

# Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc.



*Preserving Alleghany's Heritage Since 1979*

President . . . . . Margaret Crouse  
Vice-President . . . . . Jeff Halsey  
Secretary . . . . . Irene R. Wagner  
Treasurer . . . . . Lucy Roe



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*Above: Garvey Bridge over the North Fork of the New River. It's been 40 years since Appalachian Power proposed building 2 dams on the river. That story is on page 6.*

Right: Osborne Memorial Cemetery at Turkey Knob and the final resting place of Bruce Wayne Osborne, the first man from Alleghany County killed in World War II and for whom Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #7034 is named.

Osborne Memorial Baptist Church will hold a memorial service in Mr. Osborne's honor Sunday, May 25, 2014. The service will include an honor guard from the VFW and will be documented by Alleghany Community Television.

Below is a B-17E Flying Fortress, like the one Sergeant Osborne manned as gunner. His was serial number 41-2420, *Bessie, the Jap Basher*.

The story of the plane and its final mission begins on page 5.



AHGS is working with the Sons of Confederate Veterans J.E.B. Stuart Camp #1598 and other area groups on an idea for an annual, educational Civil War event to be held in Sparta. The plan is to use the event to raise money for the operation of the Alleghany Historical Museum. For more on SCV Camp #1598, see page 3.

## From the President

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Dear Members,

After seeing the crocus timidly bloom and the daffodils starting to bud, I thought the long awaited Spring was finally here. This past Monday (March 24th) showed us winter was not over yet even though the calendar said it is Spring. I think everyone is eagerly looking forward to Spring since we have had such a cold winter. Surely it won't be much longer.

Because of the icy road conditions and low attendance at the museum, we decided to close it for the months of February and March. We are still hoping to get more items for our industry exhibit. If you have any items made at any of our factories of the past and would be willing to loan them, contact the Museum on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and we will be glad to add them to our exhibit. The telephone number there is 372-2115.

It is with great sadness that we say "goodbye" to one of our new volunteers, Judy Bell Billings, who passed away recently. Judy brought in some of her items and helped decorate for Christmas.

## Calling North Carolina Historians

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Do you know someone whose excellence in recording history is deserving of praise?

Why not nominate that person for recognition by the North Carolina Society of Historians? You might be the one! The Society is conducting its annual competition to bring special honors to state, regional and local historians and genealogists who excel in the collection and preservation of Tar Heel history. Awards will be presented at the society's annual program in October to winning authors, publishers or creators of history books, historical fiction, DVDs, journals, newsletters, magazine and newspaper articles and museums.

Subjects may range from general history to histories of families

and churches. Except in the Historian of the Year category, nominees need not be residents of North Carolina. Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2014.

A detailed list of categories may be viewed on the NCSH website [ncsocietyofhistorians.org](http://ncsocietyofhistorians.org). There are no nomination fees, and a nominee need not to be a member of the North Carolina Society of Historians. Each nomination must be submitted on an official form, which may be downloaded from the website. Forms also may be secured online at [ncsh@earthlink.net](mailto:ncsh@earthlink.net) or [geneslady@charter.net](mailto:geneslady@charter.net) or through U.S. mail by sending your request to Elizabeth Sherrill, President, NCSH, Inc. P.O. Box 93, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673-0093.

We appreciate the continued interest in our museum and the many items you are willing to loan us. If you haven't been in the museum for awhile, do come in and invite your friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Crouse

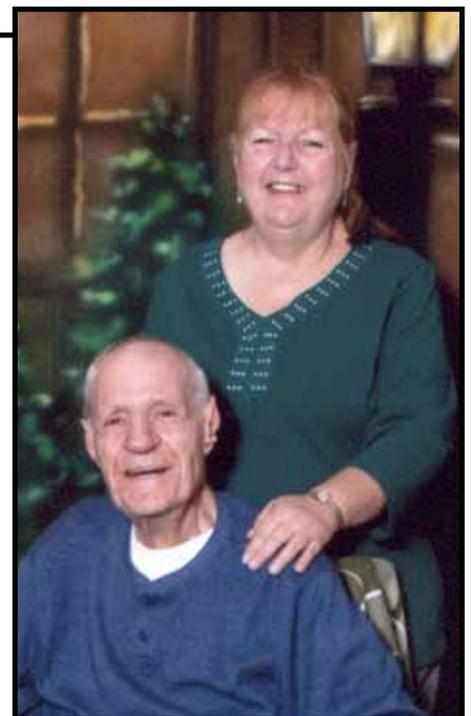


We must note the passing of two special people, this quarter.

