review of conditions in the County during the Civil War period, especially as it affected the families of the soldiers who joined Company C, 16th N.C. Regiment of the Confederate Army. His commentary was illustrated with letters, photographs, and other items from the time.

Minutes of the subsequent business meeting, concerned with the acquisition of permanent display and office space for the Association, were taken sketchily by the Editor. The Secretary was encouraged to continue her conversations with the heirs of Mrs. Troy (Winnie Lou) Ray, concerning the purchase of the John McElroy house in Burnsville. That structure dates from the first half of the 19th century.

Discussion of the need to increase public awareness of the Association and to increase its membership led to two suggestions: (1) that copies of the Newsletter (Estatoee) be made available to each member, by mail in case of non-attendance at a particular meeting. Funds for this purpose are to be provided by the Treasurer, who is also to serve as membership chairperson; and (2) that an article concerning the Association, with a membership enrollment form, be placed in the Yancey County Magazine which is being prepared by the Chamber of Commerce.

The magazine, entitled Yancey County, North Carolina, has subsequently appeared, with the Association's article (prepared by Lloyd Bailey and Theresa Blankenship) at page 9. The magazine contains a total of 48 pages, including many color photographs and maps, and is available from the Chamber for 75 cents each copy.

The Current Program:

"The History of Education in Yancey County" will be the topic presented by Edgar Hunter, Jr., former teacher, principal, and superintendent of public instruction in the County. Toward that end, the Editor has gathered a random collection of documents relating to the topic.

THE BEGINNING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN YANCEY COUNTY

Prior to 1840, there were no publically financed schools for the education of North Carolina's children. The only opportunity available was through so-called "subscription schools," whereby interested (and able) parents subscribed by entering into a contract with a local person to teach their children at a stated rate "per scholar." [An illustrative contract for such a school, dated 1828 and accepted by Charles Avery Byrd of Jacks Creek, is reproduced below.] Little wonder, then, that a visitor to the State in 1850 could report: "North Carolina has a proverbial reputation for the ignorance and torpidity of her people; being, in this respect, at the head of the Slave States" (Frederick Law Olmsted, A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States). As late as the 1860 Census, only one-fourth of the white adults were able to read and write.

Public education was not without earlier advocates, however. Governors, soon after 1800, began to press the legislature for action in this regard, but each bill was defeated "for the want of sufficient funds." Finally, in 1825, the State Literary Fund was authorized, to be allocated for the creation of common schools when it reached a sufficient amount. The Fund, initially mismanaged, remained unused until 1839, when it had grown to the amount of \$2,000,000.00. That amount was deemed sufficient such that no taxes would need be raised at the state level. Consequently, the General Assembly, in that year, directed that elections on the matter be held in each county. If a majority of the voters so preferred, then the county court could proceed to lay out districts and raise supplementary local taxes. For each \$20.00 so raised, the Literary Fund would provide \$40.00, the total being sufficient to hire a teacher for a session of instruction.

The proposal met with instant approval by the state's voters, with only seven counties initially rejecting it. One of those seven was YANCEY, the only western county to do so! A subsequent election reversed that decision, and the county court proceeded with organizational and financial planning. Consequently, the first meeting of the County's Superintendents of Public Instruction was held in Burnsville in 1842. Thirty-three district boundaries were established and the elected Committeemen listed. For example:

- #28: From the head of Jacks Creek down to Lewis Briggs' residence (i.e., near Byrd Branch); Committeemen are Charles Byrd and Moses J. Honeycutt; 84 children in 1843; to be known as the Lewis Briggs District.
- #30: Jacks Creek District; from #28 down to and including Mine Fork; Committeemen are Dobson Deyton and Joseph Tucker; 74 children enrolled in 1843.
- #32: Pig Pen District; from #30 down to mouth of Jacks Creek; no Committeemen elected, so appointments are made: William Randolph, Charles Bailey, and James W. Ayers; 67 children enrolled in 1843.

In 1857, the allocation per scholar (to be used in paying the teacher) increases from 25 to 42 cents.

Other districts established at the 1842 meeting included: Burnsville; Young's; South Toe; Pensacola; Hinton Creek; Bald Mountain; Egypt; Daniel Carter's; Upper, Middle, West, and Paint forks of Ivy; Walnut Creek; Upper Laurel, Laurel, and Shelton Laurel; Baker's Meeting House (Bakersville); Big Rock Creek; Mt. Pisgah (Ingalls?); Old Fields of Toe (Newland); Beaver Creek; Grassy Creek; No. 33

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PUBLIC EDUCATION IN YANCEY COUNTY
Available Sources of Information

Minutes, Yancey Co. Superintendents of Schools (beginning, 1842):
Microfilm copy in State Archives (C.107.90015); original in County?

Reports of the county superintendents to the State Superintendent: Originals from the 1850's and 1860's in the State Archives (C.SPI.60). Lists schools, licensed teachers, number of pupils, etc. (a specimen page, for the year 1856, is part of this newsletter)

Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

Yancey Co. data first appears in the volume for 1848. Continued in the Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Duke University [Dewey Decimal] number is 379.756 N873) A specimen of its type of information, for the years 1898-1900 is reproduced as part of this newsletter.

Executive and Legislative Documents, General Assembly of N.C.:

Scattered information, e.g., for 1870-71, as reproduced herein (Duke Library number: 328.7564 N873D).

Private Laws of North Carolina:

Scattered decrees concerning incorporation of schools, e.g., 1879 and 1893, as reproduced herein (Duke Library number:)

History and Geography of Yancey County (Teacher Training Class, 1930):

Chapter IV, "Education in Yancey County," but it has a number of errors. Reproduced in Common Times: Written and Pictorial History of Yancey County (Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1981), p. 58. See also p. 62, concerning the 1896 high school at Bald Creek.

Ross, Malcolm. "My Neighbors Hold to Mountain Ways." National Geographic, CXIII (June, 1958, pp. 856-880. At pp. 875-876 is a segment entitled "School Builder from Bear Wallow," concerning former Superintendent James Hutchins.

