



ESTATOOEE

PRESERVING OUR APPALACHIAN HERITAGE

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



Announcing a new addition to the Rush Wray Museum Complex: the circa 1850's Proffitt/Cousins Cabin located next to the McElroy House!

At the October Open Meeting Elaine Dellinger gave a detailed history of the cabin and an explanation of where it was located in Elk Shoals, how it was dismantled and transported to the YHA site and how that site was prepared in accordance with archaeology protocol.

She also gave special recognition to our volunteers who worked the entire 2012 season on the project.

After the meeting, visiting members of the Proffitt family, along with some of the construction crew gathered on the porch of the newly constructed cabin for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

When the cabin is completely finished it will become a featured living history learning tool.



CHRISTMAS TEA AND TOUR AT MCELROY HOUSE

A wonderful time was had by all who attended the Holiday Tea and Tour at the McElroy House on November 10, 2012. Elaine Dellinger, Chris Carter, Marilyn Oakley worked with great diligence to decorate the house into three distinct periods. Two pine trees were cut on the grounds of the property as would have been done during this period of time. They were decorated with ornaments and collections from the 1860's, the early 1900's and the 1950's.

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FACEBOOK PAGE TAKES OFF

We are trying to keep everyone informed about events, news and pictures from



the past or present on our New Facebook page.

We have 175 likes, followers and contributors, many like Mark Huber, giving us memories from the past on postcards of old photographs. We plan on linking with other History Associations from the surrounding areas to keep you all informed of other activities that might interest you. Join us on our page www.facebook.com/YanceyHistoryAssociation



YANCEY IMAGES II IN STOCK FOR CHRISTMAS



The ideal Christmas gift. Buy online using PAYPAL through the website for \$53.50 including tax or \$59.50 with tax and postage or at our shop Wednesday through Saturday 10am to 4pm. Many hours of memories and interesting reading.

CHRISTMAS TEA AND TOUR AT MCELROY HOUSE



Continued from page 1

Bob Wilson recited a poem he memorized as a child in school at Pensacola. Elaine Boone's granddaughters, Sydney Edwards and Reagan Boone, sat under the tree in awe as the poem came to life. Attendees to the tea enjoyed the beautiful table decorations as well as a delicious selection of teas and spiced cider along with quiche, sandwiches and dessert.

BRAG EXHIBITION RECEPTION WELL ATTENDED



The Blue Ridge Fine Art Guild joined the Yancey History Association to put on a double exhibition "Old Tools and Blue Ridge Pottery". The exhibition of 17 paintings hung throughout the ground floor and ran through September until the 27th of October.



The opening reception was well attended with the 50 plus guests, who enjoyed both excellent art and delicious food. House Representative Ray Rapp and his family and the Mayor of Burnsville were in attendance along with Chamber of Commerce members and other invited guests.

If you missed the show you can see the artwork on the BRAG website at www.bragwnc.com/aboutus.html or on our Facebook page.



ESTATOE (es-toe-e)

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

Officers and Staff

Elaine Boone - *President*
 Elaine Dellinger - *Vice President*
 Chris Carter - *Secretary protem*
 Vivianne Bradley - *Treasurer*
 Sybil Chapman - *Historian*

Board Members:

John Elsegood
 Linda Elsegood
 Judy Fuqua
 Dixie Styles

Bob Wilson - *Past President*
 Jake Blood - *Past President*

Staff Members:

Marilyn Oakley
 Suzanne Jones

Winter Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday
 10am - 4pm

The McElroy House will be closed for renovations before reopening in April.

DAVID BOONE SCULPTURE RAFFLE TICKETS \$1 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5

Tickets available at the YHA or Chamber of Commerce



OUR QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING ON 5TH OF DECEMBER



Last chance to get your tickets to win this wonderful Child's Quilt. Tickets only \$2 from YHA shop.

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 free advert 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 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.

YANCEY COUNTY HISTORY: A PIECE AT A TIME ...LOCAL DOCTORS

DR. LORENZO DELANEY GILLESPIE - Local Dentist and Methodist Minister

Dr. Gillespie was born in 1857 to William A. and Telitha Palmer Gillespie of Leicester, North Carolina. He came to Yancey County as a minister at Higgins Methodist Church in Burnsville. The church stood on Academy Street at that time and the parsonage was on Azalea Lane. He married Ms. Mollie Dover who was also from Leicester. Molly was a faithful companion and wife, supporting her husband, his ministry and the church.

Together they raised five boys, Alonzo D. born January 1879, Arthur J. born October 1883, William C. born March 1886, Eddie R. born July 1888, Claud. born October 1895, with three girls Nellie M. born April 1881, Nettie L. born March 1890, and Mable born February 1894. Their mother Mollie, passed away on December 27, 1938. Dr. Gillespie's children made their mark in the community as well, being farmers and business men. They were active members in the Higgins Methodist Church and to this day their relatives are members.

