

*Genealogy
Bennett*

51 La Porte Street
Arcadia, California 91006

24 August 1969

Chamber of Commerce
Burnsville, No.Car.

Gentlemen:

Am interested in getting some literature regarding
Yancey County, No.Car.--the country and people.

Would appreciate receiving some literature, ~~mf~~folders
or whatever might be available regarding Yancey co.
If any charges for this, will remit.

Sincerely

(Miss) Alice Yancey

Y. County

*Yancey
County*

51 La Porte Street
Arcadia, California
91006

18 November 1969

Chamber of Commerce
Burnsville, Mo. Car.

Gentlemen:

Wish to thank you for sending a folder re "Burnsville
the Co. Seat of Yancey County".

Am making another request for folders as several
members of the Yancey family would like to have a
folder also-- Would like at least twelve (12)
folders of Burnsville, Co. Seat of Yancey County
and am inclosing ~~20~~⁴⁸ in stamps for postage.

We hope some day to visit the County which has
the Yancey Name.

Sincerely

*Incl
6d stamp 48¢*

Ed
(Miss) Alice Yancey



This is Yancey County

Yancey County, situated in the Black Brothers Mountains of the Appalachian Range, holds title to having Mt. Mitchell, the highest mountain east of the Mississippi.

Established in 1833, and named for Bartlett Yancey, a U. S. Congressman from this area, Yancey County today covers an area of 311 square miles.

Evidence of the pioneer background of this area is to be found in Burnsville at the Daniel Boone blacksmith shop, today owned and operated by Daniel Boone VI, a direct descendant of the famed Daniel Boone of American History.

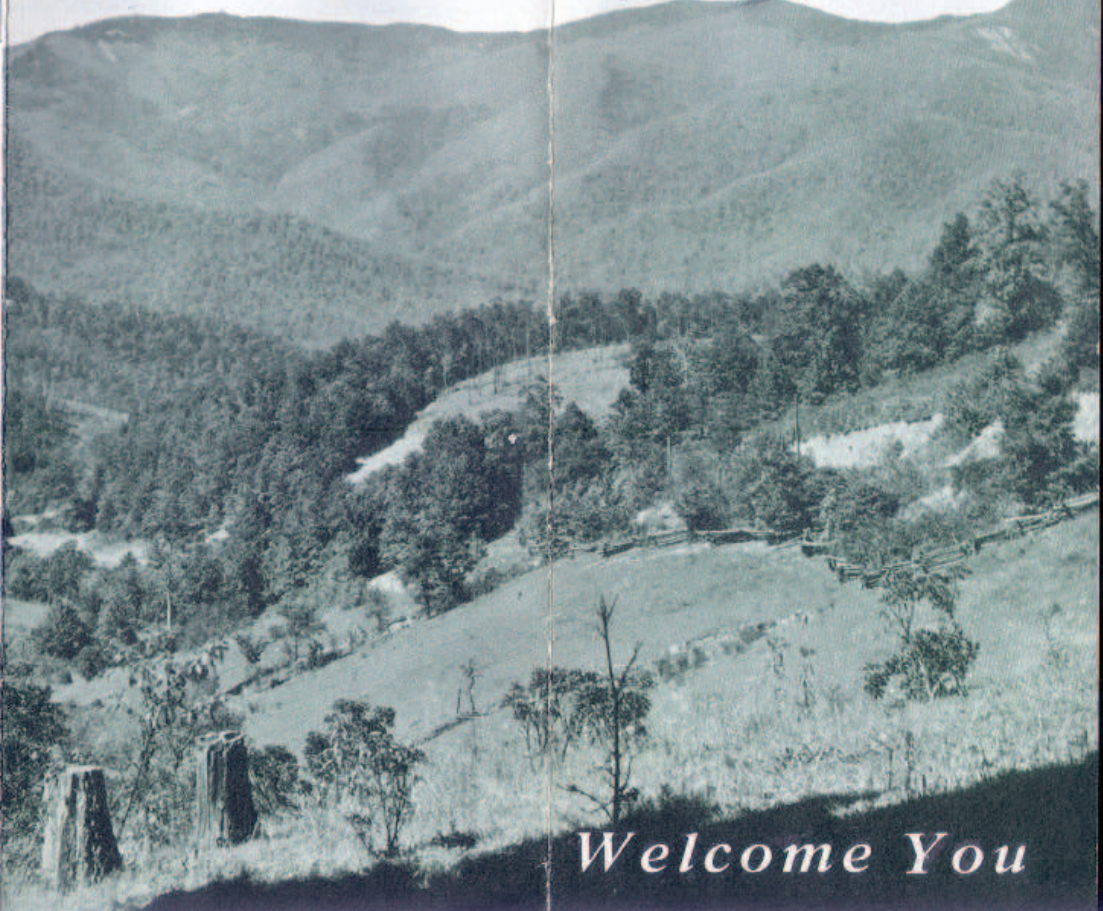
In addition to possessing an ideal climate for agriculture, Yancey County is rich in minerals. The mining and processing of mica and feldspar contributes substantially to the wealth and employment of the county. While mica and feldspar are the two main minerals mined in the county, numerous other minerals such as Olovine, Quartz, Cyanite, and Berl are common. Rock Hounds from all over the United States come to Yancey County and the surrounding area to spend their vacations prospecting in the mountains and streams.



