



# ESTATOOEE

PRESERVING OUR APPALACHIAN HERITAGE

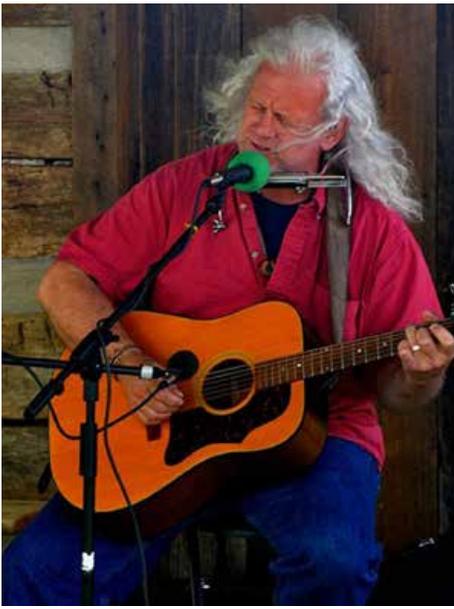


## FIREPLACE AND CHIMNEY ARE BUILT ON 1840'S LOG CABIN



After two years of fund raising and waiting, the fireplace and chimney is finished on the Proffitt-Cousins cabin. Elaine Boone, President of the YHA took this project of getting the cabin finished and ready to furnish. She says, "We are so proud that this project is complete and will a part of our exhibits on Yancey County History. We now have the grand McElroy House built in 1840 and the Log Cabin built in 1840 to show our citizens and visitors the comparison of how people lived in Yancey County" We continue to grow each year to become an exciting part of the town of Burnsville and history of Yancey County. We would like to thank Ron Chandler and his workers for an excellent job.





**YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION HOLDS "PICKIN ON THE PORCH" SUNDAYS 2:00 – 4:00 DURING JUNE AND AUGUST**

David Wiseman will host the "Pickin On The Porch" on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00 during the months of June and August. Come hear local musicians in a beautiful setting located next to the McElroy House and on the porch of the 1840 Log Cabin at 3 Academy Street. Everyone is welcome and all musicians are invited to come play. The event is free.

**HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS FROM THREE COUNTIES TOUR THE MUSEUM**

A group of thirty homeschool students from Yancey, Mitchell, and Madison Counties toured the museum as part of their historical curriculum. They were divided into three groups. Chris Carter gave the tour of the McElroy House along with Linda Humphrey doing the tour of the grounds and log cabin and Elaine Boone touring the Bailey Building Museum. We thank the parents for bringing them for the visit.



**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  
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Lloyd Bailey - Founding Member & Historian

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

**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 Chevrolet 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, Marion Garland and Wanda Proffitt.



## MOUNTAIN HERITAGE ROTC STUDENTS TOUR THE YHA MUSEUM

The Mountain Heritage HS ROTC students toured the museum. All four classes came for tours during the day. We always welcome this yearly event.



## RECENT NEWS LINK FROM A MEMBER

Elizabeth (Betsy) Stiles recently had an article in May 2017 issue of "A Lot of Bunkum". Click on the link for full transcript. **Lives are Still Intertwined though Several Generations.**



## YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION OPENING DAY ON APRIL 8, 2018

Each year in the spring, the Yancey History Association, holds a special event to open our museum for new events of the year. The Girl Scouts honored us with the raising of the flags. A special tour of the museum and McElroy House were given to all in attendance. We had food and drinks in the museum.

# YANCEY COUNTY VINTAGE SCHOOL DAYS EXHIBIT

A vintage school days exhibit is currently on display in the Bailey Building. We thank Bob Wilson and Chris Carter for providing and displaying this exhibit. The exhibit consists of teacher grade books, report cards, vintage school furniture and loads of pictures of students attending Yancey County Schools. On display are old school books, metal lunch box, school bells and the famous reading book "Dick and Jane." You are invited to visit the Museum at 3 Academy Street. Admission is free.



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

Linda Elsegood - [lindafvickers@frontier.com](mailto:lindafvickers@frontier.com) Mark Huber - [dishwolf359@yahoo.com](mailto:dishwolf359@yahoo.com) John Elsegood - [jelsegood@frontier.com](mailto:jelsegood@frontier.com)

## WINNIE LOU RAY GARDENS IN BLOOM

The McElroy House flower gardens are in full bloom. The gardens were named for Winnie Lou Ray who was the last lady to own and live in the McElroy House. Thanks to Linda Thomas for planting and pulling weeds, the yard is gorgeous all during each season.



## SPRING TEA

On Saturday, May 8th, a Spring Tea was held in the Genealogy Library of the Lloyd Bailey Building. Originally planned in the McElroy House dining room, unseasonably cold weather made that large room too uncomfortable for guests and prompted the move to the cozier setting.

The table was set for the formal tea with Depression Era glass cups, saucers and plates and silver trays held a array of homemade sweet and savory treats. The menu included blueberry scones, buttermilk biscuits accompanied by orange cream cheese/butter and local jellies; herb-roasted chicken in salad, three-cheese spread with honey ham and traditional open-faced cucumber sandwiches; lemon filled butter tart shells, chocolate-pecan brownies and almond shortcakes topped with fresh strawberries and rosewater-almond whipped cream. Guests chose from an assortment of black and herb teas.

