

Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc.

Preserving Alleghany's Heritage Since 1979



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Bulletin No. 98

Old Man Winter Returns to Region on 50th Anniversary of Super Snows

Gosh, its been snowy this year. Can you remember a colder, snowier year? Well, believe it or not, this March marks 50 years since the 1960 record snowfalls.

According to the Ray's Weather website, this year is (so far) second only to the 1959-60 winter that had a total accumulation of 108" in Boone. This year, we are at a total of 61.9" by Feb. 14th. The 10 snowiest winters on record, thru Feb. 14 in Boone (*from www.raysweather.com*):

2010.....61.9"	1955.....42.1"
1996.....55.5"	1969.....40.0"
1983.....49.0"	1970.....39.8"
1977.....44.0"	1987.....39.0"
1964.....42.5"	1931.....38.2"

From the Alleghany News Mar. 3, 1960:

"Traffic in Alleghany was practically at a stand still this morning when citizens awoke to a blanket of snow ranging from 13 to 18 inches throughout the county. This fell on some which covered the county more than two weeks ago and was declared the heaviest snow of the season. The light fluffy snow began early Wednesday

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A 1949 Jeep navigates a plowed Ridge Road in 1960's multiple March snowstorms. Photo courtesy of Bill Irwin



Robert Lee Doughton early in his career in Washington. For more info on Rep. Doughton, see page 5.

Blue Ridge Parkway Marks a Milestone-NC Still Owes a Debt to Farmer Bob

Story by MountainTimes.com at: <http://www2.mountaintimes.com/history/1930s/parkway.php3>

President Franklin Roosevelt was only in office a few months when Sen. Harry F. Byrd of Virginia made a radical suggestion to him: build a highway connecting the Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah National Parks.

That meeting sparked a controversy that pitted Tennessee against North Carolina in the quest for what would become the Blue Ridge Parkway. When the dust settled, North Carolina - and especially the High Country - emerged the winner.

The idea of a park-to-park highway existed at least as early as 1930, and others proposed it before Byrd. But the politically savvy and powerful Virginia senator had the means to make it a reality. There was little question of how the road should run in Virginia. The great debate that ensued once the Roosevelt Admin-

Story continued on page 3

Message from the President

Dear Members,

During these cold snowy months, we've really been busy. The Sesquicentennial Committee has donated to AHGS the commemorative fiddle, originally won

but donated back to the committee by Billy Noah of Mount Airy. The fiddle was created by David Joines and has the Sesquicentennial Seal carved into it by Gracen Lucas. We have temporarily loaned it to the Alleghany Jubilee for display until it has a permanent home in a future historical museum.

Before the closing of the Sparta Teapot Museum on January 31st, we had asked them for the loan of a 20"x 20" pedestal to display the fiddle. They responded by giving us the pedestal.

When STM decided to close, they also gave

AHGS a donation stand, a curator's tool kit, several books on teapots & museum management and historical information on the Teapot Museum for archiving.

Along with all that, AHGS has a real opportunity to benefit from the Teapot Project's experience. Several board members have agreed to advise us- to share what they've learned at the art museum to aid in our efforts to establish a historical museum in Alleghany County.

You may already know that the Sparta Teapot Museum Director, Cynthia Grant, has worked in historical museums for most of her career. Cynthia joined the Historical Society last year and will be a great resource, able to answer questions concerning everything from management to the proper care of antiques and artifacts.

In another great development, we were able to purchase the fifteen remaining display pedestals and wall cases from STM at approximately 60% of their original cost. The display cases were originally built to design specifications from the Mint Museum in Charlotte and are beautiful, solid, and secure. The 15 cases include (5) 48" wall

cases, (3) 59" wall cases, (6) 24"x 32" pedestals and (1) more 20"x 20" pedestal.

So, you can see there are at least some positive developments coming from the closing of the Sparta Teapot Museum. We are also encouraged by the fact that their last four shows were their most popular ever, each dealing in some way with area artistic craft and heritage.

In other news, we are currently working with Sparta Presbyterian Church to rent their unoccupied manse (or parsonage) on Main Street between the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches to use until we have a permanent museum location. AHGS hopes to have this first version of the Alleghany Historical Museum open for visitors by early Summer 2010.

