



ESTATOE

PRESERVING OUR APPALACHIAN HERITAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Yancey History Association has had a premier year of great progress this year. Thanks to our Board of Directors and Volunteers, we have done many progressive endeavors to make our organization strong and important to the Yancey community.

In January, we began the gigantic project of moving all things from the lower floor of the Bailey Annex and discarding all that had accumulated over the years that was no longer needed. The next move was to hire carpenters to begin tearing out the walls of eleven small doctors' examination rooms to make room for new exhibits. After the areas were enlarged, we installed new sheetrock, new ceilings, and a new floor. We also installed a new natural gas furnace and air conditioning. We were then ready to create our new

displays. In our new museum, we have a country store with all the furnishings from the beginning of the century, a large display of Mount Mitchell history to celebrate this year of the 100th Anniversary of the Mount Mitchell State Park, a mineral museum, a military museum, a doctors office, a NuWray Inn

Dr. Carolyn Cort the donor of the the Bailey Annex and Dr. Lloyd Bailey the historian that the building is named for.

We appreciate those who have made Pickin On The Porch a great success. On each Sunday in June and August, Ron and Minnie Powell conduct music events on

the porch of the log cabin. This is our second year and the event grows in number each year.

Chris Carter, our YHA volunteer, conducted a Vintage Craft Presentations to the after school program "Magic" for three

afternoons during the school. This created great interest for the students in Burnsville, Micaville and South Toe Schools. The students were then given a tour of the McElroy House and Grounds.

John and Linda Elsegood and Jerri Storie conducted our

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Exhibit, and the artifacts of the Cane River Middle School Dig. The Genealogy Library is also on the first floor and has been used extensively this year. The project was completed the first of June, 2015 with a great celebration of over 100 people in attendance. We honored

AGM AND MOUNT MITCHELL SLIDE SHOW

The Annual General Meeting took place in the Yancey Library on the 18th of October 2015. After "A Year in Review" Powerpoint and voting in of Board members and distribution of the financial figures. We were then pleased to present Jonathan Bennett and David Biddix who gave an excellent presentation of their new book *Mount Mitchell* from the early days of exploring to the present day of reaching its 100 year anniversary. The presentation was followed by a open forum, a book signing and light refreshments.



OLD TIMEY FALL FESTIVAL 2015



The rain didn't dampen the spirits, the music and show went on thanks to Dean Gates, Event Organizer and his committee, the sponsors, the vendors, the musicians, the MC and Sound Man, all the volunteers who assisted and all the folks that braved the weather to attend this years event.

We sold lots of old time lunches even though the weather did not cooperate.

See you all September 24th, 2016..... put it on your calendar.

Sunshine has already been ordered.



ESTATOE (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
Judy Fuqua
Jerri Storie
Bob Wilson

Jake Blood - Past President
Lloyd Bailey - Founding Member and Historian

Office Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday 10am - 4pm

LETTER FROM THERESA COLETTA

Dear Yancey History Association
Board Members,

My sincere thanks to you as a Board for giving to me such a wonderful gift, LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP with our Yancey History Association!

When I founded this association 30+ years ago, little did I ever dream how this "gathering" would grow to become what it is today - a working tool for our county in preserving our past today, and for generations still to come.

In addition to asking my cousin, Mary Louise Wray Conner, to donate funds for the purchase of the McElroy House in memory of her father, Rush T. Wray, there is no doubt that he would have been very pleased and honored with her gift to Yancey County.

No-one will ever replace him as a true living historian and the great teller of so many colorful, historic tales. Our history will be forever indebted to Rush Wray and to his daughter Mary Louise.

And so, as I look back on our past with pride, I salute you, for the steps you have taken through the years, often in difficult financial times, in keeping our Yancey County history "alive & well".

Congratulations to each of you on a job well done!

With appreciation and gratitude,

Theresa Coletta



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Children's Storytelling Camp this summer. The event was held for a week and had 13 students attend.

Milo and Hanna, our builders were very busy this summer with construction of a large storage building that we have needed for some time. The inmates from the Yancey Sheriff's Department helped with many hours of donated service. They also painted the McElroy House.

Again Ron Chandler came to the rescue with trimming the tree in the front yard.

