



# ESTATOOEE

PRESERVING OUR APPALACHIAN HERITAGE

## IT'S MAGIC: AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Last October Eric Kline, head of Gear-Up NC in Yancey County, invited YHA to participate in the 21st Century MAGIC Grant's after-school educational program for elementary grades K to 5. MAGIC was interested in a hands-on program focusing on the traditional skills and crafts of our mountain region similar to those represented in the "Heritage Hollow" tent at the Mt. Mitchell Craft Fair. The idea was presented to the Board which voted to work with MAGIC and so the "Hands On Heritage" after-school program by YHA was born.

While the necessary organizational meetings, paperwork, schedules and contracts were arranged a list of traditional crafts and activities was drafted and potential instructors and presenters were contacted.

Weeks passed, 2015 arrived and finally "Hands On Heritage" was ready to start the one hour program per school each week at Micaville, South Toe and Burnsville Elementary schools



servicing a total of 213 children.

The first week Chris Carter and Debby Nance introduced the 4th and 5th graders to Family History and Genealogy with one-on-one conversations, interrogatives and old family photo identification.

The next week Debby Nance made The History of Money and Bartering exciting for the 2nd and 3rd graders with a little detective work using magnifiers to find hidden words and symbols on our paper money and passing out

pennies for the kids to keep. On the third week K & 1st graders were treated to A Taste of History by sampling honey, sorghum syrup, and molasses. and some baked goods made from the old timey sweeteners by Chris Carter. The following week, she also presented Letter Writing to the higher grade levels reflecting a time of communications before telephones and e-mail.

Unfortunately because of bad weather several days and two full weeks of programs had to be postponed but Pat Schosser resumed activities for the youngest students with her lesson on How Seeds Grow and taught the children to plant their own beans and tomato seeds which remained at the schools so the children could watch them sprout.

Future interactive programs include: Chair Caning by Laura Seelbach, Candle Making with Elizabeth and Brandi Silvers, Tanning Hides by

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## DR. LLOYD BAILEY ANNEX TAKING ON A NEW LOOK

In January, the Yancey History Association made the decision to begin the renovation of the Dr. Lloyd Bailey Annex that was donated to the association by Drs. David and Carolyn Cort. Opening up the lower floor to



provide more display space has been a projected project for many years. For the past three years, the YHA has been writing grants, receiving additional funds from

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Christina Gordon, Carving by David Boone, Baby Animals by Marilyn Cade, Mountain Music with Ron Powell, Sewing, Knitting and Crochet with Jean Owens and Elaine Boone, more Tastes of History and trips to tour the McElroy House.

The children are delightful and so interested in exploring the heritage and traditions YHA is bringing to them weekly. They really get excited when they see the "history ladies" setting up for presentation. Parents have expressed their thanks for the chance their children are getting to explore old timey ways and hopefully these children will continue to be interested in their mountain heritage as they grow-up.

The MAGIC Grant enrichment program funding will be distributed to participants over the next three years. Anyone interested in working with the "Hands On Heritage" program can contact the YHA office for details.

#### A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

GOLD SPONSOR - GARDEN DELI

SILVER SPONSORS -

SOMETHING SPECIAL, DAVID BOONE WOODCARVING, LOCKE & SHEILA RAMSEY, THE BUCK HOUSE INN and HAL & DIANE COLEMAN

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

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

#### Board Members

Elaine Boone - President  
Dixie Styles - Vice President  
Chris Carter - Secretary  
Vivianne Bradley - Treasurer  
Iva Nell Buckner  
Debby Nance  
Judy Fuqua  
Jerri Storie  
Bob Wilson

Jake Blood - Past President

Lloyd Bailey - Founding Member and Historian

#### Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday 10am - 4pm  
Re-opening April 2015

## CALENDAR OF EVENT 2015

April 18	2015 Season Opening Day
May 9	Antique Appraisal Fair
May 30	NASCAR Memories
June	The Hillbilly Myth Exhibit
June 7, 14, 21, 28	Sundays 2-4pm - Pickin' on the Porch & Jammin' in the Shade
July 11	Veterans BBQ Picnic
July 27-31	The Mystery of History - Childrens Storytelling Camp
Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Sundays 2-4pm Pickin on the Porch & Jammin' in the Shade
Aug 15 & 16	I've Been Workin' on the Rail Road
Sept 6	Radio Revisited
Sept 26	Old Timey Fall Festival on the Square
Oct 3	Harvest Tea
Oct 18	Annual Open Meeting 2pm
Oct 31	Halloween on the Square

Calendar subject to change and additions. Check out our Facebook page, Website, or The Yancey Journal for up to date changes and additions to events and exhibitions.

### Congratulations to THE BUCK HOUSE INN

Our Silver Sponsor "The Buck House Inn" were awarded the 2015 Traveler's Choice Award by Trip Advisor. This award given to the top B&B/Inns in the United States according to Trip Advisor. They were ranked #14 in the US.

Check them out at <http://www.northcarolina-mountain-vacation.com/>

## OLD TIMEY FALL FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 26TH TOWN SQUARE, BURNSVILLE

We are please to announce that the Old Timey Fall Festival will once again be sponsored by The Yancey History Association.

Dean Gates and his committee members are planning an even bigger and better festival for 2015.

The turnout gets bigger every year



and vendors have already been in touch making sure of their spaces. As always you can be sure of a great line up of Entertainment, Antique Cars and tractors

on display and rides for the kids and adults. Mark you Calendars and clean off those folding chairs.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the YHA,

## Members will receive the following:

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

## Other membership gifts:

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

Donations above the membership subscriptions are most welcome.

