



ESTATOOEE

PRESERVING OUR APPALACHIAN HERITAGE

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My message to you this year from the Yancey History Association is one of great joy and happiness for all the wonderful events and presentations we have shared with the visitors and citizens of Yancey County. We thank our volunteers and wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our opening day for the museum on April 9 was postponed due to the large snow the day before the event. That did not deter us from opening with new exhibits in our Bailey Building Museum. Bob Wilson produced a movie exhibit with movie posters, old movie artifacts and even moved the first projector from the Yancey Theater to be on display. John and Linda Elsegood did extensive research on a movie "Then I'll Come Back To You". They prepared a stand alone exhibit with the historical event and found many photos that were never seen before in our county. John and Linda also did a long and hard study of the musical heritage of our area. They produced an exhibit of historical musicians over the ages with written history on these musicians. This took months of research and work to design and print these for our museum. The "Musical Heritage" exhibit was opened with a lunch in honor of John and Linda. Over fifty people attended. A special gift of a fortepiano was donated to the museum by the Madame Lillie Kraus family. The museum also received three dulcimers and a fiddle from the family



Continued on page 2

THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION PRESENTED A FREE SHOWING OF CHRISTMAS "TIME-TRAVEL" TOURS

on Friday, December 9th featuring three historic mini dramas based on Yancey County research. Our thanks to Debbie Nance for writing the play, directing and creating the scenes. Thanks also to Chris Carter, Gabe Boone, Noah Buchanan, Maggie Cann, Hannah, Joshua Silvers, Patti Smith, Reagan Boone, Abigale Silvers, and "Gonzo" Robertson.



SPOTTED AT THE BURNSVILLE SANTA PARADE

Getting ready for the Parade, Mayor Theresa Coletta and YHA President Elaine Boone examining the newly upholstered 1922 Dodge Roadster, part of this year's Santa Parade in Burnsville. And Bob Wilson the Grand Marshal leading the parade and Elaine's grand children in the Dodge (still on the trailer).



Continued from page 1

of Robert Beason. A special exhibit with a computer and book and many historical families was given by Betsy Stiles. Betsy has done extensive studies of the African American history in Yancey County. Every summer, Milo and Hanna come as builders to our museum. This year they remodeled a room in the Bailey Building, painted the McElroy House, built stairs, and other many miscellaneous projects. Linda and Icket Thomas were our garden and grounds workers this year. Icket grew a garden that was admired by all. Linda worked non-stop on seeing that the flowers, yard and banks were beautiful. As an annual event in July, we honored the veterans of Yancey County. We served them a lunch and each veteran was called on to talk about their service. Mark Huber and Icket Thomas did the project of scanning veteran pictures and doing an exhibit on the TV in the Hall of Honors. "Pickin On The Porch" was held on Sunday afternoons during the months of June and August. Ron and Minnie Powell lead this event. Many times on Sunday we had more than 50 people attend. This year the YHA decided to take the project of restoring the 1922 Dodge to maintain its beauty and be able to get the engine working again. Thanks to James and PJ Gilmore who did the mechanical work and to Pat Hepburn for seeing that the seats and top were replaced. Pat Hepburn was a great leader to get this project done. Yancey History Association sponsors

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
Jerri Storie
Linda Thomas
Bob Wilson

Jake Blood - *Past President*
Lloyd Bailey - *Founding Member & Historian*

Office Hours: Wed to Fri 10am - 4pm
Sat 10am - 2pm

the "Old Timey Day" In September of each year. Our thanks to Dean Gates who led this event for his many years service. We had a very successful event. Chris Carter did a "Ghost Tour" just before Halloween with twelve people attending. Every year the association participates in the Burnsville Halloween Event. This year over 1100 children attended and we gave out over 200 bags of popcorn and candy. A special event was held at Christmas. Debbie Nance wrote a Christmas play "Travel Thru Time" Three scenes were presented. One in the log cabin, one in the McElroy House Civil War Room and one in the parlor of the McElroy House. The house was decorated for Christmas. It was very successful with over fifty in attendance. Vivianne Bradley, our treasurer is always in the background working to see that we get financial work on each project completed to perfection.