A large event was held in October. A group of local people came together to have an elaborate dinner in the McElroy House to raise money to build the chimney and fireplace on the Proffitt Cousins Cabin.

These Friends of Yancey History Association raised \$9,400 to complete our project.

We have received many dona-

tions this year of historical value to be place in our collections for use in preserving the history of our county. We were given money to purchase a large TV to use in the Hall of Honors room for veterans presentations.

Our garden and yard at the McElroy House has never looked better than this summer thanks to Pat, Linda, and John and the ladies from the Yancey Extension Master Gardeners.

Yancey History Association received a prestigious award by receiving the Business of the Year from the Yancey/Burnsville Chamber of Commerce. This award represents great achievements our organization has made to the progress of our community.

We thank all who have made our year so successful. Let us continue to work to make Yancey History Association an important part of our community.

Elaine Boone, President

YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION GIVES A SALUTE TO CHRIS CARTER

YHA would like to honor and thank Chris Carter for her never-ending volunteer service to our association. Chris joined the association several years ago. Chris is married to Jim Carter. She has volunteered each Wednesday in our office, serves on the Board of Directors as secretary and historian, planned and coordinated the Magic After-School Program, attends all events and is curator of McElroy House and our exhibits in the Bailey Annex.

We salute you Chris for all your service and work. You make us proud to call you our friend. You have moved us to a high level of accomplishments which are recognized by our city and town citizens.



WORLD WAR I AND THE TOE RIVER VALLEY A NEW BOOK BY DR. LLOYD BAILEY AVAILABLE SOON

Beginning in 1914, a form of madness seized the major leaders of Western Europe. This madness was first referred-to as "the great war"...and some persons referred to it optimistically as "the war to end all wars"...believing that it would, despite the cost, result in a lasting peace.

When it was over, five years later, an estimated 16 million soldiers and civilians were dead. Add to that, 20 million more that had been wounded...and the result is an estimated total of more than 36 million casualties! That is roughly the total present population of all of VA, NC, SC, GA, and part of Ala.

More American troops died in one period of less than six months than were lost in an entire decade of fighting in Vietnam (1964-1973).

The struggle included the

introduction of trench warfare, tanks, poison gas, aircraft (including dirigibles), flame-throwers, and cannons with

unheard-of power. Entire villages and small towns were reduced to rubble.

A hill of human remains gathered up after the Battle of Verdun.

As for the United States, some 4 million soldiers were involved, leading to an estimated 276,000 deaths from wounds and disease.

The State of North Carolina contributed more than 86,000 troops. 629 were killed,

3,859 were wounded (204 of whom later died), and 1,542 perished from disease.

In the Toe River Valley, more than 900 were



Gas Masks

summoned by the first (and by far the largest) of three drafts. Of these, perhaps some 700 were actually induced. From Avery County, at least 6 were killed in action, 2 died of wounds, and disease claimed 3. From Yancey, at least 18 lost their lives.

One of the lists of soldiers is stitched into a quilt done by Dr. Burdett Robertson's wife, here in Burnsville. It took her four years and got national publicity through a newspaper column entitled "Strange as it seems."

Mrs. Robertson's quilt is now in the North Carolina State Archives.

The Book which is 800 pages will be available soon. Pre-orders will be available through the YHA in the next issue.



A hill of human remains



Trenches



SOME OF THE RECENT DONATIONS AND GIFTS TO THE YANCEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Jimmy Young and Mary Ellis Donated TV for Veterans Hall of Fame
Yancey History Association would like to thank Jimmy Young and Mary Ellis for a gift of money to purchase a TV to display the history and photographs of Yancey Veterans on digital format in our Hall of Fame for all who have served from our area.

Betsy Stiles

Multi-speed Record player with CD and tape. This item will be displayed and used for the upcoming "Our Musical Heritage" exhibition in July 2016.



John and Linda Elsegood

Donation of two antique Nursing Chairs, two antique washboards and Church Handkerchief Dolls.

Dr Lloyd Bailey

Donation of a Flax Spinning Wheel which belonged to the Moores



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 ESTA-TOEE
- 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 _____

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.

