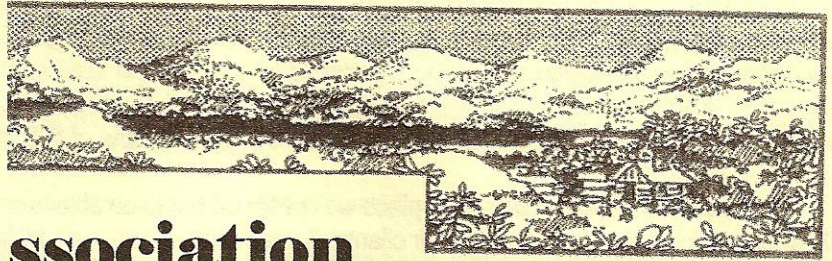


# ESTATOOE

## Quarterly Newsletter

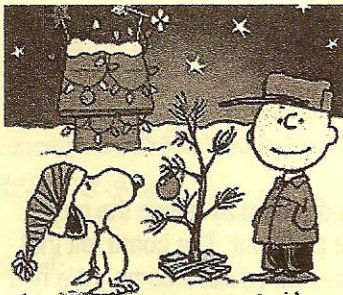
# Yancey History Association



Volume XVIII, No. 18

*Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage*

Winter 2009/2010



### Christmas Candlelight Tours and High Tea

The plans were made and volunteers began decorating The McElroy House just after Veterans' Day.

Fresh greens were cut; decorations from past events were found and brought out; trips to the store made; menus were planned; entertainers were contacted; a giant Frasier fir was cut from the Pensacola area and brought in; wreaths were hung from the outside windows and finally all was brought to the house and the final decorating of the six mantels were done. Tea tables were set up; goodies were baked; candles were lit; volunteers were dressed in costume; music drifted through the house and the first evening's event began. Unfortunately, it was to be the only evening to be held, as Mother Nature played a nasty trick on YHA when she decided to storm on both the chosen Fridays of the high teas - December 5th and 18th.

So much went into the event and there were an amazing array of antique toys; antique Christmas decorations; exquisite floral decorations; and lovely Christmas quilts. All parts of the house were filled with nature's finest offerings of boxwood, Magnolia leaves, and evergreens of all types.

We are deeply indebted to those who volunteered their time and service - volunteers who are always on hand to move things along: Dixie Styles for an amazing array of antique toys and Christmas ornaments; Joel Robertson and Yancey Graphics for the printing of the tickets; Robertson Design and Sign for hanging of the wreaths; Darius Robertson for allowing the cutting of the Christmas tree and greens (and their Uncle Bob for bringing it from the farm into the house).

Someone is bound to be skipped and that is not the intention. We are so very grateful for each and every person who had a hand in this amazing event.


Plans are presently afoot to present a similar extravaganza next holiday season (2010) and we hope you will be able to celebrate with us.

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER -

As we say goodbye to 2009 I would like to thank The Yancey County History Association's Board members and volunteers for their contributions in making this a successful year. 2009 ended on a frigid note however with the cancellation of our annual Christmas candlelight tours due to the heavy snowfall. It was very disappointing to those of us who took part in decorating The McElroy House and in the food preparation for the event. One of the brave souls who made it out in the snow said she couldn't remember the museum looking better for Christmas." It's the little things that make it all worthwhile. And we feel a little better as we pack things away while looking forward to holiday season 2010 when we can do it all over again.

Looking back at some of our achievements of the past year one stands out above all. We were at long last able to pay off the large book publishing debt that has been hanging over our heads for these many years. We are now debt free and can once again apply for some much needed grants. Another achievement we are proud of is the opening of our Hall Of Honor in The Lloyd Bailey Annex. The Hall Of Honor is dedicated to the veterans of Yancey County to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude for the freedom we enjoy today. We also dismantled the pre-Civil War Proffit Cabin and moved it to the museum grounds. We hope to begin the process of reassembling it in the coming year.

We were able to accomplish all this and more with an all volunteer staff and a small budget. If you would like to help keep the history of Yancey County alive - give us a call, or stop by the museum, we'll be glad to show you around and tell you what we're all about. You'll be glad you did and so will we.

Bob Wilson 

## 2009 Financial Report - as prepared by Elaine Dellinger, Treasurer

For the first time in about six years the association is DEBT FREE! We are celebrating! What debt you might be saying? An earlier board approved the publishing of a paperback book called "Glimpses of Yancey County and the McElroy House". The book was designed as a basic inexpensive book some 75 pages in length to be sold at \$11.95 per copy, which would be paid over a three-year period, toward the contract agreement of 5,556 copies at the cost including freight of \$20,600. The board was told in 2000-2002 that this was very marketable and we stood to make a profit over time of \$18,000 or so.

As different boards came in to place we continued not to be able to sell the book, the only large sales was to Mt. Air some 300 books which they would give to their clients. A year and half into the contract we reduced the price per copy of the book to \$7.95 in an effort to see if in doing so sales would increase - they didn't. The contract was to be paid in full from sales by the end of 36 months. The then president of the board contacted Walsworth Publishing [a division of Donning] and asked for an extension of three more years and the board agreed to reduce the price of the book to \$4.95 and work harder to promote sales. Several groups were contacted and offers for bulk sales were made but none of these accepted YHA's offer.

