

Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc.

Preserving Alleghany's Heritage Since 1979



President Roy Hunt
Vice-President J.M. Sturgill
Secretary Irene R. Wagner
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This gown was worn by Clyde Adella Fields at her graduation from the Normal and Industrial School in Greensboro (now UNCG) in 1912.

Clyde was born May 3, 1891 and "was only the fourth woman in the state to hold the position of County Superintendent (of Schools) and the first... to hold that position in Alleghany County.

"She served at a time when there were poor roads, no phones, no federal funds and few local funds. She cleaned her own office, carried coal and built her own fires."

Burr Bost in Alleghany County Heritage p.216

Fashions From the Past

Spring Exhibit at the Museum

The Alleghany Historical Museum is featuring fashion this quarter- not the *latest* fads but styles from past eras. Dresses, men's wear, underwear, hats, gloves and accessories are all on display through the end of March. Come see how your ancestors dressed for daily life and dressed up for special occasions.



We are learning, with this exhibit, that we could really use mannequins, dress dummies and wig stands for clothing displays. If you've got any stashed away in your attic, you'd lend or donate, contact Pauline Jolly at the museum, 372-2115. She can give them a new career in modeling.

Tiger Cubs Devour Alleghany Historical Museum

Anyone who says young people don't care about the past should come by when we have a group of kids visit. Local Tiger Cubs (and their families- seventeen in all) toured the museum Thursday evening, January 19th, for their meeting. I think I can safely say that no adult has looked at as many items or asked as many questions as those boys asked.

The scouts were interested in the treadle sewing machine, the hickory brooms and school desks but the highlight of the evening was the corn-sheller demonstration.

Not knowing what to expect, a boy gingerly fed the first ear while another cranked the ancient handle. Golden corn showered into the box, an empty cob plopped onto the floor and those kids were ecstatic! (I thought it was pretty neat, myself.)



Clyde Fields

When we ran out of corn, we re-ran the empty cobs. They couldn't have been happier with fireworks. After all, the group thanked us and promised to come back when the exhibit changes.

If you have time or stories to share, contact Pauline Jolly or Margaret Crouse at the museum to volunteer.

From the President

Another year has come to an end. Things have been going very well for the Historical Society and the Museum.

The Historical Society has been blessed this year with great speakers at each of the meetings. I would like to thank each of our guest speakers and all of the hard work that they put into each presentation. Our attendance has grown for the meetings. Folks want to hear what each of the speakers have to say. Very interesting!

The Museum is growing with leaps and bounds. Pauline Jolly and the museum committee have done a very good job in each of the exhibits. The attendance has grown there also. I cannot say thank you enough for what you do.

Don't forget your dues are due January of each year!

Roy Hunt

AHGS President

Genealogy Detective

Family History Right Out of the Wild West

I've been researching a line for my Grandma - she's already in the DAR and we've found that a second ancestor of ours, Samuel Stow Savage, Sr., was in the Revolutionary War. But to confirm this second revolutionary ancestor, we need to prove that he really is my 6th-great-grandfather. In researching my Savage roots, I recently made an interesting discovery.

Allen Matthew Savage (my third great-grandfather) married Salinda Jane Kinzie (my third great-grandmother). All we knew about them was that Allen was a "railroad man out west" who moved around a lot, and Salinda was from Wisconsin, born in the 1850s. She was descended from the Kinzie family that were early settlers of Chicago. The family lore was that, after having three children, Allen and Salinda had gotten divorced, and later in the early 1900s, she became one of the Oklahoma "Sooners."



Seated: Andrew N. Byers (Salinda's third and last husband) with his son Jacob F. Byers

So, Using my genealogical expertise, I soon found a Jacob Byers on RootsWeb®, with the correct number and names of children. His wife was listed as Bessie Byers, but with an unknown maiden name. There were three trees online that listed pretty much the same information. But in one tree, beside Bessie's name, there was a "Post'em." I didn't know what that was, but I clicked it. Bessie's whole name, birth and death dates, and locations were given- along with the person who added it - Louise - and Louise's email address. I emailed Louise, who turned out to be the step-daughter of Bessie's son.