Chris Carter is our work-a-holic. She never stops and gets the many projects and work done. Elizabeth and Brandi Silvers, volunteers at YHA, invited the home-school group that they are part of teaching to the Bailey Building to hold historic classes. Elizabeth also has attended the western district Jr. NC Historian training. She will have at least four students write projects on Yancey History and submit them to competition in Raleigh in April. Dixie Styles is always ready and willing to provide food and materials for all events. Linda Humprey joined us this year as a volunteer. "Gonzo" Robertson has served as a volunteer in many events. This year we purchased a refrigerator for the McElroy House, a new weed wacker, a popcorn machine, and a gasoline hedge trimmer. Our plans for the 2017 year are now being worked on and will be published.

CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES ON THE TOWN SQUARE

The Yancey History Association purchased a new popcorn machine just to give treats to the children at the annual Halloween Celebration on the Burnsville Town Square. Chris Carter and Debbie Nance popped corn all day to prepare for the children. Elizabeth Silvers and family came to help give out the popcorn and candy. We learned from an important source that there were 1100 children on the square. This is a wonderful event.



MOUNTAIN HERITAGE ROTC STUDENTS TOURED THE MUSEUM AND MCELROY HOUSE AND GROUNDS.

We were pleased to have 37 students visit. Two of our volunteers, Chris Carter and Elaine Boone, gave the students a tour and history of our county. Each student was given a book to take home to read. Thank you sponsors for bringing them to our historical tour.



GOLD & SILVER SPONSORS

Hal and Diane Coleman, Theresa Coletta, Frances Coletta, David and Elaine Boone, Warren and Larissa Bare, Bill Baker, Ron Chandler, Altec Industries, Glen Raven Mills, Country Cablevision, Buck House, Garden Deli, Dr. Garland and Mary Ann Wampler, Jake and Cynthia Blood, Dr. Rita Meeks, Pat and Janet Hepburn, Burnsville Chevrollet and Buick, Bunny McIntosh in honor of her mother Sarah Proffitt, Jimmy Young and Mary Ellis, Dr. Lloyd and Judith Bailey, Skip and Carol Wilson, Wanda Proffitt

REFURBISHING THE 1922 DODGE ROADSTER

In 2001, "The History of Yancey County Transportation Exhibit", was opened for display at the Chamber of Commerce, in a glass enclosure specially built for the exhibit. The centerpiece of the exhibit was a 1922 Dodge Roadster.

Jim Priesmeyer, (YHA Director), Lloyd Bailey and YHA Board members had worked very hard to obtain an early 1920's Dodge Roadster that had belonged to Dr.. Carson McCourry. Un-fortunately, they were not able to obtain that car. The owner at that time, was Roger S. McCourry, residing in Baltimore, Maryland.

Words of Jim Priesmeyer at that time: "Over the past year and a half, I have searched for a similar car and to date, I have found only ONE similar car. That car is a 1922 Dodge Roadster that for all practical purposes is the same. We had a professional appraiser inspect the car and the report is excellent. That car can be purchased, delivered and ready for display within 90 days at a cost of less than \$14,000. This car is for sale and is being advertised nationally as such."

With the help of the N. C. Department of Transportation and other donors, this purchase was made possible for the 2001 Exhibit.

This 1922 Dodge Roadster had been red with black fenders and top and was repainted black in 2001 to better resemble Dr. McCourry's old car.

In August, 27, 2016, it was removed from the glass display at the Chamber of Commerce by Pat Hepburn, James Gilmour, and Bobby De Cola, to James Gilmour's barn. James and his son P. J. Gilmour set about repairing, adjusting, cleaning and learning all they could about this old car.

On September 24, it was driven in the Parade at the Old Timey Fall Festival for all the public to see.

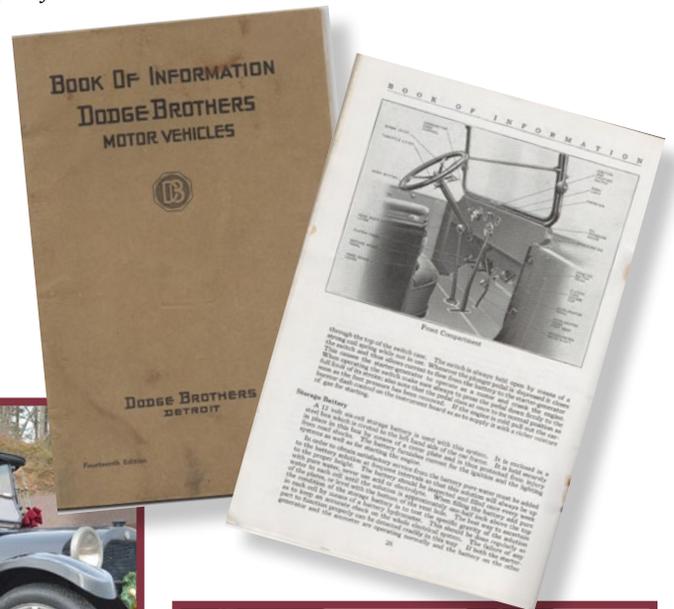
It was then sent to Roan Inc. in Bakersville, N.C. for auto interior restoration and a new top, curtesy of the funds from the Old Timey Fall Festival.