Kivette, Everett M. "Epitaph for Lost Cove," in The State magazine, March 15, 1971 (reprinted in Common Times, pp. 36-38). A section concerns Sinclair B. Conley's service as teacher in this most remote of Yancey's communities.

Yearbooks ("Annuals") of the various schools, which began at Clearmont in the 1930's?? [A copy of each of these should be gathered and preserved!]

Countless photographs, printed school programs, newspaper clippings, etc., owned by individuals [which also should be collected and arranged for preservation].

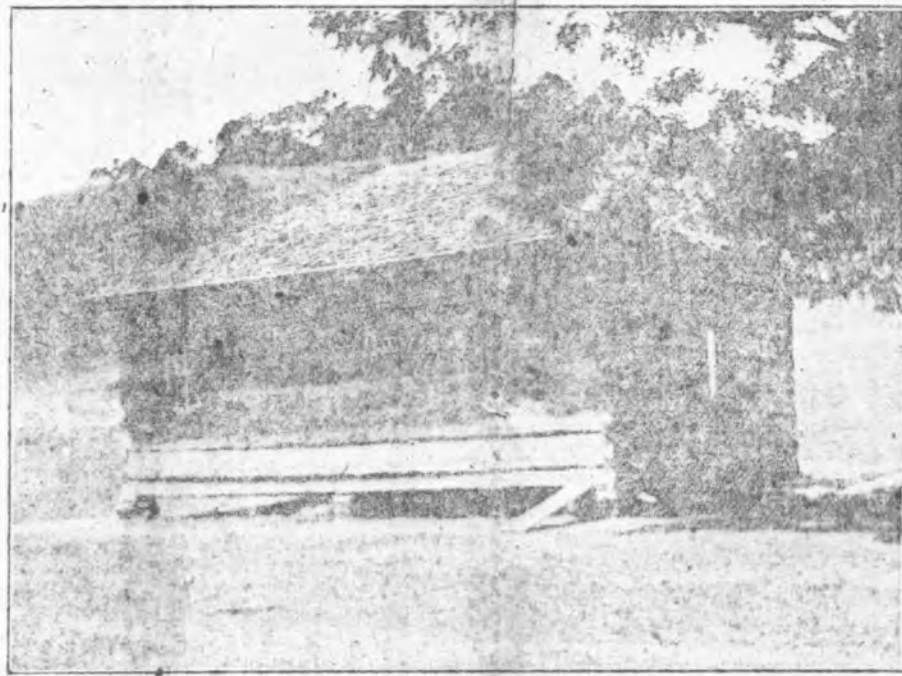
The North Carolina Year Book:

A list of officials by county, including the category, "Public school Teachers" (names and post office). For example, 35 persons are listed for 1902. (Duke Library number: 917.56 N875Y) A full list continues until at least 1916, when it has become quite voluminous. By 1923, it is merely listing the Superintendent and members of the Board of Education. The list for 1916 is reproduced herein.

Bulletin of the Works Progress Administration of North Carolina:

Photos of several of Yancey's new high schools, some in the process of being built, are to be found in: II² (July-Aug., 1936), II⁰ (2nd half, 1938), and Jan., 1940. (Duke University Documents: Y3.W89/2:70N81c/1) A copy of the first of these is reproduced herein.

Ring The School Bells.



THE OLD CRAB TREE SCHOOL AND CHURCH HOUSE IN YANCEY COUNTY.

The above cut is from a photograph of an old time log church and school house, which is typical of many throughout the Southern mountains, in which our parents, and some of us, were introduced into the mysteries of the 3 R's, some thirty odd years ago. My mother in her young days attended religious services in the old house shown in the above cut, and it was wonderful meetings they had in that day and time judging from what she has often told me. In such a house I was partly "edicated" myself and prepared for a future career of many rebuffs and few successes, it finally being my lot to serve in a journalistic and business way as editor of Vim and as a job printer for farmers, merchants and lumbermen in many states. In such a house I learned a little worth remembering and much that would be better forgotten. In such a house I learned of the way if not of the means to the temple of knowledge, and on the hard, splintery benches I sat, bare-footed, arrayed like Joseph of old, in patched up suit of jeans and hickory shirt, I divided my attentions on the girls, the teacher and the blue back speller.—But the dreams of the old sweethearts, the old first loves,—how could one cease to remember them? To you who cherish fond memories of some "school house on the hill," can you not think of some one of "golden hair on whose cheek, on whose brow, in whose eye, shone beauty and pleasure, whose triumphs now are by"? Of course; but those were days of unsophisticated youth when Nature was left unhampered to her designs, and if the dear old Dame made an occasional mistake in creating a few heart sores, we had then

much better condone than condemn.

But let us not dwell more on these forbidden, if not forgotten themes of the past; for soon our eyes would dim with tears, our heart melt with sorrow and our hand falter with emotion.

from American Vim,
Vol. II, no. 3, a
newspaper edited and
published in Yancey
County by V. Lusk
Edwards. Courtesy
of Jody Higgins.

Charles Avery Byrd (1802-1891) was the son of William K. and Elizabeth Williams Byrd of Jacks Creek, and for him Byrd Branch is named. He held the offices of Magistrate, Sheriff, County Trustee. (courtesy of Vernie Wilson)

State of North Carolina } June 28th
Buncombe County } Day 1828

Articles of an agreement made between Charles Byrd of the County of Buncombe and State aforesaid of the first part and we the undersigned of the other part Witnesseth that the said Charles Byrd do undertake to teach a English School in the settlement of Jacks Creek for the term of six months at the rate of Three Dollars and fifty Cents per scholar which may be discharged in Corn, wheat or Rye, Pork, Beeswax, Tallow, Cloth, Yearlings, or pay in the Stone, all at the country selling price to be delivered to my house against the first day of March next and will commence Teaching on the fourth monday in July next if twenty five standing scholars is made up, and we the undersigned do agree to commit to the care and tuition of the above mentioned Charles Byrd Schoolmaster the number of scholars assigned to instruct and correct agreeable to the Rules of school and the said master do bind my self to teach the mood of Teaching writing and Arithmetic and to keep good order in school and pay due attendance on school and teach five days in every week unless dis appointed by sickness all lost time to be made up that said master looses And we the undersigned do agree to comply with the above Article in Witness whereof we have hereunto set our names as seals