Charles Pugh, left, was a great friend and supporter of the Allegheny Historical Museum. Mr. Pugh just recently allowed us to interview him for the *Allegheny Memories* series featuring his military service and his part in the establishment of the local Marine League.

Judy Bell Billings, at right, with her father, Walter Bell, was an enthusiastic museum volunteer who was there when she was needed. Judy helped with the *Allegheny Memories* episode that featured her dad.

We appreciate these folks and their unselfish contributions to the Allegheny Historical Museum.





## General J.E.B. Stuart Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp J.E.B. Stuart was chartered on the 8th day of September 1992 in Mount Airy, NC. At that time, there were 28 signers of the charter. Among those was Gary D. Snow who is still an active member in the camp. We just did a special article on Gary in the last newsletter. The camp will be twenty-two years in existence this coming September 8th.

During that time, the camp has had as many as fifty members and as few as ten. Currently, we are at twenty-three members including the four new members we have added since the beginning of February. As the new Commander of the camp, taking office at the end of February, 2014, for a two year term, I am dedicated to growing the camp significantly. We have already formalized a plan for recruiting that should produce significant gains in membership.

The truth is that most residents native to this area have Confederate ancestors. It is the duty of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to confront the lies propagated by many people regarding the true cause of the War Between the States. Many of us term that war *The War for Southern Independence*. The truth will prevail, and when it does our camps will be filled with descendants who are there for one purpose and one purpose only as stated in Article II of our camp constitution:

*"To associate in one united, compact body of men of Confederate ancestry, and cultivate, perpetuate, and sanctify the ties of fraternity and friendship entailed thereby; to aid and encourage the history and achievement from Jamestown to this present era, constantly endeavoring to see that events of the War Between the States and the heroic contributions of*

by Terry Lee Tucker, Commander / CIO, J.E.B. Stuart (1598)

*the Confederate soldiers are authentically and clearly written, and that all documents, relics, and mementos produced and handed down by those active participants therein are properly measured and preserved for posterity, to aid and assist in the erection of suitable and enduring monuments and memorials to all Southern valor, civil and military, wherever done and where found; to instill into our descendants a devotion to and reverence for the principles represented by the Confederate States of America, to the honor, glory, and memory of our forefathers who fought in that Cause."*

The camp has, in the past, had notoriety that was not expected. In March 1994, the camp, having met with the County Commissioners, requesting and receiving approval, flew the Confederate flag at the Dobson Courthouse on March 6. This flag raising event commemorates Confederate Memorial Day. Confederate Memorial Day is a state holiday in a number of southern states including

North Carolina. The whole thing caused quite a stir with TV channels 2, 12, and 8 being on site, and one protester burning a Confederate Flag. There were all sorts of "Opinion" articles in various newspapers leading up to the event.

Finally, one other significant activity of the camp was the funding, creation, and installation of a monument to the Confederacy on the grounds of the Dobson Courthouse. Gary Snow was heavily involved in this project.

Follow the JEB Stuart Camp 1598 on facebook at: [www.facebook.com/pages/General-JEB-Stuart-1598/149571838435147](http://www.facebook.com/pages/General-JEB-Stuart-1598/149571838435147).



*The Confederate monument at the old Surry County Courthouse in Dobson, North Carolina. Left-to-right: Marty Cook (then, Commander), Nathan Tucker, Terry Tucker and Joe Howlett.*

## Inquiries

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My ancestor born KY 1816, her family was from New River Laurel Branch Carroll Co. VA. 1) Might there have been NC/VA border changes? 2) Do you know of any New River "fork" or community by that name in 1800-1850 or so? Thank you very much, *Renee Furukawa, 8388 SE 43rd Street, Mercer Island, Washington 98040, 206-363-4183, plinckt@gmail.com*

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I am interested in visiting my mother's hometown of Sparta this summer. I would like to see some landmarks related to her. She went to a one room schoolhouse, would you know the name and or its address?

Also my grandfather, Jesse Andrew McCoin had a farm on 100 acres which burned down. It adjoined an African American Cemetery, which my grandfather donated 4 acres to. I am unable to locate the farm address or that of the cemetery, would you have any information. Thank You, *Frank Amato Jr., 83 Ruland Rd., Selden, NY 11784, 631-846-9123, frnkamato@aol.com*

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Interested in finding information for my great grandmother Sarah (called Sallie) Elizabeth Jones (1880-1957). Husband was Lendolph David Roupe (1872-1961). Sarah's (Sallie) father was Daniel T. Jones (1847-1934 & her mother was Nancy (called Nannie) M. Wade (1851-1895). Thank you for any help. *Sandy Cheek, 2047 Tall Oak Drive, Lenoir, NC 28645, 828-572-1536, sandra.cheek.0626@gmail.com*

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Busca, Inc. is pleased to announce the completion of *The Guide to the American Revolutionary War* collection. The 6-volume *Guide to the American Revolutionary War* set intends to provide comprehensive coverage of the confrontations of the American War of Independence and to serve as a guide to the sites.

