

Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc.



President
Vice-President
Secretary-Treasurer

Marvie Shelor
Roy Hunt
Irene A. Wagner



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Bulletin No. 92

Message from the President

Dear Members,

Spring is definitely in the air with the warm temperatures we have been having. The trees are beginning to bud and the spring flowers and forsythia are blooming. With spring comes new hope and expectations for the things the Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society wants to do.

After much discussion, our local committee decided to ask to be a part of the new library that is being planned. Although there was a dream to have our own stand-alone museum, we realized that even if we were able to raise enough money to build a facility, we had no funds to staff and maintain it.

We have asked for 3,000 square feet in the library, which would hold our genealogy center as well as an area to sell books and multiple display areas. The architect is just beginning the process of developing plans since he has to first get topographic surveys of the site. The library board has invited our group to meet with

them as they go forth with these plans. Committees are working on several different fundraising ideas and seeking grant opportunities. This will be a big project and will need the help of many to accomplish it. We'll try to give you updates as things progress.

As we plan for the historical museum/genealogy space in the library, we are also asking ourselves if we will be able to protect our heritage. We want to preserve the small town atmosphere and natural assets of our county that we cherish. If you drive through the county now, you will see that many farms and large tracts of land are being developed into little communities. Much of this development is being done by people who have only recently moved here or are non-residents. We sincerely hope that every effort will be made by the developers to maintain the picturesque views we have always enjoyed here in Alleghany County.

Marvie Shelor
March 17, 2006

*This is an early photo of a New River baseball team. The photo is dated 1905 and is owned by AHGS member, **Patty Wingler**.*

*The fellow, seated second from the left, (in front, holding the bat) is her grandfather, **Wiley Williams**.*

He lived in the Glade Valley area. If anyone has any information on the rest of the crew, (names, RBI's, etc.) let us know!



Items For Sale

The following items are available for sale, directly from the Society or may be purchased at the Alleghany County Public Library or the Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce:

HISTORY OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NC 1859-1976 - This 272-page book, which had been out of print for many years, was re-published by the Society in August 1999. It was originally published in 1976 during the Nation's Bicentennial. This book is not indexed. The book may be purchased from the Society for \$45, plus \$3 for shipping & handling, plus (for NC residents only) \$3.15 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY HERITAGE - This 555-page book was published by the Society in October 1983 and is broken down into three sections: county, township, and community histories; over 700 family histories; and a 13-page pictorial heritage. This book is completely indexed. The book may be purchased from the Society for \$38, plus \$3 s&h, plus (for NC residents only) \$2.66 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY CEMETERIES THROUGH 1986 - This 261-page book was published in October 1988 and contains burial data from nearly 300 family, church and community burial plots through 1986. The names are in alphabetical order with a code showing the location of the cemetery. The book may be purchased from the Society for \$15, plus \$2.75 s&h, plus (for NC residents only) \$1.05 tax.

ALLEGHANY ARCHITECTURE: A PICTORIAL SURVEY - This 101-page book was originally published in 1983 by the Alleghany County Historical Properties Commission. The book was re-published in May 2004 by the Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society. Jean Sizemore was the principal investigator and photos were taken by Brant Burgiss and Tammy Blevins. The communities covered are: Cherry Lane, Cranberry, Gap Civil, Glade Creek, Glade Valley, Piney Creek, Prathers Creek, Roaring Gap, Sparta, and Whitehead. Although architecture is the principal focus of the book, it contains much information useful to the family historian. This book is not indexed. The book may be purchased from the Society for \$30.00, plus \$3.00 s&h, plus (for NC residents only) \$2.10 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NC MARRIAGES: 1849-1900 - This 354-page book was published in 1996 by local resident George Henry Latham. These marriage records are arranged alphabetically by the groom's surname, typically showing for each marriage the day, month, and year it took place; the groom's name, age, residence and the names of his parents; and the bride's name, age, residence and the names of her parents. An index of brides is also included. The book may be purchased for \$30.50 plus \$5 s&h from Heritage Books Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Bowie, MD 20716. Their phone number is 1-800-398-7709. Their website is <http://www.heritagebooks.com>.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY COURTHOUSE ORNAMENT - This attractive, gold-colored metal ornament depicts the county courthouse, which was re-built following the fire of 1933. Profits from the sale of this ornament fund various activities of the Society. The ornament is available from the Society for \$11.21 plus (for NC residents only) \$0.79 tax; no shipping & handling is charged for this light item.