Names	Sh	cts	Names	Sh	cts
	1	350	Wells Phillipps	1	350
			William Lawrence	1	350
Mary Colier	1	350	Lewis Briggs	1	350
George Byrd	2	700	Catey Phillipps	1	350
Theodor Phillipps	1	350	Jacob Honeycutt	2	700
Rachel M. in tent	2	700	Dolly Briggs	1	350
Samuel Byrd	3	1050	William Byrd	3	1050
William Phillipps	1	350	Joseph C. Williams	1/2	175
Samuel Hunter	3	1050	Peter Honeycutt	1	350
		49 00	Edwards	1	350
		5 15			
					3675

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN YANCEY COUNTY

year	Superintendent	Members of the Board	statistics: schools, students
1848	Cornelius R. Byrd		
1854	Benjamin Henline		37 schools; 3,605 potential students; 22 licensed teachers
1856-59	Milton P. Penland		
1859-60	Cornelius R. Byrd		39 schools; 25 male and 2 female teachers; school terms of 2.5 months
1869	Thomas W. Ray		
1872-74	David M. Ray		
1876-77	David M. Ray		26 white schools; 6 "colored" schools
1879-80	William M. Austin		
1881-82	David M. Ray		
1885-86	George W. Byrd	W.H. Honeycutt; C. Peterson; J. Woody	
1887-88	George W. Byrd	W.A. Honeycutt; D.A. Randolph; W.L. Bennett	13 log and 3 frame buildings for "whites"; 1 log and 2 frame buildings for "colored"
1889-90	D.A. Randolph	James Roberson; W.L. Bennett; E.M. Proffitt	
1893-94	Will D. Peterson	L.H. Hutchins; T.C. King; A.Z. McCourry	
1903-04	L.H. Hutchins	E.M. Honeycutt; Charlie Wilson; A.B. Silvers	
1915-16	W.O. Griffith	J. Frank Hensley; Molt Hensley; D.C. Renfro	

[compiled from volumes of the Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction that are available in the Duke Univ. Lib.]

Brunswick July 17th 1840
Recd of J. M. Garland Three Dollars in full
of his subscription for Building the School
House

J. Boon

presumably connected with the beginnings of the public schools; this
is not the Academy building which was a decade later.
(Signed by Thomas Boon?)

Documents from the J.W. Garland
Papers, courtesy of Paul Kardulis

State of North Carolina
Ganey County May 20th 1843
I hereby authorize J. M. Garland to
dispose of Sixty (60) Fowler arithmetics
in the County of Ganey & is permitted
to use them in any school by himself
or any other person for him according to
Fowler's plan of teaching gun men
my hand this ~~date~~ date above

signed by Abner Jervis

A. Jervis
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Burnsville North Carolina
 Yancey County

District	To the Comptroller of State	Males	F. Males	Total
11	Burnsville	65	70	135
20	Gouge	57	55	112
3	South Cove	70	50	120
4	Pensacola	58	42	100
5	Hinton's creek	40	35	75
6	Ball mountain creek	75	54	129
7	Egypt	61	55	116
8	Bakers meeting house	90	70	160
9	Buchanans	65	55	120
10	Garland Town	44	49	93
11	Big Rock creek	73	50	123
12	Brownetts creek	65	50	115
13	Wisemans	40	35	75
14	Mt Pisgah	37	33	70
15	Bee creek	40	32	72
16	Snow creek	43	50	93
17	Bear creek	30	32	62
18	Beaver creek	60	50	110
19	Grassy creek	55	40	95
20	Lewis Briggs	60	55	115
21	Ramsay Town	55	50	105
22	Gacks creek	70	60	130
23	Deytens	35	34	69
24	Pig Pen	50	36	86
25	mine creek	40	35	75
26	Ball mountain	55	45	100
27	Howels	45	55	100
28	Paint Gap	45	50	95
29	Rock House	38	32	70
30	Caney River	50	54	104
31	Elk Shoal	35	40	75
				8103

Amount Brot over

Males	Females	Total
		3103
50	40	90
60	50	110
20	23	43
50	35	85
40	54	94
38	42	80
		3605

32	Bent creek
33	Little Rock
34	Erwins
35	Coale tree
36	Prices creek
37	Spring creek

Sir

This return is as good as we
 can make not having the necessary
 blanks, and if it is not directed
 to the proper persons you will
 please hand it over at your earliest
 convenience.