In Oklahoma, she married a man (a Mr. Byers) who had "wanted her for her land," and she died in 1904 under suspicious circumstances-poisoning or something. The two sons she had with Allen were sure Old Man Byers had killed her. They moved to Missouri, and never contacted their sister, Bessie, again. Bessie, you see, also married a Byers - Jacob. And those were the details. And the whole thing seemed, to me, an exaggeration of what was probably a much simpler story.

So, Using my genealogical expertise, I

My new step-cousin lives in Oklahoma, and was very interested my (our) family legend, which she had never heard. Her step-father's personal papers included copies of a 1904 title to land in the name of Andrew and Linnie Byers, a 1904 divorce abstract between Linnie and Andrew N. Byers, and another land title, in the name of Andrew Byers, widower, from 1905.

Andrew N. Byers was the father of Jacob Byers, Bessie's husband. Bessie and Jacob married March 4, 1902 and exactly one week later, on March 11, Salinda married Andrew-"Old Man" Byers. That's right-mother and daughter married father and son just a week apart. Keep reading- it gets better.

Last month Step-cousin Louise took a research trip to Oklahoma City with her husband where they discovered several old newspaper articles concerning the end of Salinda and Old Man Byers' life together. On December 27, 1904, Andrew Byers shot and killed Salinda! He said it was in "self-defense," and also that "she must have shot herself," and that he "didn't know she was shot at all." His story was strange, (to say the least) and changed over time. Eventually, officials determined that because of the angles, the shooting couldn't have been self-inflicted.

A. N. Byers was convicted for the murder of Salinda. Later he appealed the judgment, but lost the appeal, and ultimately, he was sent to prison for 15 years. As I said, Salinda's two sons, my great-great grandfather Edward and his brother, Uncle Cleve, went to Missouri and Bessie and Jacob stayed together and raised their family in Oklahoma. (I'm glad I wasn't around to hear their married quarrels.)

It's a strange story, but we might never have found the truth if I didn't see and click that "Post'em" button on RootsWeb® and if Louise wasn't so helpful. (She actually sent me the tintype photo (above) of Salinda and her children! No one in our family had ever seen her photograph.)

We might still need to try to find an official death certificate, for the DAR certification, but now we know the exact date, place, and what *really* happened to my G-G-G-Grandma Salinda Kinzie.



Salinda Kinzie Savage with first husband (my G-G-G-Grandfather, Allen M. Savage & daughters, Linnie, (right) b. 1876 (who we didn't know about) and Bessie, b. 1877. Taken at Plattsmouth Nebraska in 1897.

Claire N. Halsey

Sparta High School Baseball Team Has Good Season



The Sparta High baseball team finished the season with four victories and two losses. They won two games over Elkin, one from Fries and one from Galax and lost one to Fries and Galax. Reading from left to right, they are, front row—R. D. Gentry, Jr., James Poole, Dale Holloway, Eugene Irwin, Billy Sexton, Jimmy Reeves; second row—Coach C. H. Landreth, Wayne Carpenter, Rex Richardson, Lef Hinch, Wade Reeves, Carl Gentry, Carol Edwards, J. M. Sturgill, James Estep and Boyden Atwood. (Staff Photo)

Reprinted by permission of *The Alleghany News*

Newspaper coverage of Sparta HS Baseball Team, submitted by J.M. Sturgill. Mr. Sturgill is shown in the photo at right, standing, wearing the white t-shirt and more than a little bit of attitude.

Society's Recent Programs

The Alleghany Historical - Genealogical Society meets the 4th Sunday of each month at the Alleghany Library at 2:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public.

In September, educator and author, Dr. Suzanne Mellow-Irwin, spoke to us about her career and life at Stratford Oaks Farm. The farm and its animals are featured in her children's book series. The books are illustrated by Zach Hamm, a young man diagnosed with autism at the age of 4.

