



ESTATOOEE

PRESERVING OUR APPALACHIAN HERITAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2014 has been one of the most successful for YHA that I have had the pleasure of being a part of. Thanks to our Yancey History Board of Directors and many volunteers, we have met so many goals and made many changes to our historical association.

During our Annual Meeting in October, we elected Dixie Styles as our Vice-President. At the same meeting, we presented a power-point presentation on the many projects we did during the year.

You may view this presentation on our Yancey History Association Web Page and Yancey History Association Facebook Page. We now have 712 likes on our page for you to view current events and the AGM Powerpoint link. Our association prepares an Estatoee Newsletter each quarter.

John Elsegood, our webpage and newsletter designer has scanned all our newsletters since our beginning in 1989 and posted them on our webpage for your enjoyment.

Chris Carter, our historian, keeps a scrapbook to record history of our events during the year.

We moved our Genealogy Library to the front of the Bailey Annex and have added many new books and

information for you to research your family history.

Our greatest honor came this year in December 2014, when we were voted by the Yancey Chamber of Commerce as the Business of the Year. This speaks loud and clear to you as a member and our community of the great work we are doing to preserve, educate, and build the history of the county.

We have many plans for the New Year, 2015. We are proud that we have raised \$27,000 during the past few years to start our renovation of the Bailey Annex and addition of a natural gas furnace. The

McElroy House will be updated. We also plan to finish the fireplace and chimney on the Proffitt Log Cabin and build a storage shed. Our educational traveling trunks are placed in

each school in the county. We have committed to many weeks of historical after-school classes for the Magic Program.

We need volunteers especially to stay in our office during our hours of Wednesday-Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00. We invite you to come see our exhibits, donate items or money, and join the Yancey History Association.

Elaine Boone, *President*



BOARD CHANGES FOR 2015



One of our newest board members, Debra "Debby" Nance, began volunteering for the Yancey History Association in the Summer 2013. She and her husband, Terry Williams, built a retirement home here in 2011. Both were career employees with the La. Department of Social Services.

Debby received her B.A. in Social Studies Education from the University of Louisiana-Monroe in 1976 and an M.A. degree in American History in 1978. She continued her postgraduate education in History at LSU in Baton Rouge. She has authored one book on antebellum migration into northeast Louisiana and co-authored another book on immigrants who settled in northeast Louisiana in the late 1800's. Her interest in Civil War history led to an opportunity to edit previously unpublished letters from a member of Wheat's Battalion (the original Louisiana Tigers) and to serve as president of the Baton Rouge Civil War Roundtable.

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She began working for the Louisiana Department of Social Services in 1978. Debby directed the DSS Quality Control Section for 12 years and served as the president of the national QC Directors association –as well as American Public Human Services Association board member. Prior to her retirement, she was program director for the La. Food Stamp and Child Care programs for DSS. She authored an article “Battling Hurricanes Together” in APHSA’s Policy & Practice magazine which detailed the experiences of working with EMAC staff during Hurricanes

Debby has two children and two grandchildren. Her son, Stephen, lives in Baton Rouge, La. and works as a Project manager; her daughter, Candace, is an organic chemistry professor at Xavier University in New Orleans, La.

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*
- Chris Carter - *Secretary*
- Vivianne Bradley - *Treasurer*
- John Elsegood*
- Linda Elsegood*
- Judy Fuqua
- Dixie Styles
- Bob Wilson

Jake Blood - *Past President*

Lloyd Bailey - *Founding Member and Historian*

** retiring from the board after 3 years, working as volunteers in 2015*

Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday 10am - 4pm
Closed for major renovations during the winter

INTRODUCING NEW YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS JERRIE STORIE & DR. IVA NELL BUCKNER

Jerri Storie, a real estate agent with Premier Mountain Properties, was elected at the November meeting of YHA to the Board of Directors. Jerri is a native of Yancey County that brings

family history dating to the beginning of the county. She is married to Tom Storie who



served as town manager until retirement and has two sons, Joel and Adam. She has been active for many years in serving her community. She was elected and served as the first woman commissioner of Yancey County. She has served on the board and past president of the Yancey Chamber of Commerce and was serving during the purchase of the property of the McElroy House and Chamber of Commerce Filling Station. She is currently on the Yancey County Economic Board. She worked at Glen Raven Mills and the Yancey Board of Education Office. The YHA is very pleased she comes to work with us on preserving history of our county.

Dr. Iva Nell Buckner, a part-time student-teacher administrator for Mars Hill University, was elected at the November meeting of YHA to the Board of Directors. Iva Nell is a native



of Yancey County and her genealogy dates to the beginning of the county. She lives in the Swiss

Community. She has served her community for many years as a volunteer. She served on the Yancey Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Mayland Foundation Board. She was elected and served four years of the Yancey Board of Education. Dr. Buckner worked as assistant superintendent of Yancey County Schools. During her tenure there, she wrote and received many grants for our schools of Yancey County. She was instrumental in teacher training and had a great part in all our schools becoming accredited by the Southern Schools Association. The YHA welcomes her to take part in the preserving of the history of our county.

