

Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc.

Preserving Alleghany's Heritage Since 1979



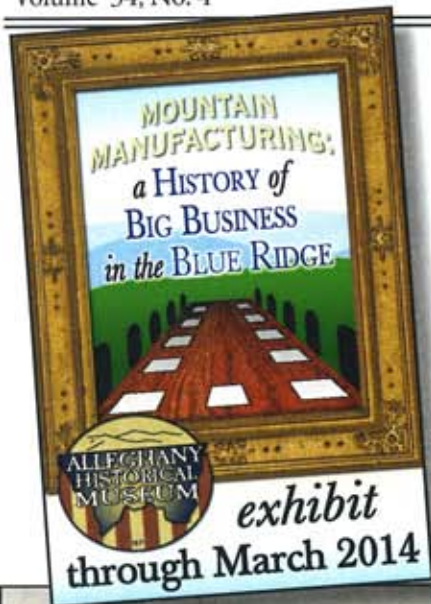
President. Margaret Crouse
 Vice-President J.M. Sturgill
 Secretary. Irene R. Wagner
 Treasurer. Lucy Roe



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Sparta Pipes was founded in 1943 as D&P Pipe Works and employed 10 people. They located here during the war because traditional European sources for pipe bowl wood were not available. The *burls* (the growths between the root and the trunk) of Mountain Laurel and Rhododendrons, abundant along the Blue Ridge, make excellent pipe bowls. In 1954 Sparta Pipes bought the trade name Dr. Grabow Pre-Smoked Pipes and became the world's largest selling brand and at one time employed approximately 350 people. *Photo courtesy of Rick Wooten - International Pipes & Accessories*



J.M. Sturgill- modeling a pair of slacks made for "Big Jim" Scott in 1950's. Mr. Scott said they were, "the only pair of pants he had ever owned that really fit him."

The pattern was made by Mr. Sturgill and the pants were made up at the Sparta Troutman Plant #2.

Jim's sister, Betty Neaves, was also working at Plant #2 during this time. *For more on Mr. Scott, see page 4.*



We are happy to announce Virginia Setzer's family has graciously donated her extraordinary thimble collection to the Alleghany Historical Museum. See page 3 for more about Mrs. Setzer.

From the President

Seasons Greetings!

I hope that each of you have a Merry Christmas and that your holidays are filled with the true spirit of Christmas. Sometimes we get so caught up in the excitement of buying gifts (trying to get the best bargains advertised everywhere) and attending the various activities occurring during this time frame that we lose some of the real joy of our Savior's birth and time spent with family and friends.

Thank all of you who have worked on our museum exhibit on industry in our county or loaned items for the exhibits. We are still waiting on some items to be brought in to finish setting up the exhibits. Please call the museum if you have items made in our factories. They can be brought in on Thursday, Friday or Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ☎ 372-2115.

We are still looking for volunteers for the museum. We would also love to have you join our Allegheny Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc. if you are not already a member.


Have a Happy New Year!

Margaret Crouse
President, AHGS, Inc.,

2013 Awards from North Carolina Society of Historians

Saturday, October 19, the North Carolina Society of Historians held its annual awards banquet in Mooresville, NC. AHGS and others in our community received awards for the following historical projects:

- *The AHGS Newsletter*, for a 5th consecutive year.
- *Allegheny Memories*, 4 episodes in conjunction with the Walter Frank Osborne, Jr. Detachment 1298 Marine Corps League- interviews with Bobby Irwin, J.T. Pardue, Bill Sebastian and Charles Pugh. *Please see page 5 for more information on the Marine Corps League and its namesake.*
- *Allegheny Memories*, 5 episodes- interviews with the New Haven Quilters, Pauline Meals, Jeanette Anders, and Walter Bell, and a special presentation on the history of Allegheny CARES.
- *Visions of Ashe*, produced by Kelley St. Germain for Skybest Television (a television series on Ashe County history).
- *Imaging Specialists' Trip to the Museum*, produced by Imaging Specialists, Inc. (showcases items loaned to the Allegheny Historical Museum in a series developed for Allegheny Community Television).
- *The Southern Tribune*, by Hannah Tucker (newsletter for General J.E.B. Stuart, Sons of the Confederate Veterans Camp, #1598).
- *Four Brothers in Gray*, by Mary Alice Hancock, published by Imaging Specialists and Star Route Books (the story of Sparta Mayor, John Miller's, great-grandfather, Alfred Proffit, and his 3 brothers in the Civil War).
- *The Stratford Oaks Tales, The Tale of Clyde*, by Suzanne Mellow Irwin and illustrated by Zach Hamm, published by Imaging Specialists, Inc.