BURNSVILLE
and Beautiful
Yancey County
NORTH CAROLINA

BURNSVILLE
and Beautiful
Yancey County
NORTH CAROLINA

Rec'd April 1959



Welcome You



Burnsville

Burnsville, the county seat of Yancey County, is named for Otway Burns who was captain of a privateer in the war of 1812. Burnsville was formed as the county seat two years after Yancey County was established in 1833.

From the cool green lawns of its town square to its fine residential areas, Burnsville is a town that ideally combines the peaceful serenity of the surrounding mountains with all the conveniences of modern suburban living. Away from the hustle and bustle of big city life, Burnsville, with a population of 1500 to 2000, presents a universal appeal to vacationer and permanent resident alike. In addition to its invigorating mountain air, Burnsville is well endowed with a plentiful supply of cool mountain water, which comes from the head waters of Bolens Creek under Mount Celo.

For the vacationer, Burnsville, cradled in the foothills of lofty Mount Mitchell which at 6,648 feet is the highest mountain east of the Mississippi, is in the heart of the Western North Carolina Vacationland which annually attracts some eight million visitors. With Burnsville as a center, one can leisurely visit the many attractions of the area in one day and return to Burnsville's cool summer evenings.

The retired resident finds Yancey County's year around climate conducive to comfortable living. In spring the budding of new life comes early to the mountains, fields and orchards of this area, heralding a profusion of colorful blooms of the wild mountain flowers and shrubs that lasts throughout the summer.

Days of warm sunshine and clear skies, followed by really cool evenings, make the summers here truly a joy to experience.

In autumn, Yancey County is the setting for nature's breath-taking pageant of fall colors which yearly attracts visitors from all over Eastern America. Yancey County's mild open winter follows with-



out the extremes of cold, wind and snow usually associated with this season.

As a town to live and work in, Burnsville offers much in living facilities and occupations with an untapped potential for new industry and agricul-

ture. With its churches, stores, banks, modern high schools, well equipped volunteer fire department, active business and social clubs and progressive Merchants' Association, the people of Burnsville and Yancey County take pride in their county and invite you to share it with them.

*... For a Day, a Week, or A Lifetime
In Nature's Scenic Wonderland*

... To Play



A field trip of the Burnsville Painting Classes, Seecelo, which is open during June, July and August.

Ample accommodations available to visitors include modern luxurious motels, tourist homes and apartments, and the nationally advertised historic Nu-Wray Inn, famous for its excellent cuisine.

Asheville, only 37 miles south offers an abundance of year around entertainment in the form of concerts, dramatics and festivals.



Burnsville's Crest View Park features a modern swimming pool, tennis court, dancing and picnicking facilities and other attractions for the children.



A double success was this bear hunt in the nearby mountains of Yancey County.



The Parkway Playhouse, a popular summer stock theatre operated by the Drama Department of the University of Miami, Florida.

Hunting in the nearby fields and mountains of Yancey County offers, in season: squirrel, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, deer and bear. If you prefer game birds, quail and grouse are to be found in most sections of the county. The fishing enthusiast will find the nearby protected mountain trout streams, with their Rainbow, Brook and Brown Trout, a real test of skill.

... To Live



Burnsville's picturesque town square.



One of Yancey County's modern new consolidated high schools.



Two of the many fine homes in the Burnsville area.

Among the churches in the Yancey County

... To Live



Burnsville's picturesque town square.

Burnsville is a congenial town with friendly people, clubs and churches welcoming newcomers and making them feel at home from the start. In Burnsville are representative chapters of many national, social, and business clubs in addition to numerous local garden and civic clubs. For the children, there are many 4-H Clubs and Girl and Boy Scout Troops.