MARY'S MEMORIES - This 74-page book was published by Mary Lyon Harless in 2000 on the occasion of her 100th birthday. The book is a collection of stories and reminiscences about her long life in Alleghany County. It contains many photographs as well as illustrations by Arzetta Mimbs. The first printing quickly sold out and Mrs. Harless permitted the Society to re-publish the book. The book may be purchased from the Society for \$8.00, plus \$1.50 s&h and (for NC residents only) \$0.56 tax.

FOOT PRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME - This 75-page book, subtitled "A History of Southwestern Virginia and Northwestern North Carolina," was first published in Sparta, NC in 1900 by Dr. Aras B. Cox. Dr. Cox was a physician and Methodist preacher who was born in Floyd Co., VA and later lived in Alleghany and Ashe Counties, NC. The book consists of historical and biographical sketches of the following counties: Carroll, Floyd and Grayson, VA; and Alleghany, Ashe, Surry, Watauga and Wilkes, NC. One chapter recounts the Battle of King's Mountain. Our Society reprinted this book in 2002, and it now includes an every-name index. The book may be purchased from the Society for \$15.00, plus \$2.00 s&h and (for NC residents only) \$1.05 tax.

1938 VIDEO OF SPARTA, NORTH CAROLINA - This 20-minute VHS tape, mostly in black and white (but some scenes in color), was filmed by Ben Reeves in downtown Sparta, at the Roaring Gap Fish Hatchery, and at the Alleghany Co. Agricultural Fair. Identified persons include Edwin Duncan, Alton Thompson, Glenn Nichols, Coy Richardson, Eltie Richardson, Preachers R. L. Berry and Howard Ford, Troy Irwin, Will Reeves, Virginia Reeves and son Bennie, C. R. Roe, F. H. Jackson, Floyd Crouse, Guy Duncan, Dr. Thompson, Duke Bledsoe, R. L. Doughton, Walter Irwin, Kyle Nichols, Lester Waddell, Jay Hardin, Sam Brown, Porter Collins, Rufus Doughton, and Ross and Earl Richardson. The tape begins with Ben Reeves' trip to the 1939 Worlds Fair in New York, which makes an interesting contrast with 1938 Sparta. The tape includes a musical background. This VHS tape may be purchased from the Society for \$10.00, plus \$1.50 s&h and (for NC residents only) \$0.70 tax.

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

Note:

If you have interesting photos, old-timey family stories, local historical information (*or even a good tall tale*), consider letting us print it in this newsletter. Questions about the newsletter can be addressed to: jeff@imagingspecialists.net or call 336-372-3002.

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
- Sustaining \$ 50.00 annually

- Business, Institutional or professional \$20.00 annually
- LIFE MEMBER \$100.00 in one payment

Enclosed is a check or money order for membership.

Please send membership card to:

Name- _____

Address- _____

Louisiana Fans of Alleghany

We have visited the magnificent mountains and valleys of Western North Carolina many times since 1988. We fell in love with your majestic mountains that fold onto each other as far as the eye can see. We found your people to be warm and friendly and have been blessed with long lasting friendships.

Like typical “flatlanders”, we ride the back roads and the Blue Ridge Parkway, stopping at every overlook, braking for every peek of the mountains’ glory through a gap in the trees.

Alleghany County is a unique section of the state of North Carolina. Your entire county is still pristine and peaceful. Your pastoral and mountain views are visual food to nourish the hungry soul. Your uncluttered landscapes and un-crowded roads and towns are the main reasons that all of us “Away People” travel long distances to visit. We know of many people here in bustling and crowded Louisiana that make the 14 hour drive to bask in the serene and refreshing atmosphere that you are blessed to live in year round.

If Alleghany County was throbbing with activity, traffic, flashing signs, acres of concreted parking lots, theme parks, ski resorts, or mega crowds like Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, TN or Blowing Rock, Boone, and Beech Mountain, we would be searching for another “Quiet and Peaceful Place” to vacation.

Our second most favorite activity while visiting North Carolina is traveling to all of the heritage museums and historical collections that are within easy driving distance of our appointed rental. We peruse these museums to glean knowledge of why their past generations chose to settle in the area, how they managed and lived everyday life, and how they planned for the future. We are very interested to see how communities have honored and preserved their mountain culture, the beautiful mountain music, the handwork of the local craft artisans, and treasured historical artifacts, both private and community related. We love to hear stories of family history recorded on tapes and to hear the old time mountain songs.

Sadly there is no heritage museum or historical collection to browse through in Alleghany County. That fact has been the impetus for this letter.

After reading through sites on the web such as the Alleghany County Heritage Development Plan and the much anticipated Sparta Teapot Museum, we were dismayed to learn that the Alleghany Farm and Historical Museum is still in the ‘planning stages’.