Thank you to the NC Society Historians and its president, Elizabeth Sherrill. Their support and encouragement inspires us to continually try to improve. We are proud to be a part of the North Carolina history preservation community. 

P. H. Hanes Knitting Company



Employees of the P.H. Hanes Knitting Company, Sparta Plant, in an undated photo.

In 1900. Pleasant Henderson Hanes and his brother, John Wesley Hanes, sold their tobacco manufacturing business to the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and separately went into the textile business. John concentrated on hosiery and P.H. manufactured men's underwear. In 1965 both companies merged to become Hanes Corporation.

Edwin Duncan, Sr. was a good friend to Hubert Hanes who owned a home at Roaring Gap. Sometime before 1953, Mr. Duncan asked Mr. Hanes to consider Sparta for another plant location.

The plant opened in June 1953 and closed in October 1995 after 42 years. Employment at one time exceeded 400.

Virginia Setzer's Thimbles

Virginia Osborne Setzer passed away at the age of 92, on October 17, 2011. She was born March 4, 1919 in Allegheny County to the late Robert Madison and Maude Victoria Hoppers Osborne.

Mrs. Setzer lived at and ran the Carolina Silk Shop, on Whitehead Street, in her building located just around the corner from the Historical Museum. Carolina Silk Shop was one of the oldest businesses in town at the time of her death. She was also very involved with and helped organize the annual Heart Fund Auction for many years.

Mrs. Setzer collected thimbles and had many given to her over the years by family and friends. She diligently kept records of who and where the individual thimbles came from. When she passed away, her family donated the collection to Allegheny Historical Museum.

A portion of her large collection is already on display at the Museum, in the first case along the right wall, when you enter.

The Museum is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 10am to 5pm, across from the courthouse, and admission is always free. Stop by and see the display!



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Above: Mrs. Setzer at work for Allegheny's Centennial in 1959. She made many dresses for the celebration.



Left: Not all of Mrs. Setzer's collection are thimbles by the strictest definition, but they are all interesting, and were collected from all over the world.



Below: Sister, Thelma Davis visits Virginia at her shop.

The photos of Mrs. Setzer, here and on page 1, were supplied by her son, Dennis.



Inquiries

Rosemary Phipps is looking for information on an American Indian (Native American) Registry. 336-372-1511

Rosamond Joines is looking for a photo of Rock Creek School, which quit being used in 1932. 336-372-4972

In doing some research for a project, I came across a newspaper article from the Winston-Salem Journal in January of 1938 that discussed the murder of Elva Brannock that occurred in 1937. I have looked around online and am unable to find any info regarding whether or not this murder was ever solved. I have checked out the History of Alleghany County, NC from my local library and I was unable to find any reference to this incident in the book. I would be interested to read more about it if you could reference a book or article for me to look up. It seems to be such a heartbreaking story, and I really would like to know if someone was ever brought to justice for this. Thanks so much for your time.
Cynthia Halstead, 336-671-2103, lewcyn@embarqmail.com

Hello, my name is Spenser Slough and I am a graduate student at Virginia Tech, currently in my 1st year in the History Department's MA program.

My historical proclivity focuses on Early/ Colonial America with a particular focus on the southern colonial back country. I plan on writing my thesis on southwestern VA, south WV, and northwest NC development and settling into and past the 18th century (up until about 1820.) with a focus on socio-cultural persistence, adaptation, and/or acculturation. The literature available on this spacial and temporal focus is very scant, focusing mostly on records from Tidewater VA and/ or Augusta county. Thus, I was hoping to incorporate a multidisciplinary methodology in my research that included material culture, (folk) architecture, and possibly oral history alongside the traditional documentary record. As such, my research on folk architecture and material culture is particularly difficult as I wish to conduct field research on surviving architectural components, log structures especially, that were rarely meant to be permanent.

Several studies on surviving folk structures from 1750-1820 (notably in Sullivan County, TN) were conducted under the guidance of several county historical societies. Such cooperation facilitated the locating of such structures abandoned or still in existence but not officially registered in any state historical register.

Thus, I am requesting any sort of assistant in locating folk structures or material items that could help in my research efforts. These structure do not have to be log (although preferred), but folk structures (I-plan homes as well) that were built no later than 1820/1830 (the earlier the better). With this field work, I hope to be able to construct a narrative that properly evaluates the historical context of this region that has for so long been skimmed over by simply crafting political histories. It is my hope that this work will provide a cultural, social and materialist lens to this region; America's first frontier.