PICKIN ON THE PORCH & CHILDRENS STORYTELLING CAMP RETURN IN 2015

Returning by popular demand each Sunday in June and August.

Members and volunteers Ron and Minnie Powell and friends will entertain between 2pm and 4pm on the porch of the Proffitt-Cousins Cabin. Bring your guitars, banjos and fiddles and join in.



After a very successful Childrens Camp this year it has been decided to have our third camp. Sherry Lovett storyteller and Linda Elsegood are planning something special for those in attendance. Space will be limited. A full program will be posted in the near future.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the YHA,

Members will receive the following:

- Quarterly newsletters of the ESTATOE
- 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 ESTATOE 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 2)

Blacksmithing is an integral part of American history. Phone books contain a long list of people named Smith – evidence of how many blacksmiths once operated forges. Smiths were valued because they produced the tools needed for most any type of work. Blacksmiths made and sharpened plow points, knives and axes, forged chains and J-bars for pulling logs down hillsides, and shaped wagon wheels and shod horses for transportation.

But at the turn of the last century, as tractors and automobiles became more available, the need for custom services lessened. The local smithy, essential in communities for two centuries, was quickly disappearing.

In the early 20th century the Boone blacksmiths were working in the shop of their father, Kelse Boone, in Yancey County. Kelse told his two sons that to continue the trade, they would have to switch from being utilitarian blacksmiths and become artist blacksmiths. They took his advice and became master blacksmiths.

Daniel Boone VI and his brother Lawrence Boone (direct descendents of the pioneer hero and a long line of blacksmiths traced back to England) came to national attention in the 1930s. They were hired by John D.

Rockefeller to do all of the forged ironwork in the famous restoration project

for Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. The Boone's also forged the incredible ironwork in the Asheville Hotel and the Biltmore House.

It took two-and-a-half years to complete

the Williamsburg project, and the Boone brothers opened a shop on Beaver Creek Road in Spruce Pine to produce the work. At a time when American blacksmithing was in decline, the monumental commission was a

godsend, infusing their mountain community and their craft with purpose.

Afterward, the brothers went their separate ways. Daniel moved to nearby Burnsville. His work can be found in many homes in Yancey and the region. His work can be seen today at Parkway Playhouse – just look up at the chandeliers he crafted.

Daniel Boone VII, who lives and works in Louisa, Va., is the son and

grandson of Boone blacksmiths. He and his wife, Judy, operate Boone Forge there and have two blacksmith sons. Bea Hensley grew up near the Boone forge and was known to reminisce about hearing and learning the ringing language of the anvil, which he later taught to his son Mike. When Bea turned 17, he was lucky enough to apprentice with Daniel Boone and inherited his anvil. Today,

his son Mike is also skilled in the craft and carries on the blacksmith tradition. A beautiful iron exterior chandelier he created graces the entrance to the Yancey County Public Library.

Nat Howell of Burnsville worked for Daniel Boone in Burnsville in the 1950s, and Nat's son David carried on the family craft, producing traditional iron forms at the Mineral City Forge. In recent decades, American blacksmithing has been on the upswing and the number of artisans practicing the trade have increased dramatically.

There are several blacksmiths currently carrying on the tradition in Yancey County.

Pictured in this article:

Top Left: Hiram Kelse Boone 1873/1947

Bottom Left: Daniel Boone VI

Top Right: Bea Hensley



Linda Vickers Elsegood - Research

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



A full listing of Events will be put on our Facebook Page and Our Website and in the Yancey Journal as soon as information becomes available. Exhibition details for the Annex and McElroy House will also follow.

YANCEY COUNTY HISTORY ASSOCIATION HAS NEW GENEALOGY BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY.

If you are interested in researching your genealogy, we have an extensive genealogy library located in the Lloyd Bailey Annex. The following are some recent books that we have added to our collection.

“A Tragedy at Paint Gap” August, 1920 by Marshall Styles

“Decendent’s of Andrew E. Banks and Rachel Ruth Turner” Seven Generations by Marshall Styles

“Turner and Banks, Pioneer Families of Western North Carolina” by Marshall Styles

“Death of Raleigh “Red” Styles – Self Defense or An Ambush?” by Marshall Styles

“Cattail Creek History” by Grace Tyner

“The Boone Connection” In The Lost Counties by Debra Webb Rogers

“County Court Records 1779-1794 Rutherford County, NC” by James Alan Williams

“Sing Me Back Home” by David Boone

“The Unmarked Grave” by Haskell A. Davis

Major renovations to the Lloyd Bailey Annex are in progress and the offices of the Yancey History Association are closed whilst these important changes are being made. We will be reopening in the Spring of 2015 with new Exhibition Areas, and new heating and cooling thanks to your support and grants obtained in the last year. Progress can be seen on our Facebook page and website.



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Quarterly Newsletter

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