In October, our guest speaker was Sparta businessman, D.W. Miles who talked about Alleghany commerce throughout the years. Mr. Miles and his wife Barbara, cofounded the Miles Job Opportunity Base (JOB) Fund in 2008 "to assist people in developing a vocational trade for self-employment."

In January (we don't meet in December), we were fortunate to host Charity Gwyn, a community leader and AHGS member who talked about her family, early life,

Note

school segregation, her challenges and triumphs.

Charity has volunteered for many organizations over the years, including the Rescue Squad and has served 35 years on Blue Ridge Electric's Board. She currently works for Grandview Funeral Home.

The TV committee has finished, and is currently airing, an interview with Pauline Meals on *Alleghany Memories*. Pauline is a retired, first-grade teacher whose roots are in Alleghany, but who was born in Colorado. She and her family moved "home" to the Roaring Gap area when she was a teenager. The shows feature informal conversations and are very interesting.

We appreciate each of these folks and their lives of service to our community.

If you have ideas for future speakers, contact AHGS president, Roy Hunt, at 336-200-3555. And if you're interested in hearing about local history and meeting history-makers like these, we invite you to attend.



THE CHALICE AND THE COVENANT
MARK SEXTON

Elroy Finley and Ryan Lane recently donated to the Society a copy of *The Chalice and the Covenant, a History of the New Covenant Baptist Association 1868-1973*, by Mark Sexton. The book, written in 1976, portrays "...the heroic history of an association of Negro Baptist churches located in the heart of Appalachia, *The Chalice and the Covenant* tells the story of a unique and little known scene in the vast panorama of American history."

White Plains Baptist Church has copies available for just \$5. Contact Ryan Lane at 336-200-2426.

Grandma's Hands

Author Unknown

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her, she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if she was okay.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was okay. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking, she said in a clear strong voice. I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were okay, I explained to her.

Have you ever looked at your hands she asked. I mean really looked at your hands?

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making. Grandma smiled and related this story:

Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all of my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer.

They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They dried the

tears of my children and caressed the love of my life. They wiped my tears when my husband went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold our newborn daughter.

Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote the letters home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse. They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand.

They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when He leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ.

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home.

When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband I thank grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.



Book Notes

AHGS member, Gary Felts, gave us reports on two area historical books at our October 2011 meeting.

Volume IV of *A New Geography of North Carolina*, by Bill Sharp, published in 1965. It contains the histories of 28 counties, including Alleghany. The book covers the creation of the county in 1859, the meaning of the county's name, geography, agriculture, industry, the Doughton family, Glade Valley School, vacationing and fishing, Roaring Gap, Sparta, old mines, the centennial in 1959, as well as many other topics. A number of the facts and photos from this book were used in the recent Agriculture exhibit at the Alleghany Historical Museum. Mr. Felts stated that this was the best history of Alleghany County he had found. Since Alleghany County was formed from Ashe County, you should also read about that county in another volume of this set. The books are in the genealogy section of the Alleghany County Public Library. These are reference books and ordinarily should be read in the library; however, if you want to take one home to read, get permission from the librarian.

1799: North Carolina's Northwest Frontier, by Rufus Myers, 2nd. edition, published in 2005. This

copy was signed by the author and donated to AHGS by Mildred Torney. The "1799" in the title refers to the year Ashe County was broken off from Wilkes County. This book covers events in the U. S. and Europe, both before and after 1799, that affected life in this region. There is much information about the brief "State of Franklin" that included several nearby North Carolina counties, as well as some counties in Tennessee and Virginia. It also included part of present-day Alleghany County. It applied several times for admission to the United States but was turned down. On page six it mentions some petroglyphs carved on rocks in Piney Creek. These are writings or drawings that may have been done by ancient explorers in this area. They have been studied by Jeff Jolly and others. Jeff is the son of Pauline Jolly, an AHGS member. This brings up one drawback of this book - it does not have an index. You would have to read every page to see if any of your ancestors settled here. Still, the book collects a lot of interesting information about the region that you won't find anywhere else in one place. One copy of this book is in the genealogy section of the library and another at the Alleghany Historical Museum. Again, check with the librarian if you want permission to take the copy at the library home to read.