The most extensive list of engagements previously totaled 1,330. Norman Desmarais, professor emeritus at Providence College, has compiled more than 4,000 actions, most of which do not get covered, even in the most detailed history books.

The text identifies the location of the sites, provides the historical background, indicates what the visitor can expect to see, and identifies any interpretive aids. It includes URLs for websites of various parks and tourist organizations. The photographs identify details of historic buildings, monuments, battlefields, and equipment. The appendices, as well as a complete bibliography and color photos, are available at the publisher's website at: [www.buscainc.com/publishing](http://www.buscainc.com/publishing)

A set of interactive Google Earth maps for all volumes can be accessed at: <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/desmarais>. There is a composite map for all volumes, a composite map for each volume, and quadrant maps corresponding to those in the volumes.

The 6-volume set is available for \$150. Individual volumes range in price from \$21.95-\$37.95. Books are available from: [www.buscainc.com/html/buscatitles.html](http://www.buscainc.com/html/buscatitles.html) and [www.revolutionaryimprints.com](http://www.revolutionaryimprints.com)

My GG-grandfather Thomas Jarvis died 6 February 1910 in Sparta and is buried in the cemetery there. Would the Allegheny News have run obituaries in 1910? If so, where could I find a copy of the February 1910 edition? Thanks so much. *Aaron Jarvis, 5475 Ring Dove Lane, Columbia, MD 21044-1749, 410-997-1962, jarvisa@juno.com*

-From our reply to Mr. Jarvis: "I emailed the editor of the Allegheny News, and he says: 'Local copies of those newspapers likely were lost in the first Sparta Fire. The library might have leads, or the state archives. Our first issue is the only one we have until around 1937 or so.' I'm sorry we couldn't help more!" *Claire Halsey*

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*Tierra L. Choates-Kellow called recently, asking for help in identifying papers a relative had given to her. The papers were obviously copied out of books, but there wasn't enough information for her to know which books, or if they were still available, or if there would be additional information on her family. I suggested she scan a few pages and send them to me to see if I could identify them...*

Thank you so much for taking the time out to speak with me yesterday. Your help so far has been amazing and it is truly appreciated. I'm seeking out information about the Choates and Edwards families of Sparta N.C. My family members seem to intertwine in between the Edwards and Choates family owners vs. their slaves and I feel like I'm so close to finding the exact connections that I'm looking for. I have enclosed a few (hopefully not too many) of the scans from the packet that I received from my great aunts research on the Edwards side both black and white. I am trying to locate the exact reference book if it still exists so that I can have it for my own and to be able to see the photos better. Another thing that I am looking at finding, I'm not even sure if it was published or not are the *Diaries and Will of Morgan Edwards*. Any help that you are able to offer is greatly appreciated, even if nothing is found you have already done me a great help in directing me to the *Allegheny County Heritage* book. Sincerely, *Tierra L. Choates-Kellow*

-From our reply to Ms. Choates-Kellow: "I had a chance to look at the pages and it looked like 5 pages were from *The Chalice and the Covenant, a History of the New Covenant Baptist Association 1868-1973*, by Mark Sexton. (White Plains Baptist Church has copies of *The Chalice and the Covenant* available for \$5.), 1 page was from *Allegheny County Heritage*, and 2 pages were from *History of Allegheny County* [note- both are still available from AHGS.]

"I looked at the genealogical resources at the library and it looked like the others are from *The Edwards Family* by Clifton Rector and *The Diary of Morgan Edwards*. It was transcribed by Lou Reid Landreth. Clifton Rector and Lou Reid Landreth have both passed away, and I don't know the copyright status of either of these books. I hope this helps!" -*Claire Halsey*



# Bruce Wayne Osborne

*The Story of the Namesake of VFW Post 7034*

*by Michael McFadyen*

On Thursday 24 September 1942, Boeing B-17E serial number 41-2420 - *Bessie, the Jap Basher*, was part of the 42nd Bombardment Squadron on a bombing mission over the Shortland Islands (about 600 kilometers to the north-west of Honiara, Guadalcanal, and just south of Bougainville).