A YEAR IN REVIEW - IN PICTURES



GOLD & SILVER SPONSORS

Hal and Diane Coleman
Threasa Colletta
Frances Colletta
David and Elaine Boone
Warren and Larissa Bare
Bill Baker
Ron Chandler
Altec Industries
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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

OLD TIMEY DAYS SPONSORS

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Buchannan and Young (Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep)
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Garden Deli - Snap Dragon
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Robertson Design and Sign
Sam's Oil
United Community Bank
Wells Fargo Bank
Ye Old Country Store
Food Voucher sponsors:
Hardees, Pizza Hut, Pig and Grits,
McDonalds and Burger King

EVENTS FOR 2016*

MARCH 19 - SCOTTS/IRISH TEA

APRIL 9 - OPENING CEREMONY

APRIL - JUNE 28 - MOUNT MITCHELL EXHIBITION (CONTINUED)

MAY - ANTIQUES APPRAISAL FAIR (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26 - PICKIN ON THE PORCH

JUNE 28 - JULY 25 - HISTORY OF YANCEY COUNTY CINEMA

JULY - "THEN I'LL COME BACK TO YOU" SILENT FILM EXHIBITION (TBA)

JULY 1 - SEPT 30 - "OUR MUSICAL HERITAGE" EXHIBITION

JULY 9 - VETERANS BBQ

JULY - CHILDREN'S STORYTELLING CAMP (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28 - PICKIN ON THE PORCH

SEPTEMBER 24 - OLD TIMEY FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 29 - GHOST STORY TOUR

NOV 6 - ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

DEC 9 - TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TOUR

** Subject to change without notice*

MEMBERS CORNER

We are wanting to make the Quarterly Newsletter a lot more enjoyable for all of it's readers.

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 would give 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 hear your comments on this idea.

Some of you had written to me about submitting articles but unfortunately I had a problem and lost some emails.

Please go ahead and re-submit articles with pictures and they will be published in one of our editions in 2016.

Thank you

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

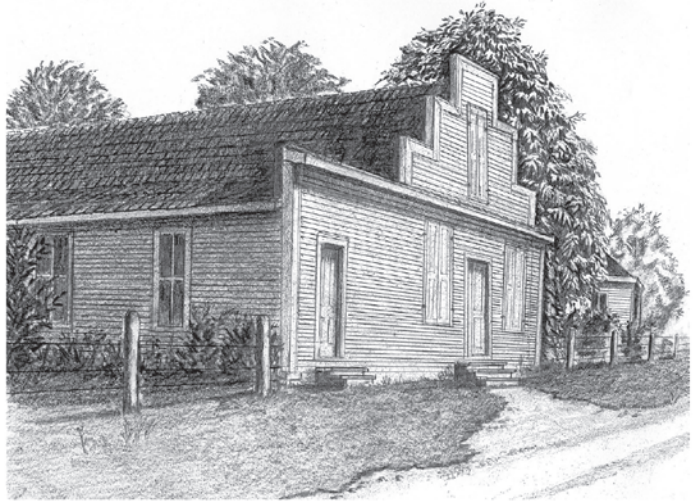
EARLY MOVIES IN YANCEY COUNTY

The Yancey Theatre first opened it's doors in August of 1939. Before the arrival of the new theatre anyone in the county wishing to see the latest films would have to journey to Asheville or Spruce Pine. There were however other avenues for local residents to attend movies. The owner of the Theatre in Spruce Pine traveled the county showing second run films in makeshift theatres. The courthouse in Burnsville and a building in Micaville were two of these locations. However the most unique and colorful was the one in Pensacola.

In the beginning, around 1936, movies were shown in the Pensacola school auditorium. Mr. Dawson Briggs, who was principal at the time, soon became tired of driving from his home in Burnsville to Pensacola to open the school, declared that the school would no longer be available. The old Tarp Anglin store was standing vacant at the time and became the new location for the theatre. There were no seats in the building but there were lots of nail kegs. Benches were constructed by nailing a board on top of three nail kegs. With several rows of these rustic benches in place the "Nail Keg Theatre", as it became known, was ready to open.

With the coming of World War II the young men were called into service while the older men and their families moved away to work in defense plants. As a result attendance dwindled and the "Nail Keg" after seven years closed for good in 1943. The old building is gone now but for those who paid their 15 and 25 cents there are memories that will never fade and to them there will always be a "Nail Keg Theatre".

Bob Wilson



The Nail Keg Theatre



ESTATOOE

Quarterly Newsletter

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