Folks in our region have always been interested in our history and the county's sesquicentennial and this year's 75th Parkway anniversary have boosted that interest. Alleghany is rich in heritage and with a proper historical museum our stories can be told in a new and dynamic way.

If you'd like to volunteer or contribute to Alleghany Historical Museum, we'd welcome your help.

Contact us at:

Alleghany Historical - Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 817, Sparta, NC 28675 or info@ahgs.org
Or just join us! Membership is only \$10 per year or \$100 for a lifetime membership.



Commemorative Sesquicentennial Fiddle in its Case Inside STM Display Pedestal Case.

Jeff Halsey
February 11, 2010

istration committed to the project was over whether it should then run into Tennessee or North Carolina. Even before it was built, people realized the Parkway would be a major economic boon to whatever area received it. The competition was fierce.

The final decision lay in the hands of Interior Secretary Harold Ickes. He had a tough choice. Both sides lobbied hard, and his attempts to get an impartial view came back that the two choices were almost evenly matched. A showdown hearing in Washington on Sept. 18, 1934, left the both sides feeling victory was within their grasp.

On Nov. 10, 1934, Ickes issued his decision in letters to the governors of North Carolina and Tennessee. After months of study, he opted for the North Carolina route. He spelled out the reasons, including the fact the North Carolina was more scenic, that Tennessee already had an excellent entrance into the Smokies, and had benefitted from several large New Deal projects, including the TVA.

One of the men pushing hardest for the route which the Parkway now follows was Allegheny County Congressman Robert L. "Fighting Bob" Doughton. He had served in Congress almost 20 years, and was a powerful and wily pro when it came to the workings of the House.

Excitement in the area following Ickes' decision was great. Many did not believe it possible to build a hard-surfaced road on the crest of the Blue Ridge. They were also used to slow-paced government, and were amazed by the speed with which Ickes moved forward on the project.

On Sept. 11, 1935, a group of men climbed out of a truck, crossed a fence and started digging. It was a foggy day, with mist in the air, but the work on building the Blue Ridge Parkway had begun.

Back in Washington, one more battle remained. The House of Representatives stubbornly refused to

Did you know?

Work on the Parkway was begun at Cumberland Knob, September 11, 1935 right here in Allegheny County!

The mid point of the Parkway's 469 miles is near Mahogany Rock Overlook at mile marker 235.

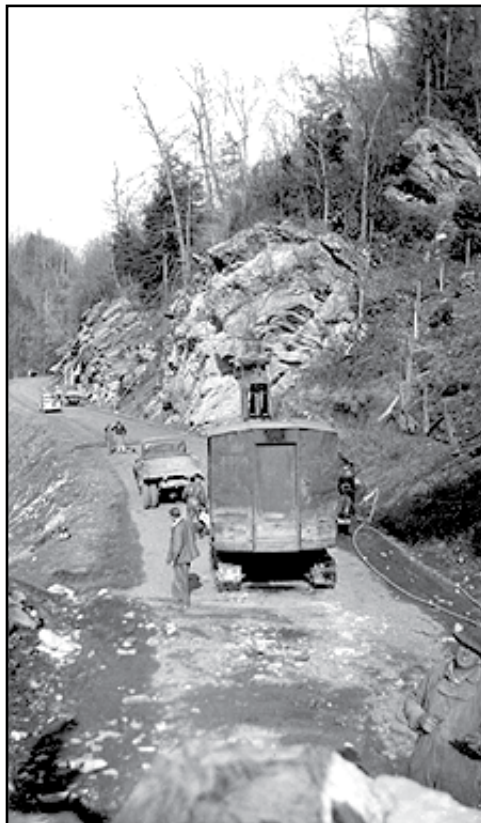
The first Section of the Parkway to be completed and opened was the 7.6 miles between US Highway 21 and Air Bellows Gap Road in Allegheny County.

pass a bill that would put the Parkway under the administration of the National Park Service. Critics argued this should be a locally built and maintained highway. The battle raged, and the bill failed three times to pass.

But the opponents did not reckon with "Fighting Bob" Doughton. After the bill failed for the third time, Doughton pushed parliamentary procedure until it practically howled. Within an hour of its defeat, he had the bill back on the floor of the House. This time, it squeaked through with 145 in favor, 131 against and 147 not voting.