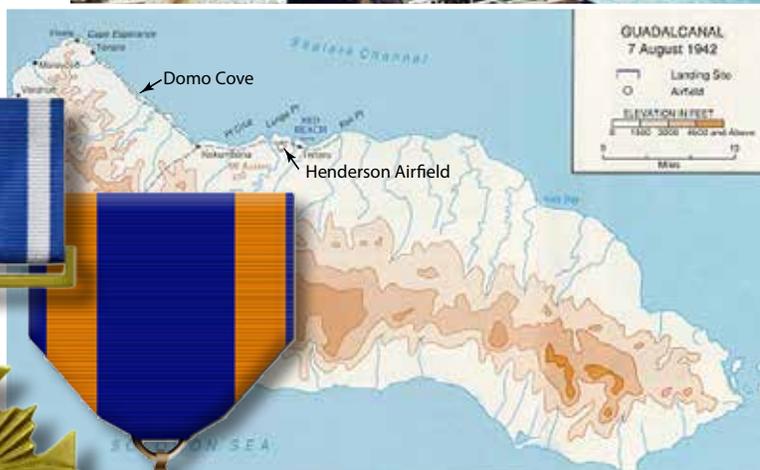
On this flight it was attacked by a number of Japanese Mitsubishi A6M Zero-Sen fighters and badly damaged. It lost power in one engine and was attempting to limp home to its base at Henderson Airfield on Guadalcanal. Unfortunately, the plane was in severe trouble and when it gained the coast of Guadalcanal the pilot, Lieutenant Charles E. Norton, radioed Henderson that he was going to attempt to ditch the plane off the shores of then Japanese-occupied northern Guadalcanal.

Lieutenant Norton put the plane down on the water just 50 meters or so (approx. 55 yards) off the village of Ndomo (or Domo), just 12 miles short of Henderson Airfield (now the international airport for Honiara, the capital city of the Solomon Islands). Two young boys from the village heard the plane passing overhead and then heard the plane crash into the water. They immediately went to the ocean's edge but they did not see anything other than some waves from the crashed plane. Unknown to the boys, at least two of the eight crew escaped from the plane. It is possible that they all got out, either parachuting earlier or once it crashed. At any rate, it is certain that Lieutenant Norton and Sergeant Bruce W. Osborne somehow got out of the plane and made it to shore.

The two boys went looking for the plane the next morning, swimming out from the shore and diving down in an attempt to find the remains. They were not successful.

Lieutenant Norton struggled to shore and pulled himself up the rough coral beach and into the jungle. As this section of Guadalcanal was occupied by the Japanese Army, he was unable to get assistance. Presumably, he also did not

*Continued  
Page 7*



*Above: Sergeant Bruce Wayne Osborne, killed in action at Guadalcanal- the first man from Alleghany County to be killed in World War II.*

*Left: 1944 US Navy Photo of Domo Cove, (Ndomo) where Navy Seabees found Sgt. Osborne's remains two years after his plane crashed into the ocean just off shore.*

*Far Left: The Distinguished Flying Cross (left) for "Heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight" and the Air Medal (right) for "Meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight."*

*Charles Lindbergh received the DFC during the Washington, D.C. homecoming reception on June 11, 1927, from his trans-Atlantic flight.*

*The first Distinguished Flying Cross to be awarded to a Naval Aviator was received by Commander Richard E. Byrd, for his trans-Atlantic flight from June 29 to July 1, 1927 from New York City to the coast of France.*

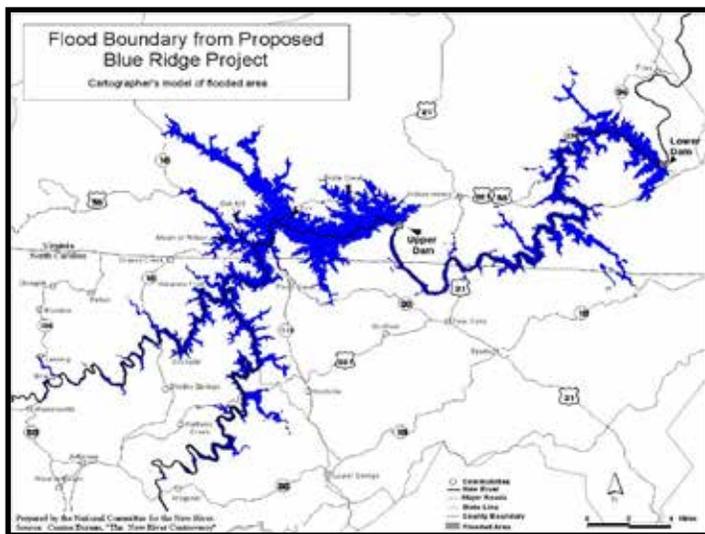
*Below: The island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Island chain and the location of Domo Cove, still under Japanese control when B-17E, Serial Number 41-2420 ditched, just minutes short of landing at Henderson Field.*