With this 3-year period quickly passing and with the knowledge that our main income was the rent received from the Chamber of Commerce [for the old gas station building]. The chamber would stop paying rent, in December 2009, per the contract the Chamber made with YHA. They would assume all expenses at that time and if the property was ever to be sold they had the first option to purchase it for the cost of only one dollar.

By September 2008 we still owed almost \$14,000 on the book. The board made a very difficult decision by letting the only part-time paid position be terminated in an effort to use the rent of \$800 per month toward the book debt payment. The board felt that with the grant pools drying up we would not stand a good chance in even applying when our debt was a great as our income. (We had several grant possibilities on hold already due to the budget status.) It was calculated that we would be debt free by January 2010 if we accepted this plan. As a direct result of our decision, along with four fundraisers to help on expenses in 2008-09 the debt was paid in full in October 2009.

*Thus NEW CHALLENGE was how would we operate as usual with no paid staff, our museum manager had operated the annex and museum from Wednesday-Saturday from 10-4 in all months except Jan and Feb where we were only open Friday and Saturday to keep within budget.*

Each board member was asked to begin immediately to help find us enough volunteers to keep the association and museum in operation. It has not been easy and at times only through the volunteer efforts of 3-4 people. **We are again at a point we need new volunteers more than ever before.** (Most of our volunteers are retired and with the golden years comes sickness and health problems.) For this reason, we find we lose some every six months it seems.

If the association is to be successful we need volunteers, would you consider asking folks you know [who like yourself enjoy history and antiques] to volunteer this winter. A formal orientation is given and you will work with another volunteer until you are comfortable working alone.

We have been fortunate that over the last few years we have had help from community service workers, summer interns, and at present a young lady from the DSS "Work First" program is helping us.

The 2010 budget of \$22,000 is something we feel we will be able to sustain only through the primary support of the town and county which accounts for about half of the budget, while we no longer will be receiving the rent from the Chamber we do have one apartment we rent for \$400 per month and a studio one room we rent for \$200 per month this includes utilities with an exception of the electricity if it goes over \$50 per month they will be billed the difference.

So what is the up side after such a lengthy financial report, we have been given the proceeds from the sale of the Yancey County Cemetery book  
(Continued of next page.)

### MUSEUM HOURS

**March through November**  
Wed., Thurs., Friday & Saturday  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

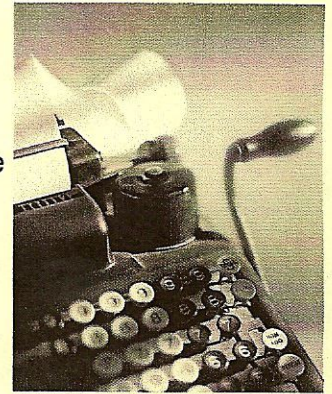
**Winter Hours - December - February**  
Friday & Saturday  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(Holiday & Special Events to be announced)  
828-678-9587

Email: [yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us](mailto:yhmuseum@yancey.main.nc.us)

(continued) set which was published by Gwen Bodford and Elaine Dellinger, with the money to go toward the genealogy library of which a third account has been set up specific for this purpose and the account has more than \$1200 at this time.

The primary account allows for general operations. It has more than \$7,000 currently, while the special projects account contains more than \$6,000 designated toward the museum with \$5,000 of that amount a gift from the estate of Neva Renaldo, a long time friend of Winnie Lou Ray, and the museum family. Plans are underway to complete the hardwood flooring in the parlor and refinish the foyer at the same time. The Plexiglas panels are to be replaced over the old handmade window-lights. Some roof issues will be addressed and a bit of new paint will give a facelift to some of the walls all scheduled to happen before we open in April 2010.



We have served more than 250 school age children this year on site with our docents [tour guides] in period dress. We look forward to your continued support and growth in the months and years ahead. All in all we have had a very good year as we say goodbye to 2009 and say 'hello' to the next decade.

Elaine Dellinger - YHA Treasurer

Quote of the day: *"Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as progress"*

*We wish to thank the following sponsors who have helped make this issue of the newsletter possible. We sincerely hope you will take advantage of their services in the future. If you would like to place an advertisement, please contact the Editor at the YHA Rush Wray Museum.*

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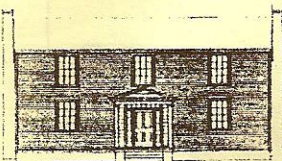
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January 2010



MCELROY HOUSE C. 1840  
BURNSVILLE, NC

# Yancey History Association

3 Academy Street  
Burnsville, NC 28714

Phone  
828-678-9587

Email:  
yfmseum@yancey.main.nc.us

Dear Members and Associates of the Yancey History Association,

First, we would like to thank each of you for being a member/supporter of the Association for this past year. Your involvement, no matter how large or small, has given the YHA Board and Volunteers encouragement to carry on the work of preserving the history of this very special place within North Carolina. As a valued member and supporter of the Yancey History Association, please be reminded that your membership is about to expire. Your expiration date and current level of membership are printed on the mailing label above your name.