Gary Felts



Evaline Cox Miller
b. 1-27-1844 d. 12-7-1942

June Zimmerman submitted these photos of her Mother, Willie Miller Cox, (*far right*) with June's grandparents, James Edwin and Maude Weaver Miller, all dressed up for the Alleghany Centennial Celebration.

At left, is her Great-Grandmother, Evaline Cox Miller. The dress Mrs. Miller is wearing in the photo is now on display in the museum.



James Edwin Miller with his wife, Maude Weaver Miller, and daughter, Willie Miller Cox in 1959

If you have items to loan or donate, stories to tell, photos to display or add to the database, or if you just want to volunteer, contact us at info@ahgs.org. The Museum Committee would love to hear from you. Got an idea for a display? Give us a call!

Contact Pauline Jolly at (336) 363-2282, leave a message at 336-372-2115 or email us at info@ahgs.org.

If you've been thinking about giving this year, please consider the Historical Society.

The Alleghany Historical - Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so all contributions are tax deductible.

If you'd like to volunteer or contribute to the Alleghany Historical Museum, contact us at:

Alleghany Historical - Genealogical Society
336-372-2115, P.O. Box 817, Sparta, NC 28675
info@ahgs.org
www.ahgs.org

Find all our Books online at: www.spartastore.com



Membership Form

Please enroll me as a member of the Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc. in the classification below:

New Renewal

Individual \$10.00 annually

Business, Institutional or professional \$20.00 annually

Sustaining \$ 50.00 annually

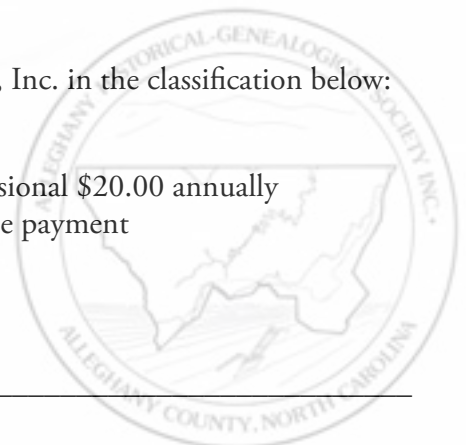
LIFE MEMBER \$100.00 in one payment

Enclosed is a check or money order for membership.

Please send membership card to:

Name- _____

Address- _____



Inquiries

Inquiries are printed here and posted online at ahgs.org. If you are looking for information, you can mail your question to P.O. Box 817 or email info@ahgs.org. Also, if you have answers or information for these people, contact them!



Information re/Grandfather Wm. Green Sheppard who owned the old Stratford store around 1900. **Lorell Thompson**, 5505 E. McLellan Rd., Unit #36, Mesa, AZ 85205, 480-981-2332, Best Time to Call: 8a - 12n, lorallan@cox.net



Do you know of anyone from the Alice Spicer, b. Oct 4, 1864 (family) who married Joseph Montana Spicer, who knows their family history. Years ago we were communication with Kenneth B Spicer but he passed away. **Patty Conroy**, 20171 Leroy Drive, Castro Valley, CA 94546, 510-828-1082, Best Time to Call: 8a - 12n, yornoctap@yahoo.com



I am researching the family of Eliza Craft & Felix Monroe Ham. I would like to know where they are buried. In 1920 they lived in Cherry Lane, NC. Thank you! **Beth Manchester**, 22 Dryden Road, New Castle, DE 19720-2315, 302-322-1143, Best Time to Call: 5p - 9p, Beth_Manchester@comcast.net