One of Yancey County's modern new consolidated high schools.



The modern 35-bed Yancey County hospital located in Burnsville.

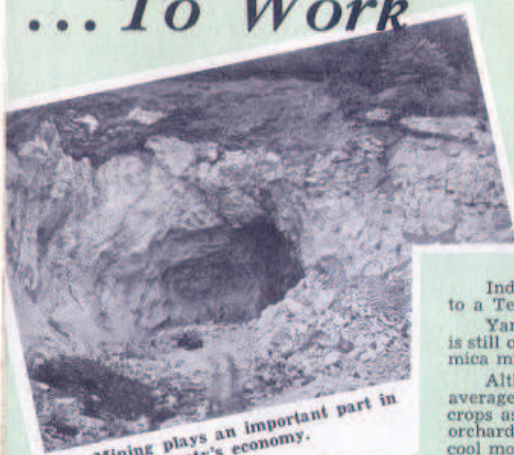


Two of the many fine homes in the Burnsville area.

Among the churches in the Yancey County area, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of God denominations are represented.

Nearby in the Cat Tail Creek community is the Mt. Helen Estate. Complete with its own hunting areas and stocked trout streams, this modern resort development covers five thousand acres ranging from 3,200 to 6,609 feet in altitude. At the present, there are almost a hundred fine summer homes in this development.

... To Work



Mining plays an important part in Yancey County's economy.



The modern Firth Carpet plant located in Burnsville.

Industry in Yancey County ranges from Lumber Plants, Mines, and Saw Mills to a Textile Mill, Carpet Plant and a Hosiery Mill.

Yancey County is the site of the first commercial Feldspar mill and this industry is still one of the chief sources of wealth and employment. Hundreds of small and large mica mines are being profitably worked in mica-rich Yancey County.

Although Burley Tobacco is Yancey County's largest crop, its fertile soil and average rainfall of sixty inches make this area ideal for growing most vegetable crops as well as corn, oats, barley and apples, there being twelve commercial apple orchards in Yancey County alone! Sheep, dairy and beef cattle also thrive in this cool mountain climate.



Here's evidence that Yancey County has the third largest burley tobacco acreage in the state.

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The modern Firth Carpet plant located in Burnsville.

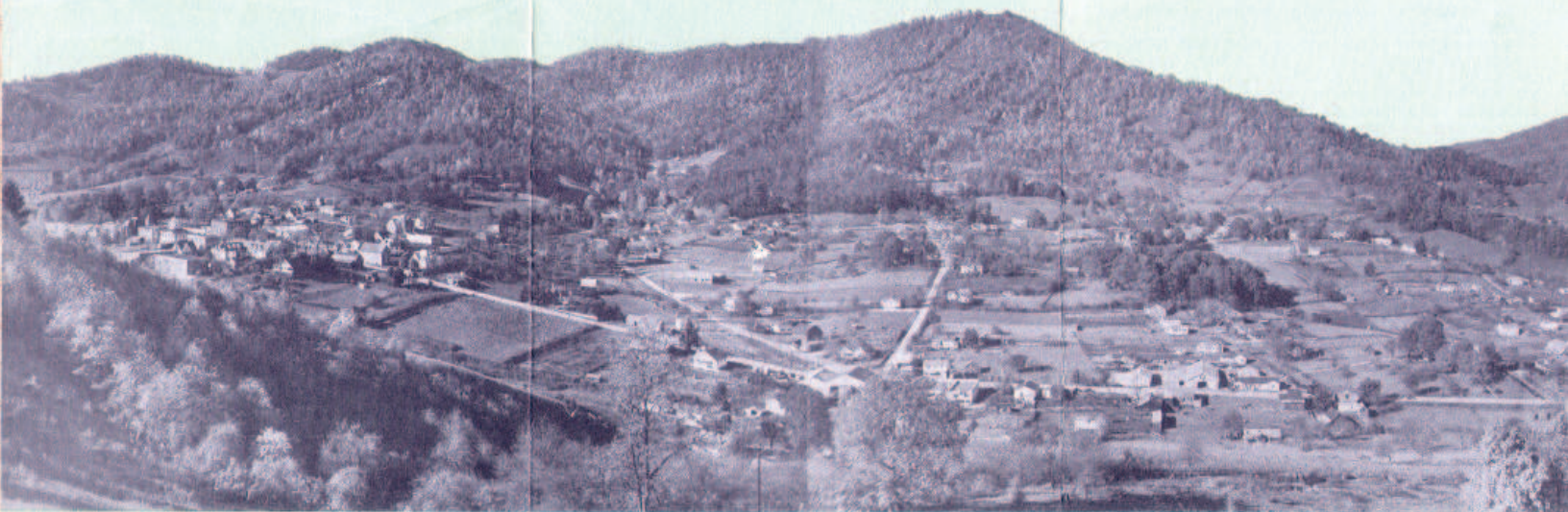
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In Nature's Scenic Wonderland