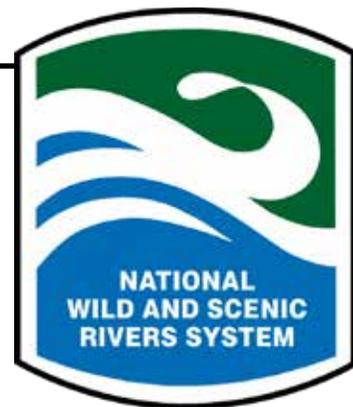
## 40 (more) Years of Scenic Beauty on the New River



2014 marks 40 years since the National Committee for the New River was formed. Its original goal was to prevent the construction of 2 dams on the New River. The dams were proposed by the Appalachian Power Company, a subsidiary of the American Electric Power Company, but many in the public were against their construction. According to the NCCR website, the dams would have displaced at least 2700 people, 893 homes, 42 vacation cabins, 10 industrial establishments, 23 commercial facilities, 5 post offices, 15 churches, and 12 cemeteries.

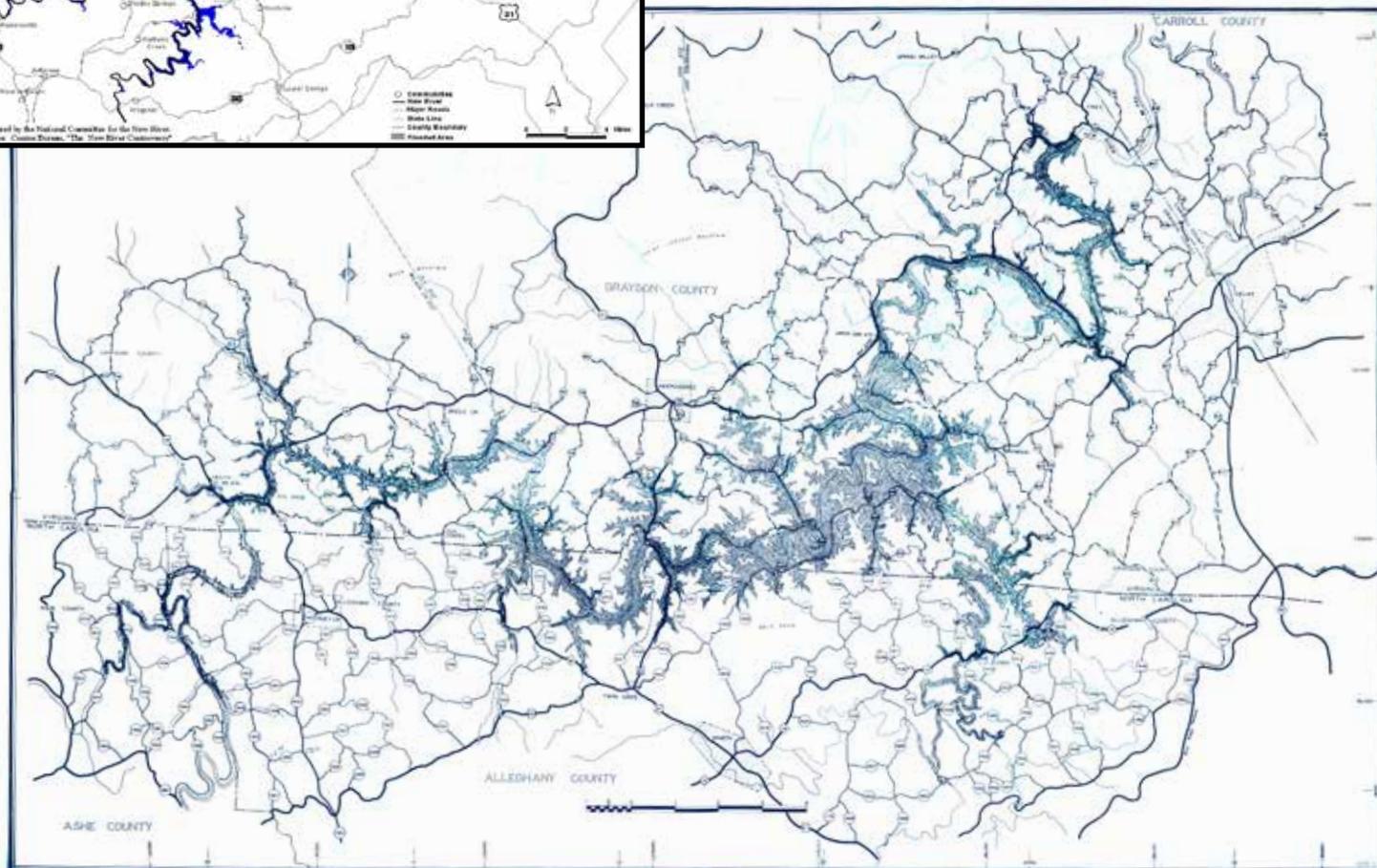


On August 30, 1976, the United States Senate voted (69-16) to add: “the South Fork from its confluence with Dog Creek downstream 22 miles to the confluence with the North Fork. The main stem from the confluence of the North and South Forks with Dog Creek downstream approximately 4.5 miles to the Virginia state line” to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. President Ford and both NC senators supported the legislation. Virginia Senators voted against it. In all the designated area includes 26.5 scenic miles of the river in Northwest North Carolina.



For an interesting history of the events read *The Appalachian Power Company Along the New River: The Defeat of the Blue Ridge Project in Historical Perspective* by Robert Seth Woodard Jr., online, at: [scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-05252006-153954/unrestricted/ENTIRETHESIS.pdf](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-05252006-153954/unrestricted/ENTIRETHESIS.pdf)

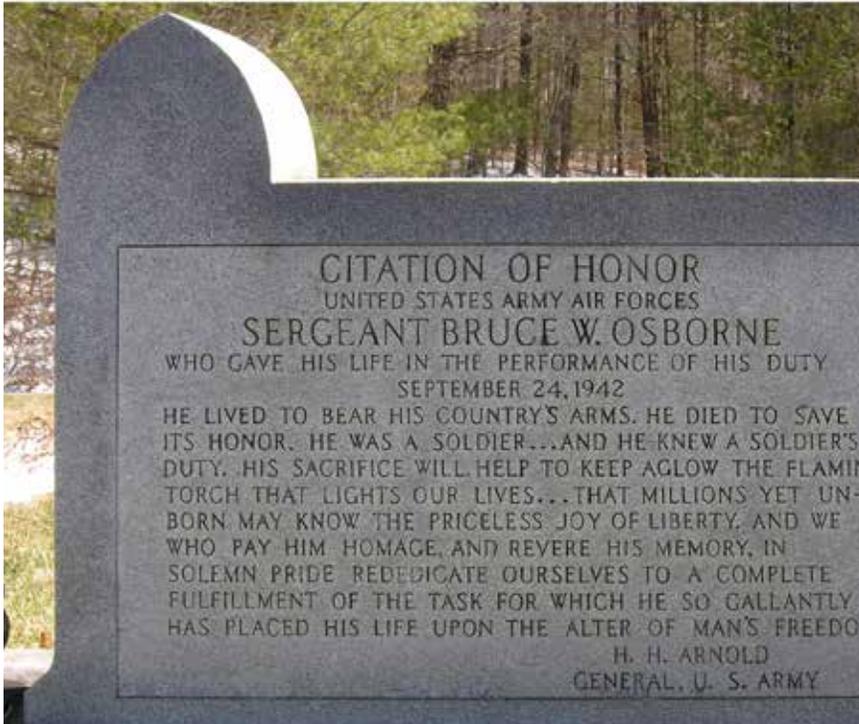