Your city and your county’s future stands firmly planted on the shoulders of your ancestors. Your present and your future depend on their accomplishments, their perseverance, their struggles, their strong character, their hopes and dreams for generations to come.

We would encourage and challenge your community leaders, in the near future, to put as much effort into plans to showcase Alleghany County’s preservation of the past as into the hope for future economic revenue generated by the Teapot Museum and its cultural opportunities.

Alleghany County’s history of the mountain life, music, treasured artifacts, and precious people are pearls of the finest quality... they deserve to be placed in a setting for all the world to come and see.

—Larry and Norma Downing
14137 Blairstown Drive
Baker, LA 70714

Request for Assistance

I am researching the crew of a B-17 bomber which was shot down near Guadalcanal on September 24, 1942. One of the crew members was Sergeant Bruce W. **OSBORNE** of the 42nd Bombardment Squadron/11th Bombardment Group. His hometown is listed as Sparta, Alleghany County.

Only the remains of Sgt. Osborne were ever found; the rest of the crew remains Missing-In-Action to this date. I am seeking a brief biography of each crew member along with a military photo. I also have not been able to locate a photo of the bomber and her (the airplane was named *Bessie*) crew.

Your assistance in this matter would be appreciated. I will gladly remit any expense for research time and copies.

—David L. Tanner
davet@swpc.net
1500 Kingston Ave.
Clovis, NM 88101-5061

Echoes From Glade Valley

VOL. 1

GLADE VALLEY, N. C., DECEMBER, 1930

NO. 9

GRADUATING CLASS 1930



NAMES OF GRADUATES, CLASS 1930

Reading from left to right, the graduates are: Top row, Arnold Jones, Scottville; Robert Landreth, Furches; Ruth Thompson, Sparta; Ruby Harris, Glade Valley; Mabel Weaver, Lansing; Victor Jones, Furches. Second row: Claude Evans, Glade Valley; Jane Truitte, Sparta; Bryan Taylor, Laurel Springs; Lillie Ervin, Glade Valley; John Heuser, Max Meadows, Va.; Alice Reavis, Yadkinville. Front row: Myrtle Collins, Francisco, June Crouse, Stratford; Howard Lyon, Lois Millsaps, mascot, Glade Valley, Zenna Warden, Laurel Springs; Justus Tucker, Winston-Salem, and Maxie Weaver, Lansing.

Faculty 1930-31

The faculty for session 1930-31 is the same as last year with the exception of one new member. The new member is Herman J. Womeldorf, Lexington, Va. Mr. Womeldorf at the spring meeting of the board was elected President and Principal. He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and U. T. Seminary, and teaches Bible and Science. Rev. C. W. Ervin English and history; Miss Annie Belle Corry has the departments of french and mathematics; Miss Margaret Dowdle is head of Domestic Art department; Mrs. John Guerrant is dean of girls and teaches music and Mrs. Ellen Parks is our matron; E. B. Eldridge Superintendent and Treasurer.

Athletics

The athletic activities of the school have been very successful, as well as entertaining. A lively spirit has been shown on the part of the players. The cheer leaders, Billie Bowling and John Cashion, have been performing most wonderfully in the leading of the yells.

The baseball season was one of many victories for the home team. They took the losers' end of but one game.

The girls' basketball team, although unvictorious in a few games, have shown a peppy spirit. They have several games scheduled for the Spring term.

The boys' basketball team has been organized and is getting some good practice. We are expecting to chalk up several victories during the Spring term.

To My Mother

If I am honest,
Your guiding hand so taught—
If I can work,
'Twas by your will so wrought—
If I am kind,
Your patience was the mold—
If I have hope,
'Tis born from rosaries told—
If I am fit,
Your sleepless hours tell—
If I can laugh,
Laughter in your eyes did dwell—
If I love God,
Your life has shown the way—
But I love you,
Because you say I may.
—Leon E. Woodford,
In Extension Magazine.

--Excerpts from December, 1930 edition of Echoes from Glade Valley.
Submitted by Pauline Jolly.

A Group of Self-Helpers



Our Motto: "An Education Is Worth Working For"
 --From December, 1930 edition of *Echoes from Glade Valley*.