THE FOUR SEASONS



Spring: Blue Ridge Parkway running along Yancey's eastern heights, often above the clouds, abounds in the region's famous rhododendron, flaming azalea, and mountain laurel.



Fall: Vivid colors and Indian summer days attract visitors from all parts of the country.

YANCEY COUNTY



Summer: Beautiful Cane River Valley, unspoiled streams for trout fishing and swimming - - - camping facilities and wilderness recesses.



Winter: Pioneer cabin keeps quiet vigil over the years, happy reminder of a unique past.

YANCEY &
its
seat: **BURNSVILLE** NC



YANCEY...the unusual county

Yancey County, named for Bartlett Yancey, U. S. Congressman, was established in 1833 but was settled long before as a brave new pioneer territory, part of America's "first West." Spread out like an apron on the lap of Mount Mitchell, that geological wonder for which perhaps it is most widely known, the county, still in possession of its great natural beauty, its land uncrowded and its life unhurried, has now a very wide and special appeal. Because of the unique variety of its scenic, recreational and cultural attractions, tourists as well as those who come to stay longer are beginning to make this truly unusual area better known—and often for reasons more subtle than those generally celebrated in a promotional brochure. (See inside fold.)

Burnsville, the county seat, offers a summer theatre, a regionally famous crafts festival, summer art classes, craftsmen's shops, and an entire populace still attending in a variety of ways through industry and civic activity a unique and proud cultural heritage. Like the surrounding county, Burnsville enjoys the full mid-North-South variety of the seasons without the excesses of many other areas, a variety more perfectly balanced perhaps than that found in any other part of the country. The summers, because of the high elevations, are cool, yet full of sun, perfect weather for enjoying outdoor activities. The fall, partly because of the unique variety of trees in the area, is especially vivid and colorful; almost all the days are Indian summer. Because of the altitude, the winters have cold; the snows are dramatic and beautiful, but because of the southern latitude the days are sunny, the freezes brief, the snows light, and the season itself short. The delicate spring, with its warm days, comes early and stays long.

**For further information,
write to the**

**YANCEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BURNSVILLE, N. C. 28714**



The Annual Crafts Festival is held on the Village Green in Burnsville every August.



Burnsville, nestled in the valley beneath 6000-foot Mt. Celo, part of the Black Mountains. View from Phillips Knob.



Parkway Playhouse, summer theatre, established over 20 years ago, now under the direction of the University of N. C. at Greensboro.

YANCEY-THE UNUSUAL COUNTY

For those seeking a truly unusual place to vacation or to live year 'round, who are tired of the crowded cities and the suburban sprawl, the overstandardization of life, the gimmickry of teeming vacation lands, the commercially slick approach to everyday life and entertainment and who seek a little "Walden" without a complete separation from the main stream, Yancey County has much to offer. This upland county of the North Carolina mountains—culturally, geographically and economically centered in its county seat, Burnsville—offers an uncrowded and unspoiled area for vacationing and year-round living, yet, despite its agrarian setting, somewhat off the beaten path, it is free of a provincialism which often stifles cultural cross-fertilization and the growth of the spirit and the dollar.

UNIQUE PAST

Like so many other areas in the Southern Appalachians, Yancey County was relatively isolated until the turn of the century. Its cultural heritage therefore retained an identity very much its own which now lends charm and interest to its life. A culture happily associated with fiddling, ballad singing, square dancing and handicrafts, it not only can excite seasonal tourist trade but for those who come to stay longer it can perhaps give a unique cultural perspective for viewing our general cultural heritage. Luckily avoiding many of the disruptions of other Appalachian areas, Burnsville and its county have become, in a real sense, cultural custodians of this unique way of life still in unintimidated continuity with its past.