Yours Respectfully
 B. Herald

45	10	55
50	15	65
55	20	75
60	25	85
65	30	95
70	35	105
75	40	115
80	45	125
85	50	135
90	55	145
95	60	155
100	65	165
105	70	175
110	75	185
115	80	195
120	85	205
125	90	215
130	95	225
135	100	235
140	105	245
145	110	255
150	115	265
155	120	275
160	125	285
165	130	295
170	135	305
175	140	315
180	145	325
185	150	335
190	155	345
195	160	355
200	165	365
205	170	375
210	175	385
215	180	395
220	185	405
225	190	415
230	195	425
235	200	435
240	205	445
245	210	455
250	215	465
255	220	475
260	225	485
265	230	495
270	235	505
275	240	515
280	245	525
285	250	535
290	255	545
295	260	555
300	265	565
305	270	575
310	275	585
315	280	595
320	285	605
325	290	615
330	295	625
335	300	635
340	305	645
345	310	655
350	315	665
355	320	675
360	325	685
365	330	695
370	335	705
375	340	715
380	345	725
385	350	735
390	355	745
395	360	755
400	365	765
405	370	775
410	375	785
415	380	795
420	385	805
425	390	815
430	395	825
435	400	835
440	405	845
445	410	855
450	415	865
455	420	875
460	425	885
465	430	895
470	435	905
475	440	915
480	445	925
485	450	935
490	455	945
495	460	955
500	465	965
505	470	975
510	475	985
515	480	995
520	485	1005
525	490	1015
530	495	1025
535	500	1035
540	505	1045
545	510	1055
550	515	1065
555	520	1075
560	525	1085
565	530	1095
570	535	1105
575	540	1115
580	545	1125
585	550	1135
590	555	1145
595	560	1155
600	565	1165
605	570	1175
610	575	1185
615	580	1195
620	585	1205
625	590	1215
630	595	1225
635	600	1235
640	605	1245
645	610	1255
650	615	1265
655	620	1275
660	625	1285
665	630	1295
670	635	1305
675	640	1315
680	645	1325
685	650	1335
690	655	1345
695	660	1355
700	665	1365
705	670	1375
710	675	1385
715	680	1395
720	685	1405
725	690	1415
730	695	1425
735	700	1435
740	705	1445
745	710	1455
750	715	1465
755	720	1475
760	725	1485
765	730	1495
770	735	1505
775	740	1515
780	745	1525
785	750	1535
790	755	1545
795	760	1555
800	765	1565
805	770	1575
810	775	1585
815	780	1595
820	785	1605
825	790	1615
830	795	1625
835	800	1635
840	805	1645
845	810	1655
850	815	1665
855	820	1675
860	825	1685
865	830	1695
870	835	1705
875	840	1715
880	845	1725
885	850	1735
890	855	1745
895	860	1755
900	865	1765
905	870	1775
910	875	1785
915	880	1795
920	885	1805
925	890	1815
930	895	1825
935	900	1835
940	905	1845
945	910	1855
950	915	1865
955	920	1875
960	925	1885
965	930	1895
970	935	1905
975	940	1915
980	945	1925
985	950	1935
990	955	1945
995	960	1955

Names of Licensed Teachers.

- 1 James L. Harris
- 2 C. M. Baily (Charles, son of James and Elizabeth)
- 3 A. F. English
- 4 J. C. Baily (Curtis, son of James and Elizabeth)
- ~~5 B. L. Bowman Bowman~~
- 6 Ezekiel Hampton (son of Wade and Rutha)
- 7 Nathan Horton
- 8 Rev J. R. Patterson (Jehu, Methodist Clergyman)
- 9 Wm B. Patterson (William, brother of Jehu)
- 10 Isaac Wise
- 11 Corson Vance
- 12 D. A. Chandler
- 13 James Hensly
- 14 John Hensly
- 15 Thomas Gibbs
- 16 Wm J. Silver
- 17 David Silver
- 18 Alex^{dr} Brinkley
- 19 J. M. Courcy (Zephaniah, of Jacks Creek)
- 20 R. M. Honeycutt (Robert Vance, son of Peter)
- 21 B. L. Deyton
- 22 Finly Lawes.

The above teachers are all or nearly all employed and we have better teachers and schools than we ever had in the county as a whole, and I have taken pains in catechising all the teachers

Yours Respectfully
B. Henline, Ch

Common School Teacher's Certificate.

Yancey COUNTY, N. C.

WE, the undersigned Committee of Examination into the Mental and Moral qualifications of such persons as make application for employment as Teachers of Common Schools in Yancey County, have duly examined J. B. Baily, and being satisfied as to his moral character, do hereby certify that he is qualified as Teacher of Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar and Geography, as indicated by the numbers annexed to each. No. 1 denotes the highest grade of scholarship, and No. 5 the lowest.

Given under our hands, this the 14 day of Augt, A. D., 1854

Isaac M. Broyles
J. D. Griffith
B. B. Whittington

Committee
of
Examination.

- SPELLING, No. 2
- READING, No. 3
- WRITING, No. 3
- ARITHMETIC, No. 2

J. M. P. ... Chairman of the Board of Superintendents of Common Schools of the County and State aforesaid, in conformity to the Acts of Assembly,

Do make the following Report:

The School Fund in said County is divided according to the No. of Scholars and at the ... division of 1856, \$ 968.16 was declared to be the sum due each ... and at the Fall division of 1856, \$ 268.16 and was 21 cents per scholar

Table with columns: No. of District, Number of Children in each District over 5 and under 21 years of age (Males, Females), Number of Children Taught in each District (Males, Females), Whole Time the School has been taught in each District (Months, Days), AMOUNT PAID OUT (To Teachers, To Whom, Amount, No. of Dollars, Cents), AMOUNT RECEIVED BY CHAIRMEN (When, From Whom, Amount, Dollars, Cents), TEACHERS LICENSED (Name of Teacher, Rank of each, indicated by numbers - No. 1 denoting the highest rank, No. 2 the lowest).

State of N. Carolina, David M. ... of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County do hereby certify that I have carefully examined the above report and find it all correct in its statements whereof I have made no objection and signed the back of my official paper in Durham on the 4th day of December 1857 David M. ... Clerk

from the N.C. State Archives

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Rec^d of Ezekiel Hampton Three ³⁷100 Dollars
in full of his State County School Tax for
the year 1858 this 15th 1859
J. D. C. Buff

Receipt issued to Ezekiel Hampton for payment of his "school tax" for the year 1858. (From the James W. Patterson papers, courtesy of Bertha Buff of Sylva, N.C.) Ezekiel Hampton became a Major in the Confederate Army and an ordained Methodist Clergyman (see Lloyd Bailey, A History of the Methodist Church in the Toe River Valley, pp. 40-42, 352-355).

YANCEY COUNTY.

CANE RIVER.

The whole number of youth between six and twenty-one years of age actually residing in said township is, 431.

The number of ungraded schools is, 2.

The number of teachers is as follows: white males, 1; white females 1; total 2.

The number of pupils attending public schools has been as follows: white males, 50; white females, 55; total number of pupils, 105.

The average daily attendance was, 80.

Wages paid teachers was as follows: White males, \$40.

Whole number of school houses in township is, 6, log; condition ordinary.

The amount expended for Public School purposes in the Township for the year ending September 30th, 1870, is, \$40. Amount received from the State, \$40.

The number of Public Schools in session this 30th September, 1870, is as follows: No. 1, J. K. Blankinship; No. 2, Mary J. Horton.