Please feel free to contact me through any means. My email address is sdslough2012@gmail.com, my cell phone # is (804)-690-1062. Any information, regardless of the depth, would be tremendous. I will be more than happy to travel out and meet with you or your staff to discuss any of this.

Thank You So Much, Spenser D. Slough, Graduate Assistant- Graduate Life Center Coordinator, Virginia Tech, MA in History '15, 1407 Toms Creek Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060, 804-690-1062 (Cell) sdslough2012@gmail.com

James Henry Scott

According to Lonnie Jones, President of the Museum of Ashe County History: "Big Jim was a Grassy Creek personality. I saw him once, driving a 1949 Chevrolet. He took the front seat out, sat in the back and drove."

James was the son of Alonzo "Lonnie" Atwell and Ethel Gore Scott. He was born August 16, 1913 and passed away October 17, 1960 at the age of 47.

The Farmer's and Planter's Almanac

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ASHE COUNTY GIANT.



(Courtesy of Skyland Post.)

Ashe county challenges any county in the state or even in the nation to produce a larger human giant than her own James Scott, who is shown above with Basil D. Barr, West Jefferson postmaster and former police chief, J. E. Shumake, standing under his arms. James is 25 years old, weighs 300 pounds, is 7 feet 4 inches tall and wears number 18 shoes. He is the son of the late L. A. Scott and Mrs. Gare Scott, of Grassy Creek. James is now working in North Wilkesboro, N. C.



Above, Left: A clipping from the 1939 edition of Blum's Farmer's and Planter's Almanac of an article originally printed in the Skyland Post, now The Jefferson Post.

Above, Right: Image titled "Big Jim Scott and Wife." Courtesy Ramona Renfroe, Director of the Museum of Ashe County History.

Marine Corps League Walter Frank Osborne, Jr. Detachment 1298

As announced on page 2, *Alleghany Memories* won a Paul Green Multimedia Award from the North Carolina Society of Historians again this year.

The series, AHGS produced in conjunction with Marine Corps League Walter Frank Osborne Jr. Detachment 1298, is hosted by current MCL Commandant, John Irwin and features interviews of Bobby Irwin, J.T. Pardue, Bill Sebastian and Charles Pugh. More interviews are planned.

The Marine Corps League Walter Frank Osborne Jr. Detachment 1298 was chartered May 10, 2008 in Sparta, North Carolina. The Detachment honors the memory of the late Marine, Walter Frank Osborne Jr. USMCR of Alleghany County.

Corporal Osborne received the Silver Star medal while serving in Operation Detachment, as Acting Staff Sergeant of an Artillery Forward Observer Party of Battery G, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, March 1, 1945. Voluntarily advancing beyond the front line to occupy a hill which provided a good observation point of the enemy, Corporal Osborne directed continuous and accurate rifle fire against the Japanese entrenched on the infantry objective, thereby materially assisting several squads in occupying the hostile position. During this action, he was wounded and evacuated for medical treatment. His initiative, cool courage and unselfish devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

Walter F. Osborne also received a Bronze Star for saving a fellow Marine under Japanese machine gun fire on Saipan and participated in the Marine assault of Tarawa.

Mr. Osborne was born January 11, 1923 to Walter Frank (senior) and Vergie Amelia Osborne. He died October 28, 1969.



Above: Corporal Osborne receives the Silver Star.

Left: Selective Service Registration Card on file at the United States National Archives.

At Right: The Silver Star—the third highest military decoration for valor that can be awarded to any person serving in any capacity with the United States Armed Forces. The medal is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.



Below: Excerpt from the 1942 edition of the *Agromeck*, the yearbook of the North Carolina State College in Raleigh.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER 1. NAME (Print) ORDER NUMBER
 N-52 Walter Frank Osborne 10,482

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Sparta, Alleghany, N. Carolina.

3. MAILING ADDRESS (Same)

4. TELEPHONE No

5. AGE IN YEARS 19

6. PLACE OF BIRTH Sparta, Alleghany, N. Carolina.

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mr. W. F. Osborne, Sparta, N. Carolina.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Edgewood Arsenal, U.S. Gov. Edgewood Md.

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Edgewood Arsenal, U.S. Gov. Edgewood Md.