In politics, Dr Gillespie was a Democrat and active in his party. Active in his community he served on the school board for several years and he belonged to the Burnsville Lodge # 192 AF & AM.

During his years of serving God as a clergy he had charges in different areas of Western North Carolina. In addition to being a pastor he was skilled in

another profession, that of dentistry. In 1891 he began his practice of dentistry in Burnsville, as well as his work in the ministry until 1904. He continued his dental practice, and became one of the leading dental surgeons in Yancey County.

During his many years in the ministry, he served all around the region from the Burnsville Circuit (including the Celo, Micaville and Newdale Churches here in the county) and the Toe River Mission, to Elk Park in Avery County, along with the Asheville and Morganton Circuits.

[The following are copies of letters he wrote to the conference journal.]

Holston Methodist Church
- November 9, 1887

"Mr. Editor: I was returned to the Toe River Circuit; Of course I was glad to get this field a second year. The work, I think is progressing finely-have held one revival since conference with good results. A preacher here is kindly received. His labors are appreciated and his visits are much welcomed. In fact I never met people that were more disposed to be religious than they.

This circuit bids fair-to become one of the best section. We have some new church-houses in process of building. We moved to our new parsonage last week. It is very conveniently located and nearly all the people are Methodist. The night we moved the people

surprised us with a terrible pounding. Just after dark they began to enter our house in solid phalanx until about sixty men, women, and children had entered our home. The visitors received poor accommodations because of the large crowd; but everything appeared extremely pleasant. They had brought presents. The variety was great and the selection good, showing that they knew exactly what a Preacher's family needed. Before the crowd dispersed we sang a hymn. Then we bowed in prayer. They began to disappear in the darkness, leaving with cheerful and glad hearts, knowing they had left the preacher and his wife with smiles on their faces. May God continue to bless them with the comforts of this life, and in the end give them everlasting" Dr.L. Gillespie.

Also printed from the Holston Methodist
- December 7, 1887

"Mr. Editor: We closed our revival last Sunday at North Catawba, which lasted nine days and resulted in twenty-three conversions and nine accessions. We received faithful assistance from the Rev. T. D. Felts who is very acceptable and efficient local preacher. Rev. J. C. Brown also preached twice for us. To the Lord be all glory. Pray for us." L. D. Gillespie.

Prepared by: Betty Parker
Sources: Lloyd Bailey's Heritage Books and History of the Methodist Church in the Toe River Valley.
Edited by: Elaine Dellinger



Stamp

ESTATOOE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association
3 Academy Street
Burnsville
NC 28714

www.yanceyhistoryassociation.org

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



November

Ongoing

Christmas Exhibition with the McElroy House decked out in festive colors and decorations. With each room setting in a different period.



HOW WINTER STAR GOT ITS NAME

To those of us who grew up in Pensacola, the names of the mountain peaks that rise majestically above Cattail Creek were as familiar as our own names. We learned at an early age names like Cattail Peak, Celso, Deep Gap, the Hairy Bear

Ridge and Winter Star. Winter Star, a pyramid shaped peak, is known on official maps as Potato Hill and only in Pensacola is it called Winter Star. When I was a young boy, the name Winter Star brought visions of snow and clear cold winter nights and I remember asking my father where Winter Star got its name. He told me that before the large lumber mills and the railroad came to this beautiful valley the entire mountain range was covered with dark spruce and balsam pine. The dark color of this section of the Blue Ridge chain is why this range is called the Black Mountains. He explained that Winter Star got its name not from the pyramid shape peak, but from the rock cliff below. This rock formation was called Winter Star Cliffs because in winter, on a bright moonlit night with the cliffs covered with snow and surrounded by the dark forest, it would seem to the residents down in the valley to glow. If you are ever in Pensacola on a clear, cold winter night take a walk up Cattail Creek Road. With the sound of snow crunching beneath your feet, pause, and look up at the cold, dark mountain bathed in moonlight, then you'll understand why it's called Winter Star.

BOB WILSON

December

1st

Christmas Parade organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Tree Lighting following in the Town Square

Closing of McElroy House for the winter for renovations and improvements.

January through March

The Shop, Offices, Genealogy Library and Exhibits in the Lloyd Bailey Annex remain open on a winter schedule. Wednesday through Saturday 10am to 4pm. In case of bad weather call us on 828-678-9587

We Need Volunteers

Without your help the Yancey History Association would not exist. Volunteers are essential to the everyday running of the museum, shop, garden and to help at functions and events throughout the year. We would love to hear from you on 828-678-9587 if you would like to be a part of the past, building a future for others.

Next Issue: Upcoming Features

- Schedule of Events for 2013
- Year in Review
- New Board Members
- Website and Facebook updates

If you have any comments or would like to contribute to the newsletter please email: webmaster@yanceyhistoryassociation.org