The following text books have been used in the schools: Davies' Arithmetic, Smith's Grammar.

We have 8 districts in this township, and but 6 houses. We have received no registers, and should be pleased to have them forwarded. Owing to lack of money we have been unable to employ teachers, but hope soon to get them.

Committee.—M. C. Byrd, S. T. Proffitt.

JACK'S CREEK.

The whole number of youth between six and twenty-one years of age actually residing in said township is, 362.

The number of ungraded schools is, 3.

The number of teachers is: white males, 3.

The number of pupils attending public schools has been as follows: white males, 102; white females, 108; total number of pupils, 210.

The average daily attendance was, 196.

Wages paid teachers of first grade schools was as follows: white males, \$22.50.

Executive and Legislative
Documents, General Assembly of
N.C., 1870-71, pp. 245-248, 267)
(Duke Univ. Library 328.7564 N873D)

Wages paid teachers of second grade schools was as follows: white males, \$20.

Whole number of school houses in township is 4, log.

The condition of the public school houses in the township is: 3 good; 1 bad.

The amount expended for public school purposes in the township for the year ending September 30th, 1870, is \$96. Amount received from the State \$96.

The number of public schools in session this 30th September, 1870, is as follows: Peterson, W. A. Honeycut; Roland, T. M. Honeycut; Willson, Goodson Hampton.

Our schools have been good; the pupils have made great proficiency. We are preparing for additional school houses as fast as possible.

Committee.—J. H. Roland, Palmer Lewis, S. D. Howell.

BRUSH CREEK.

The whole number of youth between six and twenty-one years of age actually residing in said township is, 194.

The number of ungraded schools is, 2.

The number of teachers is as follows: white males, 2.

The number of pupils attending public schools has been as follows: white males, 30; white females, 20; total number of pupils, 50.

The average daily attendance was, 40.

Wages paid teachers was as follows: white males, \$19.

Whole number of school houses in township is, 4; condition second rate.

The number of public schools in session this 30th September, 1870, is as follows: Pleasant Grove, W. H. Peyton; Brush Creek, T. L. Randolph.

Committee.—J. H. Thomas, Wm. Robeson, D. Renfrow.

SOUTH TAR RIVER.

The whole number of youth between six and twenty-one years of age actually residing in said township is, 137.

Whole number of school houses in township is, 4.

Of this number, 3 log houses have been built since October 1st, 1869.

The condition of the public school houses in the township is, 3, good.

The Committee would add that they failed to be supplied with a copy of the school law in time to build and have a four months' school this year.

Committee.—James W. Gibbs, Jason Ballew.

PENSACOLA.

The whole number of youth between six and twenty-one years of age actually residing in said township is, 138.

We have been unable to have schools taught for the lack of school houses. We have been unable to build school houses, being informed until lately that there was no money for us, consequently we were unable to employ mechanics upon our order. At present we are better informed and are going to work. We have our teachers employed, and will commence two schools, one in each district, on the first Monday in October.

Committee.—John A. Hensley, A. L. Ray, W. H. Roland.

NAMES OF TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN THE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA, A. D., 1870.

YANCEY COUNTY.

Cane River Township.—J. K. Blankenship.

Egypt.—Charles H. Byrd, R. Pinner, H. R. Peek.

Jack's Creek.—W. A. Honeycutt, G. M. Hampton, David W. Duncan.

(DOCS. COPY. TYPES. 359. 1869. M8130)
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
EXPLANATIONS AND REFERENCES

CHAPTER 48.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE YANCEY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact :

SECTION 1. That John W. Burton, chairman, W. W. Proffitt, M. P. Hampton, S. T. Proffitt, Wilson Hensly, H. A. Proffitt, their associates and successors, are hereby created a body politic and corporate under the name and style of Trustees of Yancey County High School, and in that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, contract and be contracted with, acquire and hold in their corporate capacity property real and personal such as may be necessary and suitable for maintaining a school of high grade on Bald creek, Yancey county, with power to make all needful rules and regulations for their own government and that of said high school, and shall have continual succession for the period of ninety years.

SEC. 2. That in case of a vacancy occurring in said

board of trustees such vacancy shall be filled by appointment of remaining members thereof.

Sale of spirituous
liquors prohibited.

Misdemeanor.

SEC. 3. That it shall be unlawful for any person to sell any spirituous liquors within one mile thereof, and the person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than fifty in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 4. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified the 5th day of March, A. D. 1879.

from Private Laws of N.C., Session of 1879, pp. 631-632. Note both the date and the location of the institution (Bald Creek). This is well before the school that was erected there in 1896, for which see "Schools Established in Bald Creek," in Common Times: Written and Pictorial History of Yancey County (Burnsville: Yancey Graphics, 1981), p. 62 (with photo).

Received of The Treasurer
of the Board of Trustees of
Shoal Creek High School
bonds to the amt. of \$334.50.
Aug. 5th 1885.
" W. A. Long.

source uncertain (possibly the Ezekiel Hampton/J.W. Patterson papers). I have not found any other record of this institution.

December the 3 day 1892.

Yancey County N.C.

This is to certify that we the undersigned School Committee of District No. 14 do agree that H. A. Bailey may teach our Public School for the year 1893. We also agree to give him an order to the County Treasury at the rate of twenty four dollars per month for teaching said school. We also bind him to keep good order and teach good morals in said school. We also agree to aid him in carrying out the school according to the school law. This obligation to be binding provided the said H. A. Bailey shows up a first or second grade certificate other wise to be of none effect.

(Alythe)
 H. A. Bailey -
 Roland Hill
 School

Contract whereby Harvey Aplythe ("Bly") Bailey (son of Harvey and Aldecha of Jacks Creek) was hired to teach in the public schools, 1892. Especially interesting are the following pages wherein he lists the questions to be asked of the students at the first class meeting.

By Peck
Wm Williams
George K. McIntosh
School Committee

☞ Do to all as you would have them do to you. Or in other words do right.