The Yancey County mountaineer or "mountain man," as the native once preferred to be called, guarding well a heritage of independence and inventiveness and so far successfully warding off the pressures of full conformity, has still something of his own to contribute—his old traditions and his rich language idiom—and the tourist, and others, sensitive to these contributions can still receive his special gifts.

CULTURAL OPENNESS

The once difficult terrain of the mountains, in years past often made "strangers" of families who lived just out of sight in a neighboring valley or hollow. The mountains therefore demanded of their pioneer settlers—and luckily the Yancey County mountains afforded—a unique self-reliance and distilled in those that came to stay and love them a discerning instinct for privacy which many an outsider also soon comes to recognize and value. Sheltered as he was valley to valley from the "strangers" there, the mountain man built a cultural and communal structure which provided for and supported the individual in his group needs but never coerced or threatened his relative autonomy. This sense of autonomy, sustained by his own industry and graced by these particular mountains, still informs his spirit and endeavors.

In his regard and respect for the "stranger," the mountaineer perhaps plumbs the depth of the American dream. Equalitarian and self-reliant, thinking for himself, his loyalties and causes therefore always diverse, the Yancey County mountaineer has made his county what might be called an intimate forum of American history—his story an exciting microcosm of the whole American experience. During the Civil War, for example, his valleys and hollows were almost equally divided between Union and Confederate sympathizers. This fact today makes for a cultural openness—moderation in many of the regional and cultural conflicts of our day.



DISTINCTIVE GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Yancey County, almost Alpine in its mountain grandeur, with its patchwork quilt of farms, fields, and forests, embraces in its long elevated stretch from its borders with the uplands of East Tennessee to the massive Black Mountains and the edge of the Eastern Continental Divide a diversity of scenic and geological wonders. From the narrow and deep coves and hollows of remote places like Lost Cove and the Nolichucky River in the Unaka and Bald Mountains near Tennessee, its highways cross the broad valleys and streams around Burnsville, ascend again the highest mountains of the Blue Ridge, and end on the 6,684-foot summit of Mount Mitchell, highest peak east of the Mississippi. Yancey County's mountains, some of the oldest in the world, unique in vegetation, worn by the ages and smoothed into gentle but still majestic slopes lend to the landscape a sense of peace and tranquility and scenic beauty rarely found in other places.

COMMUNITY WITH YEAR-ROUND APPEAL

Lying on a plateau, three thousand feet above sea level and surrounded by mountains twice that high, Burnsville, located just 37 miles northeast of Asheville, is cool in summer and has a moderate year-round temperature which nevertheless allows it the full four seasons. Supported by a well-grounded year-round business and farming community and industries which are well integrated with the national economy, Burnsville in summer becomes a place of surprising cultural cross currents without being overwhelmed by imported cultural and commercial activity. It sponsors a summer theatre, the Parkway Playhouse, which has been associated with some of the country's leading universities since its founding some twenty years ago. For many years too, summer painting classes have been offered in Burnsville for the amateur and for the more serious artist. In conjunction with these classes, a Summer Gallery is open for the display of work by the instructors and the students.

On the village green, opposite the nationally famous old hostelry, the Nu-Wray Inn, stands the statue of Commander Otway Burns, hero of the War of 1812, for whom the town is named. Every August on this square Burnsville holds its now regionally famous Crafts Festival. Many craftsmen from the county bring their work to this festival to exhibit and sell, a two-day activity accompanied by folk-singing and dancing, contests, homemade refreshments and a barbecue. The general renewal of crafts in Yancey and some of its sister counties, together with the

festival, has led the craftsmen through includes national a

Evidence in the crafts and of priv seen in the Yancey and in the Pendula local crafts can be operated in Burns their work making iron pieces—that famous frontiersma fessional lapidaries area—and for go county are some ni ing sites of the "a them, possibly Sp seventeenth centu dians who mined i uable trading med semi-precious ston favorite with the ' or the amateur lap

A FIND FOR WILDOODSMEN

The Burnsville ests, game and wil is a boon to the door recreational known of these lie cent to the popul runs along the co Appalachian trail and Unaka Mount making accessible most remote wilde hiker, the trail in t doned village of l ravines of the No

Long ago the of its sister coun both botanically a during the Ice Ag both plants and Some of these tre pushed from other lows and valleys. a great portion c reseeded, and her together to escap ferent species, sti The most showy a dendron, mounta abound. In few j the vegetation of by side with that

ACCOMMODATI

For the tourist to the distinctive serves its meals f tourist homes. Th in town are good area and the coun the modern-day which does not a mation, write the Burnsville, N. C. :