MINUTES

OF THE
 31st Annual Session
 OF THE
LITTLE RIVER
 Baptist Association
 Held With
 New Salem Church
 Alleghany County, N. C.
 Friday, Oct 2, 1925
 Grayson-Carroll Gazette, Galax, VA

BRINEGAR

Brother Martin Brinegar was born December 11th, 1856 and died April 25th, 1925, making his stay on earth 68 years, 4 months and 14 days. He was married to Caroline Joines about 48 years ago. Unto this union were born 4 children, 2 living and 2 dead. He professed a hope in Christ and joined the church at Pleasant Grove about 36 years ago and was baptized by Elder A. J. Wagoner. He served as clerk 32 years. He was taken with pneumonia and lived 8 days. He leaves a wife and 2 children and 14 grandchildren and a host of friends to mourn their loss. He was loved by all who knew him.

Farewell wife and children dear,
 No more I'll lead you while you stay here
 For me do not weep, lament or sigh,
 But meet me in the sweet bye and bye.

—Written by J.F. Brinegar

Minutes of the Forty-Fourth Annual Session of the **Little River Regular Baptist Association**

Composed of Messengers from the Regular
 Baptist Churches in Our Union
HELD WITH MT. OLIVET CHURCH
 Grayson County, Va.

Friday and Saturday, September 30 and October 1st, 1938
 Elder M.E. Poole, Moderator Route 2, Galax, VA
 W.J. Wyatt, Secretary-Treasurer Piney Creek, N.C.

ELVA ELIZABETH BRANNOCK

Elva Elizabeth Brannock was born May 27, 1920. As far as we know departed this life Feb. 8, 1937. She started to school on Monday, Feb. 8, and was murdered on her way. She was 16 years, 8 months, 12 days old. She died not belonging to any church, but we believe her soul took its flight to God who gave it and is resting in heaven from all labors, trials, and troubles. I believe she did her suffering here on earth.

She leaves an aged father and mother, three brothers and four sisters, a large connection of relatives and friends to bear the trouble. No tongue can tell how we have missed her, but hope we meet again where all is peace and love. She was laid to rest in the cemetery at Saddle Mountain Church.

Sister, how we miss you—
 Miss your footsteps to and fro
 Miss your loving voice so tender
 And you used to come and go.

O, may your memory ever be
 A precious shining star.
 To brighten our darkened pathway
 And guide us where you go.

Down beneath the flower
 Is a form we cannot see
 My heart is torn and bleeding
 Since my sister went from me,

Now she is sleeping in the graveyard,
 Where we all must shortly be
 Dear One, don't you hear her
 Calling: "Come up here and live with me?"

Written by her sister,
 ETHEL BRANNOCK

OLD MOUNTAIN REMEDIES

RESPIRATORY AND HEART AILMENTS, CHILLS AND FEVERS

CATNIP, PENNYROYAL AND COCKLEBUR teas were cures for coughs, colds and consumption.

MUSTARD and COOKED ONION poultices aided bronchitis and colds.

LILY OF THE VALLEY ROOTS made into a tea were good for heart troubles.

SMOOTH SUMAC was dried and smoked in a pipe for asthma.

WILD CLOVER tea was given for whooping cough.

CUTS, BRUISES AND DISEASES OF THE SKIN

SLIPPERY ELM BARK and SAP made into salve were used for skin rash.

Poultices of PEACH BARK and LEAVES were used for blisters.

BLOSSOMS from JIMSON WEED were made into a poultice to kill pain.

POKEROOT SALVE cured the itch.

WET TOBACCO LEAVES were used to treat stings and bites.

POWDERED WATER LILY, SWEET GUM and CRUSHED DANDELION were used for all kinds of wounds.

DANDELION LEAVES were used to treat cuts.

BOILED WITCH HAZEL BARK and LEAVES were put on infected skin or sores.

POKEBERRIES dried and made into a salve were used to treat incurable sores.

FOR DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISORDERS

SASSAFRAS, DANDELION AND GOLDENSEAL TEA were a good blood tonic.

SWEET FERN TEA or RED OAK ROOT and BARK TEA checked diarrhea.

BONESET TEA was a laxative.

SNAKEROOT TEA aided digestion.

BURDOCK TEA purified the blood.

CAMOMILE TEA stimulated the appetite.

PIONEER SUPERSTITIONS

For indigestion carry a CASTOR BEAN.

Wear RED CORN around your neck to stop nosebleed.

To cure a sore let a DOG lick it.

Steal someone's DISHRAG and hide to cure warts.

FIGS will cure cancer.