The Association's mission is to preserve and interpret Yancey County history. This is accomplished in a variety of ways:

- Maintaining our two (soon to be three) historic structures, and the Rush Wray Museum, available to you and the public.
- Interpretive changing exhibits. New exhibits are being planned now.
- A wide selection of quality books, which members are able to purchase at a 20% reduced price. Our gift shop (in the Annex) offers unique one of a kind items.
- Presenting a selection of historical presentations – Battle of Burnsville, the Holiday Candle light tour and tea
- An ever growing Genealogical Library, which is free to all members in good standing, and includes reference books, computer searches and a microfilm reader which includes early Yancey County census information.
- Publishing historical reference documents and books – the latest being the two volume set of the cemeteries of Yancey County.
- The quarterly newsletter - *Estatoee*
- Annual meeting and dinner

The common element in making all of this work is YOU and your continued membership and support.

As we look to the new year, there are exciting plans afoot for expanding the role of YHA within the greater Yancey County area. The Board of YHA meets frequently to deal with the many aspects of the association and we need to encourage all citizens of Yancey County to become involved with us. There are many of us whose ancestors did not live in this area, but the fact that we are now living here means that we, too, should be involved in the Yancey history and preservation. The Rush Wray Museum offers a unique opportunity for all of us to contribute - whether through membership, to offer contributions of historic materials or to be involved in the many activities of the Association.

We would like to encourage you to once again be a part of the work of the Yancey History Association, through membership or volunteerism - and to perhaps approach one other person from the community to become a part of this worthwhile and important organization and its activities. Your timely tax-deductible renewal will be most appreciated.

Sincerely, Vivianne Bradley, Membership

### Yancey History Association, Membership Application - 3 Academy Street, Burnsville, NC 28714 - 828-678-9587

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

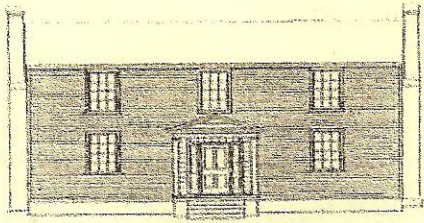
SURNAMES ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR FAMILY: (example: Bailey) More? Please add a sheet. LOCATIONS: (example: South Toe)

Check here if you do not want your information to be used in the YHA Family Database.

Dues for 2010 \_\_\_\_\_ (check here) or (if multiple years list) 2010 to \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Individual \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Family/Donor \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor/Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Become part of the Rush Wray Museum and Yancey County history today! Volunteers are needed in the office to answer phones & assist visitors; the genealogy library and to serve as docents (guides) for touring the McElroy House; work in the Heritage Herb Garden; help with various events and living history - dressing in period costumes. Something for everyone and membership offers discounts and admissions.

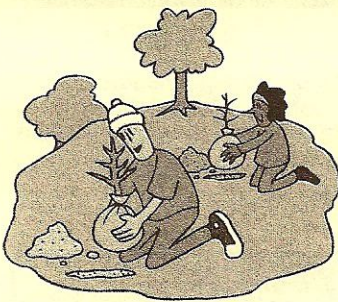


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**Yancey History Association  
3 Academy Street  
Burnsville, North Carolina 28714**

**Estatooe Quarterly Newsletter**

Check the date!  
Are your dues up to date?



**Volunteers needed!!!**

If you know of anyone who might be interested in volunteering at the association office, gift shop, flower garden and grounds, museum or genealogy library, please pass this notice on to them. We will be setting up orientation dates in the near future at least one day each month through March in preparation for the new season which begins in April with the museum re-opening. We can use any amount of time from 3 to six hours per week or month.

If you know someone who might be interested, please encourage them to leave a message [Name, area of interest and phone number] at the YHA office 678-9587; someone will return your call promptly within the week.

Our winter schedule is Friday and Saturday from 10-4 from January through February and back to four days per week in March.



As you can see volunteers are needed all year round!



Thank you for your support,  
Elaine Dellinger, Board Member  
Yancey History Association  
682-7524  
elained@yancey.main.nc.us



**ESTATOOE**

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Yancey History Association  
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Burnsville, NC 28714  
(828)678-9587

*Estatooe (es-to-toe-e) Esfootowie in early records.  
A Cherokee place name, shortened to Estatoe/Estatoah,  
from which the name Towe or Toe River is derived.*

**Officers and Staff Directory**

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| President            | Robert H Wilson    |
| VP                   | Phillip Ray        |
| Secretary            | Karen McKinney     |
| Treasurer            | Elaine Dellinger   |
| Historian            | Nancy Shaw         |
| At Large Directors:  | Jake Blood         |
|                      | Shirley Bryant     |
|                      | Sonnie Banks       |
|                      | Rebecca Leadbitter |
| Editor               | Vivianne Bradley   |
| Contributing Ed.     | Lloyd Bailey       |
| Administrative Asst. | Laura Presnell     |