Back home, progress on the Parkway was continuous but not fast. By the end of the decade, work had started on 13 road sections in North Carolina. The first to be completed and opened to visitors was a 7.641 mile stretch between U.S. 21 (Milepost 229.7) and Air Bellows Gap (Milepost 237.15). Some of those first 13 sections, however, were not opened until 1955.

By Jan. 1, 1940, the Parkway in Virginia was completed between Adney Gap (Milepost 136) and the North Carolina line (Milepost 216.9). In North Carolina, where the terrain was rougher, the road was complete from the Virginia line (216.9) to Deep Gap (Milepost 276.4). One small section, between McKinney Gap (Milepost 327.5) and Spruce Pine (Milepost 336.3) was also done. In just over four years, almost 150 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway - nearly a third of its completed length - was finished.



Steam shovels at work on the Blue Ridge Parkway, ca. 1937.

Photo courtesy of Ashe Public Library

MY NOTIONS ON BOB DOUGHTON

By John Wesley Clay

(Typed from the original by Jessie Jones Johnson)

“Lincoln of the hills” - I have heard that term applied to Bob Doughton of sacred memory, the stalwart mountaineer who represented the state of North Carolina for so many long years in Washington. Born in the hills, brought up with calves and colts, and acquainted with the sweat of honest toil, he could later walk and talk with seven Presidents, and with the great of the nation and of the world, and still not lose his head.



Sculpture of Bob Doughton on Alleghany County Courthouse Lawn

In speaking further on taxation he said: “Get as many feathers as possible with the fewest squawks from the goose.” That is language the humble mountaineer can understand as well as the rich tycoon. That is the essence of financial wisdom.

Some years ago I was invited to speak at the homecoming of a little church near Laurel Springs, the home of Doughton. The great statesman was there and he sat on the front pew. During the prolonged service he went to sleep. And who could blame him? He was then in his 80s. And the weather was in the 80s. But Bob Doughton never slept on the job in Washington. He was, perhaps, the greatest statesman our state ever produced.

I understand that the government is now planning to erect a monument in Doughton’s honor, but they are having trouble in selecting the location. Some want it in Washington. Others want it in one of the cities of North Carolina.

As I remember, Doughton was for long years chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and he did more to keep our government solvent than did any other man, or group of men.

In speaking of taxes he said: “You can shear a sheep once a year and get wool, but you can skin him only once.” Lincoln never said a wiser thing.

I for one would love to see the monument erected in Laurel Springs, N.C., the mountain village he called home. Or at the old homeplace of the great statesman. Let it stand as an inspiration to the youth of the mountains he loved.

Note:

Robert Lee Doughton was born in 1863, and died in 1954. The date of this newsclip can probably be placed just after his death on October 1, 1954.

John Wesley Clay was a syndicated columnist at that time. Just which newspaper this clip came from is not clear, but the back of it mentions Huntsville, Alabama, an interesting sidelight.

This article was originally reprinted in AHGS Bulletin # 47, September 1991 and was submitted by Mrs. Jessie Jones Johnson and Miss Alice Doughton, both life members, this undated newsclip from one of Mrs. Cleo McMillan’s albums.



A plaque at Wildcat Rocks overlook (mile 241.1) in the largest recreational area in the most visited of our National Parks, reads:

ROBERT LEE DOUGHTON
FOR WHOM DOUGHTON PARK IS NAMED, WAS BORN IN ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA NOVEMBER 7, 1863. AN ORIGINAL AND LEADING ADVOCATE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 1911-1953, CHAIRMAN OF ITS COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS 1933-1947 AND 1949-1953.

Books For Sale

HISTORY OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NC 1859-1976 - 272-pages not indexed - \$45, S&H \$3 NC residents \$3.04 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY HERITAGE - 555-pages indexed - \$48, S&H \$3 NC residents \$3.24 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY CEMETERIES THROUGH 1986 - 261-pages - \$15, S&H \$2.75 NC residents \$1.01 tax.

ALLEGHANY ARCHITECTURE: A PICTORIAL SURVEY - 101-pages not indexed - \$30.00, S&H \$3.00 NC residents \$2.03 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NC MARRIAGES: 1849-1900 - 354-pages indexed - \$30.50 plus \$5 S&H from Heritage Books Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Bowie, MD 20716 - 1-800-398-7709 - <http://www.heritagebooks.com>.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY COURTHOUSE ORNAMENT - Gold-colored metal ornament depicts the county courthouse. \$11.21 NC residents \$0.76 tax; no shipping & handling.