For information on New River State Park, visit [www.rivers.gov/rivers/new.php](http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/new.php). To learn more about the National Committee for the New River, please visit [www.ncnr.org](http://www.ncnr.org). Direct links are available at [ahgs.org](http://ahgs.org).



Above, Left: Flood boundary projections from the National Committee for the New River website. Above: Undated map from Greek Halsey's papers presumably showing an earlier projection of the same.



*Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold, 1886-1950, aviation pioneer, Chief of the Air Corps (1938-1941) and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. General Arnold was instructed in flying by the Wright Brothers and was one of the first three rated pilots in the history of the United States Air Force.*



**CITATION OF HONOR**  
 UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES  
**SERGEANT BRUCE W. OSBORNE**  
 WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY  
 SEPTEMBER 24, 1942  
 HE LIVED TO BEAR HIS COUNTRY'S ARMS. HE DIED TO SAVE ITS HONOR. HE WAS A SOLDIER...AND HE KNEW A SOLDIER'S DUTY. HIS SACRIFICE WILL HELP TO KEEP AGLLOW THE FLAMING TORCH THAT LIGHTS OUR LIVES... THAT MILLIONS YET UNBORN MAY KNOW THE PRICELESS JOY OF LIBERTY. AND WE WHO PAY HIM HOMAGE, AND REVERE HIS MEMORY, IN SOLEMN PRIDE REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO A COMPLETE FULFILLMENT OF THE TASK FOR WHICH HE SO GALLANTLY HAS PLACED HIS LIFE UPON THE ALTER OF MAN'S FREEDOM.  
 H. H. ARNOLD  
 GENERAL, U. S. ARMY

know if the natives could be trusted so he did not seek them out. He was badly injured, with a broken leg among his injuries. He made a splint from pieces of wood and fixed it with his belt. For six days he hid successfully from the Japanese. On Wednesday 30 September 1942, while hiding under long grass, a Japanese soldier found Lieutenant Norton. This soldier was under the command of First Lieutenant Yoshi Takeda.