-
1. What is our business here?
 2. Who pays your tuition?
 3. Is it right to idle time away whispering?
 4. Is it necessary to have order in school?
 5. How should large students act toward smaller ones and toward each other?
 6. Should there be any sparring in school?
 7. Should boys and girls play together at play time?
 8. How should we act toward private property going to and from school?
 9. How should we act toward people older than we are?
 10. Should we bring any intoxicating drinks to school?

11. Should we meddle or hinder
time a way with people passing
the road?
12. Should students leave school with-
out permission?
13. Should students use profane or
indecent language in school?
14. Should students go far a way
from the school house during
play time?
15. Is it right for students to fight
and quarrel in school?

3 Should students use
tobacco in school?

CHAPTER 285.

An act to incorporate Peterson Academy.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. That James J. Britt, A. Z. McCurry, D. M. Horton, D. F. Young, J. W. Bryant, R. W. Peterson, J. W. Benton and M. P. McCurry, their successors, associates and assigns, are hereby declared to be a body corporate and politic under the name and style of "The Peterson Academy," and as such may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and generally to have all the powers and privileges of corporations of similar character. In such capacity they may establish and maintain in Yancey county an institution of learning in which shall be taught such studies of an advanced character as are usually taught in high schools and academies, and such pupils as have been found proficient in their studies may, upon completing the course of study prescribed, have conferred upon them by the Peterson

Incorporators.
Corporate name.
Corporate powers.

Academy certificates of proficiency in the various studies or courses of study taught in such academy.

By-laws.

SEC. 2. That the trustees of Peterson Academy may make such by-laws for the conduct and better government of the institution as they may deem best: *Provided*, that the same be not inconsistent with the laws of the land.

Proviso.

SEC. 3. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification. Ratified the 6th day of March, A. D. 1893.

from Private Laws of N.C., Session of 1893, pp. 431-432.

This institution is presumably the same as Peterson Seminary, where the teacher (and presumed founder) is Will M. Peterson (son of Moses Washington ["Little Mose"] and Cordelia Ray Peterson of Jacks Creek). For a photograph of him (in relation to his second marriage, to Lillie Ray Chase of Burnsville), see Lloyd Bailey, The Bailey Family, III, pp. 1041 B-C; there also is a newspaper account of his later political and legal career in Pendleton, Oregon.

For a newspaper account of a bear which wandered near the school in 1891, see Lloyd Bailey, News From Yancey, p. 56. It was located at Spiceland, N.C., which I take to be on Mine Fork.

Some public school instructors in Jacks Creek Township, as remembered by Lillie Bailey (1886-1974) and others.

- 1. In the old Jacks Creek School which was located above the present Lester Byrd house, between Byrd Branch and Bailey Branch: "Professor" George Byrd (1855-1933, son of "Billy" and "Molly").

This old building, which also served as a church, was torn down and restructured as a barn on the farm of Sinclair Conley. (A photo of the barn survives, in possession of Lloyd Bailey.)

- 2. In the Roland Hill Baptist Church (prior to the present structure; it stood where the cemetery is now located; a painting of it, based upon memory, is preserved by Mrs. Jim Arrowood; photos of classes there preserved by Lloyd Bailey): John Bailey (1879-19 , son of Marcus and Jane)
 - John Wesley Edwards
 - Prof. E.E. Hawkins
 - Miss _____ Proffitt
 - Prof. _____ Kennedy *
 - Don Young
 - Ben Franklin
 - Will Peterson [likely Will D. Peterson]
 - Will Byrd
 - Wade Honeycutt (son of Ephraim and Aldecha)
 - Isaac Bailey (son of Jess and Elizabeth)

- 3. At "Ironwood College" (more usually a "subscription" school; located just at the mouth of Jess Wheeler Branch, just above Byrd Branch; active during the early decades of the 1900's; photograph preserved by Lloyd Bailey):
 - Pansy Lewis/Peterson
 - Lena Honeycutt (dau. of Wade and Fanny)
 - Samuel J. Byrd

- 4. An old school located near Carl Job's farm on Upper Jacks Creek is remembered by Zella (Mrs. Mack) Bailey. Teachers included:
 - Calvin Briggs (killed in a street car accident just before World War I)
 - Will Peterson
 - Miss _____ Ray

- 5. Percy's School House is mentioned in Methodist records as a meeting-place as early as 1887. I presume it to be near the residence of Lycurgus ("Curg") Piercy on Samson Branch.

* There was a Methodist Clergyman named Kennedy, and the two may be the same. Charles Bailey (brother of Lillie, my source) said of him: "Not much of a teacher; he let students get away with too much!" [For James S. Kennedy as a clergyman in Yancey, see Bailey, History of the Methodist Church in the Toe River Valley, pp. 186, 187.]

The Ledger of John Wes Edwards

John Wesley Edwards, born around 1875, wrote down recollections of his childhood and education, mostly in Egypt Township of Yancey County. From a typescript of the journal, I have been able to extract the following particulars.

Places of schooling and Teachers

- 1883: Bethel Schoolhouse on Cane River*, taught by a Methodist Clergyman named John _____
- 1884: teacher married John Henry Higgins (location not stated)
- 1885: taught by Mr. _____ Honeycutt
- 1886: taught by Merritt Randolph
- 1887: taught by John Evans
- 1888: taught by George Byrd
- 1889: taught by Maggie Dellinger
- 1890: moved to Bee Log area; taught by Louis _____
- 1891: moved to Coxes Creek (Ramseytown); taught by Minnie Byrd (dau. of James F. Byrd); so also 1892-93.
- 1894: taught by Will D. Peterson of Jacks Creek
- 1895: taught by Louis Bennett
- Education hereafter (e.g., at Yancey Collegiate Institute) was interspersed with teaching.