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

W. F. Osborne Jr. (Registrar's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-1-42) (over)

- PAUL S. OLIVER, JR., A F P Fairmont, N. C.
Poultry Science
R. O. T. C. (1, 2, Sgt. 3).
- JOSEPH EARL ORLAND Kannapolis, N. C.
Textile Manufacturing
R. O. T. C. (1, 2, Sgt. 3).
- WALTER F. OSBORNE, A A T Sparta, N. C.
Mechanical Engineering
- HENRY DARRACH PACKARD, Σ II Paoli, Pa.
Forestry
Forestry Club; R. O. T. C. (1, 2, Sgt. 3).



Heather South of the Western Regional Archives Visits AHGS

This year, we were fortunate to have Heather South of the Western Regional Archives as a guest speaker at one of the regular Society meetings. Heather spoke about her job and the importance of proper archival storage techniques. Sounds dry as dust, right?

Absolutely the opposite. Heather is an enthusiastic (and fun!) speaker who gives technical information in a way even I can understand it. She says- as she holds up a giant 10" bug- "People remember more with visuals. You'll more easily remember what I say about pest prevention when you remember the lady with the bug." When talking about the proper handling of documents or museum artifacts she wears a huge pair of Mickey Mouse gloves.

But, don't let the silliness fool you. She gave us tons of practical information in her presentation. Like: People store things in boxes everywhere, in barns, basements and storage units. And tiny bugs love to make nests inside the corrugated cardboard of the boxes! So, as a rule, she isolates donations and re-boxes everything into clean, new cartons for storage at the Archives.

And: Get your photos out of those magic magnetic photo albums (with the clear plastic sheet over the adhesive cardboard.) They aren't acid-free and will slowly kill your photos instead of preserving them. Smell a photo album before you buy it for a "plastic-y" odor. If it has that beach ball smell, don't buy it. The smell means the plastic is giving off gasses that will react with your photos. Heather claims she is "on security camera tapes all over the Carolinas smelling photo albums."

And: Manila folders and standard copy paper are generally "neutral" and therefore, safe for storing prints and documents.

We originally met Heather at a Museums in Partnership (MIP) meeting in Ashe County hosted by Ramona Renfroe and the Museum of Ashe County History. MIP is the brain child of Jill Jones, who was Director of the Swannanoa Valley Museum for ten years and is now Director of Marketing & Communications at Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. MIP has been a valuable resource for us, giving us access to a network of area museum professionals for information and advice. Thanks, Ramona and Jill for inviting AHGS to the group!

And THANKS HEATHER, for a fun and informative presentation. Please plan to come back to Alleghany soon!

If you haven't been to one of our Society meetings, please plan to attend. Meetings are on the 4th Sunday (not the last Sunday- sometimes folks get confused!) of each month, at the Library.

We usually have a program with a guest speaker and this year, we've been having refreshments after the meetings and staying around to visit a while. Come out and see everyone and learn something new about something old!



UNCLE SOL AND AUNT EADIE WILLEY

73 Years Of Married Life For Aged Alleghany Couple

Residents Of Nile Community Now Invalids; Are Both 93 Years Old

"Uncle Sol" and "Aunt Eadie" Willey of the Nile Community, who are 93 years old and have been married 73 years, have been seriously ill in recent weeks.

The Willeys, who have been married longer than any other Alleghany couple, live with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Maines, whose place is near the Crouse farm not far from New River.

Mrs. Willey hasn't walked in six years, since falling and becoming an invalid. Mr. Willey had a fall on the front steps of the house last October that put him to bed.

However, Mr. Willey's grandmother had a fall when she was 101 years old, but recuperated from a broken hip and lived to be 111. So Uncle Sol isn't discouraged.

The Willeys were married August 20, 1869, by the late Haywood Edwards, who was a magistrate of Sparta. The marriage vows were spoken out-of-doors in what was then the back yard of the home, but which spot is now in the front yard of the Maines place. When Mr. Willey fell down the steps shown in the picture, he was only a few feet from the spot where the marriage was performed.

Uncle Sol wasn't quite old enough to be in the War Between the States, but he started farming soon after the end of that war, and was a farmer in Alleghany county for many years.

Reports this week are that Aunt Eadie is slightly improved, but Uncle Sol is in a serious condition.



Above: Solomon F. and Eadie Caroline Edwards Willey from Alleghany County Heritage book. Left: 1942 article from *The Alleghany News*.

Mr. Willey was son of Samuel and Sarah Crouse Willey, born on January 8, 1942 and passed away on May 6, 1942. Mrs. Willey was daughter of Isaac and Martha Gillia Cheek Edwards. She was born August 4, 1848 and died November 14, 1943. The Willeys had no children. They were buried at Pleasant Home Union Baptist Church.