It was featured in the 2016 Christmas Parade in all it's refurbished SPLENDOR and is now back in its glass display at the Chamber.

We want to thank every one involved for all their hard work and donations in the YHA's endeavor to preserve this old 1922 Dodge Roadster.

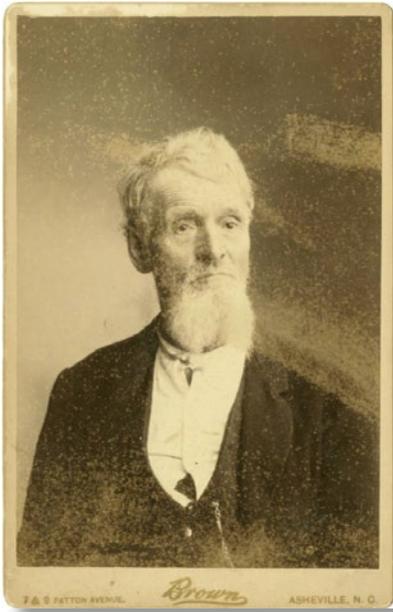


Dr. Carson McCourry in his Dodge Roadster.



MARK HUBER CREATES THE VETERANS HALL OF HONOR

For many years, the Yancey History Association has been collecting pictures of Yancey County's veterans. Our veterans are one of Yancey's, and America's, most valuable assets. Each of these men and women vowed to give their life in defense of our great nation. Many of them did. We will be forever grateful to our veterans for their service.



Thomas D. "Big Tom" Wilson
Confederate States Army

to be transcribed and filed with each .jpeg in a computerized format.

We invite everyone to visit the Lloyd Bailey Annex to view our slideshow of Yancey County veterans on our HDTV. We encourage those who would like to share a picture of a family member or friend to mail in or bring

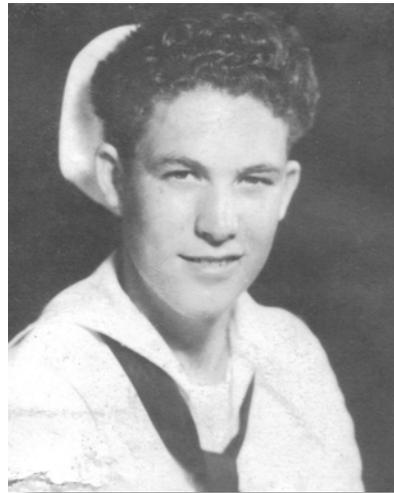


Shelby Peterson
United States Army

their picture by our office at 3 Academy Street in Burnsville so it can be scanned and added to our display. Please include your veteran's military service information. Once scanned, pictures can be returned if necessary.

Each summer in early July, the Yancey

Shortly after the Lloyd Bailey Annex opened, we began framing and displaying these pictures on the walls of our Veterans Hall of Honor. Our collection has increased, and recently we found that we have more pictures than wall space to show them. Recently a 50-inch HDTV was purchased and installed to display, in a slideshow format, our growing collection. Before we were able to do this, each picture had to be scanned and converted into a .jpeg image. The associated information - name, rank, branch of service, etc., had



Clivas Autrey
United States Navy

History Association hosts a free barbecue lunch for our veterans and their families on the grounds of the McElroy House behind the Annex. Watch for the announcement in the Yancey Common Times Journal. We hope to see you there in 2017.

The Yancey History Association thanks Mark Huber for the hard work and expertise that he has put into this ongoing project and Icket Thomas assisting him throughout the many months.



Sherie Coleman
U.S. Navy



Gene Whitson
U.S. Army



Cindy Lee Higgins
U.S. Army



Melissa Manning
U.S. Air Force

**ANNOUNCING:
DR. LLOYD BAILEYS
NEW PUBLICATION**

**HERITAGE OF
THE TOE RIVER
VALLEY
VOLUME XIII
(WORLD WAR I)**

Here it is!
The most difficult, detailed,
interesting, and important of all
the TVH Volumes.