Places where he taught

- 1896: moved to Jacks Creek, living with Mack Byrd; "substituted for James Peters in his school."
- 1897: substituted for George Byrd "in his school at the head of Jacks Creek."
- 1898: taught at Howard Hill.
- 1899: taught at Coxes Creek; also in 1900.
- 1901: at Higgins
- 1902: at Coxes Creek
- 1905: at Byrd's Chapel (Ramseytown)
- 1907: Piney Hill (Seng Branch); also 1908.
- 1909: at Coxes Creek
- 1910-11: at Coxes Creek (assisted by Alice Honeycutt) and at Piney Hill.
- 1912: at Coxes Creek
- 1913: at Bee Log (assisted by Sammy Randolph)
- 1914-16: at Coxes Creek (assisted by _____ Hensley or Sally Howard Bailey)
- 1917: at Piney Hill
- 1918-22: at Higgins (assisted by Minnie Bailey, Bessie Higgins, Minnie Byrd, Miss _____ Wilson)
- 1923-24: at Coxes Creek
- 1926: at Byrd Chapel (assisted by Gus Peterson)
- 1927: at Little Creek (assisted by Gladys _____)
- 1928-30: at Big Creek (assisted by Etta Edwards)
- 1943-44: at Little Creek (assisted by Miss _____ Shepherd)
- 1944-45: at Piney Hill
- 1945-46: at Little Creek (then retirement)

* Elsewhere he states: "These were my happiest days, when I was going to school from the Wild Cat Branch across the Dead Ridge to Old Bethel school house on Cane River."

Biennial Report of the Superintendent
of Public Instruction

379.756
N873

YANCEY COUNTY.

Name of School.	Principal and Post-office.	Est. At- tendance.
Mountain City College.....	J. W. Kennedy and L. B. Abernathy, Bald Creek	60
Burnsville Academy.....	Chas. Hubbard, Burnsville	100
Zion.....	Will. M. Peterson, Green Mountain.....	75
Micaville.....	J. B. Nangle, Micaville	90
Pensacola.....	Jas. Harthins, Pensacola	85
Low Gap.....	Mary T. Gould, Pensacola	40
Peterson's Chapel.....	S. A. Franklin, Day Book	60
Bee Log.....	Sam. Hensley, Bee Log.....	80
Upper Egypt.....	J. B. Hensley, Bee Log.....	84
Upper Jack's Creek.....	D. M. Ray, Cane River.....	45
Fair View.....	Will. W. Horton, Green Mountain.....	54
Ivy Gap.....	E. J. Angel, Ivy Gap.....	43
Bank's Creek.....	Henry Benson, Cane River	38
New Dale.....	J. E. Robinson, Micaville.....	42
Double Island.....	L. P. Deyton, Elmore.....	65
Gibbs.....	Bell Young, Cello.....	42
Elk Shoal.....	M. C. Honeycutt, Cane River.....	72
Mountain City College.....	E. W. Elliot, Bald Creek.....	..
Burnsville Academy.....	C. R. Hubbard, Burnsville.....	..
Peterson.....	W. N. Peterson, Day Book.....	..
Blue Rock Academy.....	Josephine English, Flinty

1898-1900, p. 143

YANCEY COUNTY.

Hubbard, C. R.	McCormick School	Burnsville.
Mallone, J. E.	Academy.....	Bald Creek.
Hawkins, E. E.	Collegiate Institute.....	Burnsville.

1902-1904, p. 586

date	institution (high school)	principal
1908	Elk Shoal (discontinued this year); 2-year course; five students	Sinclair B. Conley
1910	Elk Shoal (re-established)	
1911-12	Bald Creek (established) 32-week course	J.F. Edwards
1916-17	Bald Creek	M.T. Tanner
1918-19	Bald Creek: 2 teachers, 57 students	Miss Blanche Penny
1923	Bald Creek	Charles R. Hubbard

PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHERS.

Tipton, Ducie, Burnsville.
 Hyatt, Kate, Burnsville.
 Sams, Fuller, Cane River.
 Gardner, Mary Martha, Burnsville.
 Edward, Minnie, Mamplier.
 Proffitt, Pearl, Wampler.
 Tanner, M. T., Bald Creek.
 Edwards, W. L., Bald Creek.
 Bennett, Nettie, Burnsville.
 Gibbs, Lizzie, Bald Creek.
 Mattie Hensley, Burnsville.
 Angel, L. J., Swiss.
 Tipton, Allie, Bald Creek.
 Hawkins, Rose, Burnsville.
 Higgins, Tom, Bald Creek.
 Gibbs, Orah, Bald Creek.
 Stout, Elva, Bee Log.
 Honeycutt, Elisha, Burnsville.
 Hensley, Basmcobe, Burnsville.
 Hensley, Mary Jane, Bald Mountain.
 Hunter, Edgar, Day Book.
 Bailey, John V., Ramseytown.
 McCourry, Andrew, Bald Mountain.
 Bailey, Bertha, Toledo.
 Ida Peterson, Burnsville.
 Hunter, John W., Day Book.
 Peterson, W. D., Day Book.
 Hunter, Clifford, Day Book.
 Young, Ossie, Day Book.
 Peterson, Leona, Day Book.
 McCourry, Isaac, Relief.
 Peterson, Pansy, Burnsville.
 Honeycutt, Lena, Burnsville.
 Byrd, Sam, Burnsville.
 Byrd, Georgia, Burnsville.
 McKinsie, Mary B., Green Mountain.
 Roberts, Eliza, Forbes.
 Bailey, W. H., Green Mountain.
 McPheters, Alice, Burnsville.
 Wiseman, Cordelia, Burnsville.
 Bennett, S. T., Burnsville.
 Tipton, J. C., Burnsville.
 Silver, Elsa, Micaville.
 Honeycutt, Madge, Burnsville.
 Hyatt, Grace, Burnsville.
 Autry, Sally, Burnsville.
 Ramsey, Sally, Burnsville.
 Young, Zoebell, New Dale.
 Sparks, Eleanor, Boonford.
 Williams, B. B., Burnsville.
 Hoover, J. W., Celio.
 Bailey, Carrie, Toledo.
 Young, Joe S., Windom.
 Ballew, G. C., Harvard.
 Honeycutt, Pansy, Burnsville.
 Honeycutt, Alice, Burnsville.
 Smith, Lizzie, Celio.
 Banks, Sally, Athlone.
 Robinson, J. M., Celio.
 Gardner, Mattie, Burnsville.
 Ray, Essie, Pensacola.
 Amons, Stella, Mars Hill.
 Blankinship, Vivian, Pensacola.
 Wilson, Theodore, Eskota.
 Johnston, Clara, Can River.
 Boone, Carrie, Burnsville.
 Bailey, Tensie, Burnsville.
 Anglin, Pierson, Cane River.
 McPheters, Lizzie, Burnsville.
 Saddle Anderson, Paint Gap.
 Hensley, Cora, Buckner.
 Hall, Martha, Burnsville.