The Senator's House

This home located at 360 N. Main Street in Sparta, is known, today, as The Senator's House. It was built around 1917 by (NC State) Senator Eugene Transou for his wife, Laura, because she did not like living alone out in the country when he went to Raleigh.

Mr. Transou was also a farmer and dealer in livestock and owned one of the largest cattle farms in the Stratford area of Alleghany County.

Eugene Transou, Democrat, served as state senator (1917), representative (1926), and Alleghany County commissioner (1923). He was re-elected to the state senate in 1941, served 1 year, left due to illness, and passed away in 1946.



Below, left: The Senator's House, today. Above: The Transou home in earlier years.

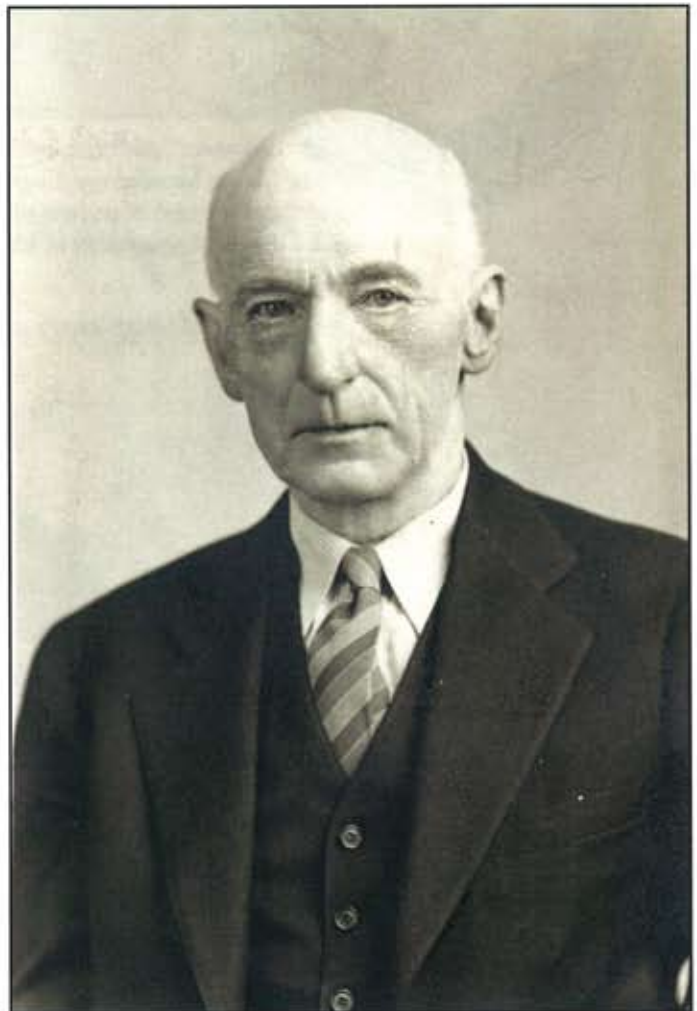


Mr. Transou was born at Laurel Springs, North Carolina, January 21, 1872 to Sidney M. and Senesca A. (Mastin) Transou; attended Sparta Institute from 1886 to 1890 and married, in 1894, Miss Laura E. Cheek, daughter of William Bryant and Jane Edwards Cheek.

Mr. Transou was a member of the County Board of Education, from 1909 to 1916, becoming chairman in July of 1911. He was a Mason and he and Mrs. Transou attended the Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Cheek were buried at Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery in Whitehead.

After the death of Mrs. Transou in December of 1955, the home remained vacant for about 20 years and fell into disrepair. Mike & Pat Phillips purchased the property in July of 1996, restored the house to its original grandeur and opened The Senator's House Restaurant. When the Phillipses decided to retire, the house was rented as office space for several years and eventually became home to Kathy's Kreations Bakery and Confectionery Gift Shop. Proprietor, Kathy Murphy, hosts several locally owned businesses there, now, as The Shops at the Senator's House and supplied information for this article.



Eugene Transou - Alleghany County Commissioner,
NC State Senator and NC State Representative



Alexander Smith and Zollie Edwards Carson and their home that once stood on Main Street in Sparta. Mr. Carson founded the Alleghany Star Newspaper and was its publisher for 26 years. He was also a member of the first board of trustees of Appalachian State Teachers College. After her husband died, Mrs. Carson worked for the NC Department of Revenue. *-from Alleghany County Heritage article by Lou Reid Landreth*

Remembering Alleghany for Over Thirty Years