Of all the warfare in which
the United States has been
involved, none exceeds WW I
in terms of inhuman conditions
and the slaughter of soldiers and
civilians. Troops found themselves unprepared to face such new weapons as tanks, poison gas, aircraft, machine guns and
flame-thrower. They stood and slept in lice and rat infested deep trenches, laden with flowing sewage and mangled body-
parts. When it was over, five years later, there were an estimated 37 million casualties.

The old soldiers have all gone to rest now, nearly one thousand of them from the Toe River Valley. Their struggles have
been largely forgotten, partly because the Army discouraged them from talking about it and forbade them to
keep diaries.

The present volume is an attempt to preserve their memory. Its 600 pages contain an account of the war, many graphic
photos and posters, detailed sketches of 407 soldiers and their families (many with photos), rare accounts from German
sources, and 20 pages of index (four columns per page).

More than 100 previous purchasers are either deceased or have changed their US Mail and e-mail addresses
(without notifying me) since the last volume, potentially representing that number of lost sales for the present volume.

Consequently, this one will be printed in fewer numbers. If it does not "sell out," it will be the end of the series.

(I MUST PAY FOR ALL OF THE VOLUMES IN ADVANCE!). PUBLICATION PROJECTED BY CHRISTMAS, BUT DELAYS ARE POSSIBLE.

**ORDER FORM: PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL WITH PAYMENT
(includes tax and shipping; personal check or money order).
Copies will be sent by US Postal Service.**

**PRE-PUBLICATION DISCOUNT: \$85.00 each; deadline is Dec. 1. THEREAFTER: \$95.00.
PLEASE ENTER MY ORDER FOR**

_____ Copy (copies) of TVH, Vol. XIII @ \$85.00 pre-publication price, or

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PUBLICATION PROJECTED BY CHRISTMAS. BUT DELAYS ARE POSSIBLE.



Lens, France, destruction — Library of Congress

THE OLD TIMEY FALL FESTIVAL: A FABULOUS DAY OF SUN, FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT.



This year's Old Timey Fall Festival on the square was probably the best attended Old Timey day in its history. It began with the Girl Scouts color salute, then, Dean Gates, organizer, sang the national anthem and declared the Festival open.

Next was the parade of antique cars and trucks, followed by Pat Hepburn leading the tractor parade around the square.

The History Association's own 1922 Dodge Roadster driven by James Gilmore and with president Elaine Boone was the oldest car in the parade which included many different models from the past including a Mercedes and a Rolls Royce.

Vendors set up around the square. The children's games

started with the hula hoops and sack races. Food vendors, including the Lions Club and Yancey History Association, manned by Board members and volunteers, served traditional food.

Entertainment from the stage included Dance and Music performed by local groups.

The large crowd sat in their lawn chairs to listen and watch the entertainment or milled around buying a huge variety of interesting items from the busy vendors.

The mule drawn wagon was kept busy taking groups on the slow tour around the area, past the History Association, where many got off to enjoy the exhibition "Our Musical Heritage" at the Lloyd Bailey Building and then back to the square. The Tractor, pulling children around the square in colorful oil tanks was always full and worked tirelessly throughout the day.

The only disappointment of the

day was that the woolly worm competition had to be cancelled as the warm temperatures this year produced no woolly worms.

Raffle tickets were a hot item with the toy Green Truck being the main prize.

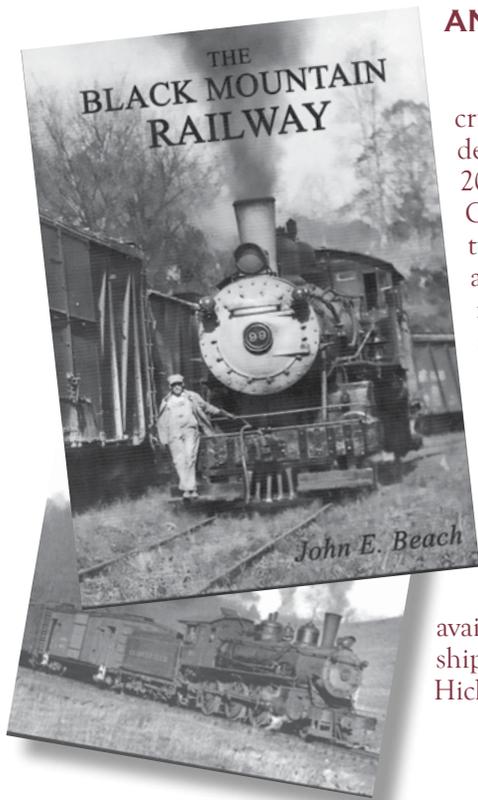
Sad to say, this was Dean Gates last Old Timey Fall Festival after many years in charge. He handed over the reins to the Yancey History's president Elaine Boone and the old committee members including Pat Hepburn, Rob Levin, Chuck Carlson, Vivianne Bradley and John and Linda Elsegood and returning member Sandi Hogan.

