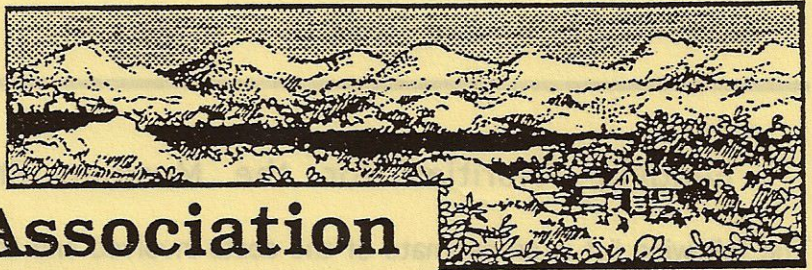


# ESTATOE

Quarterly Newsletter

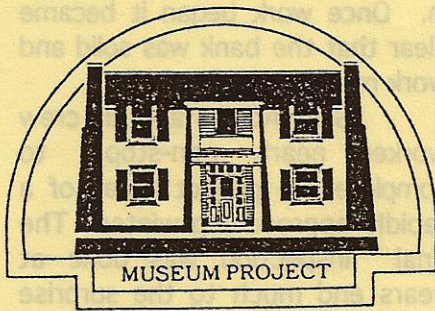
## Yancey History Association



Volume XII, No. 1

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

April 1998



### Museum Report

Following six months of planning, negotiating, reviewing, phoning, meeting and... well you get the picture, the long awaited stairway and retaining wall got under way last October. The project which was funded through a grant from the North Carolina Dept. of Transportation connects the Visitor Center and the McElroy House.

The project got a slow start because the grant required involvement of the Federal, State and County Government. We owe a big thank-you to all three county commissioners, the county manager and the county's attorney for their hard work and perseverance.

The second concern that hampered progress involved the D.O.T. restriction on the retaining wall. The grant provided funds to build only a wall needed to stabilize and to which secure the stairway. The Chamber of Commerce, through the Joint Steering Committee, provided the additional funds needed to complete the entire wall.

continued on page 2

### Annual Meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Yancey History Association will be held Saturday, May 16th at 7:30 at the Yancey County Library Annex. Items on the agenda include the election of officers, adoption of the 1998 budget, museum and executive directors report. All members are encouraged to attend.

Following the brief membership meeting the History Association will present the first of a four part series, 'Editors and Authors'. The series will showcase recently published books that will be of great interest to area residents as well as visitors.

### Summer Program Series

#### "Editors and Authors" at the Yancey County Library Annex

Dr. Lloyd Bailey Heritage of the Toe River Valley, Vol. II.

Lloyd Bailey, who edited the book, will give a presentation of this new book that has been described as "the best local history ever published in North Carolina." The book contains articles on African Americans, Anglo-Americans, Native Americans, Revolutionary War Veterans, the Civil War, natural disasters, mining, education, religion, and much more. Most articles are accompanied by one or more photos.

Dr. Allen Paul Speer Voices From Cemetery Hill

Saturday, June 6th at 7:30. The author and his wife, Dr. Janet Barton Speer will present a forty-minute readers Theatre presentation which includes samples of Col. William Asbury Speer's Diary, Reports and Letters. A personal insight to the Civil War. A discussion will follow.

Robert S. Brunk May We All Remember Well, Vol. 1

Thursday, July 23rd at 7:30. This first volume is sub-titled A Journal of the History & Cultures of Western North Carolina. Mr Brunk will discuss highlights of the 18 articles he has included in this book. Topics range from Architecture to Hook Rug and Chair Making.

Charles F. Price Hiwassee

Thursday, August 20th at 7:30. This novel is the first in a trilogy with the second book due out next year. Mr. Price will talk about the first book, set during the Civil War, as well as the second book, set during the post War period of reconstruction.

The Next issue of Estatoee will begin Lloyd Bailey's 3 part series on the Moore Family who resided in the McElroy House during the turn of the Century.

## Funding Priorities for the Museum Project

The following list is an estimate of the costs involved and the milestones that will be past as funds become available to proceed with the restoration of the McElroy House.

\$ 3,000.00	Completion of all interior surfaces in the two room Living History area.
\$ 3,000.00	< Limited Opening of the Living History Area >
\$ 4,800.00	Replace 5 remaining "new" windows, build and install 20 fixed storm window panels.
\$ 2,500.00	Restore original gravel walkways to all three entries.
\$ 3,500.00	New electric panel and downstairs wiring and security system.
\$10,800.00	< Living History Area Open & Museum collecting to begin >
\$ 6,500.00	Install heating system.
\$ 8,500.00	Complete staff bath / utility kitchen.
\$15,000.00	< Association office & expanded programs in Museum >
\$ 4,200.00	Remove upstairs door & replace with window
\$12,500.00	Remove existing front porch & build specified replacement
\$ 9,500.00	Build west porch & wheelchair ramp entry.
\$26,200.00	< Full access to ground floor >
\$ 7,000.00	Remove oak flooring from hall & two adjoining rooms. Repair or replace old poplar flooring.
\$ 7,700.00	Restore entry hall, stairway & west upstairs bedroom.
\$14,700.00	< Move office upstairs & expand ground floor displays >
\$ 5,000.00	Reconstruct & restore all 3 chimney tops.
\$19,700.00	Restore two remaining downstairs rooms.
\$24,700.00	< Museum exterior & ground floor complete >
<hr/>	
\$94,400.00	

When we reach this point of the McElroy House restoration we will determine the best use of the completed ground floor. The displays housed in the Living History Area will be moved to the east room ( revolving display room ) allowing the full use of those two areas. The long range use of the west room will be a Parlor with mid 1800's reproduction furniture, however it may be used to house the Civil War and other displays until the upstairs rooms are ready for those permanent displays.

The above estimates are based on what it would cost to accomplish each task at current cost levels and with the knowledge we have at hand. Our goal is to complete this work within two years. The remaining restoration work includes two upstairs rooms and the hallway. The landscaping, including fencing and herb garden, will also need to be addressed at that time.

Museum continued

The most challenging problem of the project was the site itself. The D.O.T. engineers were deeply concerned that the bank was so steep that extensive and expensive reinforcing would be required to safeguard the workers from a possible cave-in. Once work began it became clear that the bank was solid and work moved along quickly.

Gary Adkins and his crew worked nearly non-stop to complete the project ahead of a rapidly approaching winter. The final inspection was done at years end much to the surprise and delight of the D.O.T. engineers.

Gary Adkins made a substantial in kind contribution to this project and we all owe him a word of thanks.

Unfortunately we came up empty handed in the last round of State funding. We are currently pursuing a wide range of Foundation Grants. For a progress report be sure to attend our May meeting or watch for the next issue of the Estatoee.

## ESTATOE

*Published Quarterly by the  
Yancey History Association*

P.O. Box 1088

Burnsville, NC 28714

Estatoee (es-to-toe-e)

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

*Newsletter Editors:*

Lloyd Bailey, Jim Priesmeyer

*Program Committee:* Lloyd Bailey,

John Doyle, James Byrd

*Officers of the Association*

*President:* Lloyd Bailey

*Vice-President:* John Young

*Treasurer:* Miladene Laws

*Secretary:* Norma Westall

*Directors:* John Doyle, James Byrd

*Steering Committee Members:* John Young,

John Doyle

*Executive Director:* Jim Priesmeyer