Lieutenant Norton was taken to the Japanese Battalion Headquarters where he died as he arrived.

Sergeant Osborne also got ashore but it is not know what happened

to him. His remains were found in the jungle in late January 1944 by American Seabees (Seabees is based on the initials CB which stand for the Construction Battalions of the US Navy). Perhaps he came ashore with Lieutenant Norton, but we will never know. The fate of the other six crew members is also not known.

The rest of the crew were First Lieutenant Bruce B. Barker, First Lieutenant Leo M. Eminger, Staff Sergeant Peter F. Novak, Staff Sergeant William Hotard, Staff Sergeant Fred Schrock Croyle, Sergeant James R. Mathewson and Edward A. Carroll. They were not found in the plane so they obviously got out. It may have been that these six parachuted before the plane hit the water. Whatever happened, they did not survive.

On January 29, 1944, the 61st US Navy Seabees located the B-17. Two days later divers explored the wreck of the plane. They noted bullet holes in the fuselage but found no indication of a fire. They reported that there were four parachutes still inside the plane.

The plane was condemned as salvage on October 8, 1944. The missing men were officially declared dead on January 7, 1946.

*-Information is from Mr. McFadyen's website, [www.michaelmcfadyencuba.info](http://www.michaelmcfadyencuba.info)*

See the video, *Four Minutes* produced by Aire Libre Studios containing incredible underwater video footage of Sgt. Osborne's ill-fated plane at [ahgs.org](http://ahgs.org).

**Sgt. Osborne Is Killed In Action In Pacific Area**

**Decorated For Bravery: Was Reported Missing For Some Time**

Columbus F. Osborne, of Sparta, recently received a message from the War Department that an official finding of death had been made in the case of his son, Sergeant Bruce W. Osborne, who was reported missing in action, September 24, 1942.

Sgt. Osborne had been awarded air medals for meritorious achievement on Sept. 7, and 9, 1942, in air operations over the Solomon Islands area. On September 7, Sgt. Osborne, as crew member of a heavy bombardment airplane proceeding on a search mission, participated in an attack against a Japanese four-engine flying boat.

It was announced from Washington in March, that Sgt. Osborne had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement in the South Pacific area.

The War Department was advised of the discovery of remains in the South Pacific area identified as those of Sergeant Osborne. The remains were found close to the wreckage of the airplane of which he was a crew member. According to the report the presumed date of death was in December.

After Sgt. Osborne had been reported missing in September, 1942, his case was reviewed in September, 1943, discontinuing his status as missing in action.

It was explained that the remains of military personnel were reverently buried with appropriate services conducted by a Chaplain of the armed forces and the grave properly marked and recorded.

Sgt. Osborne was one of Alleghany county's first men to be reported missing in action.

**Sparta Airman Awarded Cross For Achievement**

**Corp. Bruce Osborne, Missing, Given Medal For Heroic Fight In Pacific**

Announcement has been made from Washington that Corporal Bruce W. Osborne, U. S. army air corps of Sparta, reported as missing in action, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement in the South Pacific area, the War Department announced today.

The citation accompanying the Distinguished Flying Cross relates that Corporal Osborne was decorated for heroism while participating in an air flight near Shortland Harbor, Solomon Islands, on September 24, 1942.

"Corporal Osborne, as one member of the crew of a heavy bombardment airplane, participated in a hazardous mission to bomb Japanese surface vessels," the War Department stated.

Announcement was made last week that Corporal Osborne was awarded a medal for meritorious achievement on September 7 and 9.

**B. W. Osborne, Sparta Flyer Is Presented Pin**

**War Department Cites Alleghany Man For Gallantry In South Pacific**

The War department reported today that 23 members of the army air forces had been awarded air medals for meritorious achievements in the South Pacific.

