

'Black Mountain Boys'

(Cont'd from page 1)
ing one, and in sharp political divisions between counties which would seem otherwise to have common causes, rather than differences. To this day, Yancey County is predominantly Democratic, while Mitchell County's politics are Republican.

List of the volunteers known as "The Black Mountain Boys" were as follows:

J. S. McElroy, Captain, May 1, 1861;
A. J. Roberts--1st Lieutenant
R. B. Johnson--2nd Lieutenant
S. A. Byrd--3rd Lieutenant

C. F. Young--1st Sergeant
J. H. Ray--2nd Sergeant
W. J. Edney--3rd Sergeant
W. J. Byrd--4th Sergeant
James Thomson--1st Corporal
Wilson Hensley--2nd Corporal
N. A. Thomas--3rd Corporal
H. L. Hensley--4th Corporal

PRIVATES

Samuel Austin
Nathaniel Allen
R. S. Allen
J. S. Allen
Henry Allen
L. N. Byrd
Samuel Boone
James Boone
J. J. Boone
John A. Boone
Jerry Boone
S. B. Banks
Jonathan Banks
Allen Bryant
James Bryant
David Brinkley
F. A. Baker
E. M. Burleson
Alfred Buchanan
R. C. Deyton
J. H. Dellinger
J. C. Edge
C. R. Edwards
James Edwards
C. L. Fortner
W. A. Fox
J. P. Horton
J. M. Honeycutt
Elisha Honeycutt
E. M. Honeycutt
A. J. Hamilton
A. R. Hensley
L. Z. Hall
J. R. Hall
William Hill
J. W. Higgins
Wilson Hawkins
J. L. Hyatt
Peter Ledford
Alex McCallister
J. D. Young
Jessie Young
Thomas Edge
Robert Boone
E. Banks
Jason Carraway
John Collins
S. B. Clites
John Gouge
C. M. Hensley

S. R. Hensley
Lewis Riddle
W. B. Robertson
S. S. Robertson
F. L. Randolph
W. J. Thomas
C. Young
W. S. Young
S. G. Woody
J. M. Hall
David Robertson
Jonathan Horton
P. V. Honeycutt
W. M. Moore
James Bryant
W. A. McClellan
C. Mechinson
A. L. McPeters
John McIntosh
S. J. Maney
S. L. Price
Elisha Randolph
Ansel Randolph
Samuel Randolph
Jacob Robinson
N. B. Ray
J. L. Ray
Ervin Ray
Monteville Ray
S. P. Ray
John Ray
J. W. Roland
C. M. Rector
H. C. A. Silver
J. W. Silver
W. A. Silver
E. M. Shepherd
Nathan Thomas
John Turbyfill
Logan Thompson
William Tipton
Seal Tipton
J. W. Wilson
R. D. Wilson
N. M. Wilson
S. F. Wilson
Henry Wiggins
J. W. Wheeler
T. H. Young

Pioneers Settled

(Cont'd from page 1)
Agriculture was the main occupation of the people and they were self-sufficient in their isolated homes and communities. Early settlers produced what they consumed, and lacking nearby markets, they had plenty to consume and to share with friends and neighbors.

Up until the Civil War and beyond, almost the only manufacturing was done in the home. The farmer often tanned his own leather, made his own shoes and hats for the family, and such articles as harnesses and saddles. The standard of living varied from family to family, depending largely on its own skill and ingenuity.

The mountain people made their handicraft articles, sang their ballads and verbally passed them from generation to generation. The mountain culture had its unique characteristics. Today only traces of that culture remain alive in the crafts and stories and songs of the old timers who have in them the blood and spirit of ancestors who tackled the rugged Appalachian Mountains and made a new life for themselves.



Yancey Country Store Building Was A Boarding House For Many Years

1833 Senate Act Establishes Yancey

(The following is part of an article which appeared in the Asheville Citizen-Times, December 10, 1933 and was written by a Yancey County resident, Annie Wray--now Annie Wray Bennett)

Burnsville, December 9--

One hundred years ago today the North Carolina Senate passed an act establishing Yancey county. The act of the General Assembly followed the introduction by a Mr. Britton, member of the General Assembly from Burke county, of a bill which was entitled: "A bill to be entitled an act to erect a new county by the name of Yancey."

The measure was introduced in the lower house of the General Assembly on November 25, 1833 and was continued until December 7, when it was passed by the house without a recorded vote. The bill was presented to the senate on Monday, December 9, 1833, when it passed that body by the close vote of 33 to 28.

The county, as formed by the legislature, contained 298

square miles. It was formed from parts of Burke and Buncombe counties and the location of the old Burke and Buncombe lines has been the subject of many land suits tried in the early history of the county.

It was largely through the efforts of "Yellow Jacket" John Bailey that Yancey county was established. Bartlett Yancey and Otway Burns, friends of John Bailey, were members of the legislature, one in the house and the other in the senate. Bailey rode horseback to Raleigh, a distance of 300 miles, to petition these lawmakers to urge the General Assembly to form a county from parts of Buncombe and Burke.