MARY'S MEMORIES - 74-pages Published by Mary Lyon Harless in 2000 on the occasion of her 100th birthday. \$8.00, S&H \$1.50 NC residents \$0.54 tax.

FOOT PRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME - 75-pages Subtitled "A History of Southwestern Virginia and Northwestern North Carolina," first published in Sparta, NC in 1900 by Dr. Aras B. Cox. Indexed. \$15.00, S&H \$2.00 NC residents \$1.01 tax.

1938 VIDEO OF SPARTA, NORTH CAROLINA - 20-minute video, by Ben Reeves - Trip to the 1939 Worlds Fair in New York, with 1938 Sparta. VHS tape or DVD \$11.00, S&H \$1.50 NC residents \$0.68 tax.

RECIPES THAT RAISED US - 230 pages Memorial cookbook \$20, S&H \$3.00 NC residents \$1.35 tax or (3) books for \$45.00, S&H \$7.00 NC residents \$3.04 tax.

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

For items ordered from the Society, send your check, payable to Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, to:
Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 817, Sparta, NC 28675.

info@ahgs.org

336-372-3002

www.ahgs.org



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

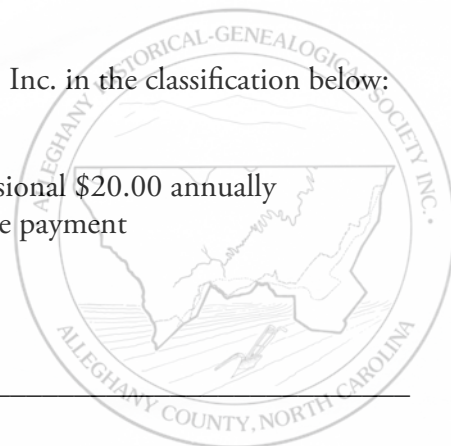
LIFE MEMBER \$100.00 in one payment

Enclosed is a check or money order for membership.

Please send membership card to:

Name- _____

Address- _____



Inquiries

Hello, My name is Shawn Smith and I live in Alexander County NC. I am researching the Dr. John Lacy Smith family of Sparta in the late 1800's. His brother William O. Smith of Davie County was my ggggrandfather. I am trying to make contact with someone that knows anything about this family. Also, the article on William C Fields written by Betty Lou Fields in the heritage book is of interest. Any info or suggestions would be greatly appreciated!
*Shawn Smith, 3724 Church Road, Taylorsville, NC 28681
828-632-6317 Best Time to Call: 8a - 12n
shawns@charter.net*

Does anyone know a B. Beatrice Holbrook? She wrote some pages in the Alleghany co. Heritage book on my CARSON's. I would like to contact her, or one of her heirs for more information.
*Kim Wills, 8043 N. Gannett Rd., Sagamore Hills, OH 44067
330-467-4450 Best Time to Call: 12n - 5p
frugalmom1@juno.com*

We are the International League of Professional Baseball Clubs, Inc. and are looking for any information on descendants of Coaker Triplett of Boone, NC as he will be honored in our upcoming 2010 season. Any information would be greatly appreciated! Thanks.
*Gretchen Addison, 55 South High Street, Suite 202, Dublin OH 43017
614-791-9300 Best Time to Call: 12n - 5p
office@ilbaseball.com*

Just looking for information on my ggg-grandparents: Henry Elijah Osborn born March 1848 in Wilkes N.C. and Elizabeth Roton born in Alleghany in 1848. They were married there on 04 Apr 1869. Henry's father was David Osborn and his mother was Priscilla "Prissey". Anything on this family would be great. Thanks
*Damian, 11 Cleavland St., Norfolk, MA 02056
781-858-3094 Best Time to Call: 5p - 9p
dmn1858@gmail.com*

Hi, I have been trying to track down a cousin of mine, twice I have found him in Genealogical trees that I have not managed to a response from the tree owners. My cousin is a David Harrison Reeves and I believe is or was a resident of Sparta NC. Father was Harrison Reeves and Mother was Evelyn Carter, my Fathers sister. Any help in tracking him

down would be greatly appreciated.
*David Carter, 49 Hinckley Road, Sapcote, Leicestershire, UK LE9 4LG
+44145273092 Best Time to Call: 8a - 12n
davec@goldstar.demon.co.uk*