The afternoon event concluded with a tour of the exhibits in the Lloyd Bailey Building featuring the new "School Days" Exhibit. Look for another "themed" tea this Summer.

## 2017 OLD TIMEY FALL FESTIVAL

On September 30th again the Burnsville Town Square will be transformed into the Fall Festival. Starting with the color guard and National Anthem, followed by the parade of Antique Cars and Tractors. Dance and Music from the stage. Vendors and artisans will encompass the square, and Childrens games, Adult competitions and the fabulous raffle will also be on hand. A wonderful day of free entertainment brought to you by the Yancey History Association and the Old Timey Fall Committee. Raffle tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



## 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)

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://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



DAVID PROFFITT, by A.F. Hensley, written sometime in the 1930's. In the latter part of the sixteenth century, the record states, that Stephen Proffitt and family sailed from England to Boston, Massachusetts. Whether they are English or Scots is your guess. However, the above information has very little bearing on the subject of this incomplete biography. From Boston, Stephen Proffitt and family migrated to Virginia, which seems to be the homebase from which they spread throughout the country. The records state that a large number fought in the Revolutionary War. After the War, some of Stephen's tribe drifted to NC, locating in the section now known as Ashe county. In this group was James Sr.(1768-1846) who came to this area, which is now Yancey County. James Sr. married Mary Lawson(?) (1774-1850). They settled on Cane River, in the Elk Shoals Community. The subject of this article, David, was a son of James and Mary, and was born Oct. 11, 1800-1892. On March 1, 1826, he married Elizabeth Wilson(1809-1885), daughter of William and Sarah Wilson of the Bald Creek Community. David and Betsy began their marriage in a one room hewn log cabin, on or very near the spot where Hiram Higgin's rock residence now stands, just a little north of the Elk Shoals Church. Most of this section was a wilderness at that time. They began in the center and chopped their way out to find success awaiting them. David was a farmer and trader, or "drover" as livestock dealers were called at that time. He was a very successful trader, due, perhaps, to his sound judgement and thorough knowledge of livestock. Through their thriftiness and hard work they accumulated quite an acreage of mountain land, a part of which was the Bald Mountain tract, now known as the David M. Buck estate, which was, and still is, excellent pasture land. His cattle would get very fat during the grazing season, and at the close of the season, he would corral his herd and select the choicest for market. The only way to get them to market was to drive them overland to Columbia S.C., which would take them five to six weeks to make the round trip. He would load a large, four-hitch, wagon with venison, pork hams, deer and bear hides to go to market. Four big mules were hitched to the wagon and would take the lead, with the cattle and cowhands following. They would start out on Monday, and the following Monday, David would mount his favorite saddle horse and overtake his outfit by the time they got to market. They would stop within sixteen miles of Columbia where a Mr. Weaver lived, who was prepared to care for such "outfits." They would time themselves to get to this farm on Friday so the cattle would have time to rest and "fill-up" before going to market on the next Monday. On Saturday, David would go to market, sell his waggon load and reload the wagon with groceries ready to start back home.

On Monday morning the cowhands would drive the cattle to the stockyards, usually getting in by noon. The cow-hands and teamsters would begin their long trek back to the mountains. David would stay and sell his stock and, if he had luck, overtake his wagon before it got home.

David Proffitt was a man of indomitable courage, honest to the core, firm yet patient. He lived the Golden Rule life as nearly as humanly possible. He was a personal friend and adviser to N.C. war governor Vance. He also represented Yancey County in the legislature in 1868.

David Proffitt's nickname was "Honest Dave". Perhaps it would be of interest to some of the younger generation to hear a brief story of how he acquired the name. On one trip to S.C. market, David had an unusually large drove of cattle and consequently took longer to dispose of it. On Saturday at noon, he closed out, and rushed to the bank to have his checks cashed. That done, he mounted his horse and rode to Mr. Weavers farm. After he had supper he took inventory of his sales and found an error. He didn't sleep much that night for thinking about it. To stay over until the bank opened on Monday would take him two extra days later in getting home. He decided to get up early Sunday morning, go back to Columbia, find the cashier, and give back the five hundred dollars overpay, thus, gain a day toward home. He located the cashier just as he was starting to drive to Church. David doffed his hat, introduced himself, told the banker he had made an honest mistake the day before, and he had come back to rectify it as he was a long way from home. The banker didn't give him a chance to say anything more. He said, "we do not rectify mistakes except at the bank window, come around tomorrow." He then told his coachman to drive on. This answer frustrated David, so he yelled at the banker, "good-day sir, I'll be back at your bank in one year and maybe you will accept this five hundred dollars that I am trying to give you now." The one year rolled around and he returned the five hundred and met a more courteous reception, hence, the nickname "Honest Dave." *Submitted by Elaine Boone*



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Quarterly Newsletter

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