We would like to thank Dean for all his hard work over the years.

The proceeds of this year's festival go towards the restoration of the 1922 Dodge Roadster.

We would also like to thank all our sponsors and volunteers who made this event possible and look forward to another great event on the 30th of September, next year.





AN IMPORTANT NEW BOOK

The Black Mountain Railway played a crucial role in Yancey County's economic development in the early decades of the 20th century. With a connection to the Clinchfield Railway at Kona, it served to transport lumber from the Mount Mitchell area beyond Pensacola and minerals from its Bowditch spur. In addition, it opened a rare route for passengers into the Cane River Valley through Burnsville.

John Beach, author of *THE BLACK MOUNTAIN RAILWAY*, 2016) has produced a quality, interesting, and detailed narrative of the Road, with rare diagrams and photos (many in color). I recommend it highly.

It is 200 pages in length and is available for \$55.00 (\$65.13 with tax and shipping) from Tarheel Press, PO Box 1205, Hickory, NC 2860

(www.tarheelpress.com). *Lloyd Bailey*

YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION HOLDS GHOST TOUR

Chris Carter led a Ghost Walk on Saturday, October 29, 2016. Twelve people assembled at the corner of Academy Street at 2:00 pm to hear a story of a murder that happened on the street. They then visited the Academy Street Cemetery where many of prominent Burnsville people are buried including the wife of Capt. John McElroy. They were then taken on a tour of the McElroy House where a room was a hospital during the Civil War. The YHA plans to add this as an annual event to include addition spots in Burnsville.



The Yancey History Association held their Annual Meeting in the Bailey Building on November 6, 2016.

The Annual Minutes, Yearly Financial Report, Proposed Budget for the coming year, and a presentation of photos of yearly events were presented. No elections were held.

Thank you all for coming and enjoying the wonderful food by Vivianne Bradley.



REMEMBER YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS US MAKE ALL THESE EVENTS, RESTORATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS POSSIBLE

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) 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

Individual \$20

Family (2+persons) \$40

Senior (60+) \$15

Senior Family (60+) \$30

Silver Business \$100

Gold Business \$250

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.



Members Corner

On a cold windy day I took a little trip to Yancey History Association. I picked up Mr. Jake Henson and took him to see his family history on the Ancestry Family Tree at the Museum. Jake is 89 years old and a World War II vet. He was amazed to see not only his picture on the Tree but his Ancestors, dating back to 1846.

Jake and I have a special connection. My 2nd Great Grandfather owned his Great Grandfather. We spent about 2 hours going through the Ancestry Tree finding so many African Americans and my own Ancestors, many he had known in his 89 years. You can see by the expression on his face just how much he enjoyed a trip back in time. I started my Family Tree in November of 2012. I found a way to add the African American owned by my 2nd Great Grandfather to my lineage.

“My Tree”, is on the Computer at the Yancey History Association and has over 16,000 people and records, and over 2,600 pictures.

Elizabeth Betsy Stiles



MEMBERS CORNER

We hope you enjoyed The Members Corner in this Quarterly Newsletter.

By reporting on what's happening now and the events for the year, we are recording and preserving the HISTORY of the FUTURE.

Creating a “MEMBERS CORNER” in the Newsletter gives each member a chance to become a part of this by contributing a small article of interest. This could include: Past or Present - Stories, old tales, legends, family stories, old & new photos of interest, events of the area. (Lengthy articles will be continued in future newsletters).

We would like to include your stories or photos etc. in the next Member's Corner. Thank you

Linda Elsegood - lindafvickers@frontier.com | Mark Huber - dishwolf359@yahoo.com | John Elsegood - jelsegood@frontier.com



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Quarterly Newsletter

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