I am looking for information on my family. I know my family is from the Alleghany area. My grandfather Lonnie Mack Maines, Sr. His father and my great grandfather was James. James, had several siblings (Jordan J. born 1832 in Virginia, Hiram, Ezra, Susan, Mary Janes & Peter). James sister, Mary Janes Maines was born 1848 in Virginia and died in Lansing, Ashe, NC in 1908. She married a Stephen David Sexton and had 8 children-Sarah, Ellen, Eli, George Garrett, Stephen, Margie May, Jordan Jefferson, and Barry Waggoner. James' (my great grandfather) parents were Jordan Jefferson Maines (born ?1802 in TN and died 1893 in Grayson Co, VA) and Mary Scott ?Sexton (born in ?1804 in?? place and died in 1880 in Grayson County, VA). No further Maines info is known but do know the Sexton side of the family. Can you please help me locate information on Jordan Maines or James Maines that married a Lina Anders. Thank you so much for your help.
*Laurie, 467 Jefferson Manor Drive, Forest, VA 24551
434-851-7018 Best Time to Call: Weekends
stonelady1999@yahoo.com*

Wondering if you could pass this on to PERSINGER genealogists. I'd like to ask the opinion of those interested in Persinger research as to whether you believe or can prove or disprove a connection of the Alleghany & Botetourt County Persingers to those in Roanoke County. Thanks
*Allan Griffith, 1 Jodi Lane, Bloomington, Illinois 61701
309-829-2063 Best Time to Call: Weekends
magrif@verizon.net*

I am trying to locate a copy of David Sturgill's Hanks & Fowlkes family histories.
*Kathy Bolasini, 3951 N. 43 Avenue, Hollywood, FL 33021
954-989-0221 Best Time to Call: 12n - 5p
kbolasini@bellsouth.net*

I purchased the book Alleghany County Cemeteries Through 1986, and have used it to find & visit a few family sites, but there are a couple of them that I cannot locate using the location descriptions in the book. If someone might be able to help, the cemeteries that I

am looking for are #150, #151, & #277. I have gone out and followed the directions as best I could, but couldn't find them. #277 especially is hard because I can't seem to find a Peden Rd off 13. I thought maybe State Rd 1300 since it leads to the Peden area, or maybe even the next road north, 1304/Blevins Hollow Rd, but I'm not sure, or where on which road. If someone could please help, especially with #277! Thanks you! **Nathan D. Jones**, 47 Tannenbaum Circle, Greensboro, NC 27410 nateapp03@yahoo.com

Is Elizabeth Sherrill kin to Agnes Sherrill born 24 Mar 1781 that married a Ballew in Burke County, NC? **Gale**, 325-798-3019 Best Time to Call: 12n - 5p galeandgeorge@yahoo.com

My GGGGF is Alexander Richardson born 1805. I am looking for information on him and genealogy. Can you direct me in the right direction? Thanks **Mike Richardson**, Charlotte, NC 28277 704-846-3964 Best Time to Call: Weekends richcastle@carolina.rr.com

I am writing a book about churches in western NC that were built prior to 1800. Do you know if churches dating back to the 1700's are still standing in Alleghany County? Thanks! **Jonathan Flanders**, 9208 Tenby Lane, Matthews, NC 28104 704-578-6735 Best Time to Call: 8a - 12n jjflanders@hotmail.com

I am descended from a Spencer Martin who was hanged in Salisbury on 30 Oct 1795. Looking for any details. Many thanks! **Charles Church**, 4995 Dikken Rd., Walkertown, NC 27051 336-767-7228 Best Time to Call: Weekends ChasChurch@aol.com

I am trying to find information about the Poor Farm. My maiden name is Persinger and I was borned in Covington, Va. I will appreciate any help. Thank you and have a nice day! **Dorothy Totty**, 1118 Clover Valley Way, Edgewood Md 21040 410-671-7434 Best Time to Call: 5p - 9p tlf292@verizon.net

I am a lost McCraw. My name is James Mason Gray, being adopted at birth by James F. & Thelma Gray in Tampa, Florida. My birth mother was Lucille McCraw

(Samuels) and my grandfather, her father, was Mr. Arnie McCraw of Mt. Airy, North Carolina, married to Nina Alma Zigler. My mother's sister was named Gail, but I don't know her married name. I am now seventy years old and would like to preserve the family history for my grandchildren. I am trying to build a family tree and I am hoping someone can assist.