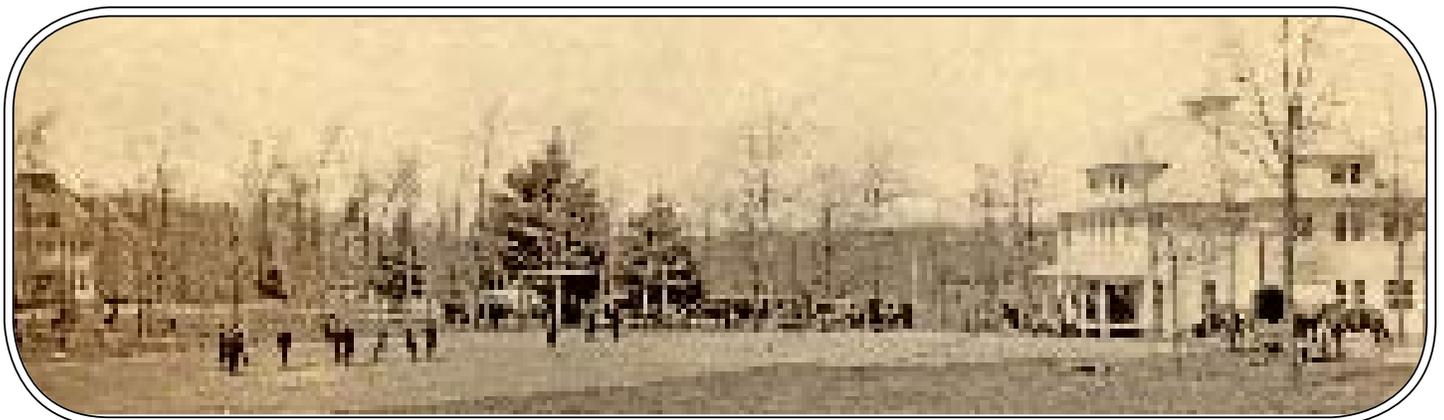
To cure chills catch a FROG and hold him until he dies.

EGGS laid on Friday will cure colic.

To cure sore eyes kiss a RED-HEADED GIRL.



Originally published by MOUNTAIN GATEWAY MUSEUM, Post Office Box 1286, Old Fort, NC 28762



*Early photo of Glade Valley School. Girls Dormitory on the left, Boys on the right.
Submitted by Patty Wingler*

Closing Exercises of Piney Creek High School February 5, 6, 1914

FOURTH SESSION—High School Department Contest For Gold Medal

Liberty Conley Bryan Halsey
 My Country, My Mother, My God V. Page Evans
 Uncle Josh's Ideas of Women Quay Evans
 Patriotism Broad as Humanity Rufus Clinton Halsey
 Our State's Pure Record Robert Floyd Warden
 Life a Battle Winfield Asa Weaver
 Education Carl Halsey
 Union Linked With Liberty Mack Parsons
 Washington's Address to His Troops Oscar Caudill
 Boy's Rights Paul Pugh
 Man's Inhumanity to Man Loyd N. Weaver
 The Honored Dead Carl Caudill
 Duty to Our Country Howard Halsey
 The Responsibility of Young Men Leonard L. Halsey
 In Life There is Death John Lester Phipps

(Not in Contest) - - - Thos. G Weaver

LITERARY ADDRESS

BY

Prof. CHARLES M. DICKSON, County Supt. of Ashe

USHERS

Messrs

Lee Smith
 Mack Woodie
 Rob't Waddell

Misses

Lucy Pierce
 Bessie Warden
 Lora Halsey

Closing Exercises of Piney Creek High School February 5, 6, 1914

FIFTH SESSION

Contest for Gold Medal. by Girls in High School Department

As The Moon Rose Helen Halsey
 Jack Minnie Weaver
 The Stray Sunbeams Jennie Mae Weaver
 That Time Honey Got Lost Pearl M. Phipps
 The Skeptic's Daughter Luna Weaver
 The Elopement Rachel Halsey
 The Dying Soldier Dalla R. Phipps
 Uncle Daniel's Opposition Lora Maude Halsey
 The Great Musician Cora E. Weaver
 The Wedding Verna Beaman
 The Sentinel Bessie Warden
 Tommy Brown Lila Evans
 Oh! God Where is Light? Carrie Inez Evans
 Coming Home Lucy Virginia Pierce
 Aunt Katurah's First Visit to the City Flora Vealon Caudill

No Saloons Up There Myrtle Waddell

Valedictory Miss Verna Beaman

Address by Prof. JOHN MORGAN CHEEK, County Supt.

USHERS

Messrs

Thos. G. Weaver
 Leoner J Halsey
 Howard Halsey

Misses

Cora Phipps
 Mae Hash
 Dora Halsey

Submitted by Pauline Jolly

Alleghany Historical-Geneology Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 817

Sparta, NC 28675

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Alleghany Historical-Geneology Society, Inc.

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