The county was named for Bartlett Yancey, speaker of the house, from Caswell County and for many years a member of Congress. In one of his races for Congress he received every vote in his native county except one. Yancey was one of the pioneer advocates of a public school system in North Carolina. He was a leading statesman in his time, serving in the State legislature eight

Baker House Becomes Country Store

The Yancey County Country Store, on the town square between the Yancey Journal building and the Northwestern Bank, across from the famous NuWray Inn was, according to some of the old timers, built around 1900, probably by John Evans, and was operated as a boarding house by Bob Evans in 1902.

Among other owners were Mack Baker, and the building was known as the Baker House Hotel, and later on Matt Byrd.

The first two residences in Yancey County to have running water, which was installed by the late Judge J. Bis Ray, were the residence occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Westall just be-

hind the Country Store facing Green Mountain St., and the Country Store building. Mrs. Westall is the daughter of Judge Ray.

Through the years, the building gradually deteriorated until Captain and Mrs. George Downing purchased it in 1968 for its present use.

There are eight fireplaces, as each room had its own, and many stove pipe holes where stoves took the place of fireplaces.

The Downings say that many people come into the Country Store and recall living in the old boarding house, some of them newlyweds who stayed for a year or more, and some just travelers.

When the Downings purchased the property the area which is now the bank parking lot was a field, and Troy's Variety Store was in the Old Briggs Building which stood on the corner where the Northwestern Bank now stands.

The Country Store is filled with objects that recall bygone days, including kinds of cooking utensils used long ago, old timey calico, quilts made by local ladies, homemade jams and jellies and old fashion

"Ground before your eyes" Peanut Butter. Cheeses from all over the world are kept in a huge old ice box which has been converted to electricity, and the stone ground whole grain flours are kept in the old walk-in ice box which came from the old art school here in Burnsville.

Besides being located in a historic old building, the Country Store contributes to history with one of the largest collections on the state of North Carolina books on its shelves, including history novels, short stories and books on flowers and birds.

A Series Of "Firsts"

(Cont'd from page 1)
roduced in 1913 by Representative Charles Hutchins and \$150,000 in bonds were issued for road construction in the county. The first road commissioners were W. B. Wray, chairman; J. E. Evans and Jacob Hughes.

The first bank was organized in 1905. Until that time, all banking business was carried on in Asheville, a distance which required two days travel.

Much progress has been made in the county during its century of existence. Most of this progress is probably due to the building program which has been carried on by the State Highway Commission.

At the beginning of the war Between the States, Yancey was one of the most populated counties in the western part of the state. At that time, it consisted of what is now Mitchell, Avery, and a part of Madison County.

In 1851 Madison county was taken from Yancey and in 1861 Mitchell County was formed from a part of this county.

Yancey county is now bounded on the west by Madison, on the southwest by Buncombe, on the south by McDowell, on the east by Mitchell county, and on the north by the State of Tennessee. The county is shaped like a basket and is "held" by Bald mountain, the Black Mountains, and the Blue Ridge.

Daniel Boone VI Became Legend In His Own Time

Like his great-great-great grandfather with his wilderness-paving exploits, Daniel Boone VI also became a legend in his own time. Until Boone died in 1970 at the age of 68, he operated a unique wrought-iron forge in Burnsville.

The Boones have been connected with iron-making since the original Daniel Boone was a wagoner. Blacksmith during the days of the French and Indian War. Since the time that Boone settled for a while in what is now Boone, N.C., many of his descendants have also lived in Western North Carolina and have followed his trade.

equipment to turn out wrought-iron pieces.

"New ways are quick," he once said, "But old fashioned ways are the best." His work proved his philosophy. Every piece of his hand-finished wrought-iron was worthy to be marked "wrought-iron by Daniel Boone" before it left the forge.

Like other manufacturers during World War II, Boone turned to work connected with the war. Part of his job was to repair machinery for local mining industry, but his major war project was making combat knives for soldiers.

When the restoration project for colonial Williamsburg needed ornamental ironwork for the 18th century buildings, project leaders called on the skill and craftsmanship of Daniel Boone VI.

One of his more interesting projects was done as a hobby. Boone built a working scale model of a Union Pacific locomotive complete with a fire box that could be fired to run on its own power.

Daniel Boone VI wore the name of his famous ancestor with dignity and pride, and his own legacy like that of his forebear will be remembered for many years to come.



Daniel Boone VI

First School Is Founded

(The following is part of an article which appeared in the Asheville Citizen-Times, December 10, 1933 and was written by a Yancey County resident, Annie Wray--now Annie Wray Bennett)

Burnsville, December 9--

The first school, the Burnsville academy, was established in 1852 by Stevens C. Adams, who came from Tennessee. He served as head of the school for four or five years. At his death he was succeeded by John A. Ammons, who served until the War Between the States. The school was closed for two or three years during the war. Ammons was followed by Prof. Clayton Bowman, George Wilson, and R. Don Wilson. Immediately after the war Merri Lewis served as the principal.

During the remaining time the academy was operated the following men served as principals: John Simley, J. M. Gudger, Dr. William Austin, J. E. Rhein, J. J. Britt, John McEwin, Professor McCracken, and E. E. Hawkins. The academy was considered the best school in Western North Carolina and students from adjoining counties and Tennessee attended it.

The first public school teachers in the county were elected by popular vote and were paid a salary of \$16 dollars per month. The public school term was two months a year.



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