\* Some recent publications may not apply

Membership: (tick one box)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

Cash  Check  Paypal on the website

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

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

## EARLY BLACKSMITHS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY (PART 3)

It has been said that in the late 1800's, **Columbus Ray** was one of Burnsville's first working Blacksmiths. He worked in the building located behind the Ray Inn, which is now the Carriage House.



**Nathan Dempsey**, originally from Tennessee, came to Burnsville in the early 1850's to work making bricks at the Burnsville Academy Building.

He also set up a Blacksmith shop and he lived in a house located on the south side of the town square. The house was destroyed by fire years ago.

It was after the marriage of Julia Sarah Ray to William Bryan Wray that the name of the Ray Inn was changed to the NuWray inn.

Columbus Ray was the grandson or great grandson of Thomas Ray, Jr.

When the Civil War broke out, Columbus joined the Confederate forces located somewhere near Richmond, in 1862.

The late Mrs. Kirby Ray Whitaker of Asheville mentions Columbus Ray in her book "The Rays, They Were Trail-blazers". This book can be found at the Old Buncomb County Genealogy Society in Asheville.

Dempsey weighed about 235 pounds, was a mighty athlete, and became famous in the area as a "Bare Knuckle" boxer and wrestler.

Dempsey was not listed in the 1860's census so he had to have moved away from Burnsville by then.

To find out more about this colorful Blacksmith/Athlete, read articles 309-310 in the Toe Valley Heritage II book, by Dr. Lloyd Bailey, located in the genealogy room of the Yancey History Association.

Linda Vickers Elsegood  
Research

Sherry Lovett and the Yancey History Association present

## The Mystery of History

Storytelling Camp 2015 July 27th - July 31st

Are you ready for thrills and chills?

Want to know about *The Leech Place* and the monster that supposedly resides there? or *Lorelei of the French Broad*? or the *Phantom Rider of the Confederacy*?

Come explore some of North Carolina's mysteries throughout history. Mysteries like *Brown Mountain lights*, the *Cherokee Little People*, the *Woollybooger*, the *Whangdoode*, and more.

Hear stories (ghost, legends, and mysteries), play traditional games from the past, create folk crafts and, most of all, have a blast as you trace a path through time on the heels of a mystery.

Storytelling Camp 2015 July 27th - July 31st  
McElroy House Grounds and Proffitt-Cousins Cabin Burnsville  
Age: 8 - 12 • Time: 9:30 to 12:30 • Max Capacity: 12 children • Cost - \$65  
call Linda Elsegood 828-682-1554 or email: [lindavickers@frontier.com](mailto:lindavickers@frontier.com)  
During the month of June contact Jerri Storie 828-284-2988 or email: [jerri.storie@gmail.com](mailto:jerri.storie@gmail.com)  
Forms downloadable from our website [www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org)  
or call the YHA on 828-678-9587

## STORYTELLING CAMP RETURNS FOR IT'S THIRD YEAR

Storyteller and educator Sherry Lovett has done it again picking a theme that will be both educational and exciting. "The Mystery of History" will be held July 27th -31st, on the grounds of the McElroy House and Proffitt-Cousins cabin. Games, Period Snacks, Unusual crafts and Scary Stories will keep the lucky children rivited for a week. Space is limited to 12 children aged from 8-12. You can reserve your child's space by calling Linda Elsegood at 828-682-1554 or emailing [lindavickers@frontier.com](mailto:lindavickers@frontier.com) for more information and application forms.

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

**APRIL 18**  
2015 Season Opening Day

**MAY 9**  
Antique Appraisal Fair

**MAY 30**  
NASCAR Memories



**REGIONAL CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUPERVISOR MEETS WITH YHA**

On February 13, Jeff Futch, Regional Supervisor of the N C Dept. of Cultural Resources and Matt Provanha, Director of The Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort met with Elaine Boone, President of YHA and board members Judy Fuqua and Chris Carter. The meeting was designed to give a tour of the Yancey Facilities and to ask

for help in the design of display areas in the newly renovated Bailey Annex. Matt Provanha will be available to plan and produce exhibits for our museum. A long discussion was held about general operations of the office, collections, and use of traveling exhibits. YHA is planning to use these great resources.

**BLUE RIDGE MUSIC TRAILS FEATURES PICKIN' ON THE PORCH & JAMMIN' IN THE SHADE**

We are please to announce that we have been accepted onto the Blue Ridge Music Trail which is part of the Blue Ridge Heritage Area Organization and featured on their website <http://www.blueridgemusicnc.com/>

**BRING YOUR FAMILY, LAWN CHAIRS, GUITARS OR BANJOS  
EACH SUNDAY IN JUNE AND AUGUST 2PM TIL 4PM  
FREE ENTERTAINMENT IN THE MCELROY HOUSE GARDENS, OFF WEST MAIN STREET**

PRESENTED BY RON & MINNIE POWELL AND THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
THE MCELROY HOUSE GARDENS ARE AN ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO FREE AREA

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local governments, and fund raising to get enough money to do this project on a “shoe string” budget. The lower floor of the annex was a children’s doctor’s office with sixteen rooms, four bathrooms, and a kitchen. Walls have been removed, wiring replaced, new walls installed, a natural gas line installed for a brand new heating furnace, a new air conditioning system will be installed, a new ceiling installed, painting done, and many other projects. Our current plan is to be finished by our opening day on April 18.

We have been closed during this time and will be open again on Wed. - Sat. from 10:00 - 4:00 daily.



**ESTATOOE**

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association  
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Burnsville  
NC 28714

[www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org)  
[yhmuseum@frontier.com](mailto:yhmuseum@frontier.com)

Stamp