Those awarded included: Bruce W. Osborne, corporal, for meritorious achievement on September 7, and 9, 1942 in air operations over the Solomon Islands area. On September 7, Corporal Osborne, as crew member of a heavy bombardment airplane proceeding on a search mission, participated in attack against a Japanese four-engine flying boat which was encountered and immediately engaged. His airplane, however, was soon compelled to abandon action after receiving a 7.7 mm hit on the oil tank and developing fire in the No. 1 engine. While returning to home bases on three engines, the crew sighted seven enemy barges and one torpedo boat which they proceeded to strafe for over 20 minutes.

Following this action, this airplane and crew safely returned to home base over a 700-mile course. On September 9, while on another search mission, Corporal Osborne and other members of the crew encountered a Japanese serial No. 43 airplane, which was immediately and aggressively attacked, many hits being scored. Heavy return fire was encountered from waist gun positions of the enemy craft and, in the ensuing action 13 hits were received and three gunners of the crew were wounded. Although fire power was rendered ineffective because of gun failures, the bomber crew courageously continued the attack until it was no longer possible to do so. He was missing in action on September 9, 1942.

He is the son of Columbus F. Osborne, of Sparta.

*Undated clippings from the Alleghany News. Used by permission.*

**Auditorium and High School Bldg. of Great Value  
Some Other Improvements Made Prove Helpful To Many Students**

**WISE PLANNING**

By Staff Writer

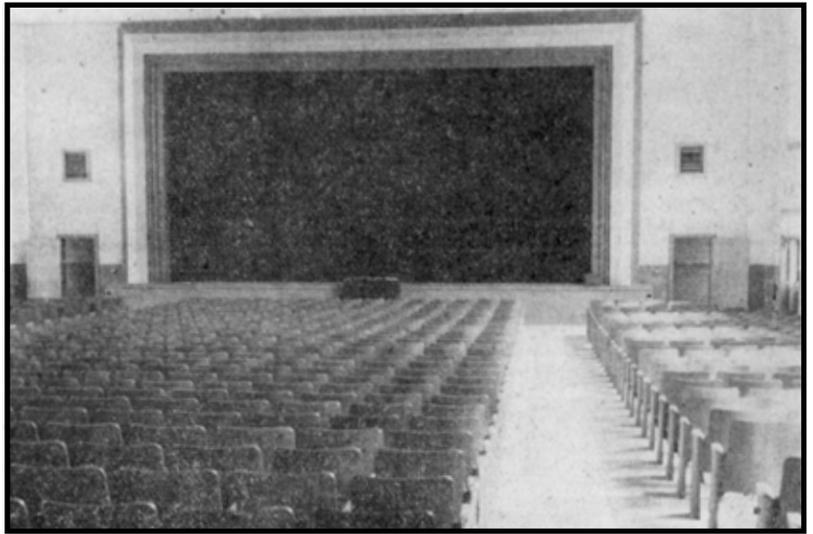
In a period which has just seen some big improvements in the school building program in Alleghany county, hundreds of students have been benefited through wise planning and money well spent.

One of the biggest improvements in the Alleghany county school system in the past few

years was the completion last spring of the Sparta high school building and auditorium.

The Sparta high school building includes classrooms, science lecture rooms, science laboratory, library, rest rooms, and principal's office. All rooms and corridors are painted in pastel shades making a happy, bright environment where students may spend their high school days. All floors are covered with asphalt tile, the chalk boards are light green, the windows furnish a fully bright lighted room.

The library is the largest room in the new building. It is furnished



SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL'S SPACIOUS AUDITORIUM not only serves the needs of the school and the town, but the entire county. It has a seating capacity of more than 1,000 and the large stage provides ample space for chorus groups and other public presentations. It is here that the annual music festival is held each year. Most seats for the auditorium were purchased through the co-operation of former graduates, school patrons and friends. The beautiful curtains were purchased through the co-operation of the Sparta school, the Sparta P-TA and the Sparta Board of Education. (Staff Photo)



*The Alleghany Community Auditorium today, still the "largest venue in the region," is being renovated. The latest addition includes a sound system from the Wayne Henderson Music Festival.*

with light oak tables and chairs.

The auditorium, with a seating capacity of 1010, has proved a great asset in training the students to take part in public programs.

New curtains were purchased for the stage which add much to the auditorium.

The lovely dark red velour curtains costing approximately \$1,800.00 and will be paid for by the County Board of Education, the P-TA and the Sparta

school each assumed responsibility for one third of the total cost.

Improvements have been made at other schools throughout the county during the year. Painting has been carried on at several of the schools.

*Article from the May 20, 1954 edition of the Alleghany News on the 60th anniversary of the building of the Auditorium.*

*- brought by Shirley Laws*

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www.imagingspecialists.net - To see back issues of this newsletter, go online to www.ahgs.org.

*Remembering Alleghany for Over Thirty Years*

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