BURNSVILLE

Not Incorporated.
 Population: 1000.
 POSTMASTER—W. C. Gillespie.
 EXPRESS AGENT—C. C. Carraway.
 TELEGRAPH MANAGER—Thos. R. Byrd.
 Yancey Tel. Co.
 TELEPHONE MANAGER—Thos. R. Byrd.
 R. R. AGENT—C. C. Carraway, Black Mt.
 Railway Co.
 Attorneys at Law.
 Ray, J. Bis.
 Watson, E. F.
 Hutchins, Chas.
 Wilson, R. W.
 Gardner & Gardner.
 Watson, J. A.

Banks and Bankers.

CITIZENS BANK—S. G. Byrd, Pres.; Thos. Byrd, Cashier.
 BANK OF YANCEY—J. W. Wiggins, Pres.; J. M. Lyon, Cashier.

Barbers.

Ray, Jesse.
 Buckner, Levi.

Blacksmith and Repair Shops.

Murphy, James.
 Boone, Robert.

Book Stores.

Evans, J. E.

Clothiers and Men's Furnishers.

Evans, J. E.
 Anglin, G. W.

Contractors and Builders.

Baker, T. M.
 Roland, G. G.
 Ramsey, W. C.
 Honeycutt, M. P.
 Horton, E. L.

Dentists.

Hutchins, J. H.
 Hamilton, S. J.
 Gillaspie, L. D.

Druggists.

Robertson Bros.

Garages.

Gillaspie, W. C.

General Merchants.

Evans, J. E.
 Anglin, G. W.
 Wilson, C. R.
 Bryant, W. S.
 McCourry, W. M.
 Peterson, J. A.
 Horton, D. D.

Hotels and Boarding Houses.

Burton Hotel.
 Baker, T. M.
 Robertson, Mrs. M. B.
 Ramsey, W. C.

Insurance.

Byrd & Lyon.

Jewelers.

Listenbee, L. V.

Livery Stables

Burton, J. R.

Manufacturing Plants.

Burnsville Harness Co.
 Burnsville Milling Co.
 Burnsville Bottling Works.
 Burnsville Woodworking Plant.

Ministers and Churches.

METHODIST—Rev. Smathers, Pastor.
 BAPTIST—Rev. White, Pastor.
 PRESBYTERIAN—T. T. Adams, Pastor.

Newspapers and Editors.

BLACK MOUNTAIN EAGLE—J. M. Lyon, Editor.

Photographers.

McCracken, H. M.

Physicians.

Ray, J. L.
 Robertson, W. B.
 Gibbs, J. B.

Printing Offices.

Eagle Printing Co.

Plumbers.

J. Bis Ray Water works.

Power and Light Companies.

Yancey Light & Power Co.

Real Estate.

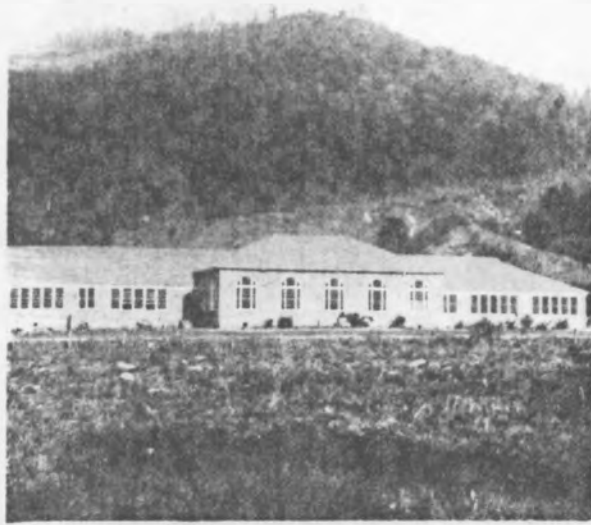
Bennett, S. M.
 Williams, J. L.

Schools and Academies.

YANCEY COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE—E. E. Hawkins, Prin.
 STANLEY MCCORMICK SCHOOL—T. U. Cheseborough, Prin.

Undertakers.

Briggs, L. E.



One-half of left wing of the Spring Creek School building has been constructed by the WPA

GEORGE ROBINSON, Chairman,
Celo, North Carolina.
FRED YOUNG, Member,
Micaville, North Carolina.
REXTER MILLER, Member,
Rameystown, North Carolina.

**THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE
COUNTY OF YANCEY**

BURNVILLE, N. C.

July 9, 1936.

ROBT. MANEY,
Clerk to Board.
REGULAR MEETINGS:
1st Monday in Each Month.

Mr. John L. Grice,
District Director, WPA,
Charlotte, N. C.

My dear Mr. Grice:

I beg to enclose you herewith some pictures of the Bee Log school house which, together with the Micaville school, is our chief project for Yancey County. I send the Bee Log school because it is nearer completed than the Micaville school. These school buildings fill a long felt need in Yancey County especially the Bee Log school as the old building burned down during the Christmas holidays. I can hardly imagine where we would have been if it had not been for WPA, and right here I want to express for myself officially and for the citizenship of Yancey County my heart-felt appreciation of the cooperation we have had from the WPA organization throughout.

We are preparing our budget for 1936-37 and we will include in it ample funds to take care of our sponsors' part for two more badly needed school buildings in this County. We beg to assure you of our hearty cooperation during the next year.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes,
I am

Very truly yours,

George Robinson, Chairman,
Board of County Commissioners,
Yancey County.



Above and at right are pictures of the Bee Log School being built of native stone by the WPA and Yancey County