I am a descendant of Norman Shaw, born about 1810, don't know where he was born - supposed to have married a Sentha Riggs. [The story goes that 3 brothers came to America from Scotland - don't know their names or when they came or if Norman was one of them or a son of one]. Norman and Sentha had 4 children that I know of: Sarah Jane Shaw married Jesse Draper, Susan Maria Shaw, married William P. Harman, John Alexander Shaw, married Nancy Jane Waggoner and Lewis Shaw, married Mary Victoria Chappel. John Alexander and Nancy Jane Shaw had a son named Richard Franklin Shaw who married Mary Louise Craft. Richard Franklin Shaw and Mary Louise Craft were my grandparents and they lived in Alleghany County, North Carolina all of their married life. If there is anyone that knows anything about Norman Shaw I would appreciate any information that you can give me. Thanks so much, **Wynnogene Shaw Day**, 110 Reece Way, Savannah, GA 31419, 912-659-0727 - E-mail: mdpsl1@yahoo.com

I am looking for information on David Shelton Hall and his family. I am in the direct lineage and enjoy this family very much. **Mrs. Kirkpatrick**, Oregon, 503-662-4292, Best Time to Call: 8a - 12n, E-mail: thenewspiceroute@gmail.com




I'm looking for information on James (or Jim) Collins. He graduated in Sparta around 1958 - 1960. **Larry D. Woolard**, larry.woolard@illinois.gov



Husband was given a copy of a book about the Miller family tree some years ago. The book got damaged during a flood about 10 years ago and he would love to have another copy. Where do I find one? He is a direct descendant from John Jackson Miller. Please let me know. It would be a nice Christmas gift for him this year. **Myrtle Miller**, Box 61884, N Charleston, SC 29419, 843-744-8173, Best Time to Call: 5p - 9p, myrml56@gmail.com



Robert Norman is looking for *Carpenter Family Roots* by Nanalie C. Wrenn. Wanda Carpenter Pardue wrote a number of articles for Alleghany County Heritage and has shared some pages of *Carpenter Family Roots* with him. Is the book available? His contact information is: **Robert Norman**, 7389 Richmond Highway, Appomattox, VA 24522, 434-664-8212 

Please Note!

- Membership dues were due at the end of January! Please get them in if you've not already done so.
- The Museum will be automatically closed when Alleghany County Schools are closed.
- If you have artist easels, table-top display easels, plate hangers, dress dummies, mannequins or wig stands to loan or donate, call the museum at 1-336-372-2115.
- Please bring donations or loan items during museum hours- Thursday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

If you have information, photos or donations for our upcoming exhibit on Alleghany Churches, contact the Museum at (336) 372-2115 (If unanswered, leave a message) or email us at: info@ahgs.org

What's ~~New?~~ Old

*Stylized Flower
Brooch and Earring set
from Pauline Jolly.*



*Convertible Apron/Bonnet
made by Lucy Roe's mother,
Vesta Shepherd Collins.*



*Homemade
shirt and
trousers from
Alex Woodruff
estate.*



*Hat that belonged to
Floyd Crouse and
ruched (or gathered)
gloves and hat of Sarah
Ellen Gambill Crouse.*



*Enamel mesh purse
made by
Whiting & Davis.*



*Dress made by Virginia
Osborne Setzer for her first
granddaughter, Andora,
with shoes, photo, hospital
bracelet and lock of hair.*



This photo of Turkey Knob School around 1905 was (originally) submitted to the Allegheny News by Dave Sturgill.

According to Mr. Sturgill, it was the first school of higher education, meaning it offered a high school education, in Allegheny County. Such schools were called academies. The building was located near the recently reopened Kennedy Store in Turkey Knob community.

Dave's father, David Bruce Sturgill, is fifth from the left in the first standing row.

Cora Alice Halsey is the first standing woman to the right of the tree. Bruce Hash is standing behind Cora Alice Halsey. Anyone who can identify any other people in this photo is asked to call the museum at 336-372-2115.



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Remembering Allegheny for Over Thirty Years