I need to acquire information on the Arnie McCraw family of Mt. Airy, North Carolina and their ancestors so a genealogy family tree can be put together for my son and five granddaughters. I am also interested to know if any of the family served during the American Civil War. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Sincerely, **James M. Gray (McCraw)**, 11 Corndale St, Loganholme, Qld., Australia 4129 61 07 3388 0581 Best Time to Call: 12n - 5p jamesmgray@bigpond.com

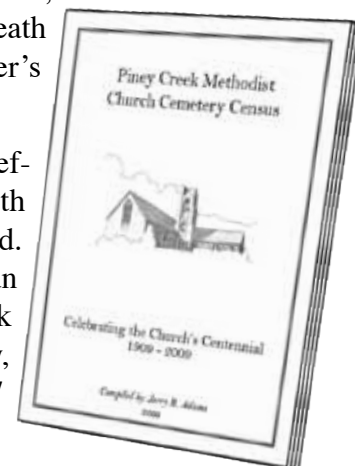
Trying to locate the burial site for the Scott Family that had a business in Scottville, NC in the 1850-60s. Please use email. **Ron Cochran**, 531653rd Ave EA-19, Bradenton, FL 34203 ohioron@att.net

I heard that there was a chairlift in Sparta at one time - do you know if this is true? I have a cabin here and am interested in the history of the town. **Carole Campbell**, 162 Brady Street, Charleston, SC 29492 843-847-1452 Best Time to Call: 12n - 5p csquared651@yahoo.com

New Resource Available

Piney Creek native, Jerry Adams, has completed a survey of the Piney Creek Methodist Church Cemetery. The book includes a name index with a map of the grounds and lists names by row numbers. Each name listing includes first, middle, last, maiden name, birth and death dates, and father's and mother's names, if known.

Jerry's five year research effort will be kept up-to-date with help from the Cemetery Board. 36 pg. 8.5x11" booklets can be ordered from Piney Creek Methodist Church Cemetery, c/o Sara McMillan, 1297 Garvey Road, Piney Creek, NC, 28663



Story continued from page 1

morning and did not let up the entire day and continued much into the night.

“Schools closed at 11:00 Wednesday morning when the snow had reached a depth of about eight inches at that time. J. E. Ruffy, superintendent of schools, said he did not know when they would re-open but not before Monday if we had no more snow and sleet. The highway department worked all day Wednesday and all through the night and today.

“Motorists rushed to service stations to have their chains put on yesterday morning. By mid-morning it was hazardous to try to drive without them. The temperature dropped to 10 above zero on Tuesday, chilling the entire county. Wednesday it was arisen to 27 by noon. ‘Just right for snowing’ an observer said.

“Many persons were predicting that the snow this week would be the deepest one of the winter but were hoping that it would stop long before it did.

“‘I have had enough of this, it’s the worst winter we have had in years,’ was a comment heard near and far yesterday morning as people trudged along in the snow.”
-Reprinted by permission of *The Alleghany News Publishing Co. Inc.*

It snowed each Wednesday for 6 weeks (Feb. 13 through March 26) blanketing the region, eventually so deep the that people still talk about it wide-eyed and reverently. Do you feel better about this year? Maybe we’d better wait and find out what the rest of winter 2010 brings!



Please Consider...

If you’ve been thinking about giving this year, please consider the Historical Society. We’ve never really asked for contributions, but now, with interest in a historical museum higher than ever, and the availability of resources, perhaps this is the time to make a tax-deductable donation to the Society.

The Alleghany Historical - Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and plans to protect monies designated for the museum in a trust fund so that they cannot be used for any other purpose. The Society pledges that it will protect all donations, whether monetary, digital or physical pieces for the museum, to its utmost ability.

After all, we share a common heritage. We also share a responsibility to protect our records, our photographs, our artifacts our music and our stories.

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

Alleghany Historical - Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 817, Sparta, NC 28675 or online at
info@ahgs.org



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Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc.
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Sparta, NC 28675